

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP) AP-06

NAVIGATION AND STATION POSITIONING

SCOPE AND APPLICATION

This SOP describes procedures for accurate station positioning required to ensure quality and consistency in collecting samples and in data interpretation and analysis. Station positioning must be both absolutely accurate in that it correctly defines a position by latitude and longitude, and relatively accurate in that the position must be repeatable, allowing field crew to reoccupy a station location in the future (e.g., for long-term monitoring programs).

This SOP describes the most commonly used station positioning method, differential global positioning system (DGPS). Integral uses a Trimble Pathfinder™ Pro XRS DGPS for station positioning for many field efforts. The Pro XRS offers the submeter accuracy often required for documenting sampling station locations and for re-locating previously sampled stations. A comprehensive discussion of the Trimble Pathfinder™ Pro XRS DGPS is provided in Attachments 1, 2, and 3 of this SOP.

SUMMARY OF METHOD

Global positioning system (GPS) navigation is used to position the sampler at the desired location. GPS is a satellite-based system that receives positioning data at 1-second intervals from multiple satellites at known positions in space. Standard GPS is calculated to an accuracy of about 10 m.

One can obtain a higher accuracy of approximately 2 m by applying differential corrections to the standard GPS positioning data using DGPS. These differential corrections are applied by sending GPS differential corrections to the GPS receiver via radio transmission. If the sampling location is near the coastal U.S., the U.S. Coast Guard generates differential corrections that are transmitted via radio link to the GPS receiver. If a Coast Guard station is out of range of the sampling area, then a receiver may be set up at a known (i.e., surveyed) reference point on land, or real-time satellite differential signals can be purchased from a private company (e.g., OmniSTAR).

With the Pro XRS, GPS data can be gathered to submeter accuracy using a choice of differential correction sources (i.e., free beacon differential signals such as Coast Guard beacons or OmniSTAR) without establishing a reference station. Data must be corrected to gain submeter accuracy. Free beacon or base station signals allow differential corrections to be

performed after data collection by using a nearby beacon or base station logging data files. (Note: The station must be within 300 miles of the data collection location.) For satellite-based signals, a built-in virtual base station allows for real-time data correction, eliminating the need for post-processing data in some cases. However, postprocessing data corrections can obtain accuracies in the range of 30–50 cm. These accuracies are for the horizontal (northing and easting) component only. The vertical component (elevation) accuracy ranges from submeter to 3 times larger than the horizontal accuracy.

The GPS receiver displays and transmits differentially corrected positioning data to the computer using an integrated navigation software package (e.g., HYPACK, Terrasync). The computer data are typically displayed and recorded in World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS-1984) geographic coordinates (latitude/longitude). However, the integrated navigation system can display and record information in other datums (e.g., UTM, NAD83). The integrated navigation system, acting as a data manager, displays the sampler's position relative to a target station location in plan view on a video screen. The resulting pictorial screen presentation, as well as numeric navigation data (e.g., range and bearing to the target sampling location) assists the vessel operator (when sampling on-water) in approaching and maintaining the station position while sampling.

SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

- Cable
- GPS antenna
- Telemetry antenna (for differential corrections)
- GPS receiver
- Differential corrections receiver
- Computer and monitor
- Navigation software (e.g., Terrasync)
- Logbook or log sheets.

PROCEDURES

Obtain latitude and longitude coordinates at the locations where samples are collected. An average positioning objective is to accurately determine and record the positions of all sampling locations to within 2 m. Positioning accuracies on the order of 1–3 m can be achieved by avoiding the few minutes per day when the satellites are not providing the same level of signal. The GPS provides the operator with a listing of the time intervals during the

day when accuracies are decreased. Avoiding these times allows for better positioning accuracy.

On-Land Sampling Event

A backpack DGPS unit may be used to direct the sampling team to the proposed sampling location. To expedite field activities, enter the target station coordinates into the navigation system database prior to beginning sampling. Place the DGPS antenna as close as possible to where the sampling will occur. Once the sample(s) have been collected at the appropriate location, record the horizontal coordinates of the station in the field logbook.

On-Water Sampling Event

Mount the GPS antenna vertically at the outboard end of the vessel's boom, with the GPS antenna cable extended along the boom into the cabin. Mount the telemetry antenna for receiving differential corrections on a convenient fixture outside the cabin. Locate the GPS receiver, the differential corrections receiver, and the computer in the cabin. Orient the video screen for the computer to allow the vessel operator to observe on-screen positioning data from the helm.

Alternatively, use a backpack DGPS unit to position the sampling vessel (e.g., barge) over a proposed sampling location. Place the DGPS beacon as close as possible to where the drilling will occur (i.e., moon pool). Using the DGPS unit, direct the sampling vessel operator to the sample station location.

Once the sampling vessel is anchored at the appropriate location, record the horizontal coordinates of the station in the field logbook. To expedite field activities, enter the target station coordinates in the navigation system database prior to beginning sampling.

Positioning System Verification

GPS requires no calibration, as all signal propagation is controlled by the U.S. government (the Department of Defense for satellite signals and the U.S. Coast Guard for differential corrections). Verifying the accuracy of the GPS requires coordinates to be known for one (or more) horizontal control point within the study area. The GPS position reading at any given station can then be compared to the known control point. Verify the GPS accuracy at the beginning and end of each sampling day.

Station Positioning Activities

Use a consistent routine for each day's positioning activities. After confirming successful reception of differential signals, turn on the computer on, and boot the software. Verify the accuracy of the system at a horizontal control point, as described in the previous section.

The sampling team proceeds to a target station location selected by the team leader. That station location is then selected from a number of preselected station locations that have been entered into the integrated navigation system database. Once the station has been selected, the positioning data are displayed on the computer screen or hand-held unit to assist in proceeding to the station and in maintaining the station position during sampling. A confirmed position is recorded electronically each time a sample collection is attempted. (This means that during sediment grab sampling and coring, the locations of both accepted and rejected grabs or cores are recorded.) Upon recovery of the sampling device, read the station position northing (y) and easting (x) coordinates from the archived computer file and record them in the field logbook or on log sheets as a backup to the computer record. Also record time and water depth, if applicable. Ancillary information recorded in the field logbook may include personnel operating the GPS, tidal phase, type of sampling activity, and time when coordinates were collected.

