

## Green, Matthew

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**From:** Mark Walters <Mark.Walters@heneb.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 06 January 2025 10:17  
**To:** Green, Matthew  
**Subject:** Re: Environmental Grab Sampling in Wales

**Rhybudd:** Deilliodd yr e-bost hwn o'r tu allan i'r sefydliad. Peidiwch â chlicio dolenni, atodiadau agored nac sganio codau QR oni bai eich bod yn cydnabod yr anfonwr ac yn gwybod bod y cynnwys yn ddiogel.

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Hi Matthew

There are no other low water grab sample locations marked on the plans or in the excel sheet other than the Dee estuary location for our area, so it is difficult to comment on impacts for other future samples in the intertidal area. Generally, we would consider grab samples to be a minimal intervention and low priority, but specific locations with a British National Grid ref. can help us to inform whether any impact is likely. If all of the intertidal samples in our area (Denbighshire and Flintshire) are limited to the single Dee Estuary location we would have no issues.

Best regards

Mark Walters

**Mark Walters**

Planning Archaeologist

Heneb: Archaeoleg Clwyd-Powys

Archaeology

**Heneb**THE TRUST FOR WELSH ARCHAEOLOGY  
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**From:** Green, Matthew <Matthew.Green@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>**Sent:** Monday, January 6, 2025 9:58 AM**To:** Mark Walters <Mark.Walters@heneb.org.uk>**Subject:** RE: Environmental Grab Sampling in Wales

I appreciate the timing of the email was not good from a holiday perspective but we are up against it here a bit. Thank you, Mark, we also are applying to grab sampling from low water all around Wales incase priorities change or if there is a pollution incident etc. We consider this a low risk activity. A response to this would be appreciated.

**Matthew Green (MSc)****Teitl swydd / Job title:** Senior Marine Monitoring Ecologist**Adran / Department:** Marine Monitoring Team**Rhif ffôn / Phone number:** 0300 0354105 | 07768142891**Rhagenwau / Pronouns:** He/Him

**Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg, heb i hynny arwain at oedi.**

Correspondence in Welsh is welcomed, and we will respond in Welsh without it leading to a delay.



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**From:** Mark Walters <Mark.Walters@heneb.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 06 January 2025 09:54  
**To:** Green, Matthew <Matthew.Green@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Environmental Grab Sampling in Wales

**Rhybudd:** Deilliodd yr e-bost hwn o'r tu allan i'r sefydliad. Peidiwch â chlicio dolenni, atodiadau agored nac sganio codau QR oni bai eich bod yn cydnabod yr anfonwr ac yn gwybod bod y cynnwys yn ddiogel.

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Hi Matthew

Just back today after 3 weeks leave so I missed the initial pre-Christmas consultation.

It appears there is only one grab sample in our area in the Dee estuary. As this is an offshore grab sample the correct consultee would be Dr Julian Whitewright [julian.whitewright@rcahmw.gov.uk](mailto:julian.whitewright@rcahmw.gov.uk) I doubt that this single small grab sample, or a series of grab samples, at this location would be deemed important archaeologically by Julian, but it is worth checking with him if you have not already consulted him.

Best regards

Mark Walters

**Mark Walters**

Planning Archaeologist  
Heneb: Archaeoleg Clwyd-Powys  
Archaeology

**Heneb**

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**From:** Green, Matthew <[Matthew.Green@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:Matthew.Green@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** Monday, January 6, 2025 9:44 AM

**To:** Mark Walters <[Mark.Walters@heneb.org.uk](mailto:Mark.Walters@heneb.org.uk)>

**Subject:** FW: Environmental Grab Sampling in Wales

Dear Mark,

Happy new year. I hope you had a good break. Sorry I know it's just the start of the new year. Please can you respond to the below email. We require correspondence from all Heneb areas to continue with the application and time is a bit tight for our first survey in March.

Many thanks,

**Matthew Green (MSc)**

**Teitl swydd** / Job title: Senior Marine Monitoring Ecologist

**Adran** / Department: Marine Monitoring Team

**Rhif ffôn** / Phone number: 0300 0354105 | 07768142891

**Rhagenwau** / Pronouns: He/Him



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**From:** Green, Matthew

**Sent:** 20 December 2024 17:21

**To:** Jenny Emmett <[Jenny.Emmett@heneb.org.uk](mailto:Jenny.Emmett@heneb.org.uk)>; Mark Walters <[Mark.Walters@heneb.org.uk](mailto:Mark.Walters@heneb.org.uk)>; Hannah Bowden <[Hannah.Bowden@heneb.org.uk](mailto:Hannah.Bowden@heneb.org.uk)>

**Cc:** Haines, Lucie <[Lucie.Haines@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:Lucie.Haines@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk)>; Marine Licensing <[marinelicensing@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:marinelicensing@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Environmental Grab Sampling in Wales

Dear Jenny, Mark and Hannah,

I hope you are well. Following Jenny's email (attached), I am writing to notify you of Natural Resources Wales's and the Environment Agency's intention to conduct small scale (0.1m<sup>2</sup>) seabed sediment grab sampling (with the Environment Agency, Briggs Marine Contractors and using our own vessels) in Welsh territorial waters over the next three years (see charts/data attached for planned target sites). The only planned sampling sites which are in the intertidal zone are those in Milford Haven (Pembrokeshire) and Three Rivers (Carmarthenshire) however we will also be applying to sample from spring highwater to 12 nautical miles around the Welsh coast to allow flexibility with the licence in case we need to change our plans due to a pollution incident or changing monitoring priorities. I have provided all our positions but highlighted the ones which are intertidal (or close to the intertidal).

