



Dear Dr Raphael,

27th October 2023

I am writing to you in advance of the imminent release of the report by the National College of Policing (NCP) into the conduct of Lancashire Police's handling of the Nicola Bulley case.

I would like to raise a concern directly with you that important and credible evidence which I provided to the police at the scene and as part of this investigation has not been fully scrutinized or followed up. Specifically, this relates to sonar images and live sonar data of a target that I located on 7th February 2023 during my search which I believe to be the body of Nicola Bulley on the bottom of the river. This was deemed negative by the NWUSU, which baffled me as I am never wrong with my sonar readings. Based on the negative finding, although still baffled but with trust in the dive team, I made a public statement saying that I did not think she was in the river. The next day I was refused an opportunity to rescan the same area and a search of the weir area was also refused. Several weeks later, with subsequent scrutiny of the images and data by myself, I now disagree that the target was negative and believe it was in fact positive. Without the opportunity to present my findings at the inquest, I presented the same evidence to your NCP team during the interview. The team were provided with images of the sonar shadows of the target and also saw briefly live data from our side scan sonar computer but this had to be cut short as the interview room at the hotel had to be vacated for the next booking. However, based on the gravity of these revelations, I fully expected that further information would be requested from the NCP investigation team, such as measurements, location, latitude and longitude and viewing of the actual live side scan sonar data with the opportunity for me to explain my findings further. No requests have been received. Subsequent to the interview, I submitted this

evidence to the coroner by recorded delivery, also with no response. At no point have any police agencies ever requested to see the full evidence which I am 100 percent certain is that of the body of Nicola laying on the bottom of the river, approximately 75m from the bench, with GPS fluctuation of +/- 5m plus 1 metre of layback. Therefore, this evidence cannot have been properly considered and will leave your report open to obvious criticism.

With worldwide interest in this case, unprecedented public scrutiny and trust in the police at an already all-time low, reporting this finding accurately will be an opportunity to regain back some public confidence. Having worked with many police services for over 30 years I have nothing but the highest regard for the police and the difficult task that they do. Underwater search in particular is extremely difficult and specialist work. However, I will not let my unblemished reputation be damaged any further by allowing this investigation to inaccurately report on my involvement.

These very important findings answer two of the key outstanding questions to this case 'Where was Nicola?' and 'Why was she not found?' The answers are now clear. For the most part, Nicola was in the non-tidal part of the river approximately 75 m downstream from the bench. She was not found initially by NWUSU by divers or their sonar and then missed once again when they investigated my target. No other targets were located during our search. In my vast experience, we have never recovered a body that has floated after drowning, our data shows that a drowning victim sinks either straight away or drifts a short distance whilst struggling until they drown. There is no exact science for how long it takes a body to decompose and then float to the surface, it can be days or weeks depending on a number of factors, but when they do surface, they move with the flow of the river. In this case over the weir and probably during the night into the tidal section of the River Wyre.

At this point, I do not know what your conclusions are or what will be published in the report. However, for the avoidance of any doubt, I am enclosing further sonar images that were gathered at 16.30 Hrs on Tuesday 7th February 2023. These images clearly show the body of Nicola Bulley still laying in a foetal position on the riverbed. For ease, I have also outlined the body in blue. Furthermore, the target measures 1.61 metres in total length, the same height as Nicola. The best and clearest views can be seen via my sonar imaging data which shows the live imaging. I have offered to show this several times, but even so these attached images are clear enough even for someone with no sonar competence or training to understand.

These images and the resulting implications will be disturbing and upsetting for the family and friends of Nicola. It is important for not only the police to see them but for them to be sensitively shared with the family before your report is published and I strongly implore you to consider this.

