

## Geotechnical Courses

Soil Description Work-shop

~~1st March 2017~~ - **SOLD OUT**

4th April 2017

Rock Description Work-shop

21st February 2017

10th May 2017



## Health & Safety Courses

IOSH Safe Supervision (3 Day)

~~15th - 17th Feb 2017~~ **SOLD OUT**

IOSH Avoiding Danger (1 Day)

~~23rd February 2017~~ **SOLD OUT**

IOSH Working Safely (1 Day)

24th February 2017



## Geotechnical Courses

Geo Foundation Design

2nd March 2017

Geotech' Lab Testing Awareness

8th June 2017

In Situ Testing

25th May 2017



## Other Events

Geotechnica 2017

12th & 13th July 2017

@ Warwickshire Exhibition

Centre, nr. Leamington Spa



# theGeotechnica

February 2017 | Issue 56

## Calling all innovators and developers!

The Geotechnica 2017 Team are on the lookout for the latest developments and innovation in the geotechnical world to demonstrate at this year's event.



### Bauer undertake new Highways contract

Details of new piling works being undertaken on the A19/A1058 Junction

### Continuing prosperity into 2017

The Equipe Group take a look forward at what 2017 has in store

### Cottier Grange Piling Project

Aarsleff reveal details of their latest 404-home piling project in Northumberland

# GEOTECHNICAL COURSES

SOIL DESCRIPTION WORKSHOP - £275 + VAT

@Equipe Offices, Banbury

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13th June 2017

ROCK DESCRIPTION WORKSHOP - £275 + VAT

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21st February 2017  
10th May 2017  
27th July 2017

GEOTECHNICAL FOUNDATION DESIGN - £225 + VAT

@Equipe Offices, Banbury

2nd March 2017  
6th April 2017

GEOTECHNICAL LABORATORY  
TESTING AWARENESS - £225 + VAT

@Brunel University, London

8th June 2017  
3rd August 2017

IN SITU TESTING - £225 + VAT

@Brunel University, London

25th May 2017  
2nd August 2017

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4th October 2017



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Other courses are available. Please visit  
our website for more details.

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Providing the final entry into this month's issue of theGeotechnica are Aarsleff Ground Engineering. In their most recent update, Aarsleff discuss their most recent project - piling and beam contract work for the first phase of a new 404-house residential development in Northumberland.

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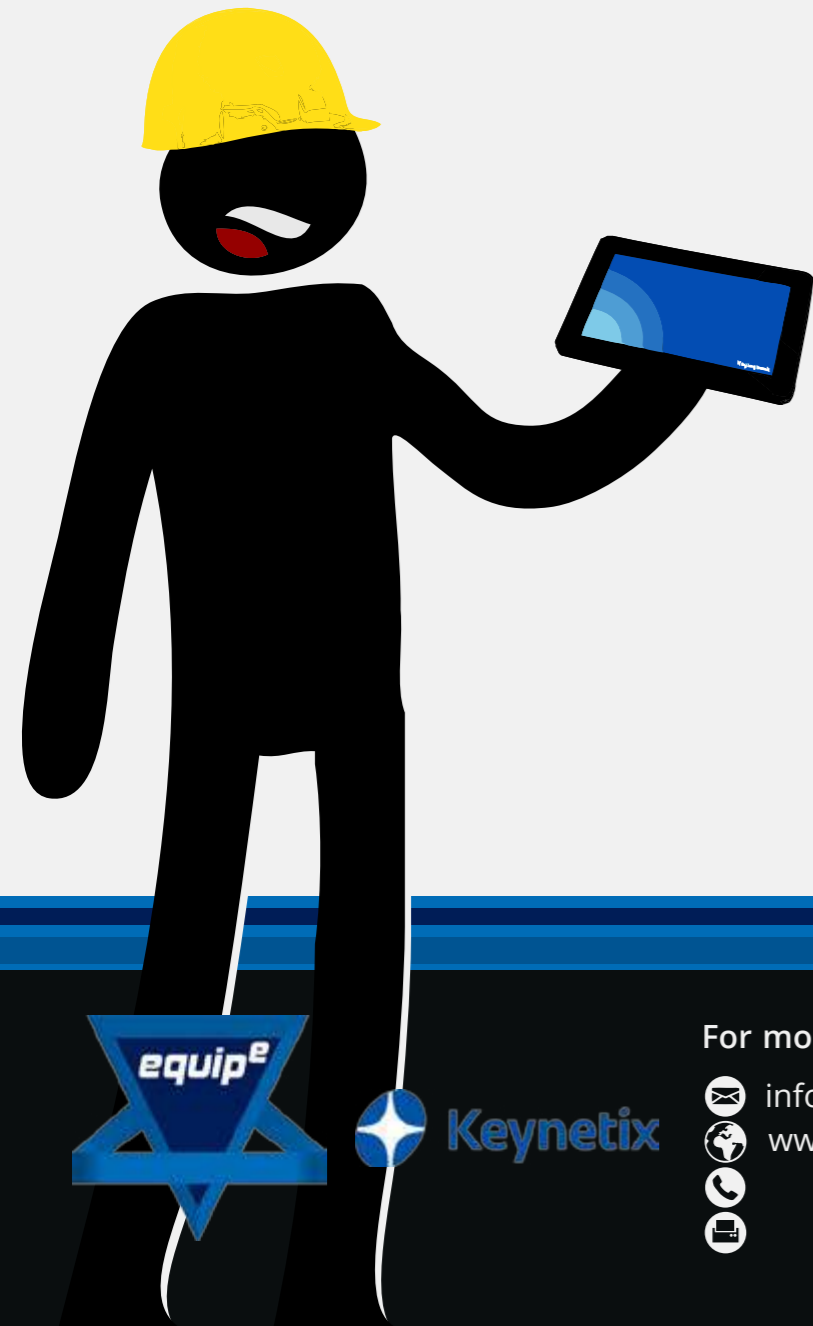
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# Welcome

