

Geotechnical Courses

Soil Description Work-shop

24th August 2017

27th September 2017

Rock Description Work-shop

27th July 2017

28th September 2017



Health & Safety Courses

IOSH Safe Supervision (3 Day)

31 May - 2 June 2017

IOSH Avoiding Danger (1 Day)

21st July 2017



IOSH Working Safely (1 Day)

18th August 2017

Geotechnical Courses

Geo Foundation Design

15th June 2017

Geotech' Lab Testing Awareness

8th June 2017



In Situ Testing

2nd August 2017

Other Events

Geotechnica 2017

12th & 13th July 2017

@ Warwickshire Exhibition
Centre, nr. Leamington Spa



theGeotechnica

May 2017 | Issue 58

Geotechnica 2017 confirm conference speaker line-up

The Geotechnica 2017 Team update us with the full speaker line-up and topics to be discussed at this year's event



Hidden Benefits of Up-to-Date Software

Keynetix provide details of how the very latest tech is worth every penny

Drilling Community Spirit on show

A charity appeal brings the very best out of some of the UK's hardest workers

FPS establish new Working Group

The Federation of Piling Specialists look into pile integrity

GEOTECHNICAL COURSES

SOIL DESCRIPTION WORKSHOP - £275 + VAT

@Equipe Offices, Banbury

24th August 2017

27th September 2017

2nd November 2017

ROCK DESCRIPTION WORKSHOP - £275 + VAT

@Equipe Offices, Banbury

27th July 2017

28th September 2017

7th December 2017

GEOTECHNICAL FOUNDATION DESIGN - £225 + VAT

@Equipe Offices, Banbury

15th June 2017

10th August 2017

GEOTECHNICAL LABORATORY TESTING AWARENESS - £225 + VAT

@Brunel University, London

8th June 2017

3rd August 2017

IN SITU TESTING - £225 + VAT

@Brunel University, London

2nd August 2017

23rd November 2017

FIELD INSTRUMENTATION & MONITORING - £225 + VAT

@Brunel University, London

4th October 2017



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[Exciting speaker line-up confirmed for industry's largest dedicated conference and exhibition](#)

In the first entry into this month's issue of theGeotechnica, the Geotechnica 2017 team unveil the keynote speakers for this year's conference, titled - The Ground Investigation Industry: 2020 Vision.

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[Uncovering the Hidden Benefits of Buying New Software](#)

Writing for theGeotechnica this month are geotechnical data management specialists, Keynetix. This month Keynetix provide advice on the many hidden benefits of staying up-to-date with all of the very latest geotechnical software.

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[Drilling community pulls together](#)

The third entry into this month's magazine is a charity appeal in aid of the Freeman Hospital Renal Unit - a cause close to the heart of a number of the UK's cable percussion drillers following one loving driller's sacrifice for the benefit of his wife.

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[FPS Establishes Working Group to Investigate New Methods of Pile Integrity Testing](#)

The Federation of Piling Specialists (FPS) has established a Working Group to evaluate the many new methods of indirect pile testing, to address concerns that exist over their over interpretation and ensure results are both robust and calibrated against each other and against existing direct testing methods. The final article in this month's issue of theGeotechnica takes a closer look at the Working Group's intentions.

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[Directory](#)



EQUIPE TRAINING

Health and Safety Courses

DELIVERED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH: **RPA SAFETY SERVICES LTD**

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: 31 May - 2 June 2017
6th - 8th September 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: 21st July 2017
18th August 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: 17th August 2017
9th November 2017



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Welcome

Welcome to the 58th Edition of **theGeotechnica** - the UK's fastest growing online geotechnically focussed e-magazine.

Just over 1 month remains until Geotechnica 2017, and in the first entry into this month's issue, the team behind the event unveil the keynote speakers for this year's conference, titled - The Ground Investigation Industry: 2020 Vision.

The second entry into this month's issue comes from geotechnical data management specialists, Keynetix. This month Keynetix provide advice on the many hidden benefits of staying up-to-date with all of the very latest geotechnical software.



The third entry into this month's magazine is a charity appeal in aid of the Freeman Hospital Renal Unit - a cause close to the heart of a number of the UK's cable percussion drillers following one loving driller's sacrifice for the benefit of his wife. More details of this can be found on page 17.