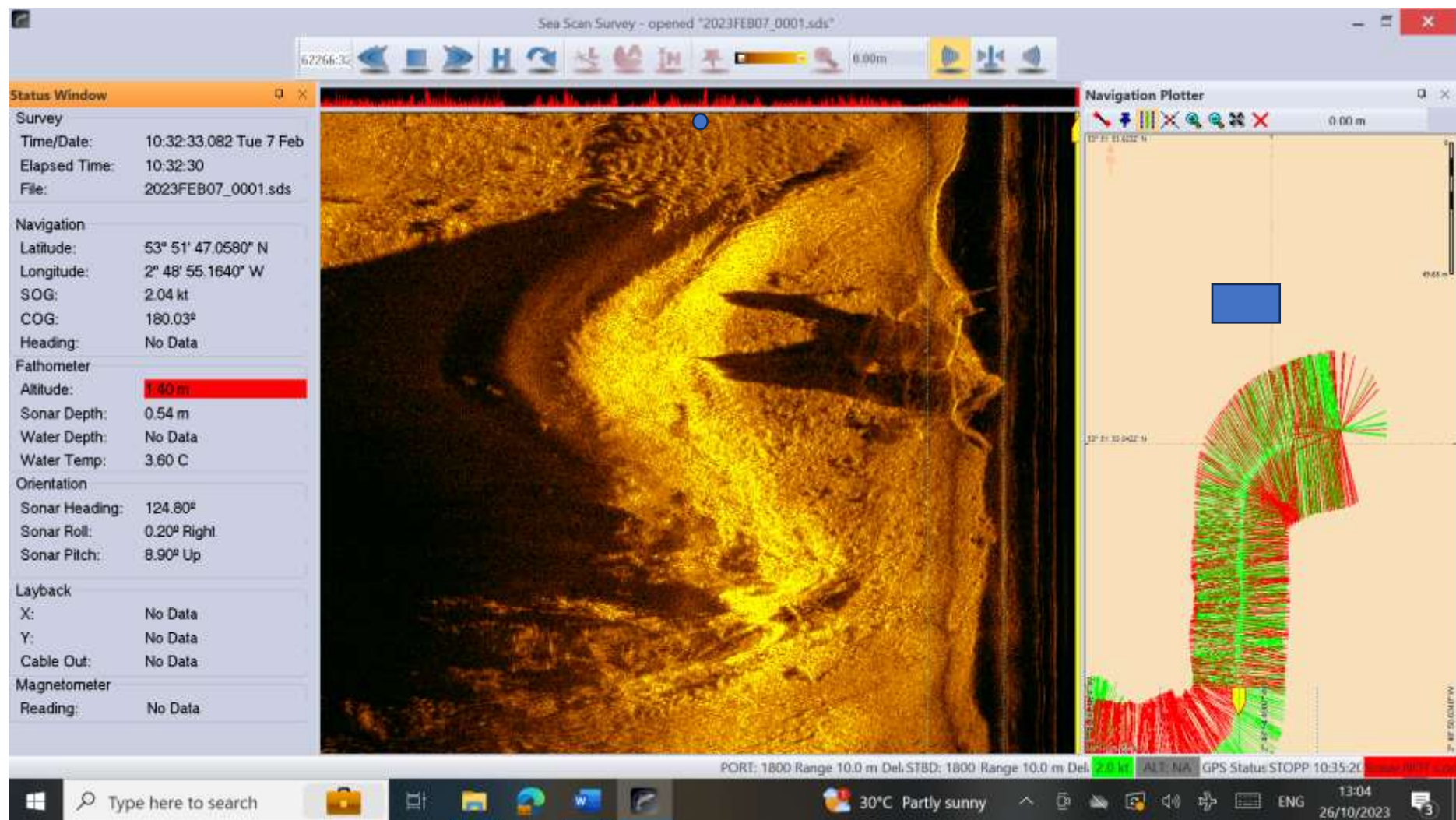
I am keen to work with you to ensure the report is transparent and accurate, rather than pitching partners against each other very publicly and so, I am asking that you take the time to review the evidence I have provided.

That said, once the report is released, I will be making my own media statement with the information that I have provided to you. I have enormous public support for myself, and my team led by the many families of victims that I have helped over the years and my decades of unblemished work speaks for itself. It is my hope that our positions will be unilateral, the truth will be told and public opinion, confidence and trust will begin to be restored.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Faulding'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping underline.

