

RV BELGICA CRUISE 2014/16 – CRUISE REPORT

Subscribers:	Prof. Dr. David Van Rooij (DVR), Drs. Tim Collart (TC)
Institutes:	Renard Centre for Marine Geology, Ghent University (UGent - RCMG)
Addresses:	Krijgslaan 281, S8, 9000 Gent
Telephones:	+32(0)9 264 45 83 (DVR) +32 (0)9 264 4589 (TC)
E-mails:	david.vanrooij@ugent.be ; tim.collart@ugent.be



Geology: 13/06/2014 - 23/06/2014

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1. CRUISE DETAILS

1.	Cruise number	2014/16
2.	Date/time	Porto TD: 13/06/2014 at 14h20 Zeebrugge TA: 23/06/2014 at 07h00
3.	Chief Scientist Participating institutes	Prof. Dr. David Van Rooij Ghent University - RCMG University of Vigo (Spain) British Geological Survey (UK) Plymouth University-Marine Biology and Ecology Research Centre (UK)
4.	Area of interest	UK EEZ: Celtic Margin • Dangeard & Explorer Canyons 48°45'N – 48°00'N – 10°15'W – 09°15'W

2. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

INSTITUTE	NAME	13/06 - 23/06/14
UGent - RCMG	David VAN ROOIJ	Embarkation on 11/06
	Tim COLLART	Embarkation on 11/06
	Koen DE RYCKER	Embarkation on 11/06
	Thomas VANDORPE	Embarkation on 11/06
British Geological Survey	Heather STEWARD	Embarkation on 11/06
	Ian PHEASANT	Embarkation on 11/06
	David WALLIS	Embarkation on 11/06
Plymouth University	Kerry HOWELL	Embarkation on 11/06
	Marcus SHIRLEY	Embarkation on 11/06
University of Vigo	Angel MENA	Embarkation on 11/06
Total number of participants:		10

3. SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVES

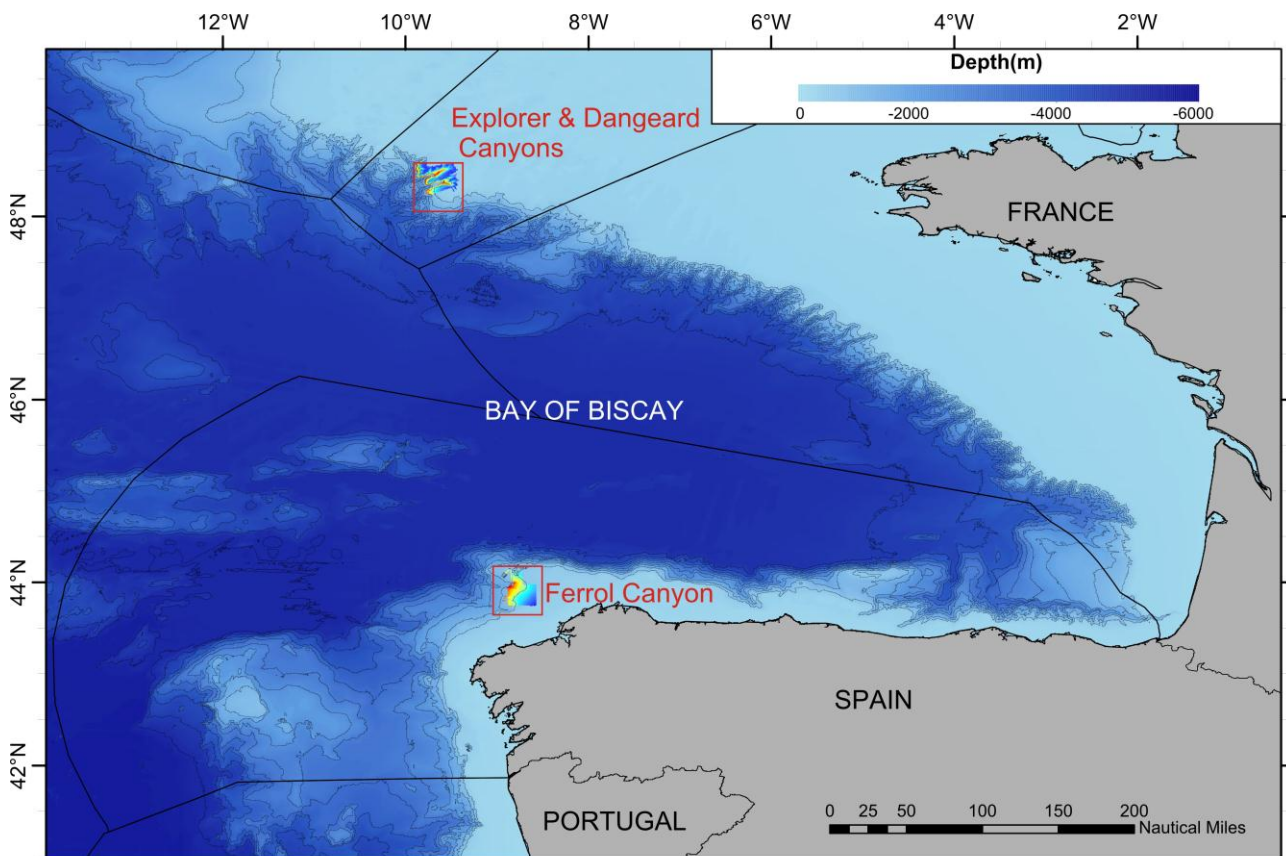


Fig. 1: Locations of the study area's for the R/V Belgica ST1416 on the EMODnet Bathymetry (contour lines every 500m). Bolt black lines indicate the EEZ boundaries.

FWO MINIMOUND Project: Using Cold-water coral mini-mounds as analogue for giant mound growth: assessment of environmental drivers and anthropogenic impact

Cold-water corals (CWC) are found along the entire north-eastern Atlantic Margin from Norway to the Gulf of Cadiz. In the Porcupine Seabight, these coral reefs (mainly *Lophelia pertusa* and *Madrepora oculata*) accumulate into large mounds of up to 250m high (e.g. Challenger Mound), which have been well studied over the past two decades (Roberts et al., 2006). The detailed mechanism of the start-up phase of such large CWC mounds is however not yet fully understood. Therefore, it is essential to study analogues of these stages that are not well recorded in larger mounds. The FWO MINIMOUND project (2013-2016) aims to investigate the initiation, growth and demise of "small" CWC mounds and to determine the role of climatic and hydrocarbon-seepage related processes as well as anthropogenic impact. This high-resolution multidisciplinary study will focus on three "minimound" provinces along the Biscay continental margin: (1) the Explorer and Dangeard Canyons on the Celtic Margin (Fig. 1; Stewart et al., 2013), (2) the Guilvinec Canyon on the Armorican Margin (De Mol et al., 2011) and (3) the Upper Ferrol Canyon on the Cantabrian Margin (Fig. 1). These minimounds are fossil (9.7ka BP) and occur at relative shallow depth on the interface between the Eastern North Atlantic Central Water (ENACW) and the Mediterranean Outflow Water (MOW). Contrastingly, most present-day living CWC reef habitats dwell in the deeper MOW depth range, relying on the density and dynamics of this water mass for their food supply.

The objectives of the project are threefold: (1) the establishment of a chronostratigraphic framework and the reconstruction of palaeoceanographic changes over the last 15.000 years in order to determine the impact of glacial to interglacial climate change on the ENACW-MOW interface and the CWC habitats (Frank et al., 2011); (2) the minimound province at the Upper Ferrol Canyon shows a close association with hydrocarbon-seepage (pockmarks) which allows to assess the role of hydrocarbon related processes in CWC mound formation; (3) the potential impact of anthropogenic fisheries activities will be investigated.

These objectives will be tackled through a coupled geophysical, sedimentological and integrative approach, including the palaeoceanographic and biogeochemical study of USBL guided cores in cooperation with the BGS (UK), LSCE (Gif-sur-Yvette, France), IFREMER (France), IGME (Spain) and IEO (Spain). Two sampling campaigns with the R/V Belgica will be undertaken. The first campaign in June 2014 aims to take cores through the minimounds located on the Upper Ferrol Canyon (ES) and the Explorer and Dangeard Canyons (UK) using vibrocorer provided by the BGS (Fig. 1). In addition to core collection, drop frame video data will be acquired to allow habitat mapping and predictive modeling of the CWC habitats in cooperation with the Marine Institute of Plymouth University (UK). Unfortunately weather did not allow any research activities in the Upper Ferrol Canyon area and hence the campaign was entirely shifted to the Explorer and Dangeard Canyon areas.

OD NATURE-LN (AUMS)

The AUMS (Autonomous Underway Measurement System) project is inspired by the success of similar systems deployed on various ships of opportunity in the framework of the European Union FerryBox project (www.ferrybox.org). The instrumentation will greatly enhance the continuous oceanographic measurements made by RV Belgica by taking advantage of the significant technological improvements since the design of the existing (salinity, temperature, fluorescence) systems. In particular, many new parameters can now be measured continuously including important ecosystem parameters such as nitrate, ammonia, silicate, dissolved oxygen and CO₂, turbidity, alkalinity and phytoplankton pigments. In addition, the new equipment allows automatic acquisition and preservation of water samples, rendering RV Belgica operations significantly more efficient by reducing onboard human resources. Data will be available in near real-time via OD NATURE's public web site and following quality control, from the Belgian Marine Data Centre.

ESA-MC (GNSS)

For the European Space Agency continuous GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite system) data is autonomously acquired in the maritime environment for performance evaluation under different conditions.

4. OPERATIONAL COURSE

*All times are given in local time (UTC +1). All coordinates in WGS84.
Throughout the campaign, measurements are made with the AUMS system.*

11/06/2014

09h00	Arrival BGS team (Heather Stewart, Iain Pheasant, David Wallis) and RCMG team (Koen De Rycker, Thomas Vandorpe, Tim Collart) at RV Belgica in Leixoes Harbour, Passenger Terminal, Dock 1 North
10h00	Demobilization Belgica 2014-15 campaign
11h00	Installation seismic equipment
13h00	Installation seismic control unit equipment and navigation computers (GPS, desktop with MMI and OFOB software) on the bridge
17h00	Arrival Plymouth Team (Kerry Howell & Marcus Shirley) and Chief Scientist David Van Rooij
18h00	Reception on the Belgica

12/06/2014

09h00	Delay of vibrocorer containers and videodropframe delivery due to customs and national holiday on 10/06
10h00	Arrival land crane for vibrocorer container mobilization
14h00	Arrival vibrocorer containers, loading of control unit container and vibrocorer parts with the land crane
15h00	Arrival videodropframe pallet
16h00	Building of vibrocorer and videodropframe
18h00	Decision to postpone departure on 13/06 till 14h00 to allow for a vibrocorer deployment test in the harbor
20h00	Building of vibrocorer and videodropframe (continued)

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1st day 13/06/2014

09h00 Briefing vibrocorer deployment crew
Blackout and alarm test
13h40 Operational briefing
Vibrocorer deployment test
14h20 Start transit towards zone 1 (Ferrol Canyon)
15h00 Abandon ship safety test
16h00 Scientific meeting (briefing)
18h00 Rendez-vous with BNS Godetia

2nd day 14/06/2014

10h33 Arrival in zone 1 (Ferrol Canyon)
Weather does not allow vibrocoring and forecasts do not look favorable
Decision to shift campaign goal entirely to zone 2 (Explorer-Dangeard Canyon)
Start transit to zone 2

3rd day 15/06/2014

12h00 Arrival zone 2 (Explorer-Dangeard Canyon)
13h00 Preparations vibrocorer
13h15 Test vibrocorer functioning
14h25 Approach of site DI-15
14h26 Vibrocorer launched to site DI-15
14h50 Vibrocorer at 240 m water depth, approaching site for landing
GAPS signal is not constantly updated
14h56 Vibrocorer at the seafloor (Long: 9°35,71'W; Lat: 48°18,106'N; Depth: 275 m)
GAPS position stable
Coring process started (15 min)
15h00 Inconsistent GAPS position (double water depth)
Rebooting MMI (GAPS Software)
Inconsistent position
15h12 Vibrocorer off the seafloor, gradually coming up
GAPS position reestablished
15h20 Vibrocorer brought back on deck successfully
1.5 m of core tube not back in the rig (not able to core fully or pulled out too soon)
Reconfigured pull back time
Battery loosened but recovered
15h24 Ready for core extraction
15h39 214 cm of core recovered
Navigation to next site DI-29
16h35 Vibrocorer launched to site DI-29
Continues GAPS position updates
Tracking SUB 1,2,3 and 4 in OFOB to see if position is logged
16h39 GAPS position lost, acoustic array loss
Rebooting MMI software
GAPS position reestablished
Vibrocorer at 220 m water depth, approaching site for landing
17h10 Vibrocorer at the seafloor (Long: 9°35,266'W; Lat: 48°17,983'N; Depth: 262 m)
Coring process started (20 min)
GAPS position lost and reestablished
Correct position close to target site DI-29
Inconsistent GAPS positioning during coring
17h30 Vibrocorer off the seafloor
17h39 Vibrocorer on deck, core barrel fully in the rig
Ready for core extraction
17h58 218 cm of core recovered
19h21 Delay in video dropframe deployment due to problems with hydraulics on the starboard winch

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Problems being diagnosed

22h12 Hydraulic system still not operational, reparation will be done by 10h00 the next day
Seismic acquisition will be done in that time
GAPS system out of the water

23h10 Approach of seismic line ED14-0601

23h15 Switched to electrical propulsion
Speed kept at approximately 3kn

23h20 Streamer and sparker in the water
Start testing

23h25 Start of line ED14-0601

4th day 16/06/2014

04h27 End of line ED14-0601 (heading: 66; average speed: 2.9 knots)