REFERENCES

Trimble Navigation Limited. 2001. TSC1 Asset Surveyor operation manual. Version 5.20.
<http://trl.trimble.com/dscgi/ds.py/Get/File-8145/Oper.pdf>.

Trimble Navigation Limited. 2007. GPS tutorial. Accessed on January 12, 2007.
<http://www.trimble.com/gps/index.shtml>.

ATTACHMENT 1

PRO XRS DESCRIPTION

The Pro XRS combines a high-performance GPS receiver and antenna, beacon differential receiver, and satellite differential receiver in one compact unit. It also includes Trimble's advanced Everest™ technology, which allows users to collect accurate position data near walls, water, vehicles, or other surfaces that reflect satellite signals. Reflected signals, also called multipath signals, make it difficult for GPS receivers to accurately determine position. Everest™ uses a patented technique to remove multipath signals before measurements are used to calculate position.

Equipment Required

The GPS Pathfinder™ Pro XRS consists of the following:

- GPS receiver in backpack casing (with system batteries and cables)
- Hand-held data logger (TSC1) and cable, *or* laptop computer with Terrasync software installed and cable. (Note: Terrasync procedures are described under separate cover.)
- Pro XRS antenna, range poles, and cable
- Compass and tape measure
- Spare 12-volt camcorder and 9-volt batteries (minimum of two each) (use only Kodak, Duracell, or Energizer 9-volt batteries)
- Battery charger and power cord.

Pro XRS Setup

Follow these procedures for the proper setup of the Pro XRS:

1. Ensure that connections between batteries, receiver, and data logger are correct and secure. The coaxial antenna cable connects from the GPS receiver port "ANT" to the base of the antenna. The TSC1 cable (a "pig-tail"-type cable) connects from the bottom or top of the TSC1 to the receiver port "B," where a 9-pin serial port dongle is attached. The dual Y-clip cables should be connected from the receiver to the batteries. Alternatively, if AC power is available (e.g., aboard a vessel), then the power cable for the battery charger can be attached directly to the receiver on some models.
2. Screw the three long antenna poles together (the shorter pole may be added if necessary for taller users). Screw on the antenna and connect its cable.
3. Put backpack and/or shoulder strap on. The pouch for the data logger should be in place around the waist strap or in the backpack.

4. Screw antenna to the attachments on the top of the backpack. Wind cord around pole, and ensure the antenna is secure. Please be aware of overhead hazards, especially if working near low-hanging power lines. Severe injury or death can result.

Basic Operation of the Pro XRS

Recording a Feature

Before beginning field use, ensure that all GPS configurations and settings are set correctly for the particular use of the Pro XRS and that an appropriate data dictionary is loaded onto the TSC1 (see Attachments 2 and 3 for typical settings). These steps outline the basic use of the GPS to document a sample position or any other defined “feature.” Note that the TSC1 has both hard and soft keys that allow for its operation. The hard keys comprise all of the keys (e.g., letters and numbers) on its surface. The soft keys are the F1 through F5 hard keys. The function of these changes depending upon the context. These keys will be referred to with brackets around them (<soft-key>).

1. Turn data logger on outside in an open area. Wait for antenna to receive satellite signals. The display will read Recording Almanac, Too Few SVs, and PDOP Too High. Continue to wait until enough satellites (four) are acquired and the PDOP is below 5.0.
2. Ensure that the real-time settings are correct according to the parameters listed in Attachment 2.
3. Select **Data Collection**, and create a new rover file or open an existing file. This file should be named according to the format specified by the project GIS analyst. Note: If opening an existing file, press <NEW> to access the *Antenna Options* menu and *Start Feature* menu.
4. Enter the height of the antenna from the ground to the *Measurement Method* reference point shown in the *Antenna Options* menu and then press **ENTER** to bring up the *Start Feature* menu.
5. Pick the appropriate data dictionary to use with the rover file. Only one dictionary can be used with a rover file. Consult with the project GIS analyst to formulate the most appropriate data dictionary for the type of sampling you wish to perform. The data dictionary titled *Generic* contains only a comment field and is appropriate for simple navigation tasks. If using a data dictionary, make sure to become familiar with its attributes before recording information in the field.

6. Move to the location of the first feature for which you want to record the GPS position. Select the appropriate feature and press **ENTER** to begin logging. Log data points in accordance with the feature type. Point features should have at least 10 points collected at a stationary location. Line features should be collected while moving. If movement is stopped, press the **<PAUSE>** key. When movement starts again, press the **<RESUME>** key. Area features should be collected with enough points to define the outline of the area (e.g., a square building would have four single points, collected on each corner, and the **<PAUSE>** key would be used between each of the points).
7. Depending on the setup of the data dictionary, each feature may have one or more feature attributes. An attribute is used to record additional data associated with the feature. For example, the attributes assigned to a sediment sampling station could be the sample number, station ID, sampling gear, sediment color, odor, etc.
8. Use the **<PAUSE>** key while recording feature attributes to avoid too many data points being collected at one point feature. (Body movements while logging attributes for an extended time can decrease the accuracy of collection.) The **<PAUSE>** key must be used when recording attributes of a line or area feature because only one data point should be collected in a single location.
9. Once all attributes are entered and the feature data points are logged, press **ENTER** to complete and save the feature and move on to a new feature. Pressing **ESC** instead of **ENTER** will allow the user to abandon the logged feature without saving.
10. When all features in a given area have been recorded, from the *Data Collection* menu, press **ESC** to exit data capture and then press **<YES>** to close the file. Features are appended and saved to the file after each collection, so there is no need to “save” the file. When the Pro XRS is not in use, it should be turned off. If you need to come back to the same rover file later in the day, the rover file may be reopened at that time. Rover files may not be edited after 7 days from the first feature was created. Please consult the project GIS analyst for the best way to handle multi-week sampling projects.
11. At the end of each day, download the rover file to a PC using Pathfinder Office software.