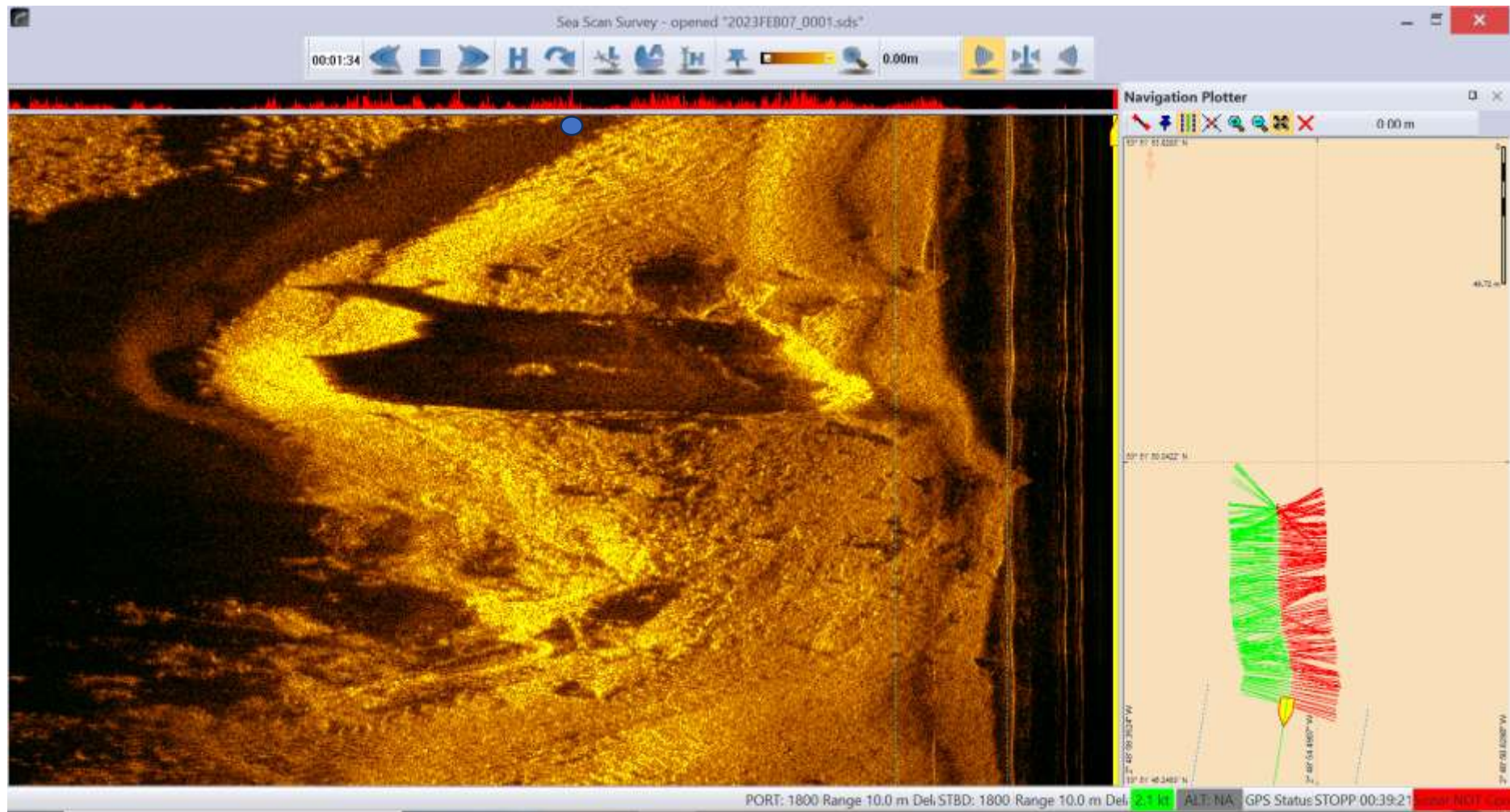
Peter Faulding



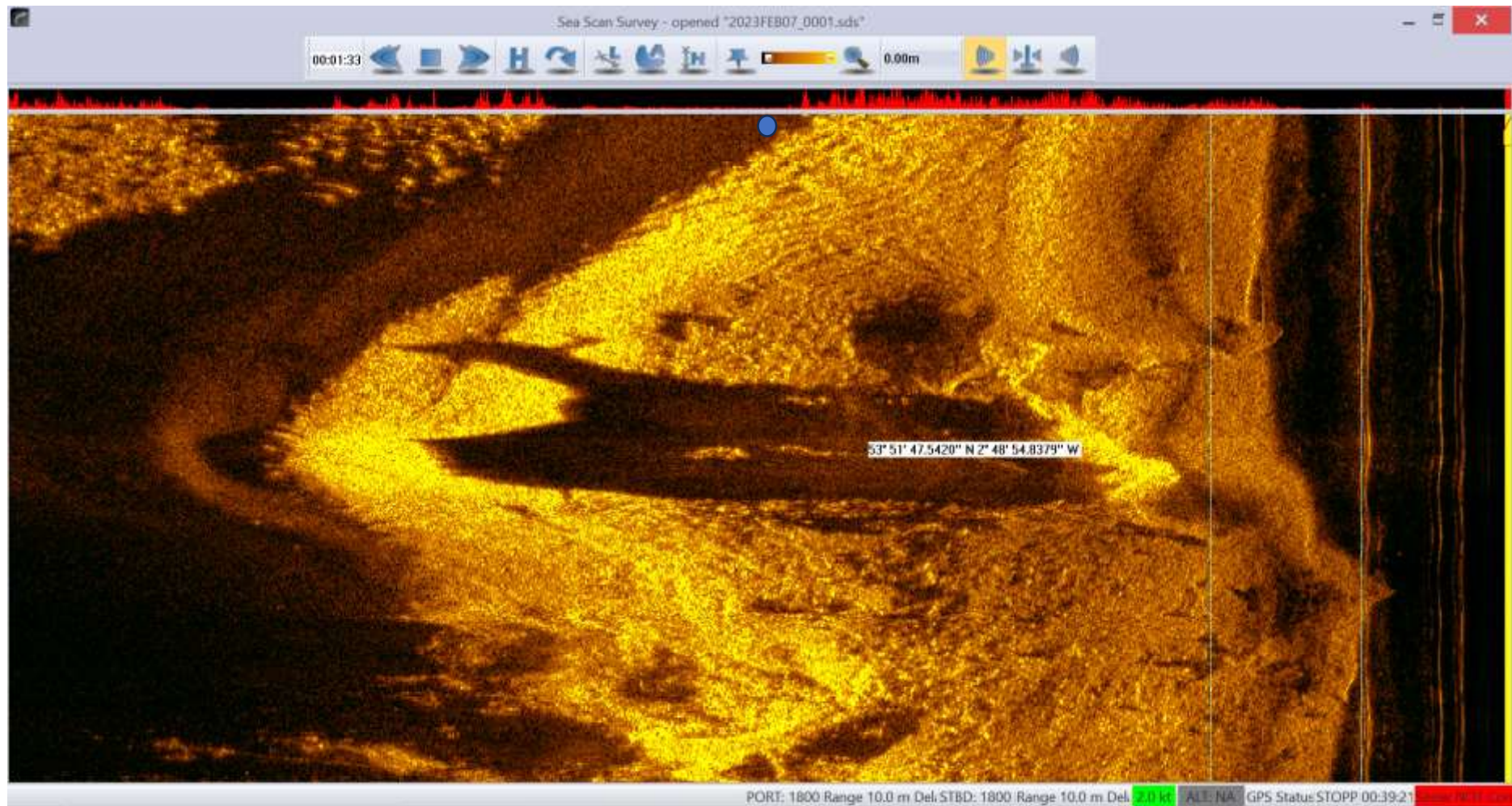
Body located on first sonar search on the 7th February 2023 at 10.34. Plotter window on right shows track of boat. Blue rectangle represents approximate position of bench.