05h56 Start of line ED14-0602

09h07 End of line ED14-0602 (heading: 242; average speed: 2.9 knots)

09h21 Start of line ED14-0603

10h39 End of line ED14-0603 (heading: 68; average speed: 3.1 knots)

10h43 Seismic streamer and sparker back on board
Engine switched back to diesel propulsion
Navigation towards vibrocorer site DI-4

11h05 Approach of site DI-4, GAPS in the water

11:17 Vibrocorer launched to site DI-4
Problems with GAPS, no constant positioning

11h29 Vibrocorer at the seafloor (Long: 9°37,362'W; Lat: 48°17,788'N; Depth: 316 m)
GAPS positioning is working
Coring process started (25 min)

11h41 Loss of GAPS position

11h58 Vibrocorer off the seafloor

12h17 Vibrocorer on deck

12h23 Only 43 cm of core acquired
Site DI-4 will be repeated (DI-4b)
Fixed problem with USBL depth logging in the OFOB software

12h54 Vibrocorer launched to site DI-4b
No GPS received by MMI, rebooting
GAPS position reestablished

13h05 Vibrocorer at the seafloor (Long: 9°37,35'W; Lat: 48°17,797'N; Depth: 316 m)
GAPS positioning is working
Coring process started (25 min)

13h33 Vibrocorer off the seafloor

13h39 Vibrocorer on deck

13h59 103cm of core recovered
Core catchers deformed, part of core pulled back out
Use of double core catcher in future coring
Coral present at the top
Core valve was damaged, repairs being done
Navigation to site DI-10

15h10 Core valve repaired

15h50 Vibrocorer launched to site DI-10

16h04 Vibrocorer at the seafloor (Long: 9°37,363'W; Lat: 48°17,737'N; Depth: 315 m)
GAPS position correct
Coring process started (25 min)

16h09 GAPS positioning problems
Rebooting MMI
No GAPS positioning

16h30 Vibrocorer off the seafloor
Still no GAPS positioning
Rebooting MMI

16h36 Vibrocorer on deck

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16h50 131 cm of core recovered
transit to revisit DI-15 (DI-15b)

17h22 Vibrocorer launched to site DI-15b

17h34 Vibrocorer at the seafloor (Long: 9°35,717'W; Lat: 48°18,121'N; Depth: 271 m)
Coring process started (25 min)
Loss of GAPS positioning
Rebooting MMI

18h02 Vibrocorer off the seafloor

18h10 Vibrocorer on deck

18h25 229 cm of core recovered
Preparing for video transects

18h51 Video dropframe launched for dive T12 and T15 (both stations visited in 1 dive)
OFOB crashes
Protocol logging continued in T12T15cont

19h06 Video dropframe at the seafloor, starting transect T12T15

19h48 Passed over station T12
GAPS positioning is working

19h55 MMI reboot, lost GAPS position for approx. 1-2min

20h10 Lost GAPS position for 2 min, MMI rebooted

20h14 GAPS position reestablishes

20h16 Lost GAPS position

20h18 GAPS position reestablished

20h24 Passed over station T15

20h32 100 m past station T15, decision to end the transect

20h32 Video dropframe off the seafloor

20h35 Video dropframe on deck
Start of 3 hours transit at 1,5 knots to station T21
Charging of dropframe batteries

5th day 17/06/2014

00h32 Preparations for dive

00h57 Video dropframe launched for dive T21

01h12 Lost GAPS position
Video dropframe at the seafloor
GAPS position reestablished
Transect started 500m before station T21

01h34: Lost GAPS position for approx. 1 min

01h58 Video dropframe off the seafloor
Stopped transect 150m past station T21
Approx. 800 m of transect

02h07 Video dropframe on deck

02h10 Start transit to station T25

02h27 Decision to skip T25
Start transit to next station T18, arrival in 2 hours
Time for recharging batteries and getting dropframe operational again

04h08 Preparing video dropframe for launch

04h55 Video dropframe launched for dive T18

04h58 Lost GAPS position
Rebooting MMI

04h59 GAPS position reestablished but noisy

05h13 Video dropframe at the seafloor
Start transect T18
GAPS positioning is working
Occasional loss of position for 10 sec

06h10 Passed T18 approx. 30 m off station
Continuing transect

06h20 Video dropframe off the seafloor

06h34 Video dropframe on deck

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08h00	Transit to vibrocore site DI-31 Approach of site DI-31 Problem with hydraulics	
09h01	Hydraulic problems solved Vibrocorer launched to site DI-31 No GAPS position for 10 min Blind navigation to site	
09h33	Vibrocorer at the seafloor Coring process started (25 min)	(Long: 9°39,472'W; Lat: 48°18,491'N; Depth: 426 m)
10h01	Vibrocorer off the seafloor	
10h10	Vibrocorer on deck 288 cm of core recovered Navigation to site DI-12	
10h27	GAPS transponder broke during dive, new transponder has been placed on the vibrocorer frame	
10h40	Delay in site approach due to engine problems	
11h30	Engine problems solved Approach of site DI-12	
11h42	Vibrocorer launched to site DI-12 No GAPS position Rebooting MMI GAPS position reestablished	
12h09	Vibrocorer at the seafloor Coring process started (25 min)	(Long: 9°39,094'W; Lat: 48°17,794'N; Depth: 374 m)
12h40	Vibrocorer on deck Navigation to site DI-14	
13h30	Vibrocorer launched to DI-14	
13h32	No GPS received on MMI Rebooting MMI GAPS position reestablished	
13h41	Vibrocorer at the seafloor	(Long: 9°38,515'W; Lat: 48°17,594'N; Depth: 354 m)
13h52	Lost GAPS position MMI rebooted	
13h56	GAPS position reestablished but incorrect	
14h04	Correct GAPS location reestablished	
14h09	Vibrocorer off the seafloor	
14h14	Vibrocorer on deck	
14h30	303 cm of core recovered Navigation to site DI-3	
14h51	Vibrocorer launched to site DI-3	
14h57	Lost GAPS position Rebooting MMI	
14h59	GAPS position reestablished	
15h03	Vibrocorer at the seafloor GAPS position correct	(Long: 9°38,465'W; Lat: 48°17,666'N; Depth: 347 m)
15h08	Inconsistent GAPS position	
15h17	Rebooted MMI Correct GAPS position reestablished	
15h28	Lost GAPS position Rebooted MMI	
15h29:	Vibrocorer off the seafloor No correct gaps position	
15h36	Vibrocorer on deck	
15h50	307 cm of core recovered	
16h10	Navigating to site DI-32	
16h53	Vibrocorer launched to site DI-32 GAPS positioning working	
16h59	GAPS position is noisy	
17h06	Vibrocorer at the seafloor GAPS positioning working	(Long: 9°41,249'W; Lat: 48°16,074'N; Depth: 434 m)

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17h10 Coring process started (25 min)
17h10 Meeting for discussing future video dropframe and vibrocorer targets
17h33 Vibrocorer off the seafloor
17h39 Vibrocorer on Deck
287 cm of core recovered
19h15 Navigating toward Video dropframe station C_3_7 (new station matching video transect of 2007 MESH campaign)
20h22 Video dropframe ready for deployment
Trying out new version of GAPS MMI software
20h25 Video dropframe launched for dive C_3_7
Problems with GAPS positioning
20h38 Video dropframe at the seafloor
Start of Transect C_3_7
20h40 GAPS position reestablished, seems more stable
21h21 End of transect C_3_7
Video dropframe off the seafloor
21h27 Video dropframe on deck
Navigation to station T20
Charging video dropframe batteries
22h51 Video dropframe ready for deployment to station T20
Course changed to 70° to allow for a straight transect
22h58 Video dropframe launched for dive T20
23h05 Video dropframe at the seafloor
Start of transect T20
GAPS position unreliable
23h06 GAPS position is stable
23h58 End of transect T20
Video dropframe off the seafloor

6th day 18/06/2014

00h08 Video dropframe on deck
Error with HD cameras. No HD footage recorded during dive to transect T20
00h21 2 hours transit to station T25
Charging video dropframe batteries
02h41 Video dropframe launched for dive T25
Started position logging at 50 m depth
02h47 Drifting of course, difficult to correct at 0,5kn (speed for video dropframe)
02h52 Decision to leave the target station T25 and follow the drift for 500m as it is a normal seabed transect (not a minimound)
03h01 Lost GAPS position
Rebooted MMI
GAPS unreliable position after reboot
03h07 GAPS position stable
03h26 Dropframe off the seafloor
End of transect T25
GAPS position noisy
03h35 Video dropframe on deck
2 hours transit to charge batteries
04h03 Decision to repeat T20 as camera failed last time
Navigation files will be saved as T20bis
05h59 Launch of video dropframe for dive T20bis
06h05 OFOB position logging crashed
Continued protocol in T20biscont
06h12 Video dropframe at the seafloor
Start of transect T20bis
06h38 Lost GAPS position for several minutes
06h43 Passing over station T20

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06h40	Video dropframe off the seafloor End of transect T20bis
07h01	Video dropframe on deck Start transit to the Explorer Interfluve
08h21	GAPS out of the water
08h30:	Vessel speed increased to 10 knots
08h54	GAPS into the water Vessel speed reduced to 2kn
09h02	Vibrocorer launched to site EI-25
09h03	Problems with MMI software
09h13	MMI started successfully
09h35	OFOB software crashed several times Eventual navigation file saved as EI25_cont_3
09h52	Vibrocorer at the seafloor (Long: 9°41,109'W; Lat: 48°22,854'N; Depth: 399 m) Coring process started (25 min)
10h18	Vibrocorer off the bottom
10h24	Vibrocorer on deck 181 cm of core recovered
11h03	Vibrocorer launched to site EI-16
11h28	Vibrocorer at the seafloor (Long: 9°41,63'W; Lat: 48°23,127'N; Depth: 338 m) Coring process started (25 min)
11h54:	Vibrocorer off the seafloor
12h02	Vibrocore on deck. 109 cm of core recovered
12h49	Vibrocorer launched to site EI-51
13h12	Vibrocorer at the seafloor (Long: 9°41,214'W; Lat: 48°24,111'N; Depth: 325 m)
13h40	Vibrocorer off the bottom
13h45	Vibrocorer on deck Small repairs needed for vibrocorer: battery and cable replacement
14:52	Vibrocorer repaired Navigation to site EI-41
15h22	Vibrocorer launched to site EI-41
15h30	OFOB crashed, navigation log continued in EI41CONT
15h38	Vibrocorer on the seafloor (Long: 9°41,308'W; Lat: 48°24,099'N; Depth: 329 m) GAPS position correct Coring process started (25 min)
16h05	Vibrocorer off the seafloor
16h13	Vibrocorer on deck
16h33	224 cm of core recovered Core tube was stopped by a harder layer (caused by geology not mechanical issues)
16h20	Diagnosed technical problem on the engine (generator), standby to see if problem can be solved
17h00	Decision to switch to seismic acquisition
17h35	Approaching op seismic line and set up of seismic streamer and sparker
18h05	Switch to electrical propulsion, speed 3 knots
18h20	Streamer and sparker in the water, start testing at 2 s
18h33	Start of line ED14-0604 Initially too deep for good signal
19h40	Reached an appropriate depth for sparker Good signal
22h22	Acquisition unit (Delph) stopped working Continued line as ED14-0604_2
23h38	Increased wind (force 4)

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7th day 19/06/2014

00h32	End of line ED14-0604	(heading: 71; average speed: 2.5 knots)
00h33	Start of line ED14-0605	
01h09	End of line ED14-0605	(heading: 159; average speed: 2.6 knots)
01h21	Start of line ED14-0606	
04h10	End of line ED14-0606	(heading: 241; average speed: 3.2 knots)
04h14	Start of line ED14-0607	
08h42	End of line ED14-0607	(heading: 337; average speed: 2.9 knots)
08h52	End of seismic acquisition	
	Switch engine to diesel propulsion	
	Sparker and streamer out of the water	
09h33	GAPS in the water	
	Navigation to vibrocore site EI-53	
09h58	Vibrocorer launched to site EI-53	
10h15	Vibrocorer at the seafloor	(Long: 9°41,269'W; Lat: 48°25,133'N; Depth: 420 m)
	Coring process started (25 min)	
10h41	Vibrocorer off the seafloor	
10h51	Vibrocorer on deck	
	174 cm of core recovered	
	Changed batteries of the transponder	
	Transit to site EI-48	
11h23	Vibrocorer launched to site EI-48	
11h50	Vibrocorer at the seafloor	(Long: 9°41,935'W; Lat: 48°24,433'N; Depth: 359 m)
	Coring process started (25 min)	
12h17	Vibrocorer off the seafloor	
12h22	Vibrocorer on deck	
	Only 16 cm of core recovered	
	Site EI-48 will be repeated later (EI-48b)	
	Navigation to site EI-47	
12h49	Vibrocorer launched to site EI-47	
	GAPS positioning not working, decision to go without the GAPS positioning	
13h00	Vibrocorer at the seafloor	(Long: 9°42,026'W; Lat: 48°24,42'N; Depth: 359 m)
	MMI rebooted	
	GAPS position reestablished	
13h26	Vibrocorer off the seafloor	
13h32	Vibrocorer on deck	
13h40	Core barrel empty, site EI-47 could not be repeated due to technical problems	
14h00	Navigation to site EI-48b	
14h08	Vibrocorer launched to site EI-48b	
	Rebooted MMI	
14h14	GAPS position stable	
14h28	Vibrocorer at the seafloor	(Long: 9°41,935'W; Lat: 48°24,443'N; Depth: 358 m)
	Coring process started (25 min)	
14h55	Vibrocorer off the seafloor	
15h02	Vibrocorer on deck	
	Loading in new Sound Velocity profile from the Explorer-Dangeard Area from MESH2007 CTD data	
15h10	29 cm of core recovered	
	Core catcher deformed, containing dense clay, probably reason of short cores in this area	
15h21	Navigation to site EI-46	
	Problems with the winch used for the vibrocorer	
	Technical checkup of winch	
15h32	Vibrocorer launched for site EI-46	
	GAPS positioning is working correct	
15h45	Missed target site, turning for a new approach	
16h24	Second approach missed, retrying	
16h39	Vibrocorer at the seafloor	(Long: 9°42,113'W; Lat: 48°24,422'N; Depth: 361 m)
	Coring process started (25 min)	
17h04	Vibrocorer off the seafloor	