Feature Collection Options

Offsets—The Pro XRS can collect a point or line feature while standing at a set distance away from the feature. This option may be necessary because of obstructions such as tree cover, buildings, or car traffic. For a point feature, measure the distance between the object you want recorded and the Pro XRS antenna. Use the compass to determine the bearing (e.g., west is 270°). The bearing is the direction the point should be moved for it to be located in the correct place (e.g., if you are due north of the feature, the bearing is south, or 180°; i.e., the position you want recorded is south of where you are standing). Estimate the inclination from the

feature to the GPS antenna (if altitude determination is critical, a clinometer should be used). The inclination is the degree angle up from the feature to the antenna (e.g., if the feature is 5° below the antenna position, enter -5°). During data capture, from within the feature, press the <OFFSET> button, and enter the distance, bearing, and inclination. Press **OK** to complete the feature. Note: This procedure describes an offset of a single feature. A constant offset may be applied to all features collected as well.

Nesting—While recording a line feature or an area feature, a point feature may be collected to avoid backtracking. While recording the line or area feature, press <PAUSE> and then <NEST>. The Pro XRS will prompt for collection of a new feature. Move to the feature, and collect data as for any other point feature. When the feature is complete, press **OK**. The Pro XRS is ready to resume collecting data as part of the line/area feature: press <RESUME>. (Remember to continue moving before pressing resume to avoid having multiple positions recorded in the same place in the line or area feature.)

Segmenting—While moving along a line feature, changing the attributes of that line may be necessary (e.g., because of a change in surface type from paved to dirt road). This change may be done without having to begin a new feature by pressing <PAUSE> and then <SEGMENT>. Change the appropriate attributes and then press <RESUME> to continue recording.

Repeat—This function allows the collection of a new feature with the same feature attributes as the previous feature. If features are not exactly the same, it also allows editing of the attributes.

Quickmark—Allows collection of point features while moving (e.g., from a car or a boat) by estimating the exact location. The use of this feature will not result in positionally accurate locations and is not recommended for most sampling operations.

Reviewing and Editing Features

It is possible to review or edit features collected in the field while still in the data capture mode. For example, it may be necessary to document the GPS location in the field logbook or to edit one of the feature's attributes. Without exiting data capture, press <REVIEW>. (If data capture is already complete, just press <REVIEW> and then select the appropriate rover file.) This step will display a list of data points including each feature collected. Scroll to the appropriate feature, and follow the steps below depending on the required action:

- To view the GPS location (e.g., lat/lon), press <POS>.
- To edit the attributes, press **ENTER**. Make any necessary edits to the attributes by scrolling through.
- To change or add an offset, press <POS> and then <OFFSET>. Make any necessary changes.
- To delete a feature collected in error, press .

Navigating to an Existing Location

Waypoints

To use the Pro XRS to navigate to a previously established position, this position must be loaded into the data logger as a waypoint, present as a feature position in the data files, or generated in the field using the GPS unit. Waypoints may be entered into the TSC1 by:

- Entering coordinates manually
- Choosing previously recorded locations and importing them into the TSC1 by using Pathfinder Office
- Defining a location stored in a rover file saved to the TSC1 as a waypoint (see *Reviewing/Editing Features*, above)
- Creating a way point from the current position being shown by the operating GPS unit in the field.

Navigating

Usually you will use the *Navigation* module (accessed by pressing **MENU** followed by **Navigation**) to guide yourself to a target (waypoint or feature). You can also use the *Map* module (accessed by pressing **MENU** followed by **Map**) to:

1. Orient yourself in the area where you are working.
2. Get a general indication of the location of a feature or waypoint that you want to find.
3. Find or select features or waypoints to which you wish to navigate toward.
4. Plot a course from one place to another.
 - a. While in the Map screen, the GPS cursor x shows the current position reported by the receiver and is always shown on the Map screen (Note: it may not always be within the visible part of the screen when panning or scrolling). The **<OPTIONS>** key can be used to hide or display the GPS trail (line of dots showing up to 60 previous positions), the heading showing the direction of travel, and other options on the map display.
 - b. Select a feature by pressing **MENU**, Data Collection to reach the *Start Feature* screen, and then **<REVIEW>** to access all features contained in the data file. Highlight and select the desired feature by pressing the **<Target>** key, which adds a crossed flag to the feature. Reaccess the *Map* screen by selecting **MENU**, then **Map**, which will now show the highlighted feature with a crossed flag symbol on the Map screen. You can then start moving toward the feature, and the current position (shown by the x) will move closer to the target position as the user approaches.

- c. There are two graphical modes of navigation with the Pro XRS in the TSC1 *Navigation* module. On both modes, text information appears on the right of the screen in the *Info* panels, which can be configured by the user. The graphical modes available are the *Directional Dial* screen or the *Road* screen, which can be toggled between using the **<Mode>** key.
- d. To navigate, select a target and then a start position. Each of these positions can be features from an open data file or a waypoint. Access a list of available features or waypoints by pressing **<TARGET>** or **<START>**. Once the item has been chosen as a target, it will show the crossed flags symbol in the list. Once a target has been selected, *Distance to Go* appears at the bottom of the *Navigation* screen, which indicates the distance from the current GPS position to the target. Select a start position (not required but useful for calculating crosstrack error and other navigation information) by pressing **<START>**. A waypoint of the current GPS position can be created for use as the Start point by selecting **<CREATE>**. Once the Start position is selected, a flag symbol will appear next to the item in the list.
- e. In the *Directional Dial* mode, an arrow will appear that will always point at the target. This is the bearing to go. (Note: You need to be moving for this to be accurate, as it will lock if you are moving too slowly or have stopped.) The triangle at the top represents the direction that you are going or heading. This triangle never moves, but by changing directions, you can line up the arrow with the triangle. When the two are aligned, you are heading in the direction of the target. When you are close to the target, a bull's-eye (two concentric circles) will appear at the edge of the screen. This is warning you that the unit will be switching to the close up screen. A proximity alarm will sound and the directional arrow will be replaced by the bull's-eye on the close up screen. Your current position will be shown by an x and the target by the bull's-eye. Move so that the x is in the same location as the bull's-eye.
- f. In the *Road* mode, navigate by walking down a road. Your position is shown by a stick figure and is always positioned in the center of the screen. The target (crossed flags) shows the point to which you are navigating toward. Your heading is shown by the top center of the screen and the bearing to go is shown by the direction of the road, which will rotate as you change your heading. Change your heading until the road is pointing at the top of the screen (*Target* is also at the top of the screen) and the edges are parallel to the sides of the screen. As you move toward the target the screen zooms in, so the road appears to get wider.