Welcome to the 56th Edition of **theGeotechnica** - the UK's fastest growing online geotechnically focussed e-magazine.

Providing this month's first article are Bauer Technologies. Bauer have recently been awarded contract work for piling works for improvements to the A19/A1058 Junction in Newcastle and this month's entry sees more details on the project provided.

With only 5 months remaining until Geotechnica 2017, the team behind the UK's Largest Geotechnical Conference and Exhibition is scouring the country for potential new innovations to occupy demonstration slots at this year's event. The second entry into this month's issue of **theGeotechnica** provides more details about the demonstration spots for Geotechnica, and what the organisers are hoping to unearth at their year's event.



The third article for this month's issue of **theGeotechnica** comes from the Equipe Group. Here, Equipe take a look forward at what 2017

has in store for the geotechnical industry, and how the sector as a whole should be looking to build on the current levels of prosperity.

Providing the final entry into this month's issue of **theGeotechnica** are Aarsleff Ground Engineering. In their most recent update, Aarsleff discuss their most recent project - piling and beam contract work for the first phase of a new 404-house residential development in Northumberland.

As with every new edition of the magazine, the Editorial Team here at **theGeotechnica** will be on the lookout for even more new, original and interesting content from all corners of the sector, and would actively encourage all readers to come forward with any appropriate and relevant content - whether it be a small news item or a detailed case study of works recently completed or being undertaken. If this content is media rich and interactive, then all the better. We are looking to increase the already large readership of the magazine through better social media integration and promotion, as well as improving content month on month.

Finally, for any content that is submitted we will ensure that an advertising space, proportionate to the quality of content provided, is reserved should you wish to place an advert in that single edition of the magazine. We hope you enjoy this month's edition of the magazine and are inspired to contribute your own content for the coming editions of **theGeotechnica**.

**Editorial Team, theGeotechnica**

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## CPD Approved Courses for Geotechnical Academy Alumni



### Soil Description Workshop - £275 + VAT per person

This one day geotechnical training course is delivered by the UK's leading Soil and Rock Description expert, Professor David Norbury, and will bring delegates up to speed on the changes within the Standards and provide a detailed approach to soil description practices and techniques. The British Standards (Codes) under which investigations in the UK have been carried out continue to incorporate and mirror the European Standards. UK practice has changed to meet these new requirements and practitioners will learn about them and how to follow compliant soil logging techniques within this course.



### Rock Description Workshop - £275 + VAT per person

From 2007 new European Standards have started replacing the British Standards (Codes) under which investigations in the UK have been carried out. UK working practice will have to change to meet these new requirements but few practitioners are aware of the changes or the timetable. The workshop will comprise a series of lectures on the changes, and lectures on rock description followed by practical sessions describing rock and compiling mechanical logs of rock core.



