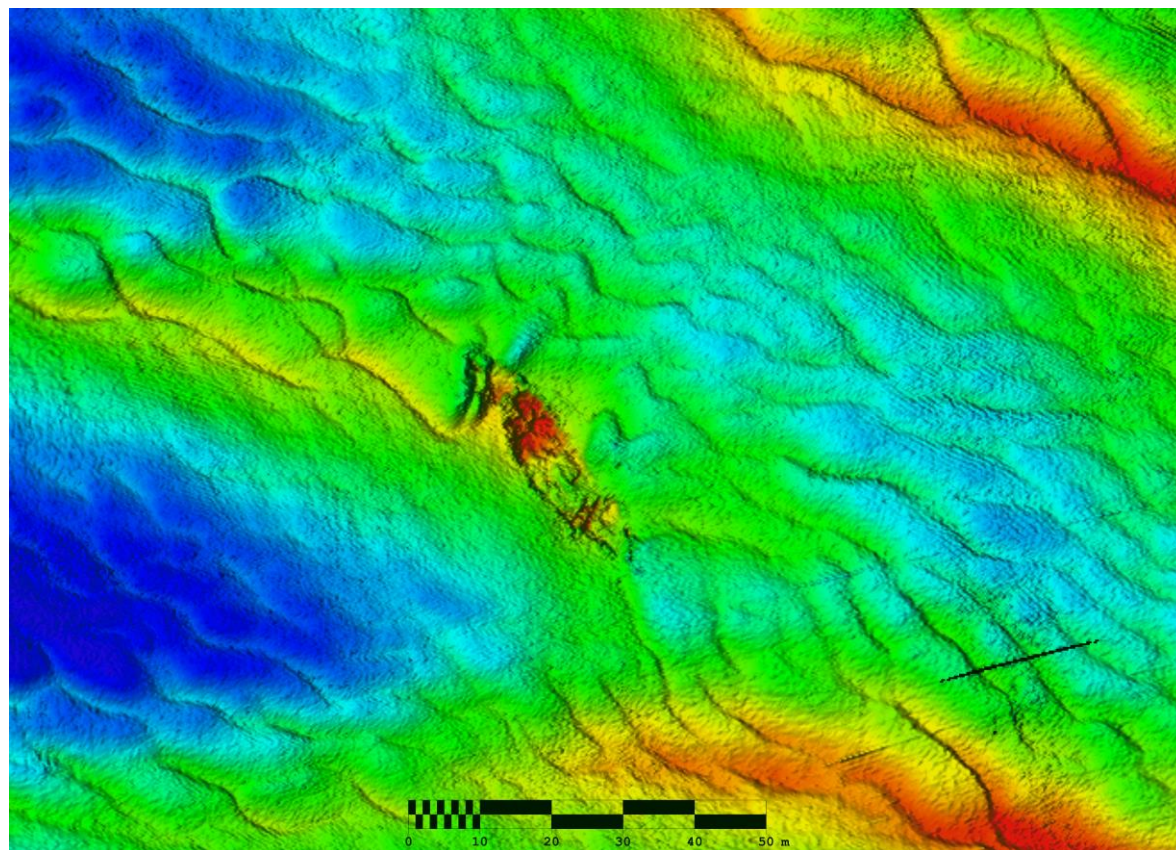


Above the location of the *Sir Charles Napier* on the Kish Bank off the Dalkey coast, Co Dublin and below an image of the *Sir Charles Napier* from the shaded relief acquired during the INFOMAR survey KRY10\_01, Kish Bank and Dublin Bay.