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17h13 Vibrocorer on deck
50 cm of core recovered
Problems with winch persist, several tries were necessary to bring vibrocorer up
Decision to stop with vibrocorer operations, remaining day on site will be used for video dropframe and seismic acquisition
Switching to video dropframe operation, transit to station T22

18h25 Video dropframe launched for dive T22

18h43 Video dropframe at the seafloor
Start of transect T22

19h14 Video dropframe over station T22

19h20 End of transect T22
Video dropframe off the seafloor

19h36 Video dropframe on deck
Navigation to station T17
Charging video dropframe batteries

20h54 Issues with received GPS signal in the MMI software
Forced GPS input, ready for video dropframe dive

21h03 Dropframe launched for dive T17

21h10 Video dropframe at the seafloor
Start of transect T17

21h33 End of transect T17
Video dropframe off the seafloor

21h41 Video dropframe on deck
Charging video dropframe batteries
Navigation to station T16

7th day 20/06/2014

01h05 Video dropframe launched for dive T16
No GAPS positioning
Transponder not set correctly, only ships navigation available for dive T16

01h14 Video dropframe at the seafloor
Start transect T16

01h47 End of transect T16
Video dropframe off the seafloor

01h51 Video dropframe on deck
Charging video dropframe batteries
Transit to station T13

02h39 Video dropframe launched for dive T13
GAPS positioning is working

02h47 Video dropframe at the seafloor
Start transect T13
Initially speed is too high (1 knot), at 250m from station T13 speed is lowered to 0,5 knots

03h16 End of transect T13
Video dropframe off the seafloor

03h22 Video dropframe on deck
2 hours transit to station T24

05h33 Approach station T24

05h36 Video dropframe launched for dive T24
GAPS positioning is working

05h50 Video dropframe at the seafloor
Only 100 m from station T24
Start transect T24

06h12 End of transect T24
Video dropframe off the Seafloor

06h26 Video dropframe on deck
Switching to seismic acquisition
Start transit to line ED14-0608

08h00 Switch to electrical propulsion

Operational Directorate Natural Environment

	Seismic streamer and sparker in the water
08h32	Start of line ED14-0608
08h43	Going at higher speed for a short while (4 knots) to restart the engine, afterwards switch to 3 knots
10h54	End of line ED14-0608 (heading: 70; average speed: 3.2 knots)
	Start of line ED14-0609
13h22	End of line ED14-0609 (heading: 165; average speed: 3.3 knots)
	Transit to video dropframe station T14
15h31	Video dropframe launched for dive T14
	Decreasing speed to 0,5 knots
15h40	Video dropframe at the seafloor
	Start transect T14
15h45	Passing over station T14
16h01	End of transect after 500m
	Video dropframe off the seafloor
16h09	Video dropframe on deck
	Transit to station T19
16h25	Gaps out of the water to allow for faster transit
17h05	Approach station T19
17h12	GAPS in the water
17h28	Video dropframe launched for dive to station T19
	GAPS positioning is working
17h38	Video dropframe at the seafloor
	Start transect T19
18:02	End of transect T19
	Video dropframe off the seafloor
18h14	Video dropframe on deck
18h22	GAPS on board
	Start transit to Zeebrugge

8th day 21/06/2014

Transit to Zeebrugge

9th day 22/06/2014

Transit to Zeebrugge

10th day 23/06/2014

07h00	Arrival at Zeebrugge
09h00-13h00	Demobilization of video dropframe, cores and seismic equipment
	Arrival land crane and vibrocorer demobilization
	Disembarkation of scientific crew
	Open top container for storing vibrocorer did not arrive, this will be done the next day

24/06/2014

16h00	Arrival of open top container and land crane to allow shipping of vibrocorer
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- End of campaign 2014/16 -

5. TRACK PLOT

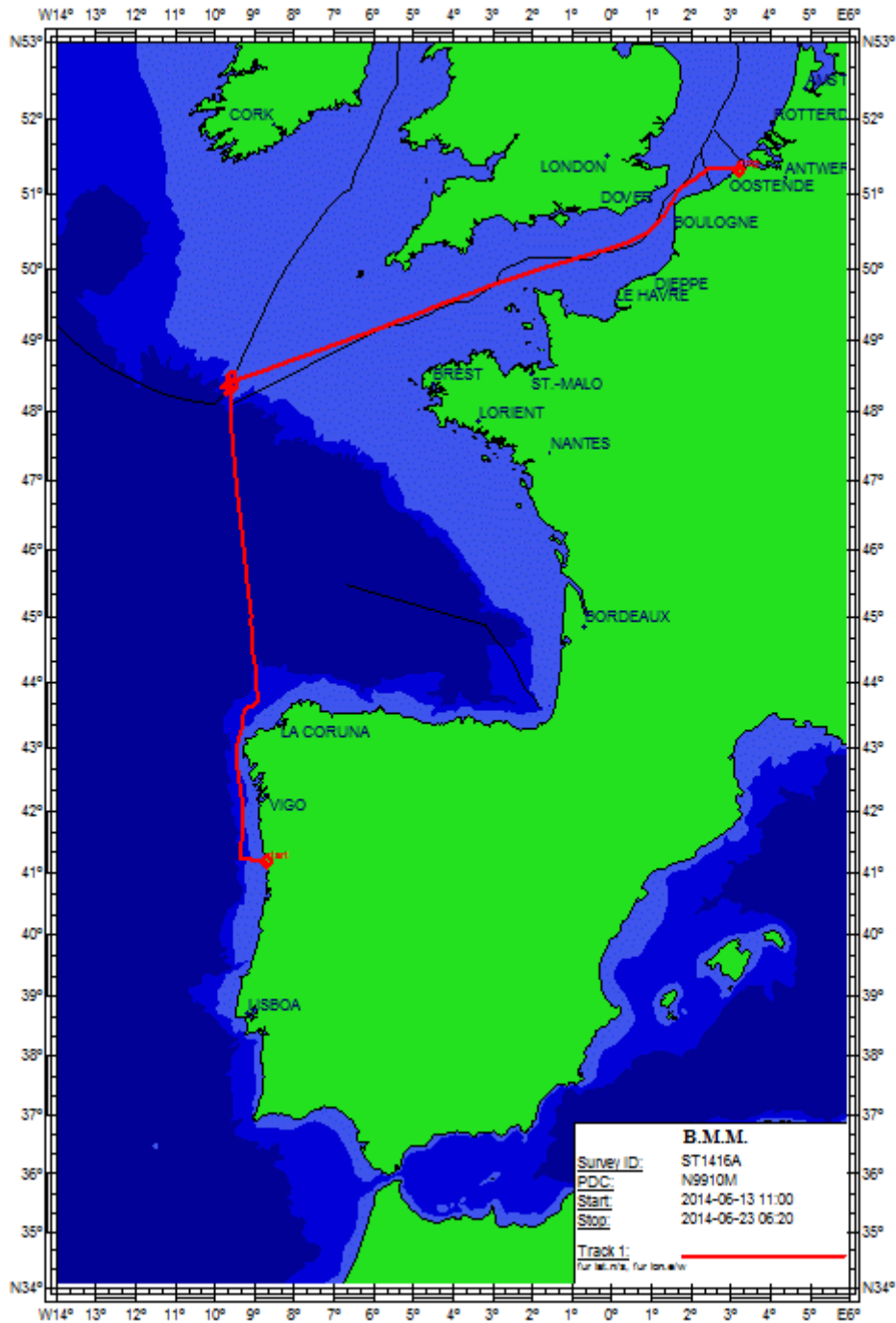


Figure 1: MUMM official Track plot of campaign 2014/16

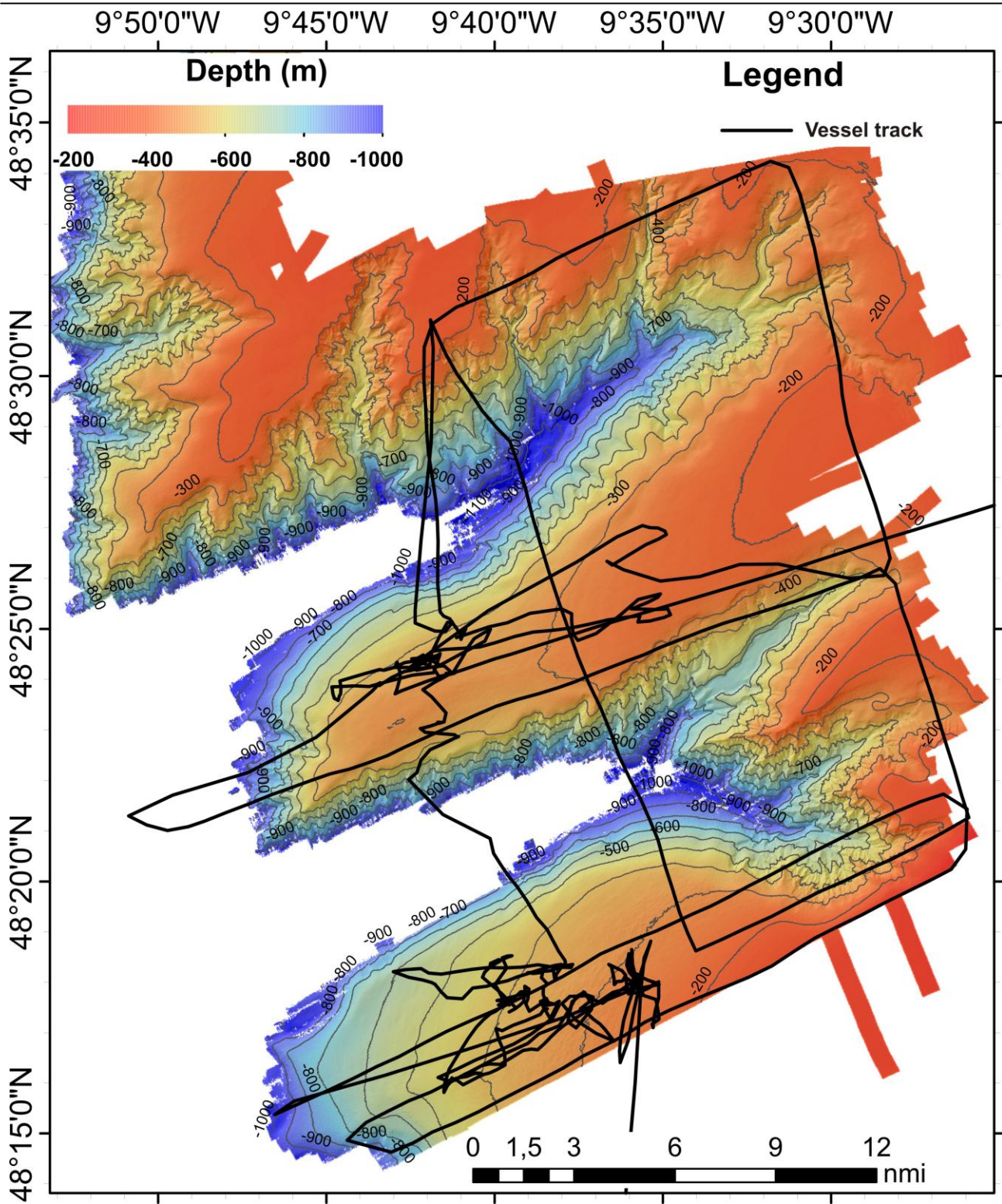


Figure 2: Detailed track plot of campaign 2014/16 in the Explorer and Dangeard Canyon study areas (MESH 2007 bathymetry map). The track navigation data was provided by ODAS