### In Situ Testing - £225 + VAT per person

The course will cover both the theory and the practice of various In Situ Testing techniques used on typical geotechnical projects. In addition the courses will consider the effect that Eurocodes will have on the UK's current practice. This course provides an overview of in situ tests used in common practice and some of the more specialist tests together with their advantages and limitations.



A collaboration between



### Geotechnical Foundation Design - £225 + VAT per person

This one day course will provide a general overview of foundation design. It will include an assessment of the use and choice of shallow foundations and piles. It will cover the derivation of bearing capacity formula and their use. Exercises will be carried out to calculate the working loads and settlement of simple foundations. The methods used to calculate these will be in accordance with those described in Eurocode.



### IOSH Working Safely (on Geotechnical Sites) - £175 + VAT per person

This one day course is developed by industry specialists within RPA Safety Services and Equipe Training as a foundation to site safety. Its aim is to impart the core safety skills required of those working on geotechnical sites by building on their existing specialist technical skills. After attending the course, candidates should be able to identify hazards on site, understand basic safety legislation, participate fully and confidently in site safety consultation and manage priority risks to a sufficient standard.

### IOSH Avoiding Danger from Underground Services - £150 + VAT per person

Partnering with RPA Safety Services once again, Equipe provide another IOSH certified health and safety course. This one day course is aimed at anybody involved in specifying, instructing, managing, supervising or actually breaking ground and really addresses the problems and risks related to underground services, which may be encountered during both planning and execution of geotechnical projects.



### IOSH Safe Supervision of Geotechnical Sites - £450 + VAT per person

Equipe has partnered with RPA Safety Services, an independent occupational health and safety specialist, to provide a unique IOSH certified course for the Drilling and Geotechnics industry. This three day course is certified by IOSH, is specifically focussed on the geotechnical industry and provides a totally unique and relevant Health and Safety course for managers and supervisors.



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# BAUER MOBILISES RIGS FOR A19/A1058 COAST ROAD PILING WORKS



“... Bauer is working closely with SLJV and Highways England in order to implement stringent health and safety processes.”

Bauer working within a live, major roundabout with a heavy volume of traffic. In order to manage the associated risks efficiently, Bauer is working closely with SLJV and Highways England in order to implement stringent health and safety processes. In addition Bauer is enthusiastically participating in Highways England’s “Raising the Bar” scheme which is designed to raise standards in Efficiency, Quality and Health and Safety.

Piling works started in December 2016, with mobilisation of a Bauer BG30 rig, which will be followed by a second machine in early 2017. Piling works will be carried out in two phases and are expected to be complete by the end of 2017.

*Providing this month's first article for the Geotechnica are Bauer Technologies. Bauer have recently been awarded contract work for piling works for improvements to the A19/A1058 Junction in Newcastle and this month's entry sees more details on the project provided.*

Sisk Lagan JV, the Main Contractor responsible for the A19/A1058 Junction Improvement project in Newcastle has recently awarded the piling scope of works for critical structures on the Highways England project to Bauer Technologies. Work is now underway to

create an improved A19/A1058 Coast Road junction which will support opportunities and economic growth in the North East. The £75m scheme involves the upgrade of the existing roundabout to an ambitious three-level interchange.

Bauer's scope of works is to

install 583 contiguous rotary bored piles with diameters ranging from 600mm to 1500mm. The piles, which are up to 31m long, are founded in sandstone bedrock to form contiguous pile walls, creating the trough for the future A19 'dive under'. A number of the retaining wall piles also act as hybrid design elements

by carrying the load of three major single span bridges across the underpass. In order to verify the capacity of these critical foundations, Bauer will carry out three permanent pile load tests using the innovative Osterberg method.

The project is particularly challenging, as it involves

Speaking about the project Martin Blower, MD of Bauer Technologies, commented “We were delighted to be awarded this project, as it further demonstrates our capabilities in the Highways sector and strengthens our position as the major independent national specialist foundations contractor.” ■



# ON THE LOOKOUT FOR INNOVATION AT GEOTECHNICA 2017

*With only 5 months remaining until [Geotechnica 2017](#), the team behind the UK's Largest Geotechnical Conference and Exhibition is scouring the country for potential new innovations to occupy demonstration slots at this year's event.*

In previous years of Geotechnica, demonstrations of plant, products and services has been greatly received by visitors thorough the event. Demonstrations of plant, products and services has been help potential customers to

**“In 2017, Geotechnica is looking to bring in the very best, brightest and most promising innovations that the geotechnical industry have to offer...”**

see benefits with their own eyes, but they are also widely acknowledged as a method of helping to successfully deliver sales. In 2017, Geotechnica

is looking to bring in the very best, brightest and most promising innovations that the geotechnical industry have to offer, in order to make this year's event as interactive and immersing as possible.

