

Sanday to North Ronaldsay Route Survey

XOCEAN Notice to Mariners

Date of Issue:

- Original issue: 8 December 2025
- Rev 01: 14 January 2026
- Rev02: 28 January 2026
- Rev03: 29 January 2026
- Rev04: 15 February 2026
- Rev05: 12 March 2026

Survey Activities: XOCEAN is planning the collection of geophysical data using remotely piloted Uncrewed Surface Vessels (USVs) along a proposed cable route corridor in Orkney, from the islands of Sanday to North Ronaldsay. The USVs are expected to operate out of Westray Marina for the full survey duration. A mix of USVs with both hull mounted survey sensors (Multibeam Echosounders & Sub-Bottom Profilers) and also towed sensors (SideScan Sonar & Magnetometer) through the water in proximity of the seabed will be used. A crewed Support Vessel will be chartered throughout the survey to support the USVs with departures and arrivals from Westray Marina and assist in towing them back in if a technical issue occurs.

Dates/Duration: Operations are expected to commence around 20 March 2026. It is expected that the survey activities shall be completed within 30 days (subject to weather).

Survey Area: Figure 1 below indicates the operational area which is shown by the darker green area. This is outlined in Table 1 below also.

Fishing Gear Clearance: No fishing gear clearance is presently being requested for these surveys.

Figure 1: Overall Survey Area

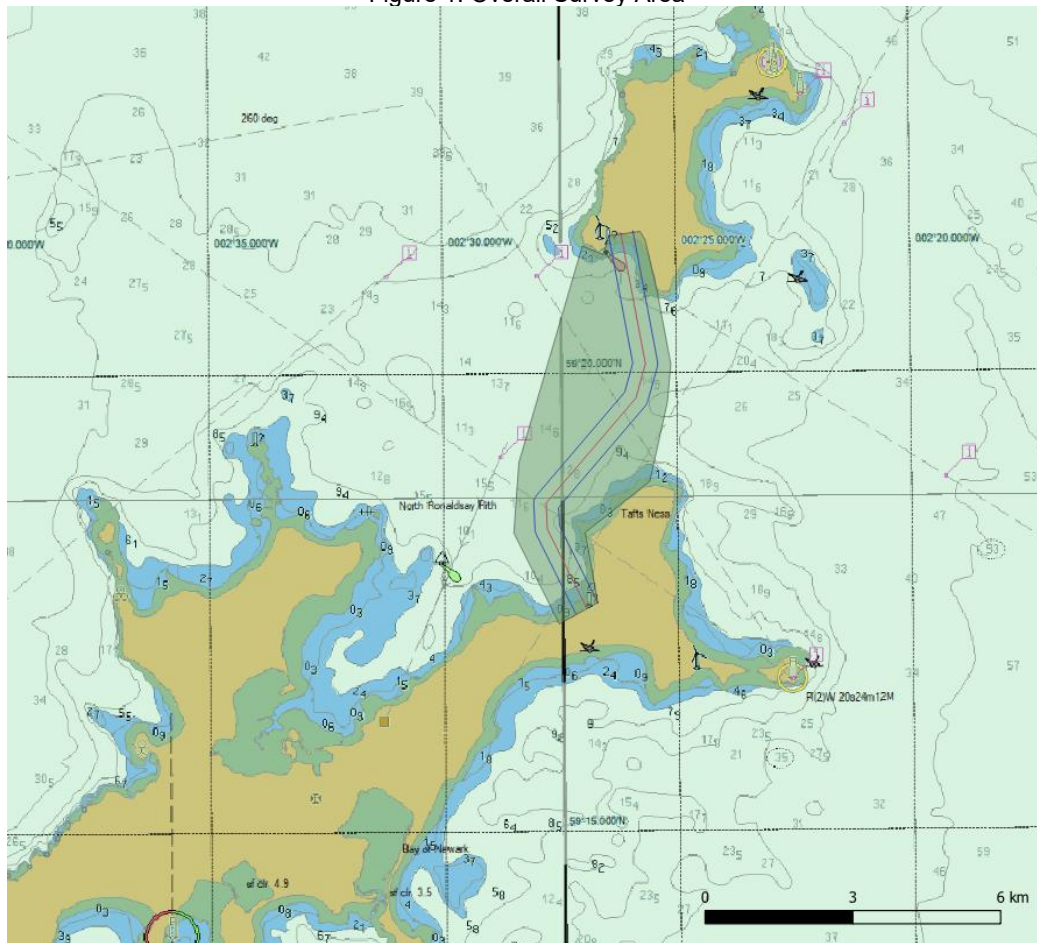


Table 1: Operational area coordinates (WGS84)