Providing the final entry into this month's issue of **theGeotechnica** are The Federation of

Piling Specialists (FPS). Recently the FPS have established a Working Group to evaluate the many new methods of indirect pile testing, to address concerns that exist over their over interpretation and ensure results are both robust and calibrated against each other and against existing direct testing methods. The final article in this month's magazine takes a closer look at the Working Group's intentions.

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



EXCITING SPEAKER LINE-UP CONFIRMED FOR INDUSTRY'S LARGEST DEDICATED CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

In the first entry into this month's issue of the *Geotechnica*, the [Geotechnica 2017](#) team unveil the keynote speakers for this year's conference, titled - *The Ground Investigation Industry: 2020 Vision*.

The team behind Geotechnica 2017 have revealed the full list of speakers for this year's conference.

Held on the 12th and 13th July 2017 at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, the talks will centre around four key themes: The recent AGS BDA Task Force Survey results (Session 1), an update on Standards (Session 2), Occupational Health and Safety (Session 3)

and finally Improvements and Future Advancements for the geotechnical industry (Session 4).

Each session will feature only two key speakers that will deliver informative and focussed talks on their topic. These talks will then be followed by panel discussion around the subject.

Speakers include: Current AGS

"Each session will feature only two key speakers that will deliver informative and focussed talks on their topic."

(Association of Geotechnical and Geo-environmental Specialists) Chair Neil Parry; BDA (British Drilling Association) Vice-Chair, Martyn Brocklesby; Eurocode and Standards expert, Professor David Norbury; HSE Inspector, John Underwood; and Dando Drilling International Chairman Wolf Raymer.

"Following one of the industry's most prosperous years in recent memory, we are keen to look to the future and keep building on all of the good work that has been done. Geotechnica 2017 will act as

"Geotechnica 2017 will act as a springboard for progressive discussion and collaboration to help the industry to continue to improve, prosper and grow."

a springboard for progressive discussion and collaboration to help the industry to continue to improve, prosper and grow." says Keith Spires, Operations Director at Equipe, organisers of the Geotechnica event. "We believe that the talks taking

place at this year's show will really open the eyes of industry participants to the challenges that lie ahead. Whilst the industry is currently in rude health in terms of project numbers and prosperity, there are still issues like Standard uptake and adherence, plus concerns around testing and sampling quality that need to be looked at. Geotechnica 2017's conference will look to discuss these issues, and much more."

Attendees will be encouraged to participate in the productive discussions around these topics in order to aid industry development and growth.

Geotechnica 2017 will also feature a full product and service exhibition, with the UK's

"Attendees will be encouraged to participate in the productive discussions around these topics..."

leading geotechnical suppliers, contractors, laboratories and associated services all being represented. A number of companies will be debuting new products, services and rigs, including Gold Sponsors for the 2017 event - Casagrande UK.

The event is entirely free to attend and Visitor Registration is now open at www.geotechnica.co.uk

Geotechnica 2017

THE UK'S LARGEST GEOTECHNICAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

FREE TO ATTEND | 12 - 13 JULY 2017 | WARWICKSHIRE EXHIBITION CENTRE

CONFIRMED CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

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THE GROUND INVESTIGATION INDUSTRY: 2020 VISION



Neil Parry
AGS Chair / Technical Director
Geotechnical Engineering Ltd



Professor David Norbury
Director
David Norbury Ltd



John Underwood
Construction Inspector
HSE Construction Sector Safety Team



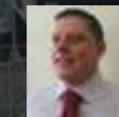
Wolf Raymer
Chairman
Dando Drilling International



Martin Brocklesby
BDA Vice Chair / Director
Geotechnical Engineering Ltd



Matthew Baldwin
Technical Director
Soil Engineering Geoservices



Jon Christie
BDA Safety Chair / H & S Advisor
BAM Ritchies



John Bussey
Qualifications Development Manager
MP Awards

Full conference details available at www.geotechnica.co.uk

CONFIRMED CONFERENCE SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY 12 JULY

10:30 - 12:00

AGS/BDA Task Force - Spotlight on the Industry

13:30 - 15:00

Standards

THURSDAY 13 JULY

10:30 - 12:00

Occupational Health & Safety

13:30 - 15:00

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UNCOVERING THE HIDDEN BENEFITS OF BUYING NEW SOFTWARE

Writing for theGeotechnica this month are geotechnical data management specialists, [Keynetix](#). This month Keynetix provide advice on the many hidden benefits of staying up-to-date with all of the very latest geotechnical software.