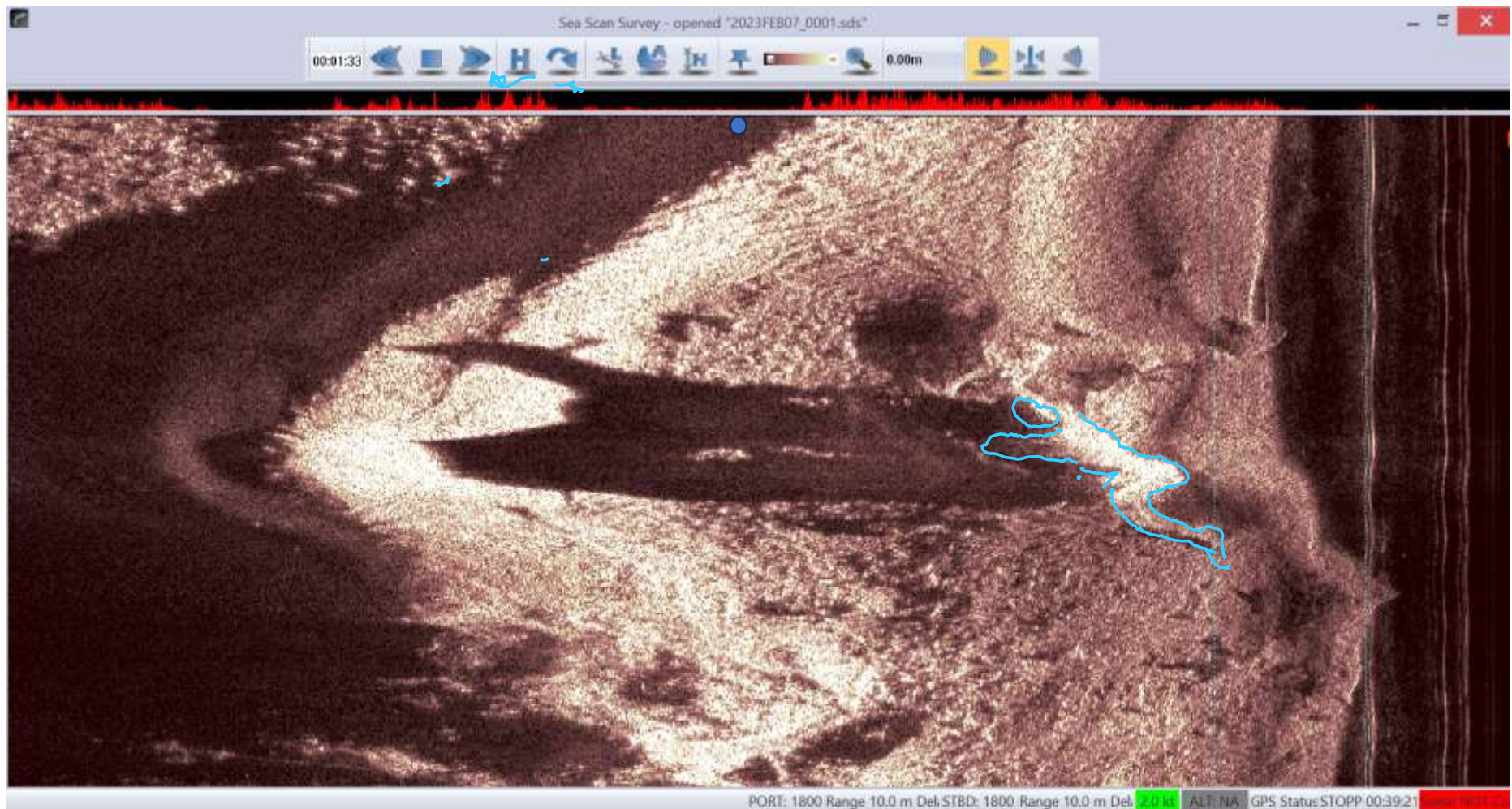
Yellow markers show where body is located 75 metres down from bench. Plus or minus 5 metres for GPS fluctuation and 1 metre layback.