6. MEASUREMENTS AND SAMPLING

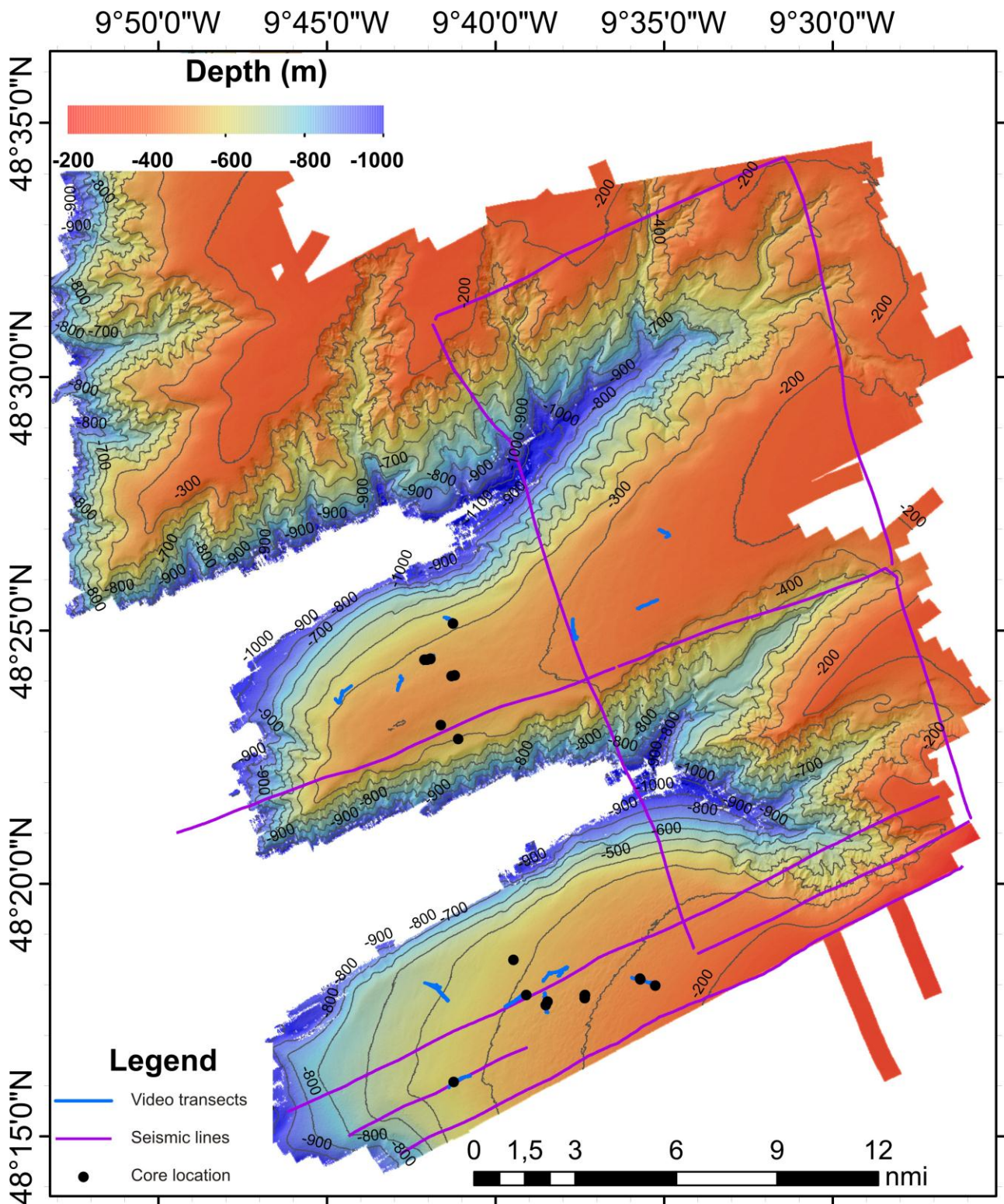


Figure 3: Overview of the locations of the cores (black dots) video dropframe transects (blue lines) and seismic lines (purple lines) acquired during the campaign 2014/16 in the Explorer and Dangeard Canyon study areas (MESH 2007 bathymetry map).

6.1. Cores

The British Geological Survey (BGS) 3m battery operated vibrocorer was used to acquire a total of 19 vibrocores at 20 sites (Table 1; Figure 3). The position of the vibrocorer sites were determined using a GAPS USBL system. One site had no recovery probably due to hard sea bed. Eleven vibrocores (+48-010/201VE-211VE) were acquired on Dangeard Interfluve (Figure 4), and nine vibrocores (+48-010/212VE-220VE) were acquired on Explorer Interfluve (Figure 5). In total 34.96 metres of cores were collected. The cores were labelled according to the BGS Core Labelling and Core Curation Procedure (See Appendix I). The cores were cut into 1 m sections but not opened on board the vessel. The core sections and any bagged core catcher samples were placed in the cold store for the duration of the campaign. For every core a vibrocorer penetration graph was recorded (See Appendix II).

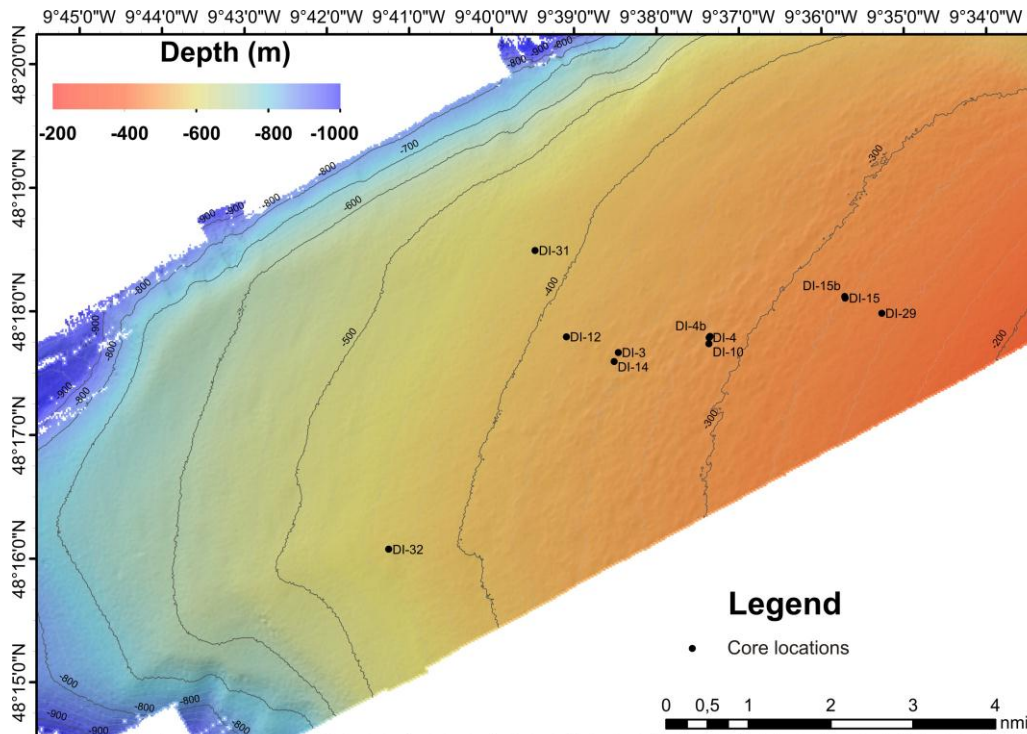


Figure 4: Visited vibrocorer sites on the Dangeard Interfluve (MESH 2007 bathymetry map)

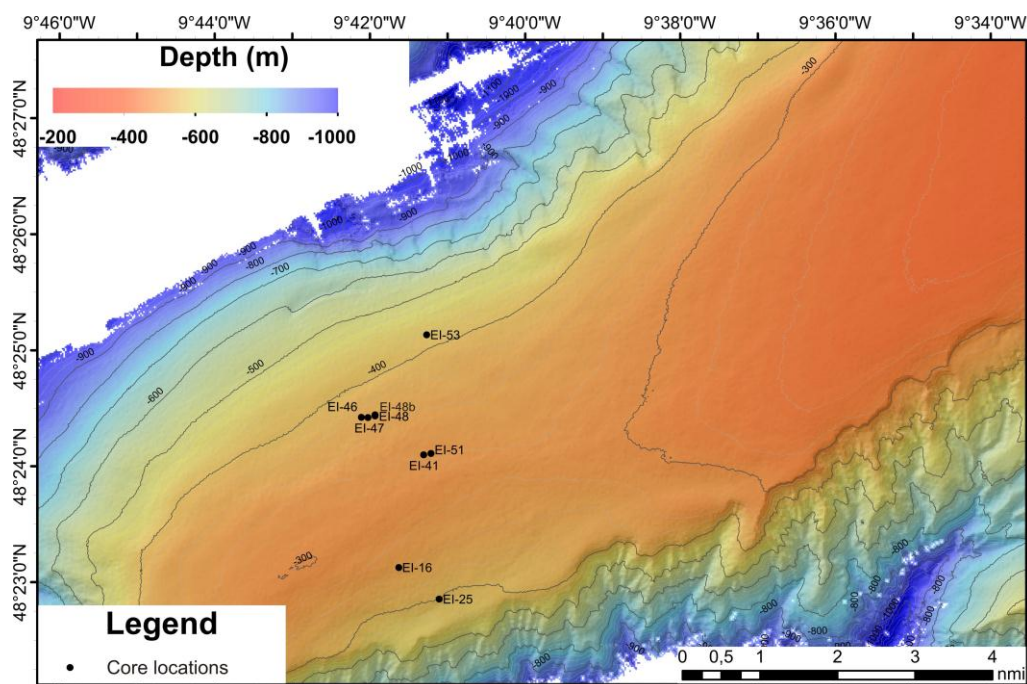


Figure 5: Visited vibrocorer sites on the Explorer Interfluve (MESH 2007 bathymetry map).

Table 1: List of visited vibrocorer sites and the associated core label, position, depth, recovered core length, target feature, date and interfluve.

Old Name	New Name	Longitude	Latitude	Depth (m)	Recovery	Target	Date	Location
DI-15	+48-010/201VE	9°35,710'W	48°18,106'N	275	214 cm	On mini-mound. Coincident with transect (T12).	15/06	Dangeard Interfluve
DI-29	+48-010/202VE	9°35,266'W	48°17,983'N	262	218 cm	Normal sea bed. Coincident with transect (T15).	15/06	Dangeard Interfluve
DI-4	+48-010/203VE	9°37,362'W	48°17,788'N	316	38 cm	On mini-mound.	16/06	Dangeard Interfluve
DI-4b	+48-010/204VE	9°37,350'W	48°17,797'N	316	103 cm	On mini-mound.	16/06	Dangeard Interfluve
DI-10	+48-010/205VE	9°37,363'W	48°17,737'N	315	131 cm	Off mini-mound.	16/06	Dangeard Interfluve
DI-15b	+48-010/206VE	9°35,717'W	48°18,121'N	271	229 cm	On mini-mound. Coincident with transect (T12).	16/06	Dangeard Interfluve
DI-31	+48-010/207VE	9°39,472'W	48°18,491'N	426	288 cm	Normal sea bed.	17/06	Dangeard Interfluve
DI-12	+48-010/208VE	9°39,094'W	48°17,794'N	373	303 cm	On mini-mound. Coincident with transect (T18).	17/06	Dangeard Interfluve
DI-14	+48-010/209VE	9°38,515'W	48°17,594'N	354	303 cm	Off mini-mound. Coincident with transect C-3-7	17/06	Dangeard Interfluve
DI-3	+48-010/210VE	9°38,465'W	48°17,666'N	347	307 cm	On mound. Coincident with transect C-3-7	17/06	Dangeard Interfluve
DI-32	+48-010/211VE	9°41,249'W	48°16,074'N	434	287 cm	On mini-mound. Coincident with transect (T21).	17/06	Dangeard Interfluve
EI-25	+48-010/212VE	9°41,109'W	48°22,854'N	399	181 cm	On mini-mound/ridge like feature.	18/06	Explorer Interfluve
EI-16	+48-010/213VE	9°41,630'W	48°23,127'N	339	109 cm	On mini-mound.	18/06	Explorer Interfluve
EI-51	+48-010/214VE	9°41,214'W	48°24,111'N	325	281 cm	Normal sea bed.	18/06	Explorer Interfluve
EI-41	+48-010/215VE	9°41,308'W	48°24,099'N	329	223 cm	On mini-mound.	18/06	Explorer Interfluve
EI-53	+48-010/216VE	9°41,269'W	48°25,133'N	420	174 cm	Normal sea bed. Coincident with transect (T24).	19/06	Explorer Interfluve
EI-48	+48-010/217VE	9°41,935'W	48°24,433'N	359	16 cm	On mini-mound. Coincident with transect (T17).	19/06	Explorer Interfluve
EI-47	+48-010/218VE	9°42,026'W	48°24,420'N	359	None	Off mini-mound. Coincident with transect (T17).	19/06	Explorer Interfluve
EI-48b	+48-010/219VE	9°41,935'W	48°24,443'N	358	29 cm	On mini-mound. Coincident with transect (T17).	19/06	Explorer Interfluve
EI-46	+48-010/220VE	9°42,113'W	48°24,422'N	361	62 cm	On mini-mound. Coincident with transect (T17).	19/06	Explorer Interfluve

6.2. Video data

Video data was collected using the DS1 Towed Video and Data Dropframe System by MrROV.com in cooperation with Plymouth University Marine Institute. This system was deployed using the CTD coax cable of the vessel. It is equipped with a SD camera of which the footage is transmitted through the coax cable to allow for navigation of the video dropframe, an HD camera, light sources, a laser scale and a CTD. However, no temperature data was collected as the temperature sensor of the CTD was not operational. The position of the video frame was recorded using a GAPS USBL system. The direction of the transects was based on the most convenient to keep course at a vessel speed of 0.5 knots (the acquisition speed). In total 14 video transects were made over 14 different sites (Table 2) of which there are 7 sites on the Dangeard Interfluve and 7 sites on the Explorer Interfluve (Figure 6 & 7). During transect T20 no HD footage was recorded due to technical problems, the SD footage was however recorded and the site was repeated during transect T20R. For transect T16 no GAPS positioning data was acquired. The transects position was based off the vessels GPS position but includes a certain tow offset.

