

Green, Matthew

From: Dr Julian Whitewright <julian.whitewright@rcahmw.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 January 2025 13:06
To: Green, Matthew; NMR Enquiries
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,

I managed to shuffled a few things around and have a look at this this morning. Those sample points with locations should all be fine in terms of known archaeological remains.

A standard caveat to this is that there are a large number of wrecks within the National Monuments Record for which the location is not known - only that they have been lost. So there is always potential for previously unknown remains to be discovered. If you do come across anything in the course of the work that is unexpected, please let me know so that the respective records can be updated.

Yours

Julian



Comisiwn Brenhinol
Henebion Cymru
Royal Commission on the Ancient
and Historical Monuments of Wales

Dr Julian Whitewright

Dysgwr 

Uwch Ymchwilydd (Arforol) | Senior Investigator (Maritime)

Ffordd Penglais, Aberystwyth, SY23 3BU

+44 (0) 1970 621 217

julian.whitewright@rcahmw.gov.uk

www.cbhc.gov.uk | www.rcahmw.gov.uk

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We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

Yn unol â Rheoliadau Safonau'r Gymraeg (Rhif 2) 2016, mae gennych hawl i gyfathrebu a gohebu â Chomisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru yn eich dewis iaith. Er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn cyflawni'r hawl, rhoddech wybod i ni a ydych yn dymuno derbyn gohebiaeth a/neu alwadau ffôn oddi wrthym yn y Gymraeg. Bydd yr wybodaeth hon yn cael ei chofnodi gennym ni, a byddwn yn defnyddio'r iaith o'ch dewis ym mhob cyfathrebu yn y dyfodol. Diolch.

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us, and we will use your preferred language in all future communication. Thank you.

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

Sent: Monday, January 6, 2025 09:46

To: Dr Julian Whitewright <julian.whitewright@rcahmw.gov.uk>; NMR Enquiries <nmr.wales@rcahmw.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Environmental Grab Sampling in Wales

You don't often get email from matthew.green@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)
Hi Julian,

Many thanks, apologies I know its early in the year and most people have just got back!

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.

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From: Dr Julian Whitewright <julian.whitewright@rcahmw.gov.uk>

Sent: 06 January 2025 09:37

To: Green, Matthew <Matthew.Green@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>; NMR Enquiries <nmr.wales@rcahmw.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Environmental Grab Sampling in Wales

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Hi Matthew,

Yes, I have your email from the 20th December on my to do list - it arrived while I was on leave over Christmas. Hoping to be able to address it this week.

Julian



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

Sent: Monday, January 6, 2025 09:33

To: NMR Enquiries <nmr.wales@rcahmw.gov.uk>; Dr Julian Whitewright <julian.whitewright@rcahmw.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: Environmental Grab Sampling in Wales

Some people who received this message don't often get email from
matthew.green@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

Happy new year Julian,

I hope you had a good break. Please can you respond to the below email. We require correspondence from The Royal Commission to continue with the application and time is a bit tight for our first survey in March.

Many thanks,

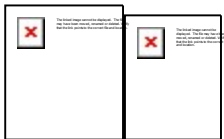
Matthew Green (MSc)

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 16:43

To: nmr.wales@rcahmw.gov.uk; julian.whitewright@rcahmw.gov.uk

Cc: Haines, Lucie <Lucie.Haines@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>; Marine Licensing <marinelicensing@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: Environmental Grab Sampling in Wales

Importance: High

Dear The Royal Commission and Dr Whitewright,

Thank you for your time discussing grab sampling last week.

As I mentioned, as a requirement of our upcoming Marine Licence application for grab sampling, 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).

Query:

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

Information below and attached.

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).

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 12nm 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.

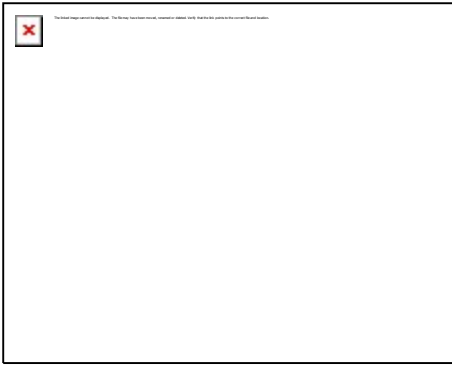


Figure 1. Trimble® HYDROpro™ software screen grab.

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 (He/Him)

Matthew Green (MSc)

Teitl swydd / Job title: Senior Marine Monitoring Ecologist

Adran / Department: Marine Monitoring Team

Rhif ffôn / Phone number: 0300 0354105 | 07768142891

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