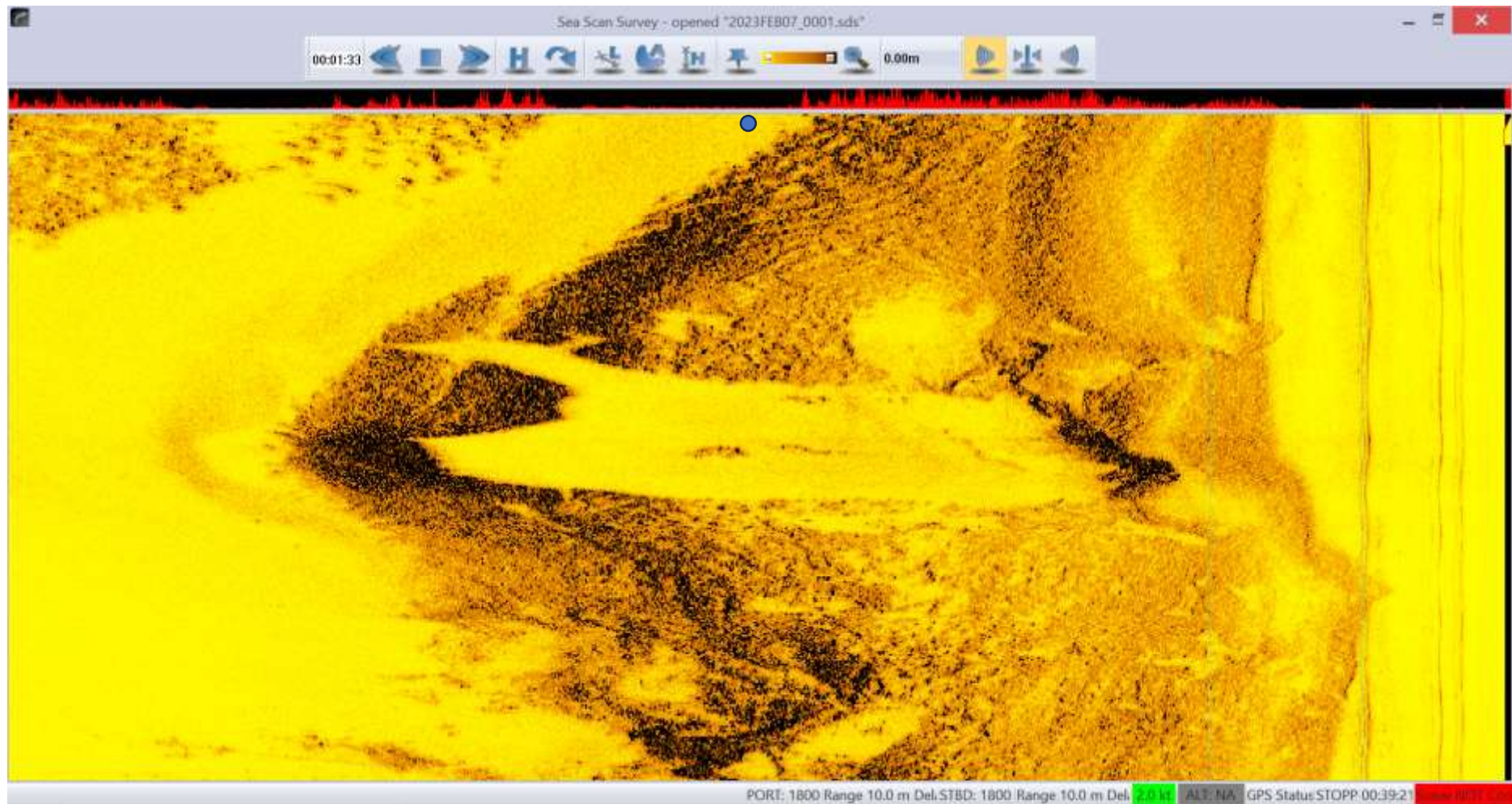
Body imaged at 16.30 on 7th February clearly shows Nicola in foetal position.



Latitude and Longitude Position of Body plus or minus 5 metres for GPS fluctuation plus 1 metre layback of sonar towfish.



Nicola's body outlined in blue.



Sonar software with reversal of shadow. The shadow is now the light area and the body in dark representing a positive target.

