

Disseminating the results of our research is an important part of any project. **Catherine Poulton** (BGS), **Kate Mortimer** and **Lara Murphy** (National Museum of Wales) describe an exciting new educational resource designed for everyone from schools to professional users.

Communicating sea-bed science

The Outer Bristol Channel has revealed a diverse sea-bed environment which includes extensive areas of sand as well as gravel, rock and mud associated with a varied fauna. A major objective of the study is to disseminate all aspects of the study to as wide an audience as possible and a CD-ROM is a good way of doing this. The BGS is working in partnership with the National Museum Wales to produce an interactive bilingual (English/Welsh) CD-ROM, 'Explore the Sea Floor'.



James Turner, Kate Mortimer and Kirsten Anderson, National Museum of Wales

Part of the schools' activities on the CD-ROM.

assessing the environmental impact of aggregate extraction, and illustrates how biological and geological data are collected at sea.

The interactive CD-ROM is available from the National Museum of Wales in conjunction with a website hosted by the BGS. There will additionally be information integrated into the Marine Life Information Network (MarLIN) website.

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The CD-ROM allows users to explore the sea bed in the Outer Bristol Channel area with the aim of improving understanding of the nature of the sea bed and how its geology and biology are related to each other. Different sections of the CD-ROM are aimed at different educational levels, from school children at Key Stage 2 through to university students and researchers as well as industry, nature and conservation bodies, and planning authorities.

The schools' section is closely aligned with the National Curriculum and specifies learning activities for Key Stages 2 to 4 complete with notes for teachers. There is an activities section aimed at both the school and home environment with games, information, photographs, videos, quizzes and puzzles to enable the user to explore the habitats, geology and physical environment encountered on the sea floor in the Outer Bristol Channel. There is also a large section describing the methods used for collecting data such as grab sampling, video footage, sidescan sonar, multibeam and seismic surveys.

In addition to the CD-ROM, a range of workshops for schools is being undertaken covering a variety of subjects related to the study. The new National Waterfront Museum in Swansea is hosting an 'Explore the Sea Floor' exhibition from October 2005.

The exhibition is aimed at the general public and gives an outline of the project. It highlights the importance of



Andrew Mackie, National Museum of Wales

Sample collection equipment at the 'Explore the Sea Floor' exhibition.