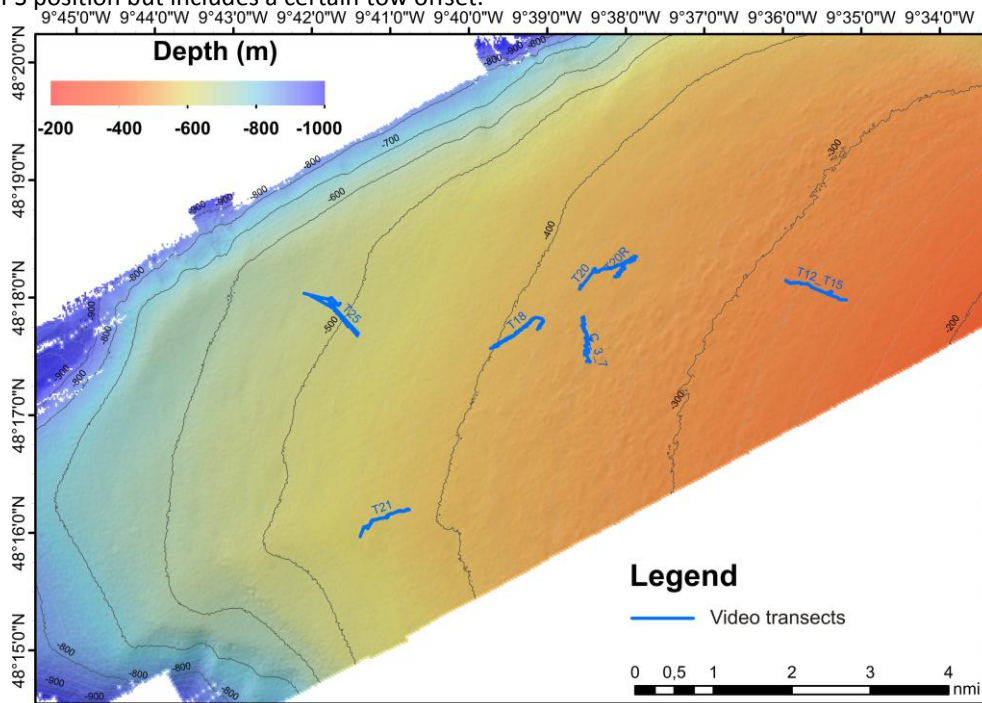


Figure 6: Recorded video transects on the Dangeard Interfluve (MESH 2007 bathymetry map)

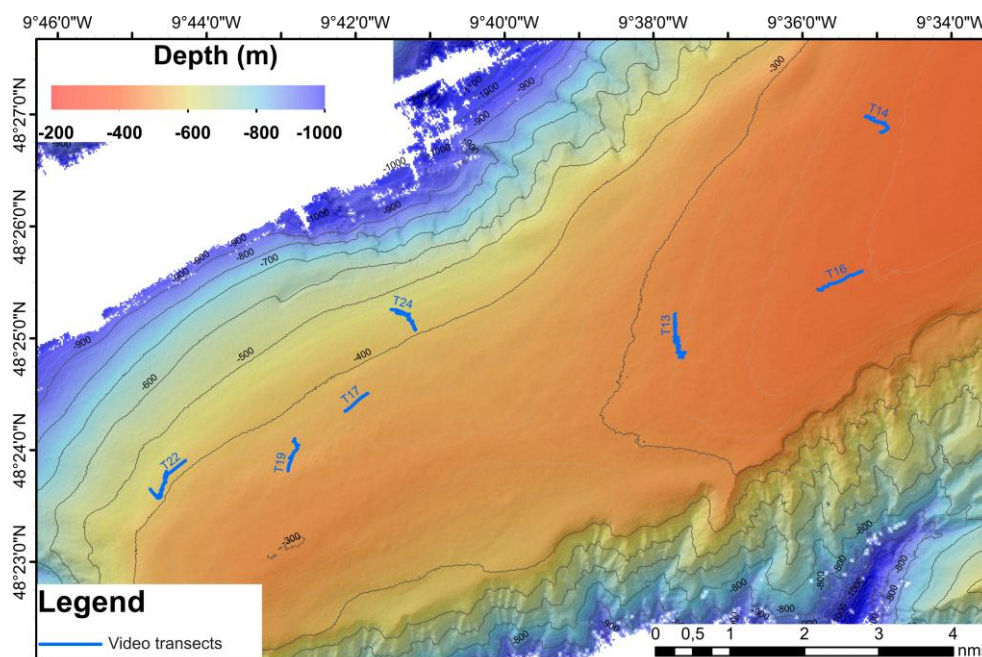


Figure 7: Recorded video transects on the Explorer Interfluve (MESH 2007 bathymetry map)

Table 2: List of acquired video transects and associated start and end points, depth range, target and additional remarks..

Transect name	Start of transect		End of transect		Depth range (m)	Target	Remarks
	Longitude	Latitude	Longitude	Latitude			
T12T15	9°35,959'W	48°18,148'N	9°35,191'W	48°17,981'N	200-300	minimound and normal seabed	Station T12 and T15 were visited in one dive. Coinciding with core sites DI-15, DI-15b and DI-29.
T21	9°40,756'W	48°16,195'N	9°41,385'W	48°15,967'N	400-500	minimound	Coinciding with core sites DI-32.
T18	9°39,723'W	48°17,568'N	9°39,095'W	48°17,743'N	300-400	minimound	Coinciding with core sites DI-12.
C_3_7	9°38,501'W	48°17,46'N	9°38,549'W	48°17,828'N	300-400	minimound and normal seabed	Repeat of video transect of 2007 MESH campaign. Coinciding with core sites DI-3 and DI-14.
T20	9°38,572'W	48°18,108'N	9°37,884'W	48°18,322'N	300-400	normal seabed	No HD footage recorded due to technical problems.
T25	9°41,902'W	48°17,995'N	9°41,597'W	48°17,811'N	500-600	normal seabed	Missed original target due to drift (no minimound target).
T20R	9°38,144'W	48°18,177'N	9°37,897'W	48°18,351'N	300-400	normal seabed	Repeat of transect T20.
T22	9°44,757'W	48°23,651'N	9°44,54'W	48°23,81'N	400-500	minimound	
T17	9°42,139'W	48°24,348'N	9°41,836'W	48°24,508'N	300-400	minimound	Coinciding with core sites EI-46, EI-47, EI-48 and EI-48b.
T16	9°35,794'W	48°25,437'N	9°35,198'W	48°25,6'N	200-300	pockmark	No GAPS navigation due to technical problems. Only ships navigation.
T13	9°37,608'W	48°24,828'N	9°37,707'W	48°25,221'N	200-300	minimound	
T24	9°41,2'W	48°25,074'N	9°41,463'W	48°25,255'N	400-500	normal seabed	Coinciding with core sites EI-53.
T14	9°34,952'W	48°26,843'N	9°35,142'W	48°26,986'N	200-300	normal seabed	
T19	9°42,815'W	48°24,102'N	9°42,907'W	48°23,815'N	300-400	normal seabed	

6.3. Seismic data

The acquisition of the single channel sparker seismic data was done as a backup activity when problems with the engine or hydraulics did not allow for vibrocorer and video dropframe deployment. In total 9 seismic lines were acquired (Table 3; Figure 8). During acquisition the vessel was on electrical propulsion and keeping a speed of approx. 3 knots. The used energy was set at 600 J, with a shooting rate of 2 s. The source-to-vessel offset of streamer and sparker was about 25 m, which has been accounted for in the acquisition. The data was recorded digitally at a 10 kHz sampling rate and 1,9 s record length

Table 3: Coordinates of the acquired seismic lines during campaign 2014/16

Line number	Start of line		End of line		Heading	Average speed (knots)
	Longitude	Latitude	Longitude	Latitude		
ED14-0601	9°46,159'W	48°15,487'N	9°26,858'W	48°21,714'N	66	2.9
ED14-0602	9°26,15'W	48°20,35'N	9°42,815'W	48°14,652'N	242	2.9
ED14-0603	9°44,358'W	48°15,003'N	9°39,074'W	48°16,758'N	68	3.1
ED14-0604	9°49,461'W	48°21,005'N	9°36,469'W	48°24,263'N	71	2.5
ED14-0604_1	9°36,361'W	48°24,291'N	9°28,246'W	48°26,126'N	71	2.5
ED14-0605	9°28,231'W	48°26,119'N	9°25,901'W	48°21,287'N	159	2.6
ED14-0606	9°25,951'W	48°21,229'N	9°33,996'W	48°18,62'N	241	3.2
ED14-0607	9°34,116'W	48°18,716'N	9°41,865'W	48°31,032'N	337	2.9
ED14-0608	9°41,795'W	48°31,118'N	9°31,422'W	48°34,293'N	70	3.2
ED14-0609	9°31,415'W	48°34,285'N	9°28,235'W	48°26,303'N	165	3.3

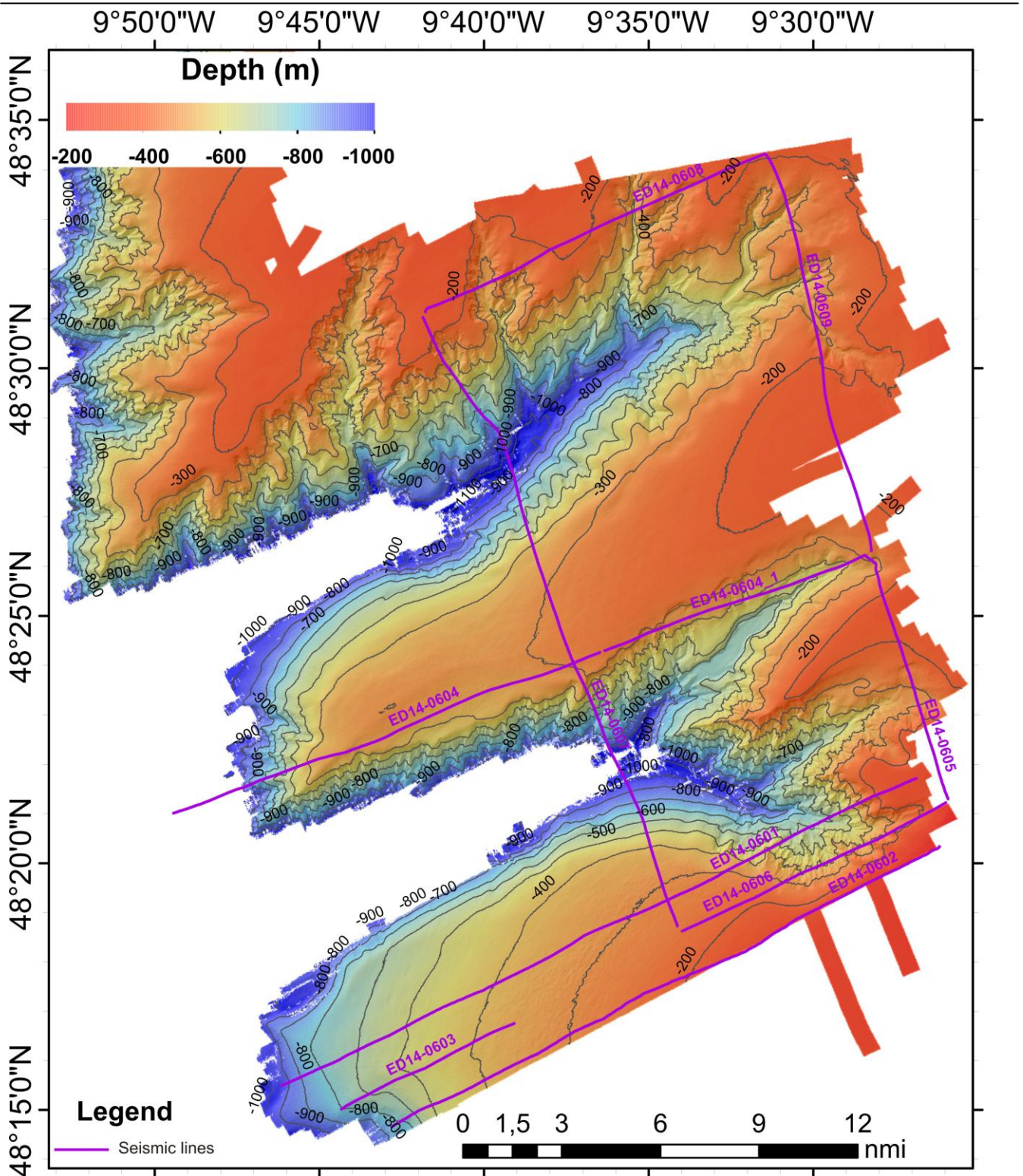


Figure 8: Seismic lines acquired in the Explorer and Dangeard Canyon study area (MESH 2007 bathymetry map).

7. REMARKS

- Weather conditions did not allow vibrocorer deployment in zone 1 (Ferrol Canyon area) and thus the campaign was shifted entirely to zone 2 (Explorer and Dangeard Canyons area) where weather conditions were favorable. Zone 1 will be revisited on a follow up Belgica campaign in 2015.
- Technical problems with the vessels hydraulics did occasionally not allow vibrocorer and video dropframe deployment. Single channel seismics were done as a backup option.

8. DATA STORAGE

- **Stored data: Cores**
Video data: The HD and SD footage was stored as MP4 files
Seismic data: The seismic lines were recorded directly in SegY-Motorola format with associated navigation files (these are text files containing shot point, longitude, latitude, date and time)
- **Storage:**
The cores will be stored at VLIZ in Ostend, Belgium.
The raw video data will be stored at Plymouth University, Plymouth, UK.
The seismic data will be stored at the Renard Centre for Marine Geology (RCMG) of Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium.
- The British Geological Survey (BGS) has been provided with a copy of the seismic data.
Renard Centre for Marine Geology (RCMG) has been provided with a copy of the raw video data.
- **Contact persons:**
Cores and seismic data: Prof. Dr. David Van Rooij
Renard Centre of Marine Geology
Dept. of Geology and Soil Science
Ghent University
Krijgslaan 281 S8
B-9000 Gent
BELGIUM
Tel: +32 9 264 4583
Fax: +32 9 264 4785
E-mail: david.vanrooij@ugent.be

Video data: Dr. Kerry Howell
Associate Professor (Reader)
Marine Biology and Oceanography Programme Leader
Marine Biology and Ecology Research Centre,
The Marine Institute at Plymouth University,
School of Marine Science and Engineering,
Drakes Circus
PL4 8AA Plymouth, UK
Tel: +441752584544
E-mail: kerry.howell@plymouth.ac.uk

Appendix I: The British Geological Survey Core Labelling and Core Curation Procedure

Purpose

To formalise and standardise the method by which marine cores collected by the British Geological Survey (BGS) are labelled.