Technology has moved on a great deal in the last five years and clients are increasingly demanding geotechnical data to be included in models and drawings. As a result, it is an ideal time for companies to review their software systems and practices. However, many organizations are reluctant to invest time and money in

new systems for a number of reasons, namely:

- They feel there is no need to change and that too much time and money has already been invested in current systems
- They see investment in software is expensive

“By tackling these head-on, organizations can build a robust business case for investment and reap the benefits...”

- They believe training is costly, time-consuming and difficult to arrange
- Poor technical and customer support hampers efficiency and process improvement.

However, many of these assumptions are, in fact, myths. By tackling these head-on, organizations can build a robust business case for investment and reap the benefits of faster, more efficient and cost effective working.

“Market-leading firms continually invest in their businesses to stay ahead...”

Change is crucial to keep ahead of the competition

If a company is including geotechnical data in its CAD drawings using the same methods it was three years ago or not incorporating it in BIM at all, then its competitors are probably moving ahead. Technology is developing rapidly and what may have once been state-of-the-art, may no longer be the best solution.

Market-leading firms

continually invest in their businesses to stay ahead – and this includes geotechnical CAD and BIM software (although, as a nimble software company, we would say that!).

Wise investment does not have to be expensive and can save time and money

A good way to begin building a business case for investing in new software and systems is to evaluate the time and cost in carrying out a typical task, such as producing site plans and geological sections for an ‘average’ project.

Say, for example, that an average project involves producing a site plan with 100 sampling locations and four sections including soil strength

and rock quality information.

If a site plan takes 90 minutes to draw and if each section takes two hours to produce, plus a further 30 minutes each to create the final versions, then the total CAD time for this project will be 11.5 hours. At \$75 per hour, the cost to the business would be \$862.50.

If the CAD team completes 50 projects like this a year, then the annual cost of geotechnical CAD production would be around \$43,125.

Now, say that the new software can draw a site plan in under a minute and each draft section can be produced in 20 minutes, with a further 30 minutes to complete each final version. Total CAD time for this



OLD METHOD

PROJECT COST	
CAD time (hrs)	Cost (@ \$75 per hour)
TOTAL	11.5
	\$862.50

ANNUAL COST (for 50 projects)	
CAD time (hrs)	Cost (@ \$75 per hour)
TOTAL	575
	\$43,125.00

NEW METHOD

PROJECT COST	
CAD time (hrs)	Cost (@ \$75 per hour)
TOTAL	3.5
	\$262.50

ANNUAL COST (for 50 projects)	
CAD time (hrs)	Cost (@ \$75 per hour)
TOTAL	175
	\$13,125.00

Annual cost of new software	\$5,000.00
Total costs	\$18,125.00
Annual savings	\$25,000.00

project would be just under three and a half hours, at a cost of \$262.50, saving \$600 per project and \$30,000 a year.