Downloading Rover Files

Upon returning to the office, download all rover files from the TSC1 to a PC for post-processing. You will need the Trimble Pathfinder software installed on your computer. If you

are not using a field laptop that already has the program installed, contact your project GIS analyst for instructions on how to install the software.

Connect the TSC1 to your computer using the appropriate cables. In addition to the “pigtail” cable, you will also need a null modem (a 9-pin female-to-female cable) to plug into a PC serial port. Once connected, power up the TSC1 unit and navigate to *MENU>File Manager>File Transfer*. Then, open the Pathfinder software and navigate to the *Utilities>Data Transfer...* window from the menu bar. Select **GIS Datalogger** on COM1 (for most computer systems), and press the green **Connect** button. Download files from the TSC1 by selecting the **Receive** tab and choosing the data file type from the *Add* pulldown menu (Figure 1).

After downloading, remove all rover files and waypoints from the TSC1 to conserve memory. Rover files may be deleted from the *File Manager* menu as follows:

1. Select **MENU>File Manager>Delete File(s)**
2. Select the rover file to be deleted, and press <ENTER>
3. Confirm the deletion of this file by pressing <YES>.

Delete data dictionaries in the same manner by selecting **Data Dictionaries** from the *File Manager* menu. Delete waypoints by selecting **Utilities** from the *Main* menu and then by selecting **Waypoints**, followed by .

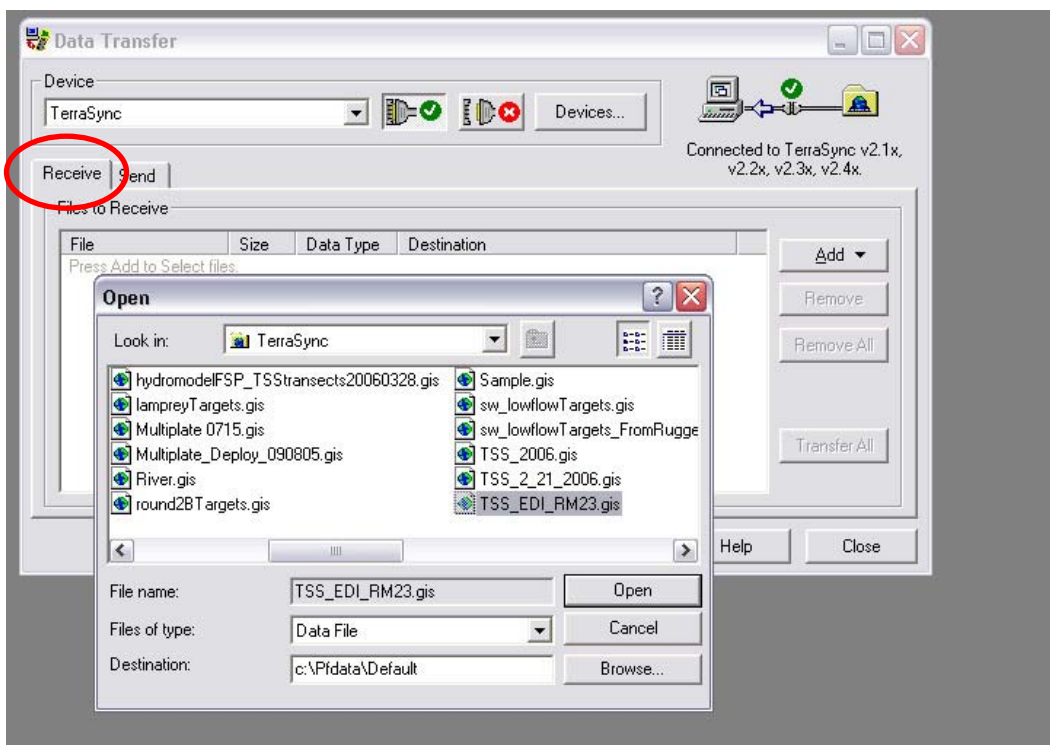


Figure 1. Transferring File from Terrasync

ATTACHMENT 2 TSC1 SETTINGS

The following are lists of menus that can be accessed through the TSC1 keypad. Please ensure that settings are correct before proceeding. Do not make changes to the settings unless necessary. Each menu will list all available subheadings, the correct setting, and the available <soft-keys> to access additional menus. Comments are included only where necessary.

GPS Rover Options

To access this menu, select **Configuration** from the main menu and then select **GPS Rover Options**. The table below lists logging options and settings.

Logging Options	Setting	Comment
<i>Logging intervals</i>		
Point feature	1s	
Line/area feature	2s–5s	depending upon speed of movement
Not in feature	None	
Velocity	None	
Confirm end feature	No	
Minimum pos	10	
Carrier Mode	Off	
Carrier phase min. time	10 minutes	
Dynamics code	Land	May be changed to sea or air, as appropriate
Audible click	Yes	
Log DOP data	Yes	
Log PPRT data	Yes	
Log QA/QC data	Yes	
Allow GPS update	Warn First	
Warning Distance	Any	
Position Mode Manual	3D	
Elevation Mask	15°	Should not go below 13° (accuracy decreases)
SNR Mask	6.0	Can raise to 7 if multi-path filtering is poor
PDOP Mask	5.0	Can be raised up to 8; reduces accuracy
PDOP Switch	6.0	

Real-Time Input Options

Access this menu from the GPS Rover *Options* menu by selecting **Real-Time Input**. The table below shows options and settings for real-time input.

Options	Setting	Comment
Preferred Correction Source	Choice 1	Integrated Beacon
	Choice 2	Integrated WAAS
	Choice 3	Use uncorrected GPS
	Correction Age Limit	20s

Antenna Options

Access this menu from the GPS rover *Options* menu by selecting **Antenna Options**. The table below shows antenna options and settings.

Option	Setting	Comment
Height	6 ft	Enter correct user antenna height using measurement method indicated below
Measure Type	Uncorrected	
Confirm	Integrated GPS/Beacon/Satellite	
Part Number	Per file	Can be changed to "Per feature" if antenna height varies and elevation is critical
Measurement Method	33580-50	Auto selected based on TYPE selected
	Bottom of Antenna	
	Mount	

ATTACHMENT 3

ADDITIONAL SETTINGS FOR THE TSC1

Additional TSC1 settings can be found in the *Configuration* menu. Items of particular importance are indicated in italics.