**LOCATION**

**Location** 11 km E of Dalkey Island

**Coordinates** -05° 55' 30.39" W  
53° 15' 43.05" N

**Depth of Water** 8m

**VESSEL INFORMATION**

**Vessel type** Merchant Vessel

**Flag** British

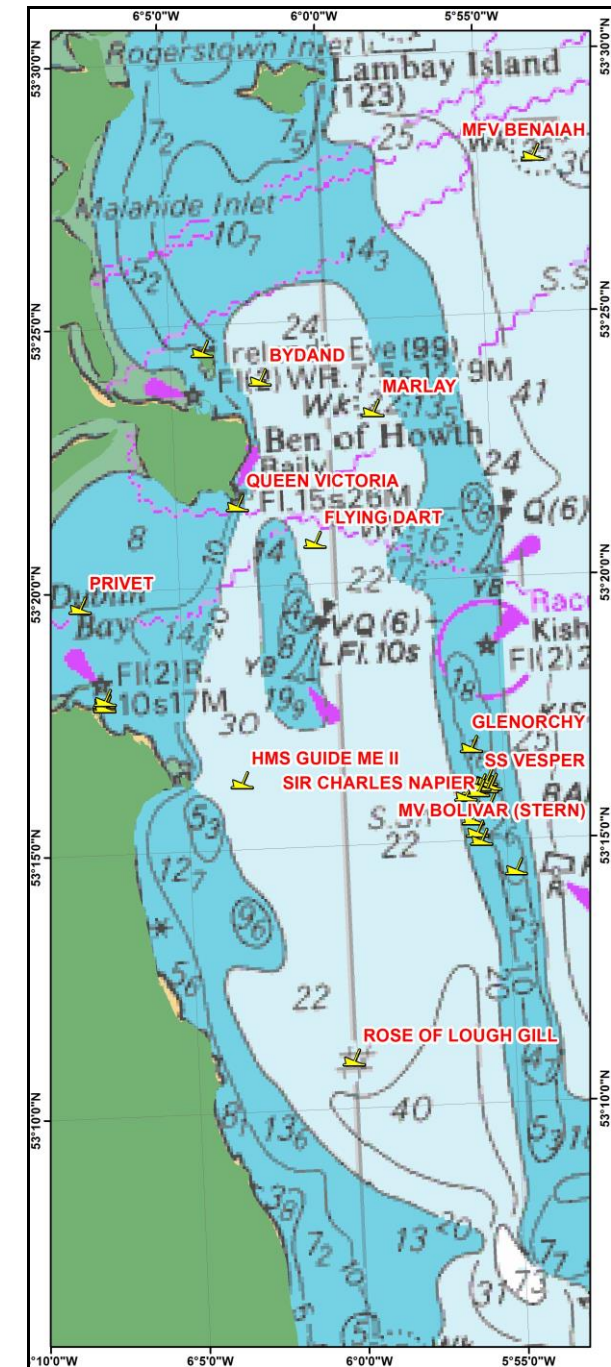
**Vessel Dimensions** 33 m (l), 7 m (b), 1.7m (h)

**Date of building** 1841

**DETAILS OF SINKING**

The *Sir Charles Napier* was en route from Liverpool to Sierra Leone, carrying a cargo that included 6,000 iron pots and iron hoops, when it was stranded and wrecked on the Kish Bank during a force 6 wind on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1857. Master Samuel Bissett and 18 of his crew survived; one crew member was drowned. The vessel was clearly off-course when lost and a subsequent inquiry in Dublin found that the ship's compass had been affected by the large cargo of iron carried on board, a problem compounded by carelessness on the master's part in navigating the vessel.

**SIR CHARLES NAPIER**





## VESSEL HISTORY

The *Sir Charles Napier* was a 638-ton merchant vessel built in Miramichi, New Brunswick, Canada, and owned by Locketts of London.

## DIVE INFORMATION

The *Sir Charles Napier* measures 33m in length, 7m in width and 1.7m in maximum height and lies orientated NW–SE on a sandy seabed in a general sea depth of 8m. A survey by Roy Stokes of Marlin Sub Aqua Club in 2003 identified the wreck as that of the *Sir Charles Napier*. Even though the wreck was partially salvaged at the time, part of the cargo still remains on board, including crockery, iron skillets and faggots of iron.