“Innovation is the key to an industry's prosperity, and is absolutely vital if we are going to continue on the upward trajectory that the geotechnical sector finds itself on currently.” said Julian Lovell, Event Director for Geotechnica 2017. “In previous years, we have had demonstrations of technologies such as Keynetix' HoleBASE SI, Premier Plant Engineering's 110RP Rotary Percussive Rig, survey drones

and Geotechnical Engineering's P60 Slope Climbing Rig. All of these innovations have since gone on to be staples in the geotechnical service offering

**“This year we want to continue that trend and help to promote new products and improved services that can become invaluable to the industry's progression in years to come.”**

across the UK. This year we want to continue that trend and help to promote new products and improved services that can become invaluable to the industry's progression in years to come.”

One of Geotechnica's founding philosophies is to 'Promote';

however, that isn't just a mantra applicable to the various exhibitors looking to create sales leads from interactions with visitors to the event. Instead, Geotechnica is and always has been about promotion of best practice within the geotechnical sector, with a distinct emphasis on helping to promote improved techniques, better practices, new products and philosophies that can lead all within it to a prosperous future.

“If there is an innovation, new product, or a recently improved practice out there that people want to know more information about or exhibitors want to promote to a wider audience, we can help. Geotechnica can provide the platform for these new developments to reach a wider audience and gain more recognition, not just in terms of driving sales, but also increasing awareness of new technologies. The more people are aware of these new innovations or better methods of current practices, the



**“The more people are aware of these new innovations or better methods of current practices, the more chance there is that they will be included in client specifications...”**

more chance there is that they will be included in client specifications and contract requirements.” explains Keith Spires, Head of Logistics for Geotechnica 2017. “Of course, promotion of innovation won’t achieve anything on its own – there also has to

be an understanding and an appreciation of the products and services and the benefits they can provide to the industry. This is where the demonstrations at Geotechnica 2017 come in.”

“Demonstrating at Geotechnica 2017 not only offers exhibitors the opportunity to promote their products and services, but also to potentially educate visitors as to the value of the innovation: Why it can help them; What it will give them that other products or services that their competitors offer can’t.”

If you have a fresh product, improved service or new technology that you want to share with and promote to the wider geotechnical community, then Geotechnica 2017’s team want to hear from you. Whether it is a new diamond core bit, a laser scanning system, a specialist drone used for survey purposes or an improved restricted access cable percussion rig – Geotechnica have demonstration places available to let the world know.

Demonstration spaces are free to all exhibitors at Geotechnica 2017, however due to the limited availability, there will be a selection committee to determine the most suitable and exciting innovations and products to be featured.

*If you are interested in demonstrating your latest product or service, then get in touch with the Geotechnica 2017 management team on [info@geotechnica.co.uk](mailto:info@geotechnica.co.uk).*

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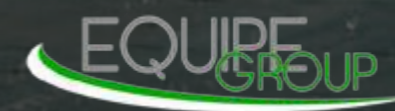
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# HERE'S TO A HEALTHY, PROSPEROUS START TO 2017

*The third article for this month's issue of the Geotechnica comes from the [Equipe Group](#). Here, Equipe take a look forward at what 2017 has in store for the geotechnical industry, and how the sector as a whole should be looking to build on the current levels of prosperity.*

Although we are only just over a month into the year, it is becoming increasingly apparent that 2017 may be a landmark year for the geotechnical industry in the United Kingdom. Despite the uncertain and rocky political climate in the UK and across the globe, the UK construction and infrastructure sector appears to be seeing continued

investment; and obviously when these are receiving investment, that means there's work to be done for us in the ground investigation world!

In their latest newsletter, the British Drilling Association's Chair – Anne Baxter – alluded to as much: "... the government is committed to an almost unparalleled spending on infrastructure and though

it has stopped short of ring-fencing funds, the new national infrastructure commission (NIC) will depoliticise investment." Considering this, it would be fair to assume that 2017 may prove to be extremely prosperous for those working within the geotechnical industry.

