

Sediment sampling - RRS Discovery - SeaSTORE project - Feb and July 2026

From Navigation <navigation.directorate@trinityhouse.co.uk>  
Date Fri 12/12/2025 10:12  
To Tim Whitton (Staff) <t.whitton@bangor.ac.uk>  
Cc navigation <navigation@nlb.org.uk>; navigation@irishlights.ie <navigation@irishlights.ie>

8 attachments (4 MB)  
DY206 ADCP mooring.pdf; SeaSTORE\_Landers\_pts\_data.dbf; SeaSTORE\_Landers\_pts\_data.prj; SeaSTORE\_Landers\_pts\_data.shp; SeaSTORE\_Landers\_pts\_data.shx; Landers\_SeaSTORE\_chart.jpg; Landers\_SeaSTORE\_chart\_Clyde.jpg; Landers\_SeaSTORE\_chart\_IrishSea.jpg;

Dear Dr Whitton,

Thanks for contacting Trinity House and providing all of the information on your project.

I can confirm that Trinity House has no concerns around safety of the marine user in the vicinity of the vessel or the deployment of the seabed landers.

We note that the vessel will be in the vicinity of the seabed landers for the duration of their deployment and so they should be able to monitor vessels if they approach the surface marker buoy. If however the vessel had to leave the area for any prolonged duration whilst the buoys were deployed we would recommend deploying buoys with a light on as these are in bust areas. If a lit buoy was deployed we would require a lighted characteristic of Yellow Light Flash (5) 20s, but if the vessel remains on site an unlit buoy would be acceptable.

As only sites A & D are within the jurisdiction of Trinity House I have copied in my colleagues at The Commissioners of Irish Lights and The Northern Lighthouse Board as I am not sure if you have already touched base with them. I very much doubt they will have any issues either.

I hope the project goes to plan and the weather is kind to you.

Best regards

Trevor

Capt Trevor B Harris AFNI  
Navigation (Examiner) Manager

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From: Tim Whitton (Staff) <t.whitton@bangor.ac.uk>  
Sent: 11 December 2025 16:15  
To: Navigation <navigation.directorate@trinityhouse.co.uk>  
Subject: Re: Sediment sampling - RRS Discovery - SeaSTORE project - Feb and July 2026

Dear Navigation Directorate at Trinity House

Further to my previous email regarding the sediment sampling for the SeaSTORE RRS Discovery research cruises commencing in February and July 2026, we are also planning to deploy an instrumented seabed lander for 48 hours at each site during each of the two cruises.

Key points

- This lander is designed to be fully recoverable using an acoustic release to retrieve all lander elements from the seabed.
- The RRS Discovery will remain in the area during the ~ 48-hour deployments.
- Lander footprint is ~ 80 x 80 cm. Main lander height is 3 – 4 m from the seabed, with a 15m recovery line with small buoy attached to aid safe recovery (this can be removed from design but makes recovery more challenging). See attached diagram.
- Position of lander deployment will be posted on kingfisher bulletin, sent to [SDR@UKHO.gov.uk](mailto:SDR@UKHO.gov.uk), local Fishing Producer Organisations and local port authorities (Peel Ports) where relevant and broadcast to nearby vessels.

Table1. Positions (WGS1984) of centre points of Lander deployment positions for each site with estimated depth (chart datum).

| Site             | Lat      | Lon      | Depth (m) | Energy          | Substrate |
|------------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| Site B - WIS     | 53.92131 | -5.40119 | 103       | Low energy      | Fine mud  |
| Site D - Sand    | 53.78639 | -4.95988 | 87        | Low energy      | Sand      |
| Site A - Cumbria | 54.34297 | -3.75457 | 36        | Moderate energy | Sandy mud |
| Site C - Clyde   | 55.41855 | -4.95568 | 66        | Low energy      | Fine mud  |

Your response as to if you consider these lander deployments will cause an obstruction or danger to navigation will be greatly appreciated and any advice you have or comments you have on ensuring safety for other vessels during this work.