Wrecks over 100 years old and archaeological objects found underwater are protected under the National Monuments (Amendment) Acts 1987 and 1994. Significant wrecks less than 100 years old can be designated by Underwater Heritage Order (UHO) on account of their historical, archaeological or artistic importance

As the *Sir Charles Napier* is over 100 years old, it is protected and a license is required to dive the site which can be obtained from:

<https://www.archaeology.ie/licences/dive-survey-licence>

## ABOUT INFOMAR

Covering some 125,000 square kilometres of underwater territory, INFOMAR (the **IN**tegrated Mapping **FO**r the Sustainable Development of Ireland's **MAR**ine Resource) project will produce integrated mapping products covering the physical, chemical and biological features of the seabed. INFOMAR will initially focus on 26 priority bays and three priority areas around the coast delivering: hydrographic maps, illustrating everything from sandbars to underwater canyons and cliffs; seabed classification maps showing the type of sediment on the seabed. INFOMAR provides key baseline data to support coastal and inshore development. Making this information available to the world aims to stimulate research and development of Ireland's 220 million acres under the sea. The data will be of interest to fisheries managers, aquaculture operators, coastal zone managers and engineers, offshore engineering interests, licensing authorities and those carrying out environmental impact assessments. Indeed this unique dataset is of interest in its own right because of the sheer volume of data collected

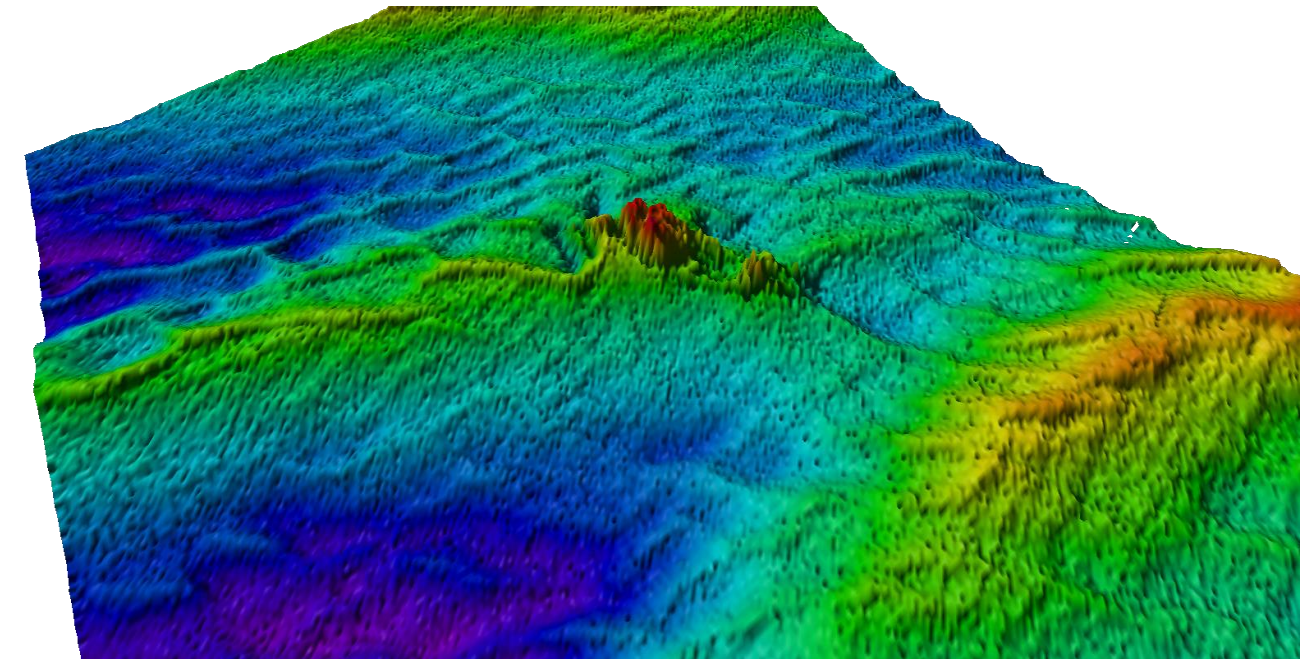
## FURTHER READING/REFERENCES

[www.infomar.ie](http://www.infomar.ie)

<https://www.archaeology.ie/underwater-archaeology>

<http://www.irishwrecks.com/>

## WRECK IMAGERY



Above is a 3D image of the *Sir Charles Napier* using Fledermaus 3D visualisation software and below an image of pottery on the *Sir Charles Napier* (© Roy Stokes)