The first month of the year has already seen most ground investigation companies across the country flooded with work for a number of large infrastructure projects. Whilst new HS2 project sites continue to be let, there are also other ongoing projects, such as the new Nuclear Power Station site

**"The first month of the year has already seen most ground investigation companies across the country flooded with work..."**

at Hinkley Point C in Somerset, Crossrail 2 and Heathrow that will occupy a high number of geotechnical drilling crews.

With continued motorway developments across the country, as well as the

proposed Silvertown Tunnel TfL project also shortly to get underway, there is no downturn in demand on the horizon. In fact, projects such as the A303 Stonehenge bypass are likely to take up even more of the industry's capability. It is of little surprise that Equipe have undertaken over 100 calibrations of SPT equipment over the course of the last two months – just about every rig and accompanying piece of equipment in the UK appears to be required to manage the load.

Considering the incredible amount of work being undertaken in the GI

sector, it would be easy to become concerned that there is a lack of sufficiently trained staff to handle this ever-increasing workload. However, there are far more positives to be taken than potential pitfalls.

Firstly, the continuous flow of steady work for the industry means that investment opportunities are plentiful. With the amount of work and capital available, there is little reason why the profits should not be reinvested back into the industry in the form of innovation. Considering the increasing workload, innovation is going to play a vital role in maintaining standards, with better, more efficient methods of practice inevitably playing a crucial role

in ensuring continued success within geotechnics. There are few reasons why 2017 shouldn't be a booming year for geotechnical technological advances – perfect market conditions, and for the first

**“With the amount of work and capital available, there is little reason why the profits should not be reinvested back into the industry in the form of innovation...”**

time in a while, the capital to make it a reality.

Secondly, increases in workload on major projects usually means liaising with Clients on a more regular basis. Being in increasingly regular contact with Clients can be a great benefit to the industry, as the more discussion – the more understanding. Of course, this understanding is a two-way street: The more understanding the Client has of geotechnical practices and techniques, the better informed they are when it comes to specifying requirements for their next GI project; Equally, the more understanding the geotechnical contractor has of what the Client's end goal is, the more specific future tenders and GI technique suggestions can be. Due to the lower profile that geotechnical



engineering and especially ground investigation has within the wider construction industry, the more opportunity that geotechnical companies get to educate and equally understand the Client, the greater our collective success and prosperity can be.

Finally, the sustained upturn in work presents an excellent opportunity to attract the best and brightest from the youth in the UK to the geotechnical sector. Whilst it is important to stress that the knowledge of the stalwarts of this industry is absolutely vital, it is equally important for these experts to do everything they can to attract more youth to work within the sector, and then to educate them and improve their knowledge to a higher industry base-level. Continual education and raising of standards, particularly within the younger generation of geotechnical staff, is essential

to ensure that the current levels of prosperity help to lay the foundations for the industry's long-term future.

**“... the knowledge of the stalwarts of this industry is absolutely vital, it is equally important for these experts to do everything they can to attract more youth to work within the sector...”**

At Equipe, we are doing all we can to encourage this continued education of the geotechnical youth. Whilst site operatives learn more about the art of drilling from more experienced Lead Drillers on site, Equipe are reinforcing this knowledge with record numbers of Land

Drilling NVQ registrations and assessments. Although the NVQ is in itself a competency-based assessment, the on-site visitations and assessments of the candidates allow our Assessors to fill in any gaps of knowledge that may be lacking. These gaps in knowledge may be things like various soil and rock properties for logging purposes, site efficiency and cleanliness, or knowledge of health and safety and newly encouraged best practices. Whatever or wherever any potential gaps in knowledge may be, the NVQ does not only help candidates to prove competency, but also become a more rounded and complete driller in the process.

Alongside the Land Drilling NVQ is also the recently revised BDA Audit. The Audit satisfies British Standards (BS 22475-2 and 3), the ICE UK Specification for Ground Investigation and Construction Design

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and Management Regulations (CDM) with regard to the need to prove the on-going annual competency of drilling operatives as well as compliance of the plant being used. If you combine the NVQ with a BDA Audit, it should mean that any prospective Client using a contractor's services is going to have an even greater confidence in an operative's knowledge, safety standards and drilling ability.

Use of technology on site is also beginning to make a large impact in improving on-site efficiency and transparency of drilling practices and methodology. The increased use of wireless dataloggers, tablets, smart phones and even Social Media sites means that should on-site operatives need advice in a tricky situation, others are able to share informed and expert advice in order to achieve a swift and satisfactory resolution.

