

Green, Matthew

From: Hannah Bowden <Hannah.Bowden@heneb.org.uk>
Sent: 07 January 2025 09:53
To: Green, Matthew
Cc: Jenny Emmett; Mark Walters; Mike Ings; julian.whitewright@rcahmw.gov.uk; Claudine Gerrard; Lucie.Haines@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.u
Subject: RE: Environmental Grab Sampling in Wales
Attachments: Electronic appendix (planned target positions) - Heneb Response - Glamorgan Gwent Region.xlsx

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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Dear Matthew,

Thank you for your email. We have reviewed the planned target positions within our region (Glamorgan-Gwent) and can confirm that we have no archaeological concerns. Please find attached response and additional comments.

The record is not definitive however, and should any archaeological finds or deposits be encountered during the works, please contact this division of the Trust.

Kind regards,

Hannah

HANNAH BOWDEN BA (Hons) MSc MCIfA
Stewardship Officer
Heneb: Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeology



THE TRUST FOR WELSH ARCHAEOLOGY
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sylwadau gan Heneb. Mae'r e-bost hwn ac unrhyw ffeiliau a drosglwyddir gydag ef yn gyfrinachol ac at ddefnydd
yr unigolyn neu'r corff y cyfeiriwyd hwy atynt yn unig.

From: Green, Matthew <Matthew.Green@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>

Sent: 06 January 2025 09:43

To: Hannah Bowden <Hannah.Bowden@heneb.org.uk>

Subject: FW: Environmental Grab Sampling in Wales

Dear Hannah,

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



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: Green, Matthew

Sent: 20 December 2024 17:21

To: Jenny Emmett <Jenny.Emmett@heneb.org.uk>; Mark Walters <Mark.Walters@heneb.org.uk>; Hannah Bowden <Hannah.Bowden@heneb.org.uk>

Cc: Haines, Lucie <Lucie.Haines@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>; Marine Licensing <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 (0.1m²) 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 0.1m² 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.

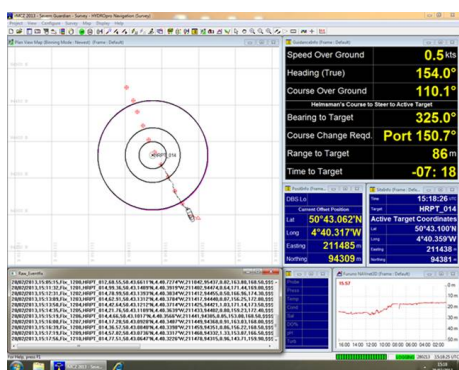


Figure 1. Trimble® HYDROpro™ software screen grab.

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 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

Rhif ffôn / Phone number: 0300 0354105 | 07768142891

Rhagenwau / Pronouns: He/Him



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