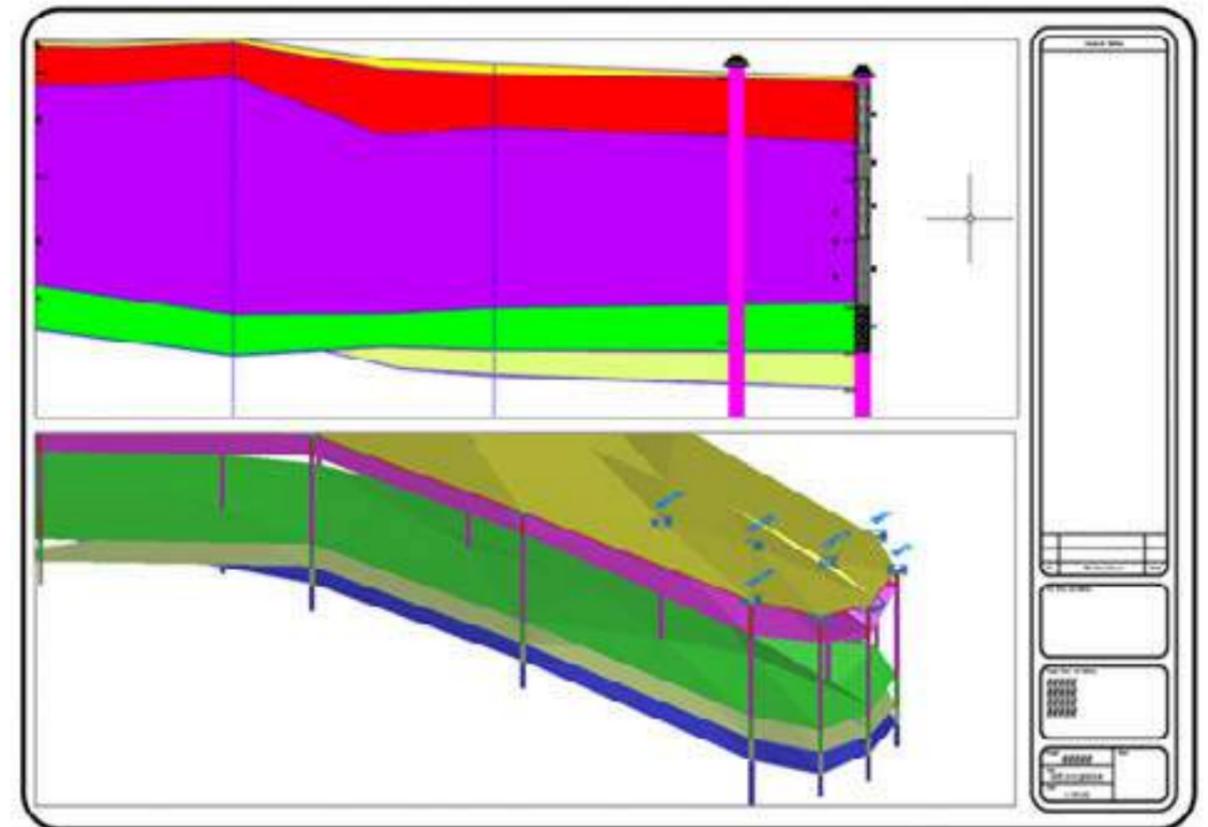
Even if the annual cost of investing in the new software is \$5,000, the company will still save \$25,000 a year.

In other words, every \$1 invested in this process

improvement delivers a saving of \$5.00. This makes the argument for investing in the new system much stronger and the financial benefits will be greater with a higher hourly fee rate.

Keynetix has developed a Geotechnical BIM Cost Calculator to help companies

review their own 'average projects' and to quickly work out the costs and potential savings that could be made and to evaluate if there is a business case to change. The calculator can show whether this a good short or medium term investment and of course indicates where process efficiencies can be made.



You can view our 'how to' video on creating sections on our website.

“Fortunately, tools are available which mean CAD and BIM team members should never have to manually enter data...”

Automating processes will save more time and money

Drawing sections can be a long and drawn out process. Fortunately, tools are available which mean CAD and BIM team members should never have to manually enter data or draw any factual geotechnical objects in their models and drawings.

The Geotechnical Module for AutoCAD Civil 3D, for example, was written by

Keynetix for Autodesk and allows geological information to be presented on site plans and sections by importing CSV data files exported from gINT. AutoCAD Civil 3D license holders can download the Geotechnical Module <http://geotechnicalmoduletraining.keynetix.com> and receive free step-by-step online training.

The HoleBASE SI Extension for AutoCAD Civil 3D is the 'big brother' system to the Autodesk Geotechnical Module, extending functionality for team working and to include any downhole parameters in models, sections and site plans. It also includes a live connection to the HoleBASE SI database, allowing Keynetix customers to benefit from dynamic update options.

Focused training to suit all

“Our research has demonstrated that specific, well-timed and focused training can deliver a very quick return on investment...”

needs is readily-available and delivers great ROI

Our research has demonstrated that specific, well-timed and focused training can deliver a very quick return on investment – typically about two months. There is training to suit every need and organization, including: internal mentoring, online videos and learning and face-to-face training.

Internal mentoring of new staff can be a good



DETS offer a wide range of analytical services for the environmental, construction, waste, fuel and engineering industries, and are accredited to ISO 17025 and MCERTS for soils and waters. Combining a modern, well equipped laboratory, with highly skilled and dedicated staff, we can ensure an excellent and flexible service to meet your requirements.

