



Newsletter

Project information

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you had a restful Christmas break although it feels a long time ago now.

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 are starting to put resources onto our project website <https://www.projectmoet.org/> - you will see all project newsletters there. Other relevant publications will be added as they become available in the coming weeks and we welcome any additional resources that you feel would be useful to share.

We continue to grow our project stakeholder base and plan to start arranging more interactions with you, either online or in person. If you have any thoughts on methods of engagement or subject matter we should cover in future sessions, please do let us know. In addition, we are keen to answer any questions you have on specific aspects of the project or help you link up with other projects and activities, so please do get in touch with [Hazel Napier](#)

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

Area 1 Southern North Sea

Experimental work on the Bunter Sandstone, comprising measurement of flow-through permeability and elastic property data and assessing potential for microbial growth during exposure to hydrogen, is in progress.

Revised and finalised maps of salt formation surfaces and thicknesses in the nearshore area of eastern England have been completed and will be used to update calculations of salt cavern storage capacity.

A conference paper 'Classification and Modelling of Structural Controls on Pressure Communication Across the Bunter Sandstone Formation, UK Southern North Sea', given at GHGT-17 by [Abel et al. 2025](#), is now available online.

A paper submitted to the Geological Society of London on the impact of regional structures on pressure communication within the Bunter Sandstone has been peer-reviewed and the response to comments is in progress.

Access to the microbial growth limits database via the MOET website is in progress and preparation of a paper for journal publication on the microbial growth limits in UK strata has commenced.

Area 2 - Central North Sea, Outer Moray Firth

A plan has been implemented for the interpretation of hydraulically connected, stacked Tertiary sandstones for porous rock storage from seismic datasets in the first quarter of 2025. The datasets were prepared during 2024.

Area 3 - East Irish Sea

Good progress has been made on the interpretation of the stratigraphy and structure of the Mercia Mudstone Group and Sherwood Sandstone Group in the central part of the East Irish Sea Basin. Correlation of salt intervals is in progress.

Planning for experimental exposure to hydrogen of porous rock samples from the East Irish Sea 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)

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Gaye Bayrakci – NOC Principal Investigator (NOC)