**"... what must be the focus above all investigation results is the safety and well-being of our site operatives."**

Whether a driller is in need of advice on a problematic borehole location; a field technician needs to check certain parameters for a specific test; or even if data and information needs to be sent quickly back to the office or the Client - the immediacy of these platforms when used productively and professionally can prove invaluable. That is not to mention the knowledge, expertise and experience of the various users which is equally important.

Couple the NVQ registrations, BDA Audits, increased use of technology and technical

training with equally record-setting numbers of IOSH Health and Safety course enrolment in January, and it becomes increasingly apparent that the industry is starting to place a keen focus on improving the knowledge and skills of its site operatives. Equipe have always endeavoured to be a driving force behind increasing awareness of best practice when carrying out ground investigations, however there has always been a particular emphasis on increasing health and safety standards. From trial pitting, to cable percussion boring, to rotary drilling - all methods of ground investigation have their own invaluable benefits, however what must be the focus above all investigation results is the safety and well-being of our site operatives.

Here's to a successful, prosperous, healthy and safe 2017 for us all. ■

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### IOSH Safe Supervision of Geotechnical Sites

This three day geotechnically focussed health and safety course has been developed by industry specialists and is a unique course for managers and supervisors involved in projects in the drilling and geotechnical industry. The course is certified by IOSH and has been approved by The Environment Agency, Thames Water, AGS and BDA and also meets all of the requirements of the UKCG (formerly the Main Contractor's Group).

**NEXT COURSE DATES:** ~~15 - 17 February 2017~~ **SOLD OUT**  
22 - 24 March 2017

### IOSH Avoiding Danger from Underground Services

This one day geotechnically focussed health and safety course follows the requirements and guidance set out within HSG47 and includes the four chapters; identifying and managing the dangers; planning the work; detecting, identifying and marking and safe excavation. Important aspects include the use of real examples from the geotechnical industry and delivery by chartered advisors who are from within the industry.

**NEXT COURSE DATES:** ~~23rd February 2017~~ **SOLD OUT**  
31st March 2017

### IOSH Working Safely (on Geotechnical Sites)

This one day geotechnically focussed health and safety course has been developed by industry specialists as a foundation to site safety for all personnel involved in projects in the drilling and geotechnical industry. Its aim is to impart the core safety skills required of those working on geotechnical sites by building on their existing specialist technical skills and making it relevant to their place of work.

**NEXT COURSE DATES:** 24th February 2017  
4th May 2017



For more information, contact Equipe Training:

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# AARSLEFF GROUND ENGINEERING WIN PILING AND BEAM CONTRACT FOR “COTTIER GRANGE” RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Providing the final entry into this month's issue of the *Geotechnica* are [Aarsleff Ground Engineering](#). In their most recent update, Aarsleff discuss their most recent project - piling and beam contract work for the first phase of a new 404-house residential development in Northumberland.

Underlining its residential piling Engineering, one of the UK's credentials, Aarsleff Ground leading contractors of driven

precast piles and geotechnical solutions, has won the contract to install the piles for phase 1 of a new 404-home development in Northumberland.

Cottier Grange in Prudhoe is a £79 million flagship

residential investment being constructed by Gentoo Homes on the site of the area's former Hospital. When complete, the development will comprise a mixture of new two to six bedroom homes for both sale and rent and includes the refurbishment and conversion of the Grade II listed Prudhoe Hall and stables into thirteen exclusive executive apartments, which sit at the heart of the development. The site is due to open summer 2017, with the first properties available soon after.

Aarsleff was awarded the considerable contract, for Phase 1 of this large 10-year development in October of last year, which requires Aarsleff to install 1000no. 200mm square

**“When complete, the development will comprise a mixture of new two to six bedroom homes for both sale and rent and includes the refurbishment and conversion of the Grade II listed Prudhoe Hall...”**

precast piles and 3500m of ground beams. Phase 1, now well under way, is planned to be completed in one visit to the site.

Brendon Ferguson, Acting Head of Development for Gentoo Homes said “We're keen to form new relationships with the right contractors and foster long term partnerships, so we were pleased to be able to offer Aarsleff this opportunity and look forward to them delivering a quality product.”

Speaking about the project Kevin Hague, General Manager, Aarsleff Ground Engineering, said: “This was a strategic project win for Aarsleff and also one close to my heart as it is the town where I grew up. Being awarded the contract for phase 1 of this exciting development is a great vote of confidence in our experience and expertise in the residential sector.” ■

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