DETS are recognised as a centre of excellence for the analysis of asbestos in soil, and hold accreditation for:

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- Quantification of asbestos, including free fibres
- Water absorption to determine licensable or non-licensable material

Our staff work closely with our clients to understand their needs in terms of technical and commercial requirements, including reporting deadlines, thus enabling our clients to meet their own obligations confidently.

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- Installation placement and monitoring
- In-situ testing

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Our in-house soils laboratory is UKAS accredited for a wide range of tests specified in BS 1377. These include, but are not limited to:

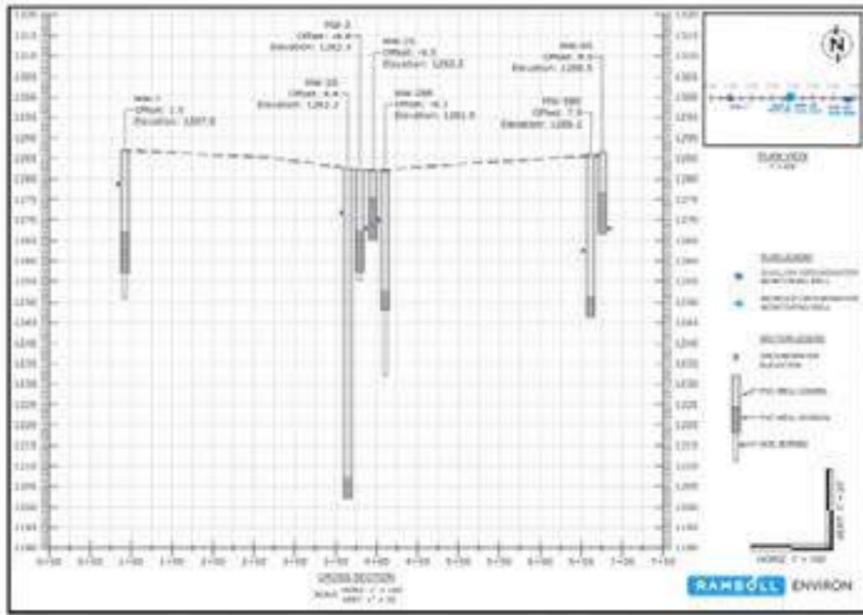
- UU Triaxial
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- Compaction (light/heavy/vibrating)
- PSD & Sedimentation (hydrometer)
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“A wealth of free, or paid-for, training videos are available online. Keynetix, for example, has a free YouTube channel, and the Keynetix Assist knowledgebase.”

way of finding out how more experienced staff do things but it is important that bad habits are not passed on and exaggerated.

A wealth of free, or paid-for, training videos are available online. Keynetix, for example, has a free YouTube channel, and the Keynetix Assist knowledgebase. However, it is important to be strict about the time allowed to complete these ‘self-paced’ videos: too little time may rush staff; too much may lead to enthusiasm waning.

Web-based facilitated learning has improved in recent years as trainers have begun fixing teaching times, with live online training sessions. This makes it easier for learners to allocate time and enables trainers to set assignments and answer one-to-one questions.

However, by far and away the best way to learn is still in a face-to-face group learning environment. Companies that invest in on-site training generate powerful team dynamics and find it easier to standardize best practice across the team.

Good customer service and support delivers ROI faster

Access to assistance and support is a prime consideration when investing in new software or services, as it will help encourage team members to drive efficiencies, if they feel expert advice is readily available.

This is particularly important when software and systems

are being commissioned, as the team can lack the understanding and experience to set everything up in the most efficient way. Being able to tap into expertise can prevent wasting of days getting things right.

“Keynetix puts training and support as the number one priority for its customers...”

Keynetix puts training and support as the number one priority for its customers, so you can significantly reduce the time it takes to deliver a return on investment.

Myth-busting with the Geotechnical BIM Cost Calculator

This article began with assumptions that hold investment back. With the help of input from a few of our customers you can see these are myths! By completing the Geotechnical BIM Cost Calculator you can evaluate the business case to change and whether it will be a good, short or medium term, investment. ■

Keynetix have helped hundreds of geotechnical companies improve their CAD presentation efficiency – to find out more, just complete the form [found here](#) and they will contact you in the next day or two to arrange a time to help you with your review process.