Your response regarding the sediment sampling sent on 27/11/2025 would also be greatly appreciated.

With best regards

Tim Whitton

From: Tim Whitton (Staff) <[t.whitton@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:t.whitton@bangor.ac.uk)>  
Sent: 27 November 2025 11:47  
To: [Navigation.directorate@trinityhouse.co.uk](mailto:Navigation.directorate@trinityhouse.co.uk) <[Navigation.directorate@trinityhouse.co.uk](mailto:Navigation.directorate@trinityhouse.co.uk)>  
Subject: Sediment sampling - RRS Discovery - SeaSTORE project - Feb and July 2026

Dear Trinity House

I writing to you regarding research activities that will occur from the RRS Discovery between 22nd February - 22nd March 2026 and 22nd July - August 17th 2026 in the Irish Sea (Sites D and A are in Trinity House areas). We have sites in offshore Northern Irish waters and a site in the Clyde which I believe we will need to contact Irish Lights and Northern Light Board about respectively.

I seeking you confirmation or advice on if you consider the below activities to 'not cause an obstruction or danger to navigation'.

- We will under take sediment sampling with multicore, box core and SPI camera in the areas shown below. We have 7 stations we will sample at each site with multiple samples taken at each station. These are known fishing areas and the sampling strategies locations have been discussed with the master of the RRS Discovery.
- Sampling the water column with towed instruments from the RRS Discovery behind an actively fishing vessel that is chartered for the project. Both the master of the RRS Discovery and the commercial fishing vessel will be in communication with each other and other nearby vessels.

Positions of the sediment sampling will be posted in the Kingfisher Bulletin prior to the cruise, and we are working in collaboration with the Fishery Producer Organisations in the areas we are sampling in.

If you have any questions or need more information then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding the above.

Best regards

Tim

**Dr Timothy Whitton**  
Ecolegydd Ymchwil OI-ddoethurol  
Ysgol Gwyddorau Eigion  
  
E-bost: [t.whitton@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:t.whitton@bangor.ac.uk)  
Ffôn: +44 1248 383936  *Dw i'n gallu siarad rhywfaint o Gymraeg*  
*Sylwch fy mod yn gweithio'n rhan amser ac felly mao'n bosibl y bydd oedi wrth ymateb.*

**Dr Timothy Whitton**  
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School of Ocean Sciences  
  
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Phone: +44 1248 383936  *I can speak some Welsh*  
*Please note I work part time and so replies may be delayed.*



Mae croeso i chi gysylltu gyda'r Brifysgol yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

You are welcome to contact the University in Welsh or English. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay.

Rhif Elusen Gofrestredig 1141565 - Registered Charity No. 1141565

Gall y neges e-bost hon, ac unrhyw atodiadau a anfonwyd gyda hi, gynnwys deunydd cyfrinachol ac wedi eu bwriadu i'w defnyddio'n unig gan y sawl y cawsant eu cyfeirio ato (atynt). Os ydych wedi derbyn y neges e-bost hon trwy gamgymeriad, rhochwyd wybod i'r anfonwr ac unwaith a dilewyd y neges. Os na fwriadwyd anfon y neges atoch chi, rhaid i chi beidio a defnyddio, cadw neu ddatgelu unrhyw wybodaeth a gynhwysir ynddi. Mae unrhyw farn neu safbwynt yn eiddo i'r sawl a'i

hanfonodd yn unig ac nid yw o anghenraid yn cynrychioli barn Prifysgol Bangor. Nid yw Prifysgol Bangor yn gwarantu bod y neges e-bost hon neu unrhyw atodiadau yn rhydd rhag ffirysau neu 100% yn ddiogel. Oni bai fod hyn wedi ei ddatgan yn uniongyrchol yn nhestun yr e-bost, nid bwriad y neges e-bost hon yw ffurfio contract rhwymol - mae rhestr o lofnodwyr awdurdodedig ar gael o Swyddfa Cyllid Prifysgol Bangor.

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