



Newsletter

Project information

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you had a restful Christmas break.

This will be a short newsletter due to the Christmas break, however there has been some good progress in work package 1 (see details below).

We continue to build our stakeholder group with representation from industry, central government, regulation and agencies. However there is always room for more so we welcome your suggestions of other organisations that may benefit from, or provide valuable input to the MOET project.

The current list of stakeholders includes: Atkins Realis, bp, Centre for Environment, Climate Change Commission, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science Centrica, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, The Crown Estate, Crown Estate Scotland, Environment Agency, Equinor, ERM, International Energy Agency Greenhouse Gas R&D Programme, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Marine Management Organisation, MarineSpace Ltd, National Physical Laboratory, Natural England, North Sea Transition Authority, Perenco, Shell, Storegga, Synergia Ltd, Tyndall Centre, UK Hydrographic Office, The Wildlife Trusts, Wintershall Dea.

Meetings and engagement activities

We were delighted to welcome so many of you to our first in-person stakeholder workshop on 23rd November (see summary in November 2023 newsletter). Thank you all so much for giving your time to help us shape the project. We have shared the meeting notes with those that participated. Next steps include reviewing those notes to assess how best to take the MOET project forward in its remaining 3.5 years. A summary with recommendations will follow which will be circulated to you all as soon as possible. We plan to hold two similar events before the end of the project; one in about a year's time, at the mid-point of the project, and one at the end of the project (project ends March 2027). We will be in touch well in advance of those meetings to secure dates.

We are now considering how to continue this engagement and welcome any thoughts you have regarding methods of engagement e.g. online meetings focused on specific topics.

We will continue to send you monthly newsletters to keep up to date with our progress – I hope you find these useful.

Work Package 1 update - Optimal use of subsurface geological resources for storage of H₂ and CO₂

Progress has focused on the mapping of subdivisions within the Zechstein salt formations to model new salt cavern storage capacity. Zechstein subdivisions have been mapped in strata from the coast to the Dowsing Fault Zone in the southern North Sea study area, as discussed with stakeholders in November.

- Intra-Zechstein surfaces have been mapped, from the basin to the near shore, from seismic and well data.
- A concept to use machine learning on well log data to identify non-halite intervals relevant to cavern construction, has been set up.
- A workflow to select and prepare a machine learning training well dataset, also to QC and blind test the application, has been agreed.
- An integrated velocity model, to convert the seismic data to depth values, is now scheduled.
- Application of the Bunter Sandstone zone structural boundary classification work is now completed and writing up for publication has commenced.

Project management team

Jim White – Principal Investigator (BGS)

Maxine Akhurst – WP1 lead (BGS)

Jerry Blackford – WP2 lead and PML Principal Investigator (PML)

Elizabeth Gabe-Thomas – WP3 lead (PML)

Hazel Napier – WP4 lead (BGS)

Angus Best – NOC Principal Investigator (NOC)