



## **British Geological Survey – a MEDIN DAC since February 2009**

### **About British Geological Survey**

Founded in 1835, the British Geological Survey (BGS) is one of the oldest national geological survey organisations in the world and is a Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) research centre. BGS is a public sector organisation responsible for advising the UK government on all aspects of geoscience as well as providing impartial advice to industry, academia and the public. BGS hosts the National Geoscience Data Centre (NGDC) which holds a comprehensive collection of geological, geophysical and environmental information on the surface and subsurface of Great Britain and the adjacent sea areas. BGS is the MEDIN DAC for seabed and sub-seabed geology and geophysics data.

### **Data held**

Various types of marine geoscientific data are held by BGS, including both data acquired during marine surveys, and derivative data resulting from the processing and interpretation of survey data. BGS archives physical materials (cores and samples), records, maps, documents and digital data. This includes seismic, sonar, multibeam, magnetic, gravity and other types of geophysical data, geological descriptions and interpretations, geotechnical data, geochemical data and particle size data.

### **Submitting data**

Data are submitted by prior mutual agreement (and possibly a contract) between BGS and the submitting party. The first stage is to submit a catalogue of the data being offered for archiving. BGS will then assess the contents of the catalogue and if necessary enter into discussion to clarify information in the catalogue. Depending on the volume, type, media and quality of the data, BGS may quote a cost for accessioning the data into the archive. The agreement will include a schedule for delivery to BGS. BGS primarily accepts digital data only. Paper records will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances.

### **Accessing the data**

The coverage of available data may be viewed and searched online via the BGS Offshore GeoIndex - <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/GeoIndex/offshore.htm>. This is a map based index which includes details of the data. The Offshore GeoIndex is also available as a Web Map Service so that the layers can be added to desktop GIS - <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/wms.htm>.

BGS is working towards providing access to the actual data online (except for some large volume datasets). However, the current method to request data is to contact the BGS Enquiry team by email or telephone with a list of the data required (sample and geophysical line number) or with a specific enquiry.

A portal is also available for searching Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) data - <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/sea/> (data available for download depending on file size).

Most data are publicly available although some datasets may require approval from the original data owner before data can be released to a third party. A charge may apply to cover distribution costs and additional work required. See the BGS policy on IPR at <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/about/copyright/>.

### **Data use**

Marine geoscientific data from BGS is used by public, commercial and academic organisations for a wide variety of applications. Examples include sea-bed mapping, site investigation, environmental impact assessment, development of marine resources, renewable energy, marine aggregates, aquaculture and fishing, conservation, habitat mapping and marine archaeology. Within BGS, current research using the data focuses on 3D modelling, detailed sea-bed mapping, reconnaissance surveys, and basin analysis on the Atlantic Margin.

### **Contact details**

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