

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA5) sediment sample analysis



Client: Geotek/ParTrac Ltd
Project duration: 2 months

Project description:

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a means through which environmental protection and sustainable development may be considered, and factored into national and local decisions regarding government (and other) plans and programmes – such as offshore oil and gas or renewable energy licensing rounds. Seabed sediments over the majority of the SEA5 area are sand or mud, or a mixture of the two. Typically sandier sediments are found in the south and in coastal waters, with muddy sediments present in the deeper areas of the central and northern North Sea.

Key elements:

Within this programme, SERG:ES determined the particle size

composition, the organic content of the sediments, the carbonate content of the sediments, and the total organic carbon and nitrogen content of the sediments. More than 200 samples were analysed using generally accepted methodologies.

Seabed sediments were found to vary mainly from gravel spreads in the exposed nearshore and relatively shallow-water areas to predominantly sandy and muddy sediments on the open continental shelf further offshore. Proportions of calcium carbonate in the seabed sediments are highest around the inner shelf and nearshore environments of the Orkney and Shetland Islands and the adjacent NE Scottish mainland.



Picture of sediment from the Sandy Riddle - a large banner bank. Sediments are almost pure shelly carbonate gravel and well-sorted very coarse-grained sand.
