



Stonington, Base E (UK) & East Base (USA)

Stonington Island, Marguerite Bay 68° 11'S, 67° 00'W

Historic site and Monument No 64 & 55

History

- Base E was built in February 1946 and operated until 1950, and then again from 1960-75, after which point it was closed permanently.
- The current building is the second British hut built on the island in 1961 (with latter extensions) and was used for sledging operations in the area. The footings of Trepassey House (the original base building) are occasionally visible in the middle of the snow on the west side of the island.
- The hut is steel-framed and the first two-storey building to be erected by the British Antarctic Survey. It marked the beginning of modern construction techniques.
- Famous polar explorer Sir Vivian Fuchs was Base commander in 1948 and 1949, During this time much of the mapping of the peninsula was carried out by the base personnel.
- As well as the main building the station also comprises of a number of other structures: the generator shed, pup pens, emergency store, radio mast, water tank and the collapsed anemometer tower. There is also a wooden [cross adjacent to the](#) stone burial [cairn](#) of two men who died whilst out sledging in 1966.
- The oldest existing American Antarctic Base 'East' base is located nearby. This was established in 1939 and later reoccupied by the American Finn Ronne Antarctic Expedition in 1947-48. The buildings were later modified and used by BAS.
- This period saw cooperation between the two bases, with the UK sledging teams providing ground support and control for the American aerial survey.

Building guide

The plans below are for Base E. The buildings remain in relatively good condition but only a few of the original artefacts remain on site. Most of the contents were removed when the base closed in 1975.

Fig 1: Base E ground level

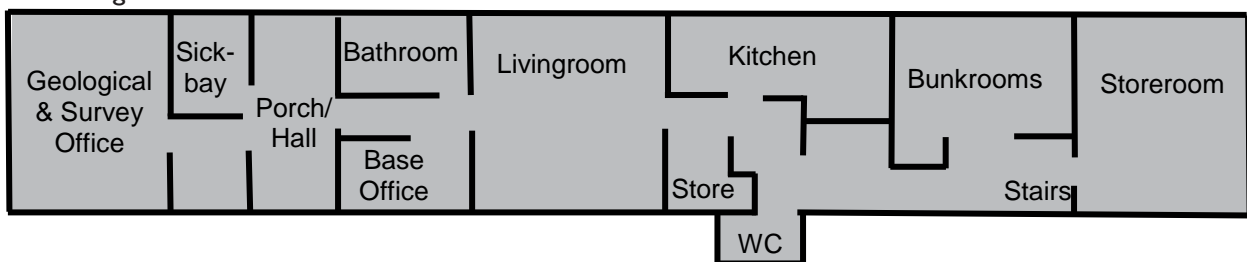
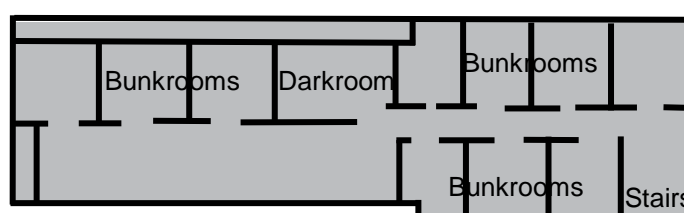


Figure 2: Base E 1st Floor



Antarctic Heritage Trust Information Sheet

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Please take note of the following during your visit*:

1. The hut windows are covered by fixed shutters. Torches are required if going inside.
2. No more than 12 visitors are allowed inside Base E at any one time.
3. Ensure all outdoor clothing and boots are clean and free of snow before entering the building. Please use the boot scrubber provided. All backpacks and large bags should be left outside the hut.
4. The site is a historic site and monument and therefore overnight stays are not allowed, except in emergency situations.
5. Please do not handle, use or remove any artefacts or sit on chairs and other furniture.
6. Please do not smoke or use matches, candles or stoves in or around the building.
7. Leave a record of your visit in the visitor book and please report any damage to the hut or its contents or maintenance required to the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust: info@ukaht.org
8. A designated cleaning kit is kept in the porch. Please ensure that the hut is clean on your departure and that snow/water is mopped up from the floors.
9. Please ensure that the doors and windows are securely closed when you leave to prevent snow entry.

* These guidelines cover all historic remains on Stonington Island.

* For all official guidelines and specific instructions please refer to the Stonington Island Antarctic Treaty Visitor Site Guide.

* Visitors enter the base at their own risk. UKAHT will not be liable for any personal injury or damage to property that may be



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