Definitions

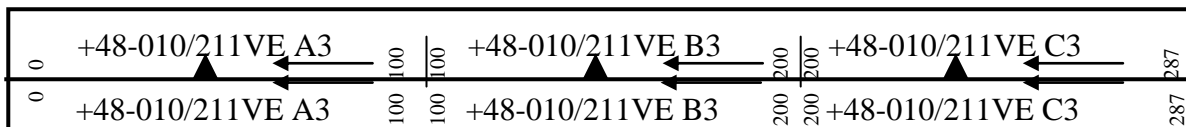
BGS Sample Number The unique identifier each sample is labelled with. This comprises the degree square in which it is collected, a sequentially increasing number and the equipment-type code.

Equipment Type Code A two letter abbreviation identifying the equipment used to collect the sample.

Core Section Identifier The label assigned to core sections; the top-most, or sea-bed, being 'A' followed by 'B' and so on. In addition the number of sections within a core should also be included to each letter label thus, A6, B6.....F6 or A2 and B2 etc.

Procedure For Initial Core Labelling

1. Lay the core length on the bench (for the remainder of this procedure, the base will be to the right).
2. Cut off any spare liner at the top of the core and cap with a yellow cap labelled 'A'. Put a black cap on the base, having put any shoe sample into a bag or bottle (labelled with the relevant sample number and 'core catcher' or 'shoe sample').
3. Clean the core thoroughly and dry the top surface.
4. Draw an orientation line along the length of the core.
5. Measuring from the **top**, mark off 1-metre sections. If there is a length of core at the base that measures more than 1 m, but less than 0.4 m, cut it in half. Do not leave a piece smaller than 0.4m as these are difficult to curate. Note that for this cruise, the core sections more than 1 m but less than 1.4 m were left as a single piece.
6. Before cutting, each section must be labelled with the BGS Sample Number and Core Section Identifier: e.g. +48-010/211 VE A2.
A safeguard symbol (an arrow indicating the top) is also included on **both sides** of the orientation line.
7. A tick should be marked at the midpoint of each core section on one side of the orientation line (and ensure that the same half of the core is photographed should this prove desirable, e.g. with dipping beds), thus:



8. Remember to allow room for caps, tape and mark at the ends of each section.
9. The core is now cut into sections along the lines marked.

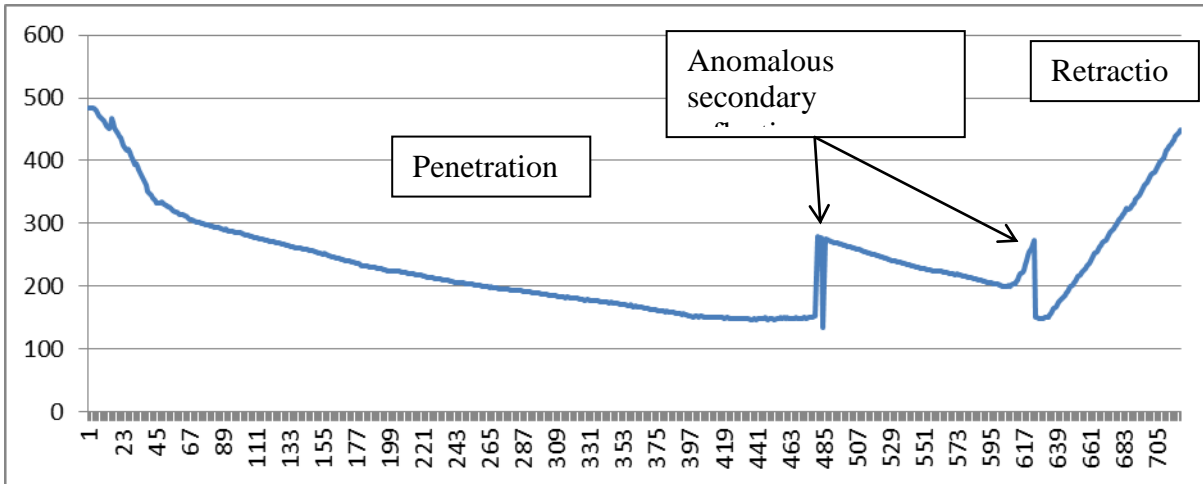
Procedure For Cutting Core

1. Yellow caps marked with station number and core section identifier, A2, B2 etc are placed at the tops of the sections, black caps at the base.
2. The caps are now taped onto the liner using 35mm black tape, which must be wound very tightly.

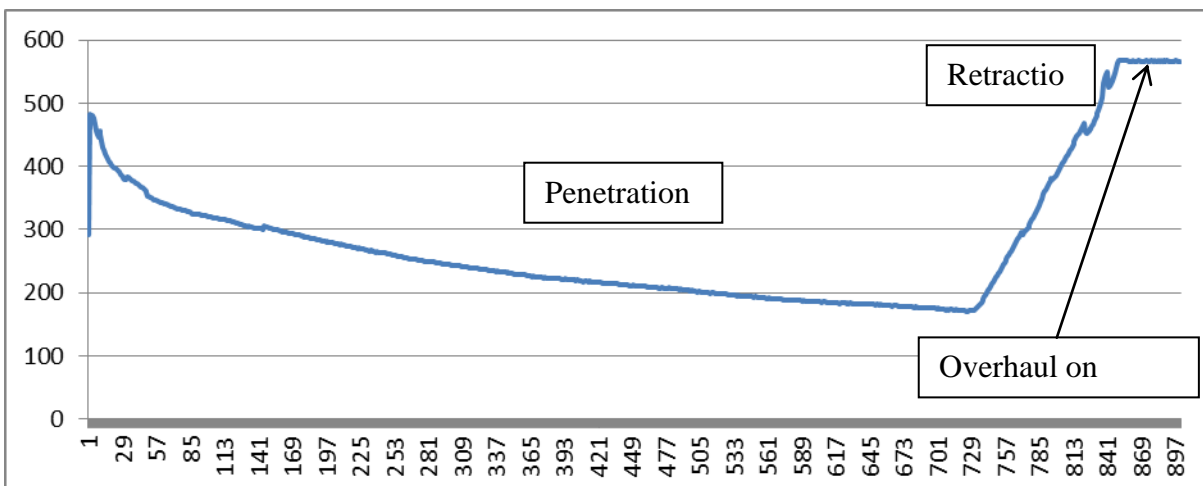
Appendix II: The British Geological Survey Core Labelling and Core Curation Procedure

Note that the 'time' is on the x-axis is seconds of operational period on the sea bed. The values on the y-axis represent power output and are representative of 'penetration' which ranges from 0 to 300 cm.

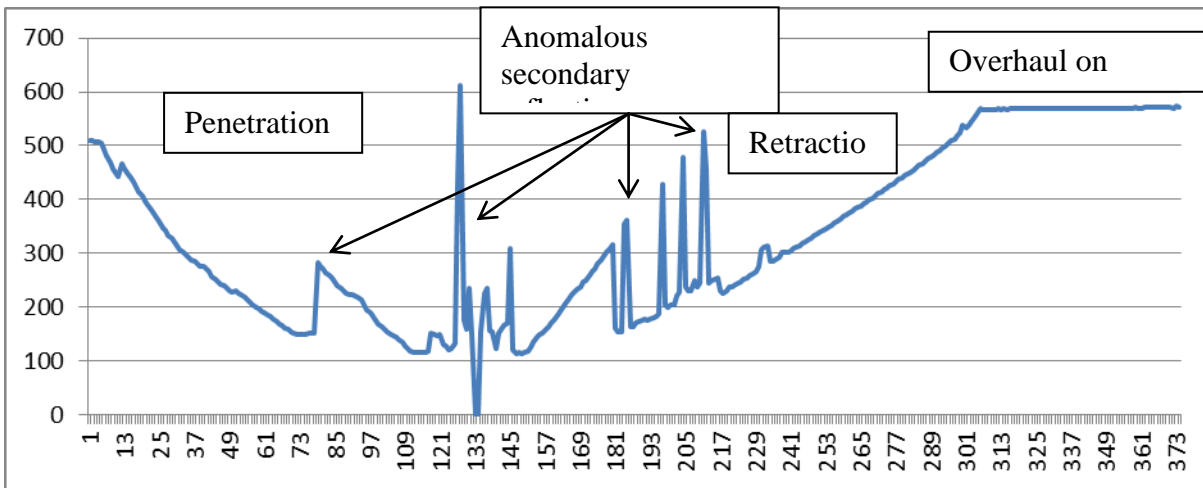
+48-010/201VE (DI 15; 214 cm recovery)



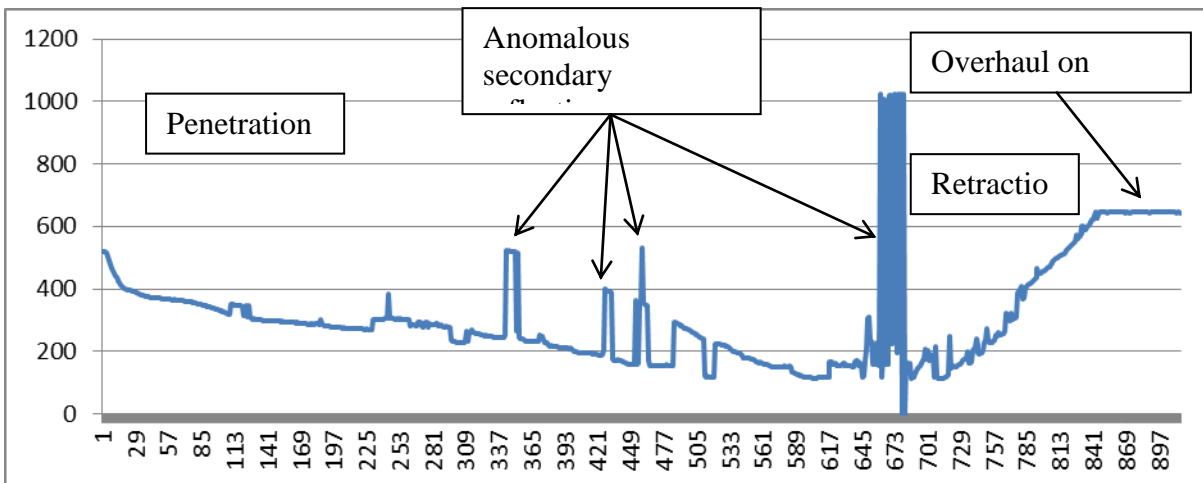
+48-010/202VE (DI-29; 218 cm recovery)



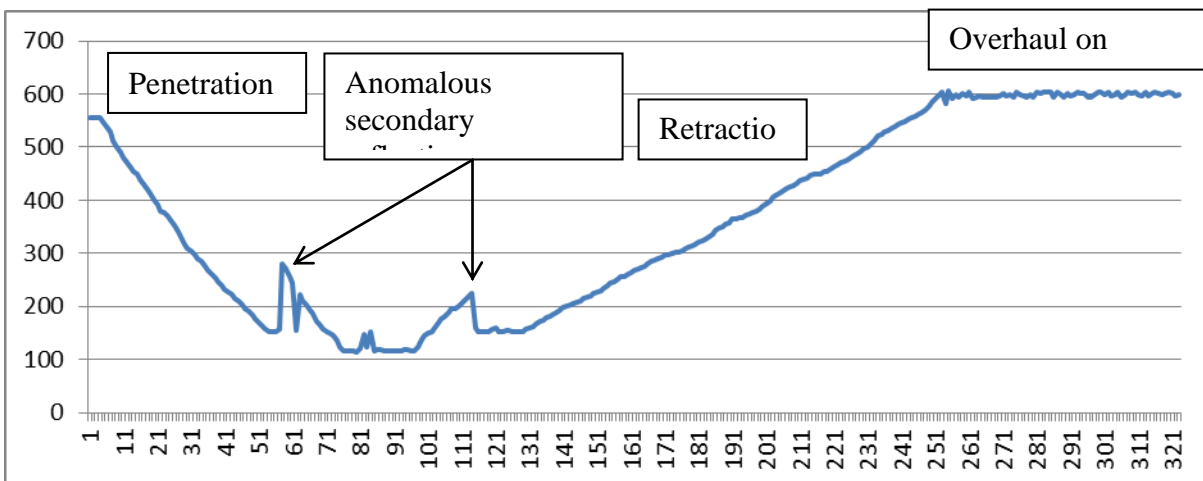
+48-010/203VE (DI-4; 38 cm recovery)