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Stuart and Andrea Keys live in Throckley, near Newcastle (Photo: Newcastle Chronicle)

DRILLING COMMUNITY PULLS TOGETHER

The third entry into this month's magazine is a charity appeal in aid of the Freeman Hospital Renal Unit - a cause close to the heart of a number of the UK's cable percussion drillers following one loving driller's sacrifice for the benefit of his wife.

A UK-based cable percussion driller, Stuart Keys is courageously donating one of his kidneys in a 'four-way kidney swap' in order for his wife Andrea to receive the kidney transplant that she desperately needs to return their life back to normality.

The exchange will see eight patients go under the knife in a

series of interlinked operations - performed in a single day at four different hospitals, with four organ donors and four recipients.

To show solidarity with their fellow driller, a charity drive and collection has been organised by a number of UK cable percussion site operatives.

"... a charity drive has been organised by a number of UK cable percussion site operatives."

As part of this drive, John Rodgman, Director of drilling firm Borehole Solutions Ltd, recently climbed Mount Snowdon with a drilling tool on his back. Stuart himself will then repeat the walk to fetch the tool, together with a charity

team, after raising over £5,000 in aid of the Ward where his wife is receiving treatment.

Stuart and Andrea's strength through adversity, along with the drilling community's tremendous sense of brotherhood, has resulted in a tremendous effort and superb cause being given due attention. ■

theGeotechnica encourages anyone interested in supporting this worthy charity effort to make a donation via the link below:

<http://m.virginmoneygiving.com/mt/uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/displaySomeoneSpecialPage.action?pageUrl=StuartAndrea>



Driller John Rodgman atop of Mount Snowdon. (Photo: John Rodgman - LinkedIn)

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S M Associates



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S M Associates believe successful project delivery is defined by:

- Detailed planning and preparation from the start
- A proactive, innovative approach to problem solving
- Access to highly skilled and experienced people at every stage of the process
- A high level of professionalism throughout
- The development of a collaborative approach from the beginning

The quality of project output is determined by:

- A modern, well equipped, well maintained fleet of rigs
- Access to a full range of drilling techniques
- Familiarity with the full range of in situ testing
- Quick transfer of quality data from site to client – all drillers use KeyLogbook
- Safe environment – all rigs carry the sensor based guarding system - SAFER G
- Skilled drillers, project managers, geotechnical engineers



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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.

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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FPS ESTABLISHES WORKING GROUP TO INVESTIGATE NEW METHODS OF PILE INTEGRITY TESTING



The Federation of Piling Specialists (FPS) has established a Working Group to evaluate the many new methods of indirect pile testing, to address concerns that exist over their over interpretation and ensure results are both robust and calibrated against each other and against existing direct testing methods. The final article in this month's issue of theGeotechnica takes a closer look at the Working Group's intentions.

With the development of a for the integrity testing of number of new methods large diameter and deep

bored piles, such as Thermal Integrity Profiling (TIP testing) and optical methods, the FPS feels methods need further examination to ensure the data they provide is of practical significance before they become a mainstream choice for specifiers. Presently there is caution that the indirect nature of these new testing

“Presently there is caution that the indirect nature of these new testing methods require ‘calibration’ against previous forms of testing...”

methods require ‘calibration’ against previous forms of testing to satisfy specifiers that the testing is reliable, and will provide the same or better ‘visibility’ of a constructed pile and its properties.

Additionally, Sonic Logging, an indirect testing method already well-established, will

be examined further with a view to looking at ways of improving safety reducing safety-related issues typically arising during the placement of long telescopic logging tubes in deep bores.

Alasdair Henderson, Chair of the FPS, said: “These new indirect testing methods should be perfect for installation verification of large bored piles used in the foundations of heavy structures and in retaining walls; however it is critical that the data these new testing methods present is reliable and meaningful compared to existing testing methodologies. The primary task of the Working Group will be the ‘calibration’ of these new methods of testing against

“The primary task of the Working Group will be the ‘calibration’ of these new methods of testing against each other and existing pile integrity test methods...”

each other and existing pile integrity test methods so that reliable and meaningful data sets can be produced that not only endure scrutiny, but help promote these new methods to commonplace application.” ■

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