Configuration

This menu can be accessed by selecting **Configuration** from the main menu. The table below lists options and descriptions for the *Configuration* menu.

Options	Description
GPS base station options	For using a land base station or beacon for real time corrections
NMEA/TSIP output	Consult manual
Coordinate system	Changes coordinate system among latitude/longitude, UTM, and other coordinate systems. System can be converted, if necessary, after data capture by using Pathfinder Office software.
Map Display options	Change layers, scale, background files and items shown on the TSC1 screen during data collection
Navigation options	Changes Navigation parameters
Units and display	Changes various units, for example: length (e.g., feet, meters), altitude reference (e.g., MSL), <i>North reference</i> (i.e., true or magnetic). Units can be converted, if necessary, after data capture by using Pathfinder Office software.
Time and date	Changes to <i>local time</i> , 24-hour clock, date format, and other options
Quickmarks	Set-up parameters for use with Quickmarks.
Constant offset	Set-up parameters for use with a constant offset.
External sensors	Connections with external sensors.
Hardware (TSC1)	TSC1 settings such as beep volume, contrast, <i>internal and external battery status</i> , software version, free space.

Contrast and Backlighting

The TSC1 display can be viewed in various light settings. Press **FUNC**, then **L** to turn on the display backlight for viewing in dim lighting. Adjust the contrast by pressing **FUNC**, then **E** or **F**.

ATTACHMENT 4

PRE-SAMPLING ACTIVITIES BEFORE USE OF THE PRO XRS

Determination of Optimal Satellite-Use Time

Positioning accuracies on the order of ± 1 to 3 m can be achieved by avoiding the few minutes per day when the satellites are not providing the same level of signal. The GPS unit provides the operator with a listing of the time intervals during the day when accuracies are decreased. Avoiding these time intervals permits the operator to maintain better positioning accuracy.

ATTACHMENT 5

MANAGING GPS DATA FROM TERRASYNC—A TUTORIAL

Currently, positional data collected in the field is most often done with a Trimble GPS unit (usually rented) interfaced with a laptop via Trimble's Terrasync software. The Terrasync software sometimes exhibits quirks that interfere with the smooth operation of data collection in otherwise stressful field conditions. This tutorial is meant to supplement the Terrasync software documentation and serve as a guide to field personnel to help them retrieve and collect geographic data as efficiently as possible with existing software.

Scope

This document is intended to be a reference for procedures involving the following:

- Fixing files that are more than 7 days old so that they can be updated
- Adding features in GPS Pathfinder software (companion to Terrasync) and then importing them as base files in Terrasync..

This document is not intended to be a comprehensive manual for using Terrasync or Pathfinder software. It is assumed that the reader has received at least some training on how to use the basic features of Terrasync and is competent at using MS Windows.

The Basics

GPS data collection currently relies on two pieces of complementary software:

- Terrasync—the interface for GPS navigation and data collection.
- Pathfinder Office—a multiuse piece of software that acts as a conduit between GIS data files (shape files) and Terrasync GPS files. Pathfinder can also be used as a simple map editor.

Installing the Correct Versions of Terrasync and Pathfinder

Important Note: This tutorial uses Pathfinder Office v. 3.00 and Terrasync v. 2.50. It is very important to use the proper versions of this software to avoid compatibility issues. These software versions should be included in the same folder as this tutorial, or can be obtained from GIS staff.

http://www.trimble.com/terrasync_ts.asp?Nav=Collection-4576

Key code for TerraSync
499043-00110-05273-EDD049BC

Pathfinder v.3.00
001533-00300-04152-0ee4d11f

Initial Setup of Terrasync/Pathfinder

Certain settings and configuration setups are needed before Pathfinder can talk to Terrasync. Whether you are installing this software for the first time or have an existing installation, check to make sure that these settings are in place.

1. Open Pathfinder Office and go to the *Utilities>Data Transfer...* menu. A dialog box should appear. This is the interface for communicating with Terrasync.
2. Click the **Devices** button, and then **New...** (Figure 1).
3. Click on **GIS Folder**.
4. Browse to the Terrasync data folder on your computer, which in most cases will be *C:\My Documents\TerraSync*.
5. In the next box, *Type* will be **Terrasync**, and *Version* will be **v. 2.1x, v.2.2x, v.2.3x, and v2.4x**.
6. At the prompt for a name that will display in the device list, enter **Terrasync**.
7. Go back to the Data Transfer dialog box, select **Terrasync** from the dropdown menu, press the **Connect** icon, and look for a green check mark indicating success.

