



Each year the Natural Environment Research Council invests £330m in cutting-edge research, training and innovation at UK universities and research centres. NERC science provides the knowledge, skills and technology that deliver sustainable economic growth and public wellbeing for the UK. Our scientists study and monitor the physical, chemical and biological processes on which our planet and life itself depends – from pole to pole, from the deep Earth and oceans to the atmosphere and space.

The Royal Research Ship *Discovery* is a state-of-the-art platform for world-leading oceanographic research, commissioned by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

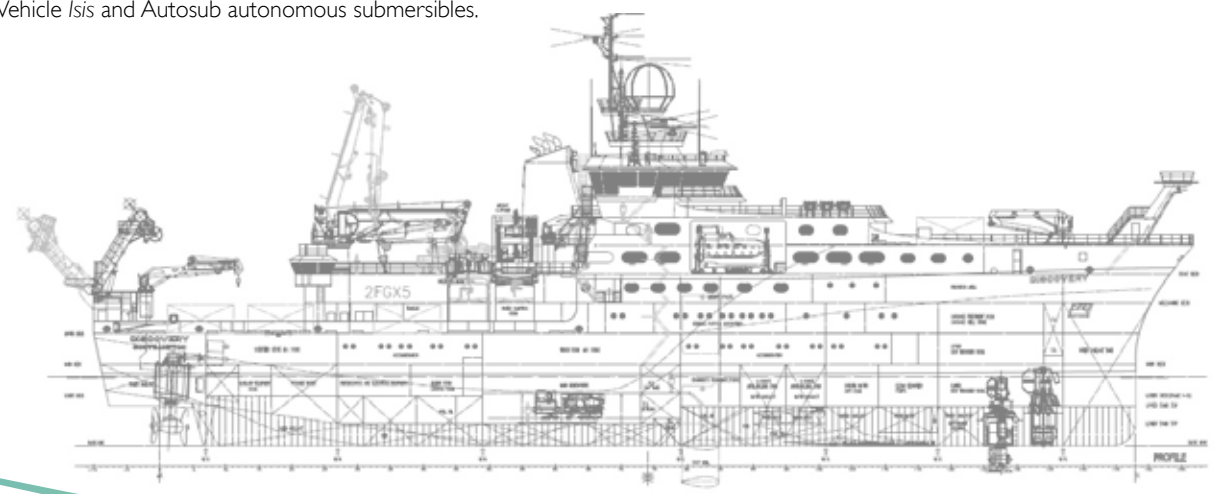
Operated on NERC's behalf by the National Oceanography Centre (NOC) for the UK's marine science community, *Discovery* provides access to the global ocean from the tropics to the poles, underpinning the UK's leadership in marine science. As well as conducting more traditional marine research, it can deploy NOC's innovative underwater equipment such as the Remotely Operated Vehicle *Isis* and Autosub autonomous submersibles.

Key facts and figures

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Length: | 99.7m |
| Breadth: | 18.0m |
| Draft: | 6.5m |
| Gross Tonnage: | 5,952 GT |
| Laboratory spaces: | 323m ² |
| Crew: | 24 |
| Accommodation for 28 scientists and technicians. | |
| Built by Construcciones Navales P.Freire,Vigo, Spain. | |

Power and speed

- Diesel electric propulsion driving twin azimuth thrusters
- Powered by low-sulphur marine gas oil
- Dynamic positioning thrusters for exceptional positional control and manoeuvrability
- Cranes and winches to lift and deploy equipment weighing up to 20 tonnes
- Endurance of 50 days at sea
- Capable of cruising at 11 knots in sea state 4 conditions



Welcome to
RRS *Discovery*
London • October 2015

The Natural Environment Research Council marks its 50th anniversary in 2015. NERC was set up to support the best environmental science, to advance knowledge and technology, and to provide expertise for the benefit of society.

We are proud to have invested in world-leading science for half a century. We work with our partners in business, government and the research community to make sure our research helps manage our environment responsibly and supports UK growth and resilience in a changing world.

We've been marking our achievements, and those of the researchers we support, with a series of events during 2015. We started in January with our inaugural Impact Awards, which recognised NERC-funded researchers for impactful British environmental science from the last 50 years.

Over the course of 2015 our researchers have been taking their work and enthusiasm out to the people of Great Britain with our Summer of Science, and we've asked the public to highlight what they believe to be the best environmental science achievements with our 50th anniversary poll. The programme reaches a high point in with RRS *Discovery's* arrival in London. Welcome aboard.

 @NERCscience

 Planet Earth Online

www.nerc.ac.uk

Fancy winning some NERC goodies? Take a selfie on *Discovery* and tweet it with #DiscoverySelfie. The best selfie will win a selection of NERC goodies. The competition closes 11 October and the winner will be announced on the weekend of 17 October.

Safety and security

Welcome to the RRS *Discovery*, the newest vessel in the NERC fleet. This leaflet highlights aspects of security and safety which **must be followed** to ensure you have a safe and enjoyable visit to the vessel. Please be prepared to follow the crew's instructions at all times.

Security

On arrival at HMS *Belfast*, guests need to be checked in by a member of NERC staff at the reception desk in the Morgan Giles room, which will be signposted. The Gangway Security Officer for RRS *Discovery* will have a complete list of all guests attending. This is important for both Security and Health and Safety.

There are cloakroom facilities on HMS *Belfast*, but only limited facilities on board RRS *Discovery*; please keep bags and coats with you at all times.

Personnel protective clothing

You are not required to wear any specific safety clothing, but please ensure you wear sensible and stout footwear – no high heels or open-toed sandals.

Physical ability

The tour will require stepping over high door sills and climbing steep stairways. You should have a good sense of balance and be able to do this unaided.

Unfamiliar surroundings

Every effort will be made to highlight trip hazards, but you should remain vigilant for things like low and high steps, low doorways and equipment in spaces. Stairways are steeper than those you may be used to ashore, and some may only be passable in one direction. Please follow your guide's directions.

Tidal conditions

Depending on the time of day you undertake your tour, there may be occasions where the gangway(s) have to be removed and alternative methods of embarking/disembarking put in place; this may affect your physical ability to use them.

Emergency Signals

An initial indication of a possible emergency situation will consist of a continuously sounding alarm. This will be investigated by the marine staff on board. If a cause is found, or if the alarm is false, an announcement will be made on the PA system.

If the alarm requires action, instructions will be given over the vessel's PA system and a further alarm will be sounded, consisting of **seven short followed by one prolonged ring of the alarm system**.

On hearing this, you will be guided to the nearest gangway and onto the quayside to a place of safety and a roll call of names will be completed. **Please see diagram above for instructions on how to get off HMS *Belfast*.**

Restricted areas

There will be no access to areas where there is moving machinery or noise levels requiring hearing protection. This will include the engine room and winch space, as well as any other areas deemed unsafe for visitors. These will be clearly marked.

PLEASE DO NOT ENTER ANY RESTRICTED AREAS

Please keep away from the areas of the ship that are open to the water.

Smoking is not permitted anywhere on board.

Report any accident immediately to your guide. The designated onboard first aider is the ship's Second Officer.

The ship's Master, Duty Officer and Chief Officer all have the emergency contact details for departments responsible for safety on the River Thames – the London Fire Brigade Boat Service, the Marine Policing Unit (Metropolitan Police) and the RNLI.