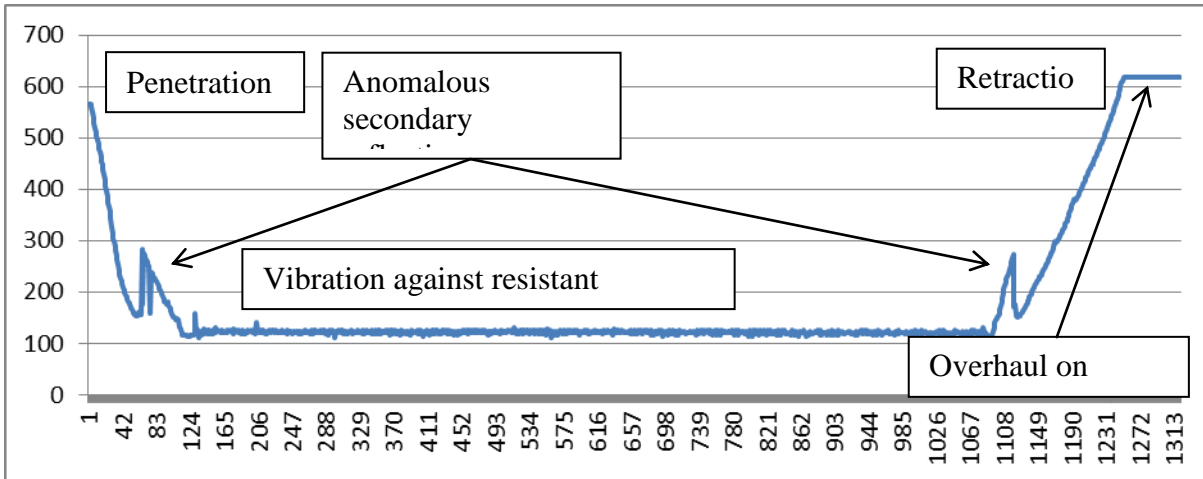
+48-010/204VE (DI-4b; 103 cm recovery)



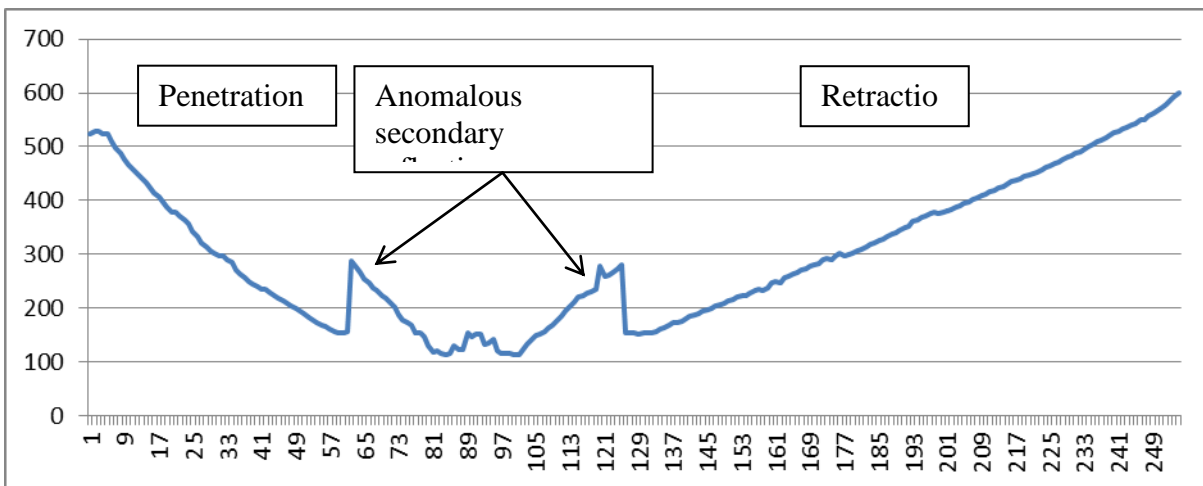
+48-010/205VE (DI-10; 131 cm recovery)



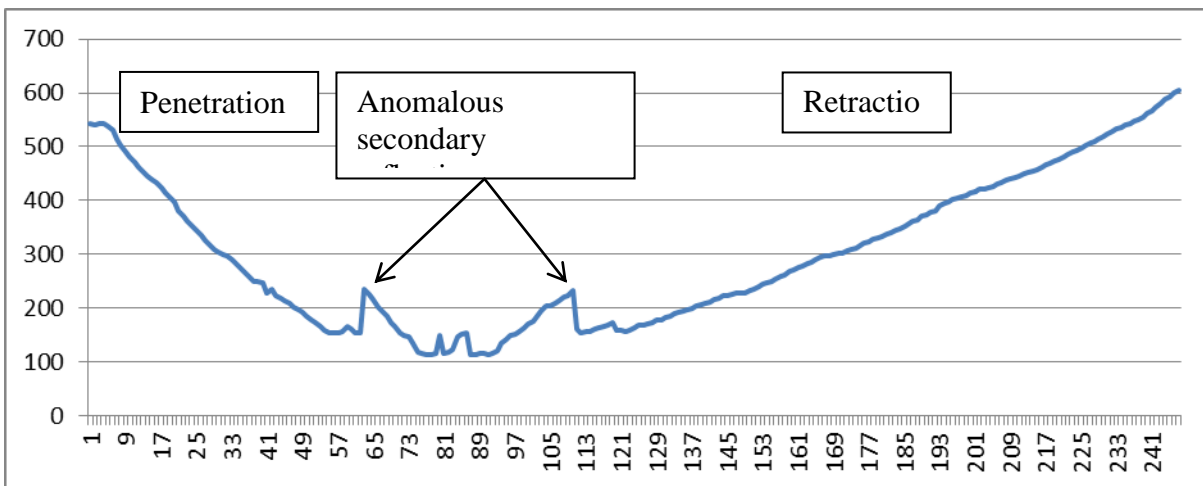
+48-010/206VE (DI-15b; 229 cm recovery)



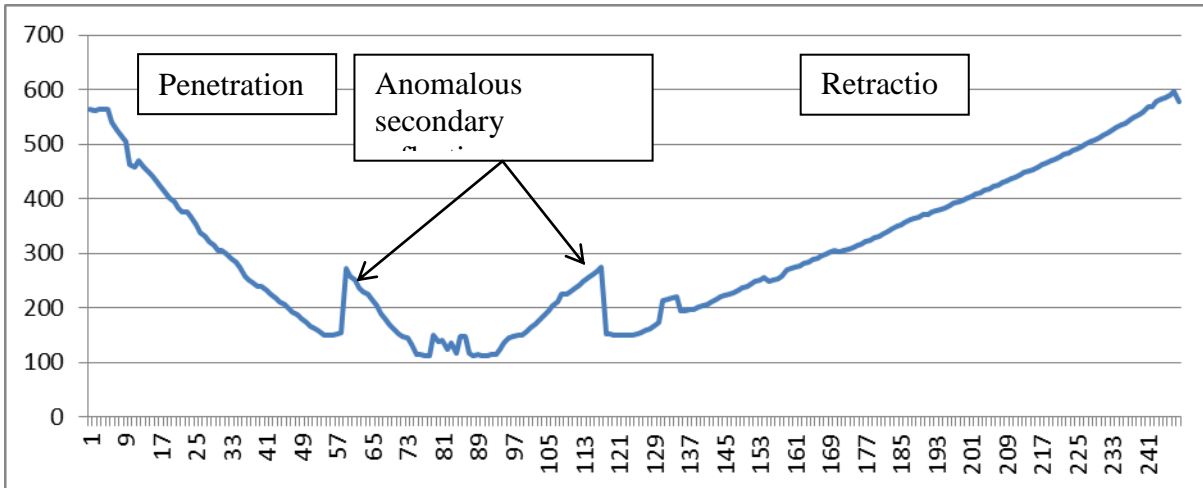
+48-010/207VE (DI-31; 288 cm recovery)



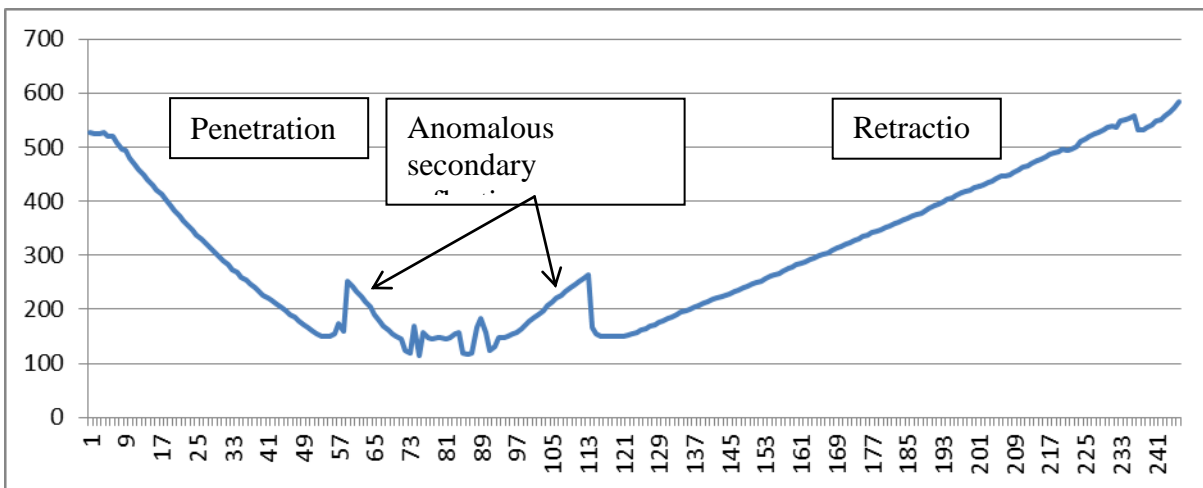
+48-010/208VE (DI-12; 303 cm recovery)



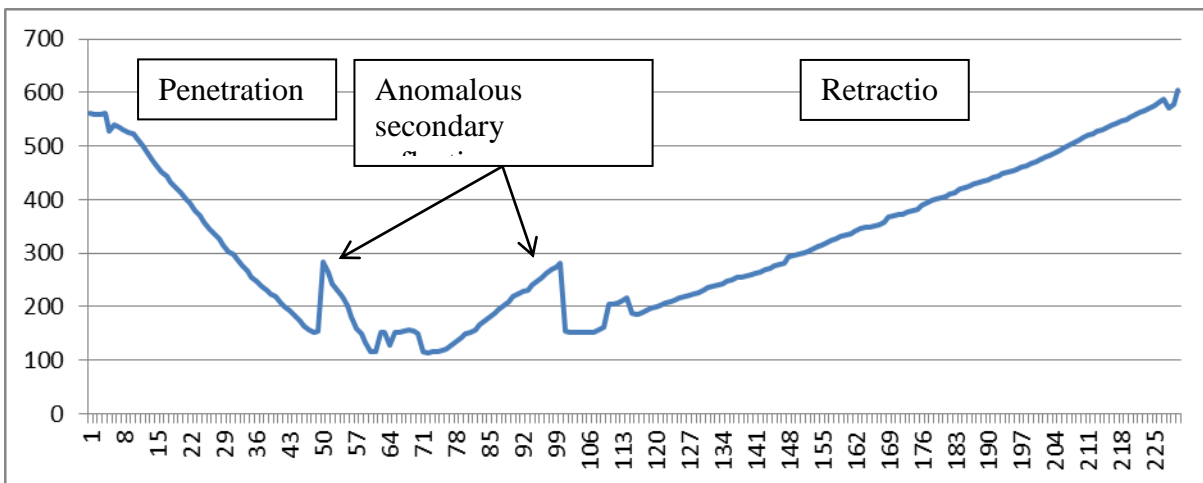
+48-010/209VE (DI-14; 303 cm recovery)



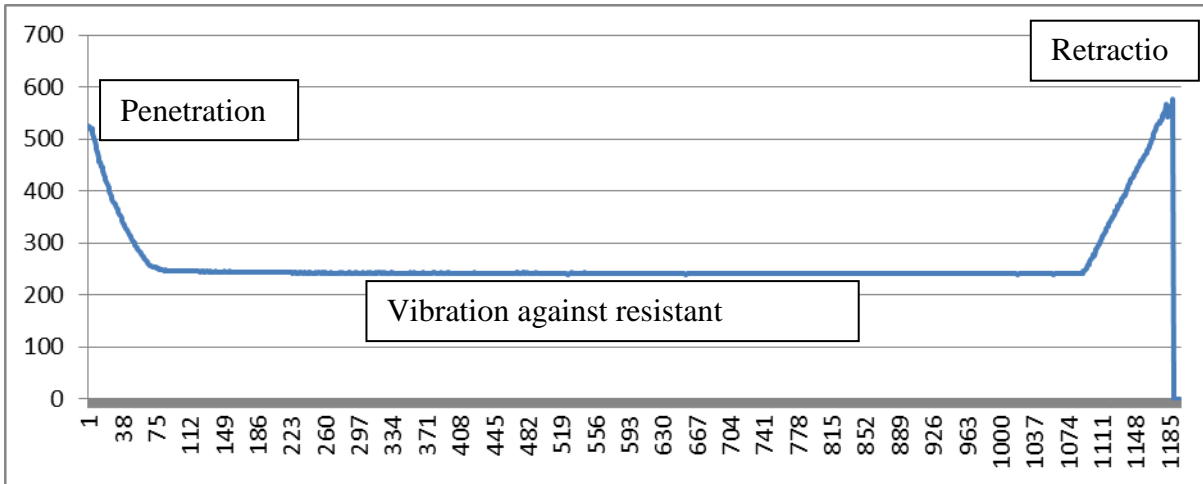
+48-010/210VE (DI-3; 307 cm recovery)