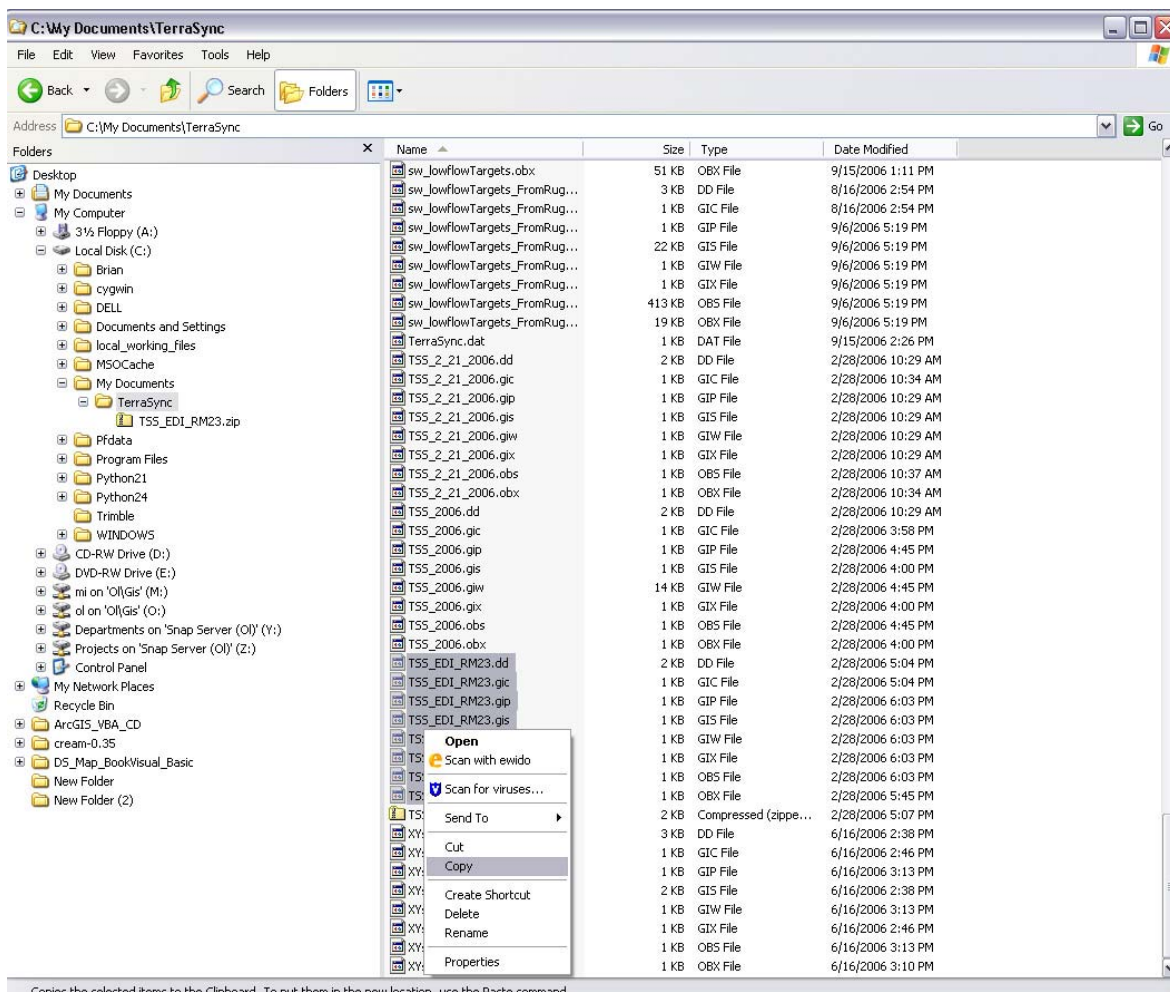


Figure 2. Selecting Files To Copy to a Different Directory

If this procedure does not work for you, you may have the wrong version of Pathfinder. For some unknown reason, with each version upgrade of Pathfinder, connectivity to older versions of Terrasync is lost. You can check what version of Pathfinder you have installed by going to the *Help>About GPS Pathfinder Office...* menu. To find out what version of Terrasync you have, go to *C:\Program Files\TerraSync*, right-click on **Terrasync.exe**, and choose the **Version** tab.

Handling Expired Files in Terrasync

One of the most common problems that field personnel will have to deal with is the 1-week expiration date when trying to collect data with Terrasync. This is a built-in function of Terrasync, and there is no simple way to work around it. The following instructions will guide you through the process to make the files usable. See Figure 3.

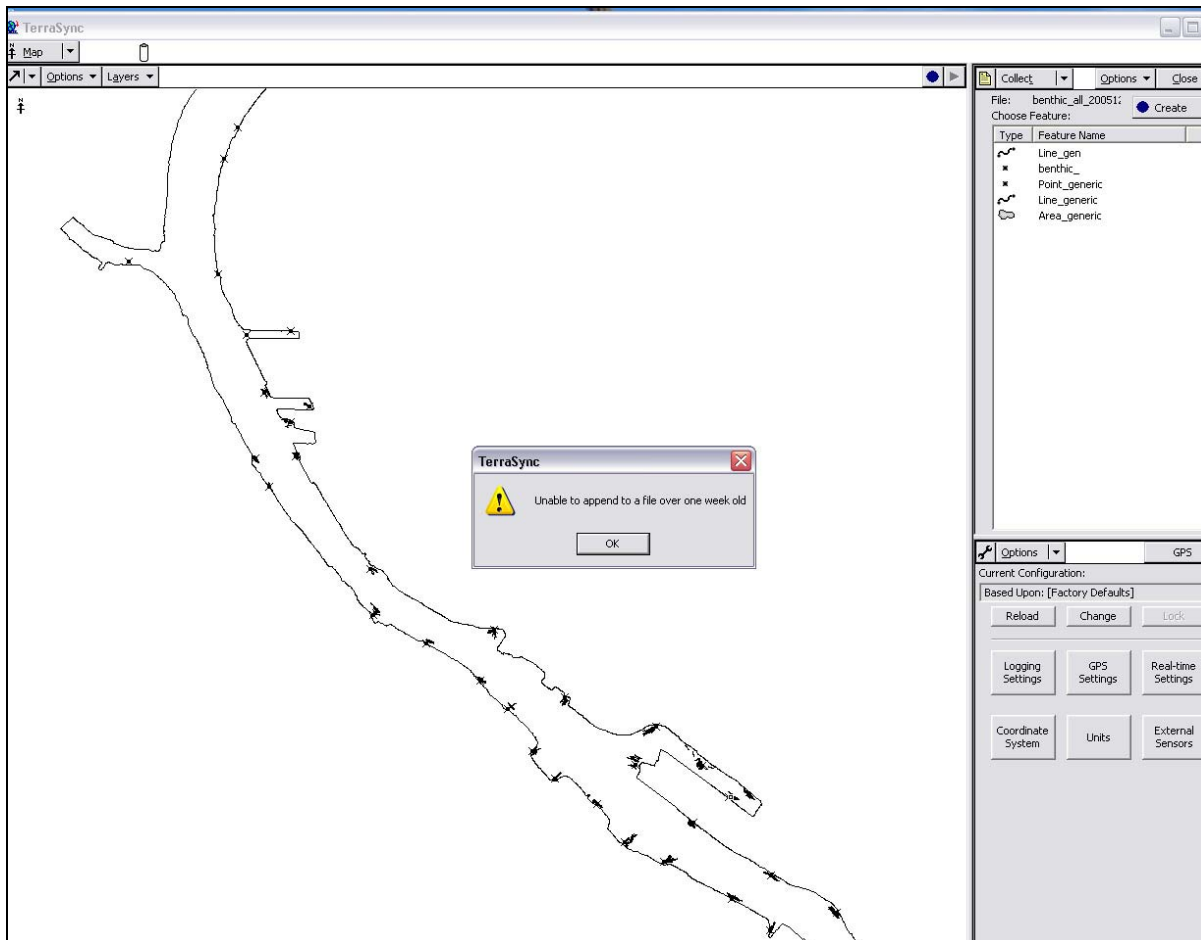


Figure 3. Notice That Terrasync File Older Than 1 Week Will Not Allow User To Collect Features (time begins to elapse when first feature is collected in the field, not when file is created)

Two options are available, depending on your needs. If you do not need to see the previously logged locations and need only to see the targets, use the original files provided by GIS staff (Option 1). If you need to see previously occupied locations in order to make decisions about where to go next, then transfer the file to Pathfinder and back again (Option 2).