### **Query:**

**Please can I have confirmation that no archaeological features are likely to be adversely affected by sampling described in this email?**

Apologies, but please respond as soon as possible as we require a response before we can submit and application (sampling begins in March and licences take a while to process).

Information below and attached.

## **Location:**

Maps/target positions (noted in spreadsheet and on map as red dots) are attached for planned sampling but we are applying to sample from spring highwater to 12 nautical miles of the Welsh coast as a precaution (so we can respond to incidents/changing monitoring priorities). Most of our sampling is likely to be at the target positions provided. For sampling not yet planned, some areas are more likely to be sampled than others, we can provide further information if required. Positions attached are in WGS84 Lat Long and British National Grid. The planned timing/locations of surveys are provided but this may change with changing priorities.

## **Methods:**

The vessel will locate the sampling station and remain stationary at that location for a short amount of time. A 0.1m<sup>2</sup> grab sampler is deployed from the stern gantry of the vessel using a winch until it makes contact with the sea bed, then a small amount of sediment is scooped up and the grab sampler is hauled back onboard. Either sediment is subsampled for sediment analysis or the entire grab is collected and then washed over a sieve on board (usually whilst in transit) using a large sieve. The invertebrates and remaining residue are then retained for laboratory analysis. The grab deployment/haul is a relatively short process (length of time depends on depth and sea conditions).

## **Vessels and sample site location:**

Grab sampling work will be undertaken by a dedicated scientific survey vessel, likely either the Severn Guardian or the Mersey *Guardian* operated by Briggs Marine and Environmental Services Ltd and the Environment Agency or one of Natural Resources Wales survey vessels (Skalmey and Pedryn).

The Briggs Guardian vessels are equipped with Trimble® HYDROpro™ software for real-time navigation and survey data acquisition (Figure 1). The primary survey GPS feeding into Trimble Hydropro software is a SIMRAD MX512 DGPS. In the wheelhouse, a Furuno SC-30 DGPS is used for vessel navigation and acts as a backup in case the primary fails. Vessel direction of travel is provided by the Koden KGC300 sat compass and also feeds into Hydropro. Samples are generally collected within 10 m from the target coordinate unless obstructed by fishing gear or other hazard, as guided by the software. The Skipper has a Hydropro repeater screen in the wheelhouse for positioning the vessel within the sampling target. NRW vessels are smaller vessels which don't need repeater software, the wheelhouses of all vessels is also equipped with an electronic plotter with up-to-date UKHO charts showing locations of cables, wrecks pipelines and structures.

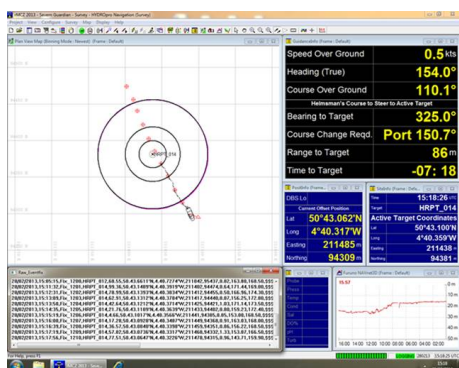


Figure 1. Trimble® HYDROpro™ software screen grab.

Skippers are briefed by the Scientist In Charge before the vessel leaves port to ensure everyone on board is familiar with the survey plan. When within range of coastal stations the survey vessel can be tracked in real-time via MarineTraffic e.g.

[https://www.marinetraffic.com/en/ais/details/ships/shipid:198782/mmsi:235091052/imo:0/vessel:SEVERN\\_GUARDIAN](https://www.marinetraffic.com/en/ais/details/ships/shipid:198782/mmsi:235091052/imo:0/vessel:SEVERN_GUARDIAN) and contact with other vessel traffic will be maintained via marine VHF.

**What the data will be used for:**

Sampling is undertaken to support nature conservation and environmental monitoring. Under the principle of “*gather once, use many times*”, the data obtained will be used for several purposes including: MPA (primarily Habitats Regulations SAC) Condition assessment, assessment of condition of large shallow inlets and bays outside of SAC’s to inform Reg 9A reporting (Habitats Regulations), Water Environment Regulations Waterbody status assessment and investigation (operational and surveillance).

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further queries.

Many thanks,

**Matthew Green (MSc)**

**Teitl swydd** / Job title: Senior Marine Monitoring Ecologist

**Adran** / Department: Marine Monitoring Team

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