Northing	Easting	Lat DM	Lon DM	Lat DMS	Lon DMS
6579874	531299.7	59°21.38714'N	2°26.97005'W	59°21'23.228"N	2°26'58.203"W
6580169	532470	59°21.54106'N	2°25.73242'W	59°21'32.463"N	2°25'43.945"W
6577474	533096.6	59°20.08595'N	2°25.09608'W	59°20'05.157"N	2°25'05.765"W
6575098	532671	59°18.80771'N	2°25.56645'W	59°18'48.463"N	2°25'33.987"W
6574057	531358.8	59°18.25318'N	2°26.95842'W	59°18'15.191"N	2°26'57.505"W
6572631	531614.2	59°17.48373'N	2°26.70188'W	59°17'29.024"N	2°26'42.113"W
6572201	530832.8	59°17.25552'N	2°27.52856'W	59°17'15.331"N	2°27'31.714"W
6574046	529910.7	59°18.25311'N	2°28.48429'W	59°18'15.187"N	2°28'29.058"W

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The details of the Uncrewed Surface Vessels (USVs) that will operate on the survey are shown below. It is expected that no more than 2 USVs will be operational at any one time.

Table 2: USVs with Hull Mounted Sensors

AIS Name:	X 23 UNCREWED	X 26 UNCREWED
MMSI:	232044015	232052508
Callsign:	MMIM8	MOQM9
Length:	4.5m	4.5m
Beam:	2.2m	2.2m
Speed:	3.5kts	3.5kts
Draught:	1.5m	1.5m
Tonnage:	1.1Tn	1.1Tn

Table 3: USVs with Towed Sensors

AIS Name:	X 09 UNCREWED	X 11 UNCREWED	X 28 UNCREWED	X 29 UNCREWED	X05 UNCREWED
MMSI:	232027632	232033343	232053988	232053990	232059837
Callsign:	MHIJ8	MIRG4	MOXJ2	MOXJ4	MRSM9
Length:	4.5m	4.5m	4.5m	4.5m	4.5m
Beam:	2.2m	2.2m	2.2m	2.2m	2.2m
Speed:	2.5kts	2.5kts	2.5kts	2.5kts	2.5kts
Draught:	1.5m	1.5m	1.5m	1.5m	1.5m
Tonnage:	1.1tn	1.1Tn	1.1Tn	1.1Tn	1.1Tn

Situational Awareness: Although the USVs are uncrewed, they are remotely piloted throughout the 24-hour operation. The USV sends real time images and situational awareness data over satellite to allow this monitoring. The situational awareness aids available are listed below.



Figure 2: USV with hull mounted sensors



Figure 3: USV with towed sensors

Safety Precautions: The USV is equipped with the following to make it conspicuous to other marine traffic:

- AIS
- VHF
- Navigation Lights & Sound Signals
- Active Radar Reflector

Exclusion Area / Closest Point of Approach: Seafarers are kindly asked to provide a clearance of >500m from the USVs at all times when they are in operation.

NOTICE TO MARINERS

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Support Vessel: The USVs operations will be supported by a crewed Support Vessel. XOCEAN plan to charter in the *Northerly Explorer*, owned and operated by Northerly Marine Services Ltd and be based at Westray Marina.

	<i>Northerly Venture</i>
MMSI:	235098073
Callsign:	2GKA8
Length:	16.3m
Beam:	7m
Draught:	1.4m



XOCEAN Marine & Operations Contact Details:

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Fishing Liaison Officers:

Fishing liaison for the operations will be co-ordinated by Brown and May Marine. For any commercial fishery queries please contact the Company Fishing Liaison Officers (CFLOs):

Name	Contact Number	Email
Meg Kalafat	07702 710176	Meg.kalafat@brownmay.com

The local Fishing Industries Representative (FIR) will also be in place to liaise with the vessels and fishing operations in the survey area.

Name	Contact Number	Email
Chris Davidson	07810 305100	cad17@hotmail.co.uk

Legal Notice

Please be advised that this Notice to Mariners should be treated as official notice of the nature, duration and location of the works which are scheduled to take place. During the period of this notice, we request that you plan your activities around our short-term, temporary activities.

Any failure to remove equipment where this has been requested, or entry into the identified location in a manner that would constitute a hazard may be a breach of your duties of safe seamanship as described in the Convention on International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972 and/or the Merchant Shipping Act 1995, and may result in removal of the relevant equipment. Failure to remove equipment, where this has been requested, or entry into the identified location in a manner that would constitute a hazard may constitute a breach of duty of care at common law, and a failure to protect submarine cables for successful seabed user co-existence under Scotland's National Marine Plan.

SHEPD shall found on this notice in the event of any damage, loss or disruption arising from failure to heed the information herein.