Option 1: Move and replace logged files with original targets.

At the beginning of the field effort, you should receive a set of files with the target locations, most likely in a zip archive (.zip file extension). There will be six to eight files with the same name but with different extensions (Figure 4). These files will have to go into the C:\My Documents\TerraSync\ folder in order to be available to Terrasync.

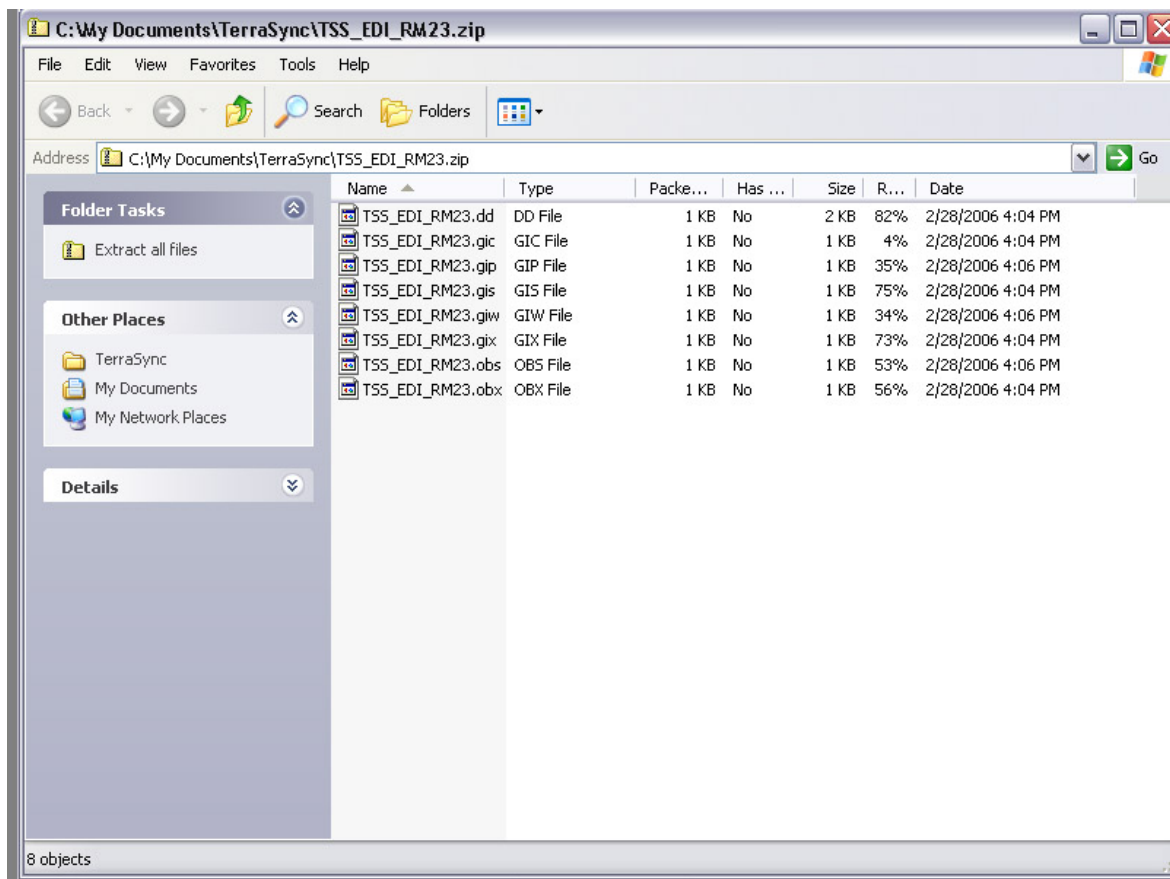


Figure 4. Example of File Set To Be Unzipped into the Terrasync Folder

After you unzip these files to Terrasync, keep this zip archive around in an easy-to-find place, such as your computer desktop, because the 1-week clock does not start until you begin collecting your first point in the field. You can use this unadulterated file again, as long as you make a copy of the work you did the previous week. The detailed steps are as follows:

1. Make sure you have the original files with the target locations available in a handy place. This will probably be the original zip archive. Also, be sure to close Terrasync while performing this process.
2. Navigate to C:\My Documents\TerraSync\ in Windows Explorer. Locate the files that you have been using the previous week. Note: It is crucial to get all of the small files associated with the data set. While it is useful to sort the files by date modified, you can miss some of the small files—it is highly recommended that you sort the files alphabetically.

3. Copy all of these files to a different directory, preferably one that is named appropriately to reflect the data and time period that you were collecting. For example: C:\Documents and Settings\bpointer\Desktop\lampreyTargets_20060925. These files contain the data you have collected the previous week and should be backed up and/or emailed to the appropriate project manager or GIS staff.
4. You can now safely replace the files you just copied with the ones from the original zip file. Right-click the zip archive, and click Extract All. When prompted to Select a folder to extract files to, browse to C:\My Documents\TerraSync. (Figure 5). If prompted about replacing existing files, select Yes to All. Note: It is crucial to make copies of the files first (see Step 3 above)—otherwise, you may lose the data.
5. You should now be able to open the file in Terrasync and begin logging as normal.

