



## Archaeological Geophysical Assessment

### Introduction

During the Environmental Impact Assessment process the archaeological interpretation of geophysical data is one of the methods employed to determine the archaeological potential of an area of seabed. The viewing of this data, in particular Sidescan Sonar, will help to establish a picture of the visible potential anthropogenic debris and shipwrecks. The archaeological interpretation of the data will assess its potential significance. The interpretation of Sidescan Sonar data is often the minimum requirement for regulatory bodies where there is a potential impact to the historic environment.

### Services

MSDS Marine can provide support from the initial planning of the survey specification, to ensure suitability for archaeological interpretation, through to the final archaeological report. We can work with a variety of data including Sidescan Sonar, Magnetometer and Multibeam Bathymetry. Services include;

- Survey specification planning
- Data quality and coverage assessment
- Post-processing
- Contact identification
- Archaeological inspection and interpretation
- Reporting

### Deliverables

Requirements will differ between sites and clients, we aim to provide a flexible service that will complement the project, deliverables can include;

- Contact gazetteers
- Contact descriptions and images
- GIS files (ESRI compatible)
- Spatial analysis and data comparisons
- Mosaics
- Archaeological reports
- Quality assessment reports
- Report figures

### Software

Different projects and requirements may stipulate certain software is used, where this is the case there may be additional hire costs. We will always ensure that software is on hire for the minimum amount of time. Software experience includes;

- CODA GeoSurvey
- SonarWiz
- Hypack
- QINSY
- Fledermaus
- Quantum GIS
- ArcGIS
- Other standard and common software packages



### **Project Planning**

It is very hard to state with certainty the amount of time that will be required to review and interpret an area of data. The time will depend on the quality of the data, the type of seabed, the task and the density of contacts, however for project planning purposes a figure of between 70-90 line km's can usually be used for Sidescan Sonar review. For projects with other datasets and reporting elements then this should be discussed prior to any submission of times or costs.

Costs may vary dependant on the project, the processes involved, the scale of works and any requirements for software licensing. As such costs will be given on a project by project basis. At the clients request, and where possible, a fixed price may be given for the project.

### **Recent Work**

The list below is an indication of the scope of the projects that Mark James has undertaken that have required the archaeological assessment of geophysical data;

- Aggregate extraction areas nationally
- Channel deepening and dredging projects
- Round 3 windfarm sites
- Offshore gas storage sites
- Harbour development projects
- Shipwreck and archaeological site visualisation with Multibeam Bathymetry

To discuss projects or for further information then please do not hesitate to get in touch using the details below;

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