

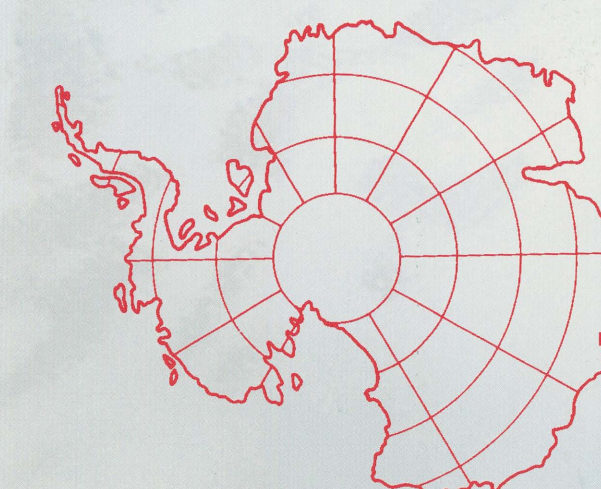


# Windmill Islands

WILKES LAND  
ANTARCTICA

SATELLITE IMAGE MAP

SCALE 1: 50 000



SCALE 1: 50 000

2 cm to 1 kilometre

PROJECTION: Transverse Mercator  
 GRID: Universal Transverse Mercator, grid zone 49  
 HORIZONTAL DATUM: WGS 1984  
 MAGNETIC VARIATION: For Casey Station 92.5° west for January 1995 and moves westerly by about 0.1° each year  
 IMAGE: Merged SPOT multispectral and panchromatic data acquired 1 January 1989  
 WRS co-ordinates: 341-487, 341-488  
 NOMENCLATURE: Names have been approved by the Antarctic Names Committee of Australia

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 Processed by Australian Centre for Remote Sensing (ACRES)

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 AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC DIVISION

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Map No 95/056

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- REFUGES**
- 📍 JACK'S DONGA
  - 📍 WILKES HILTON
  - 📍 SHIRLEY ISLAND HUT
  - 📍 ROBINSON RIDGE HUT
  - 📍 BROWNING HUT
  - 📍 PETERSON ISLAND REFUGE
- (Note: The point of the symbol indicates the location of the refuge)

**WINDMILL ISLANDS**

The Windmill Islands are a group of rocky islands extending northwards for about 25 kilometres from the Vanderford Glacier along the coast of Vincennes Bay. The area was first visited in 1947-48 during the United States Navy Operation Windmill, after which the islands were named.

In 1956 Dr Phillip Law led the first Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions (ANARE) party to visit the Windmill Islands, to be followed later the same year by a Soviet Antarctic expedition. As part of its scientific studies during the International Geophysical Year, the United States established a station, named Wilkes after the American explorer Charles Wilkes, on Clark Peninsula in February 1957. Two years later, on 4 February 1959, Australia accepted custody of Wilkes. The station had been built in a hollow and it began to be buried by snow, so, in 1965 ANARE began construction of a new station, which was initially known as REPSTAT (for Replacement Station), on Bailey Peninsula, 2.5 km south from Wilkes across Newcomb Bay.

The new station was completed in 1969 and was named after Lord Casey, Minister for External Affairs from 1951 - 1960, who was a great supporter of Australia's endeavours in Antarctica. This station, which was built in the form of a line of buildings connected by an aerodynamically shaped tunnel, elevated on scaffolding, was laid out across the prevailing wind. By the mid-1970s, however, it had begun to deteriorate and the construction of a new station about one kilometre inland was commenced in 1979. The new Casey station was formally opened in December 1988.

The Windmill Islands are of special interest owing to the rich vegetation on the Bailey and Clark Peninsulas and the large numbers and variety of bird life. Adelle penguin colonies are found throughout the area; southern giant petrels nest in the Frazier Group; cape petrels, southern fulmars and Antarctic petrels all nest in the Ardery and Odbert Islands. Snow petrels and Wilson's storm petrels are found throughout the area. Southern elephant seals haul-out and moult in the area of Peterson Island and Browning Peninsula.

In order to protect the botanical research sites, most of the Clark Peninsula and a small area of the Bailey Peninsula have been designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest under the Antarctic Treaty. Ardery and Odbert Islands have been designated as a Specially Protected Area. A permit is required to enter all protected areas. These designations will change to become Antarctic Specially Protected Areas when the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty (the Madrid Protocol) enters into force.