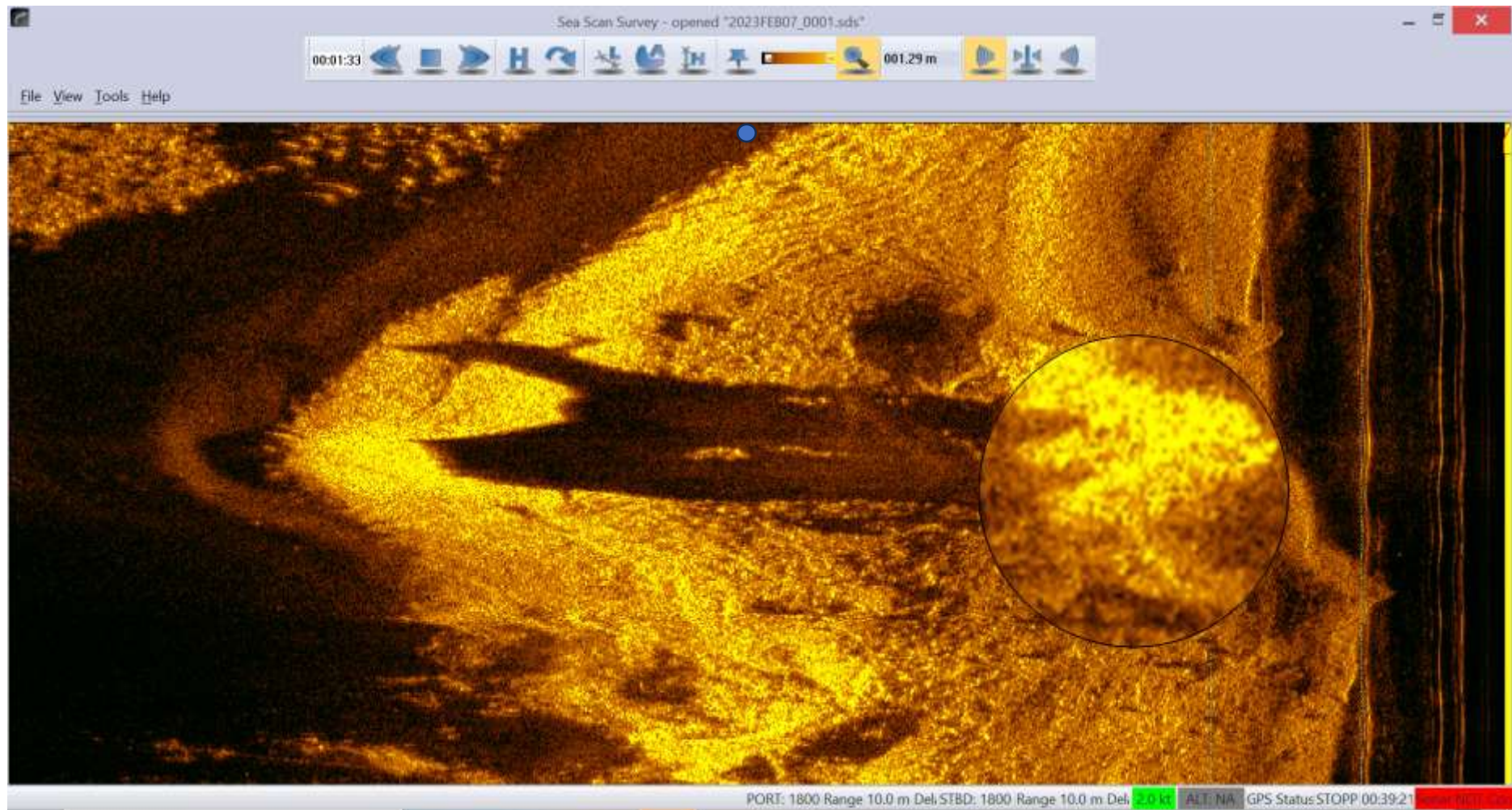


Image shows sonar software magnified image of Nicola's bottom, back with left and right legs bent.



Image taken below the bench at 08.42 on 8th February 2023 by Peter Faulding shows depth of water with no flow. A video was also taken by Peter showing a stick remaining stationary after throwing in at this point without moving for 20 minutes.