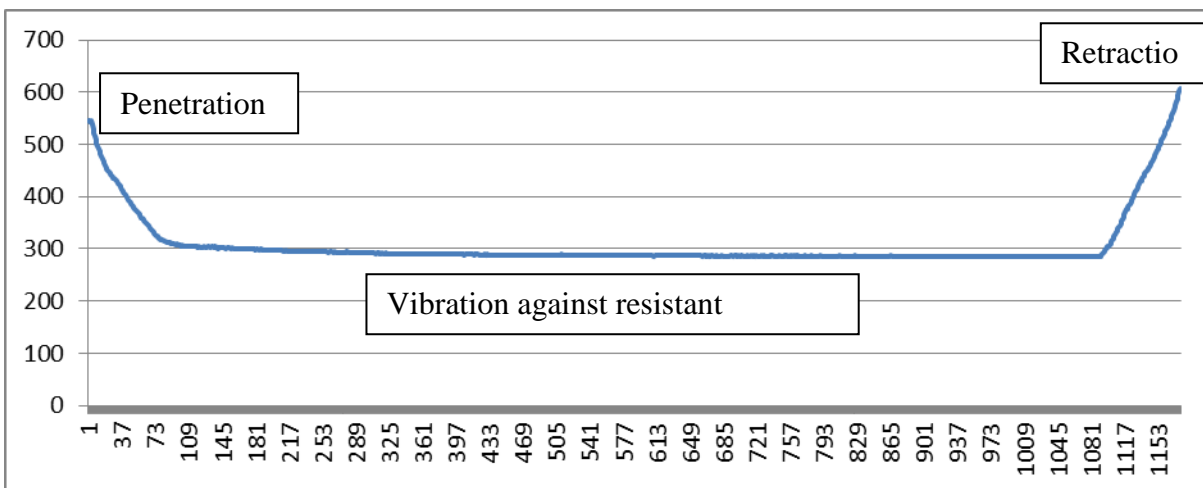
+48-010/211VE (DI-32; 287 cm recovery)



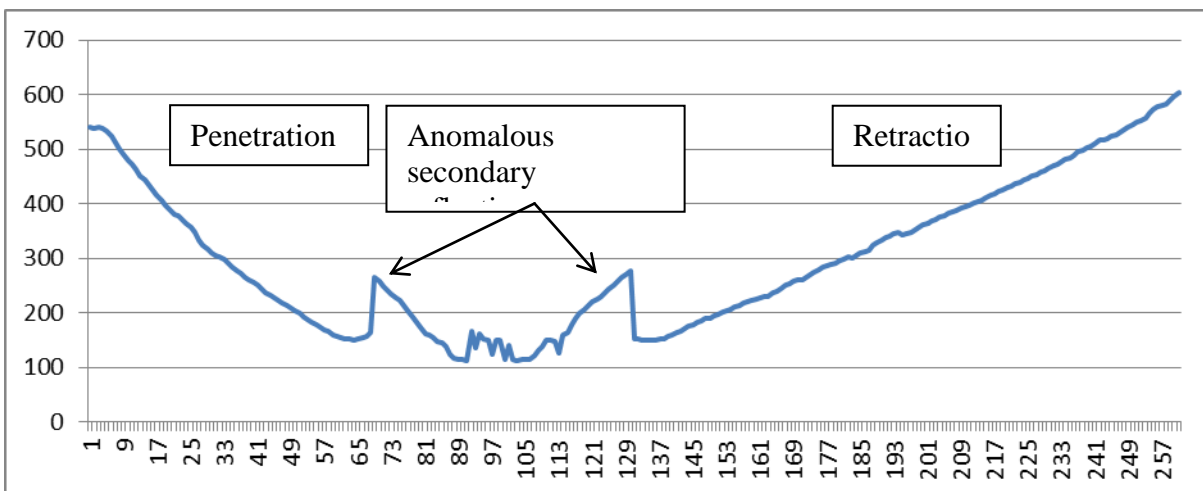
+48-010/212VE (EI-25; 181 cm recovery)



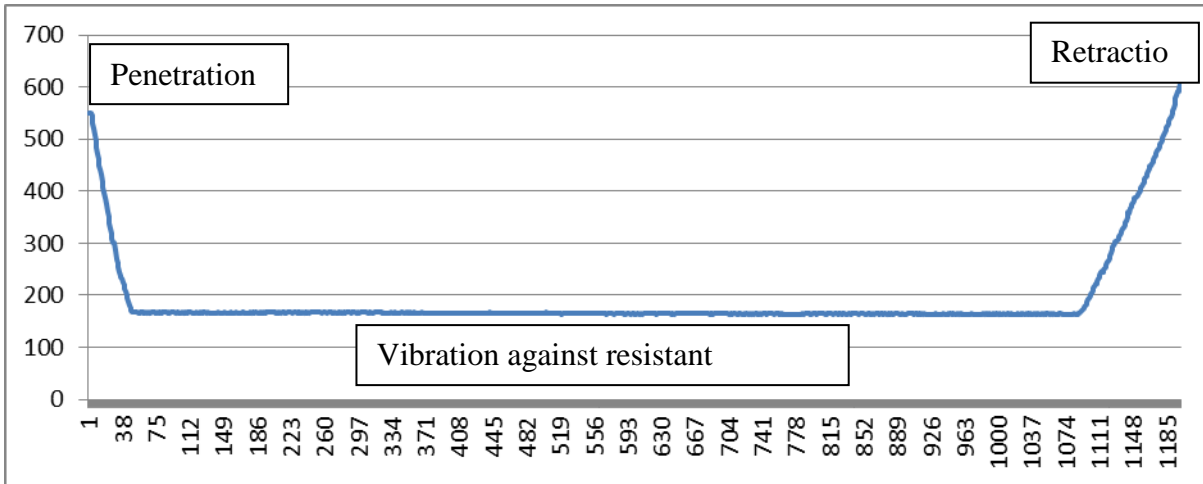
+48-010/213VE (EI-16; 109 cm recovery)



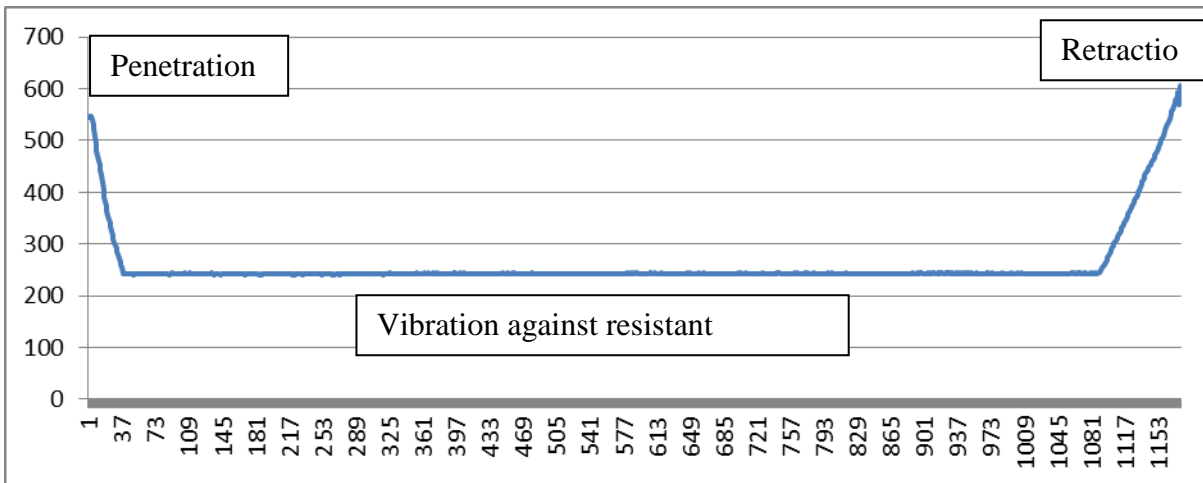
+48-010/214VE (EI-51; 281 cm recovery)



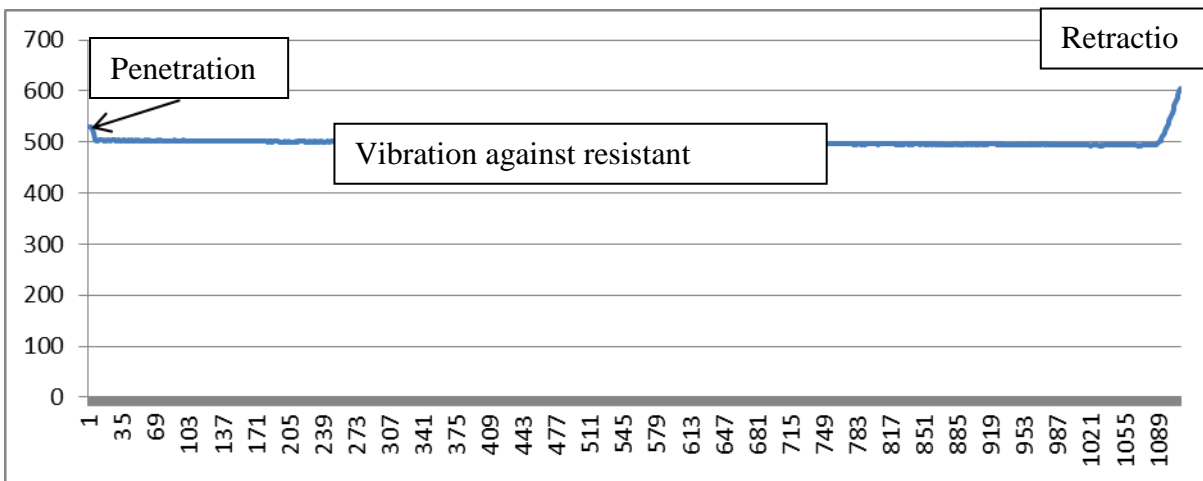
+48-010/215VE (EI-41; 223 cm recovery)



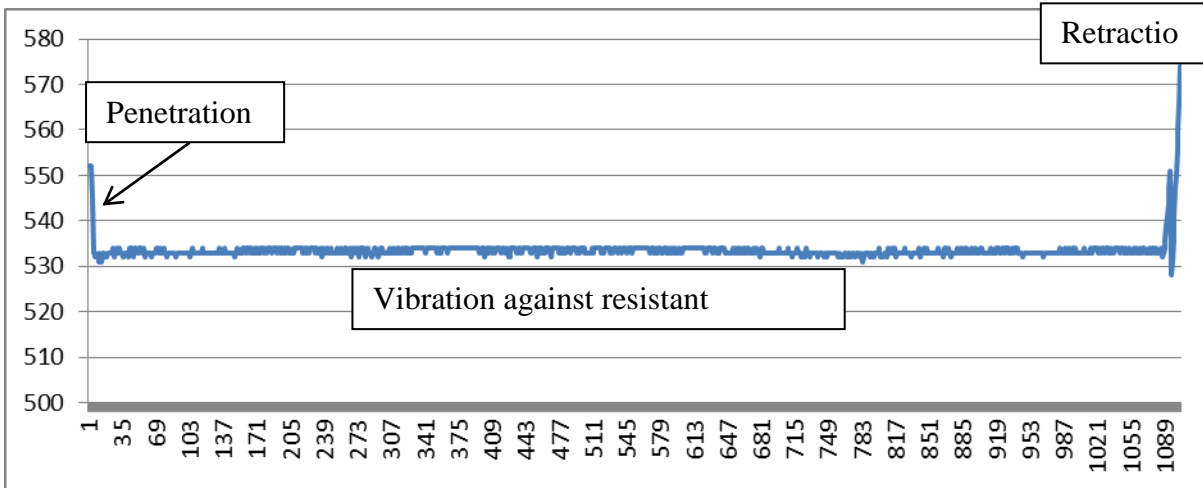
+48-010/216VE (EI-53; 174 cm recovery)



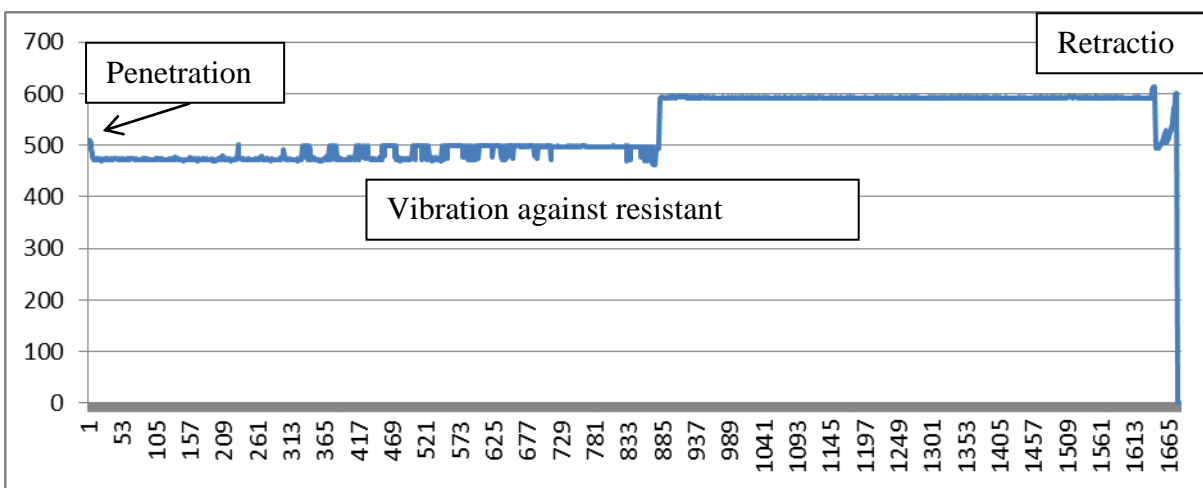
+48-010/217VE (EI-48; 16 cm recovery)



+48-010/218VE (EI-47; no recovery)



+48-010/219VE (EI-48b; 29 cm recovery)



+48-010/220VE (EI-46; 62 cm recovery)

