



18th April 2024

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

This note is intended to provide guidance for application relating to geological surveys that require notification only.

Examples of geological survey activities that require notification only are:

- Echo Sounder Survey
- Side-scan Sonar Survey
- Visual Surveys
- Multi-beam Survey
- Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) Survey

Where the proposed geological survey involves several survey techniques, these should all be indicated in the section of the SAT entitled 'Nature of the Survey'. Where the geological survey incorporates activities that require both consent and notification, **separate applications are not required** and, in these instances, a single application for consent should be submitted ensuring that both 'the nature of survey' and 'other survey methods to be employed that do not require consent' sections in the application are completed.

Visual surveys that are being undertaken as part of an already approved activity e.g. ROV inspection surveys for decommissioning, pipeline and P&A activities or visual surveys within an established 500 metre safety zone **do not require notification**.

Surveys that require notification are related to sound sources that are considered to have a negligible impact on the marine environment. By virtue of this, the Department has no expectation that a detailed Environmental Assessment Justification (EAJ) is required to support a geological survey notification.

For the purposes of geological survey notifications all that is required is a brief summary of the proposed operations, acknowledging that there will be no significant impact on the marine environment. Where proposed operations are within UK Marine Protected Area's (MPA's) the Department would expect a proportional assessment/conclusion of the potential impacts. In both scenario's there is no expectation to include a full environmental baseline.

It is worth noting that although activities that are notification only are considered not to have a significant impact on the marine environment, there is an obligation on the Department to inform interested parties, which are primarily other users of the sea to mitigate potential interaction between activities.