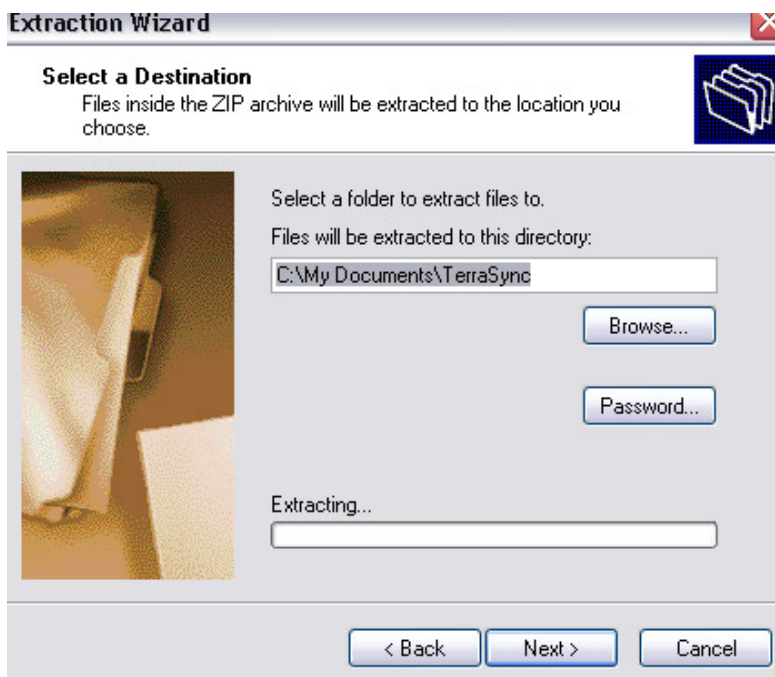


Figure 5. Extract (or copy) Original Target Files into the Terrasync Directory

Option 2: Transfer files back and forth from Terrasync.

If you need to be able to see the previously occupied positions from last week while positioning this week, you need to use Pathfinder to reset the file. This process will essentially combine the targets and actuals from last week into one file. However, this method has its drawbacks; once converted, the actuals from last week will not be able to be corrected, so a backup procedure similar to the one in the previous option should be carried out to maintain data integrity.

The steps for file transfer are as follows:

1. For good data management, back up the data files from the previous week using the procedure laid out in steps 1 through 3 in Option 1 above.
2. Close Terrasync and open up Pathfinder Office.
3. Go to the Utilities>Data Transfer menu or just click the icon on the left (Figure 6).
4. Ensure that the device listed is Terrasync. If not, follow the initial setup instructions at the beginning of this document. Most of the computers used for GPS logging are already setup for this.
5. There are two tabs, Receive and Send. Make sure that Receive is selected and then go to Add>Data File. Select the file(s) that you are using and select Open. The file should now be in the Files to Receive box. Click Transfer All and wait for the transfer to take place. If you have made the recommended backups, it is fine to replace any files.
6. Now select the Send tab (Figure 7), and go to Add>Data File. Select the file you just transferred (it will have the same name as the Terrasync file) and click Open. Now click Transfer All to move the file back to Terrasync.

By transferring the file back and forth from Terrasync to Pathfinder, you have “reset the clock” and can now update the file for an additional 7 days. This file will have your targets and actual positions from the last week, so it is important to be aware of the features you are selecting for navigation.

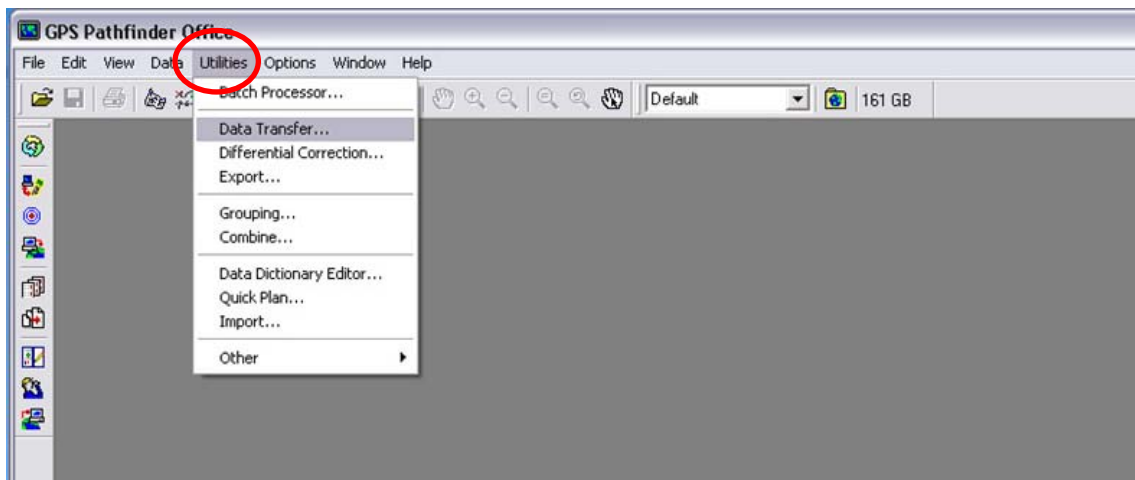


Figure 6. Data Transfer Menu

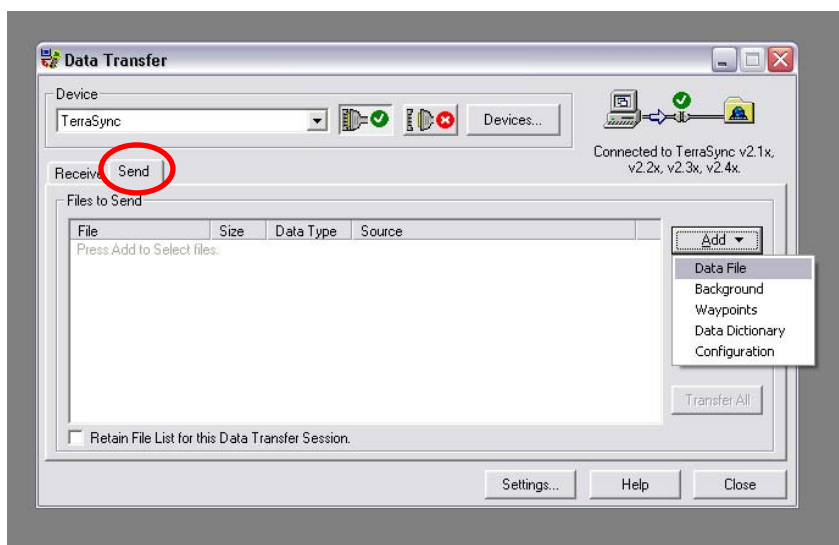


Figure 7. Sending Data File