



REGULAR NEWS AND VIEWS FROM **ROGERS GEOTECHNICAL SERVICES**

> **GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS. SEASON'S GREETINGS!**

2019



2019 Review

Extreme weather warning

Head to Toe

Spotlight: The Laboratory Team

Need RAMS?

Where's Steve?

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

Welcome to RGS insite issue 49

Our regular newsletter celebrates more than a decade of drilling and keeps you up to date with RGS and industry news.

Rogers Geotechnical Services Ltd are **site investigation specialists** offering ground investigation and geotechnical services to developers, builders, structural and consulting engineers, architects, insurance companies, local authorities, piling and foundation engineers, private individuals and other geotechnical consultants.

INSITE
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UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT THE LABORATORY TEAM

Environmental
Geotechnical
Specialists



This month we present the fourth of our 'RGS process' features, which gives you a feel for the work of our skilled [Laboratory Team](#).



While these technical champions are usually to be found measuring, calibrating, assessing and analysing in our UKAS-accredited laboratory, you might sometimes spot them onsite, too!

But wherever they might be, they're always liaising with the other RGS teams, [communicating every last detail](#) with their fellow specialists across the company.

Together, our collaborative teams deliver [clear, thorough, professional advice](#) and results for you and your project.



[Click](#) to take a closer look at the work of our [Laboratory Team](#)



THE
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HEALTH & SAFETREE

Head to Toe: The big picture



At RGS, we're proud to shout loud about good **health and safety** practice. Over the year we've highlighted in Insite the **importance** of personal protective equipment - **from head to toe**. To end the year, we're reprising all the PPE featured with a **festive wish** for a happy, healthy and safely protected New Year!

- 1 This work buddy could save your life, whether you're onsite or close to site vehicles.

KEEP YOUR HEAD. WEAR YOUR SAFETY HELMET.



- 2 Liquids, stones, metal shards, dust and fumes are only a few of the hazards that could **damage** or **destroy your eyesight** in a split second.

ALWAYS WEAR YOUR GOGGLES.





3 A single exposure to very loud sound can deafen you, but working repeatedly in noisy environments can also cause permanent hearing loss.

STAY SAFE. USE YOUR EAR DEFENDERS.



4 Your hands are precious: just imagine the impact of losing a thumb, fingers - or even your whole hand.

GET A GRIP. WEAR YOUR SAFETY GLOVES.

5 Construction sites pose risks 24/7. Be seen. Be safe.

YOUR HIGH-VIS JACKET IS A LIFE-SAVER.



6 Don't take your feet for granted. In high-risk environments.

YOUR SAFETY BOOTS ARE VITAL ALLIES.

Environmental Geotechnical Specialists



THE LAST 12 MONTHS

2019 at RGS: a review



Left to right: Emma Lewis MD, Charlotte Mason GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER, Jude Norcliffe LAB MANAGER and Katie Wallet ENGINEERING SUPPORT.

As the old year draws to a close, we thought we'd reprise some of the year's [insite highlights](#)...



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JAN / FEB

The year got off to a super-safe start with our annual **Health & Safety Refresher** for every member of the RGS team. It's a subject that's always close to our hearts, and we encourage all colleagues and clients to protect themselves from that potentially life-changing split second they'll always regret. We hope our regular **Head to Toe** articles have acted as helpful reminders about preventing injury and loss.

We upgraded all of our ISO standards to the new versions, and converted from 18001 to **45001**.



MARCH

After a spell working elsewhere, our geo-environmental engineer, **Charlotte Mason**, returned to the RGS fold - and we couldn't be happier! Based at our **Midlands office**, Charlotte does a top job for us on projects **nationwide**.

APRIL

Jaemie Hutton (VP and Head of Operations at Rebar Design & Detail) interviewed our **MD, Emma Lewis**, for his podcast series, **Engineering Success**. Appropriately, Emma's interview was launched worldwide on **International Women's Day**, during **Women in Construction Week**.



MAY

There's a doctor in the house! Smiles all round for our Graduate Engineer, **Mike Cook** following the completion of his PhD. Congratulations, Dr Cook!

JUNE

Quality across our business really matters to us. Following stringent **UKAS** assessment of laboratory practices and procedures, **BSI** confirmed that our excellent in-house testing lab also meets the latest **BS EN ISO/IEC17025** standards. It's further proof of our **commitment to real reliability for every RGS client**, present and future!



JULY

RGS is a great source of advice on cost-effective construction. **Technical Director, Steve Rogers'** insightful article on plate load testing could **save you from making an expensive mistake.**



AUGUST

We welcomed a **new liveried fleet** of Ford Rangers which carry our drillers and their hefty rigs to sites across the country. **Give them a wave** if you spot them on the road!

SEPTEMBER

We love to keep in close touch with our clients and followers, so don't be shy... Check out our **Facebook, Twitter, Instagram** and **LinkedIn** posts for latest updates and advice - and call us on if you need more!



OCTOBER

Engineers **Charlotte Mason** and **Dr Mike Cook** (below) presented a useful soil disposal guidance leaflet answering your **top questions** about **sending waste soil to landfill.**

NOVEMBER

Need any training or CPD? We highlighted the wide range that we offer, **tailored to match your needs.**

Just call **01484 604 354** anytime!



We also received a **clean bill of health** on our external ISO audits - **9001, 14001, 45001.**

DECEMBER

We're happy to report a big 'thumbs-up' from **Citation** on our annual **H&S** audit.



Left to right:
Dr Mike Cook and
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR,
Steve Rogers.

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PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Extreme weather warning



In these chilly British winter days, it's tempting to think back to sunnier times when the sky was blue, and strolling down the road in T shirts and shorts was the order of the day.

Remember those all-time highest temperatures of nearly 39°C in July and August? Since then, of course, we've also seen vast quantities of rain that caused widespread floods across the UK. On top of the many impacts of these conditions on our health, wellbeing and daily life, extreme weather can also dramatically affect the integrity and safety of our homes and buildings.

Areas with clay soils are particularly at risk from extreme weather conditions. The ambient water content of clay is much higher than other soil types, so when the ground moisture dries out in very prolonged hot and dry periods, the clay contracts and there's a risk of subsidence. This downward movement of desiccated soils can cause cracks (often diagonal) and slippage in buildings and other built structures.

In very wet conditions, the opposite process can occur, with different but equally worrying effects. Clay soils absorb and hold far more water than other soil types and during extreme weather such as the recent floods, the soil becomes fully saturated. As it can't usually expand downwards or laterally, the upper surface of the soil rises - a process known as heave, which causes floors, paths, patios and roadways to lift and can create vertical cracks in brickwork and windows.

HOW WE CAN HELP

If you or anyone you know suspects subsidence or heave problems around their home or premises, just call RGS on 01484 604 354 and we'll give the help and advice you need. Our engineers are skilled in investigating these events thoroughly to diagnose the cause, give the reassurance you need and recommend an ideal solution.

RGS CHALLENGE

Where's Steve?



Who'd have thought it? Our very own Technical Director and Geotechnical Engineering Maestro, [Steve Rogers](#), has gone AWOL... Maybe he's been distracted by a rare and beautiful rock sample, but WE NEED HIM BACK! Can you find him? [Click here](#) to download the challenge.

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Need risk assessments and method statements (RAMS)?



“ Really **comprehensive** information...
If only all subcontract companies
were as thorough as RGS! ”

We provide **task-specific** or **site-specific RAMS** depending on your particular needs. Task-specific RAMS (e.g. for windowless sampling) are free of charge and suitable for use on many sites.

However, larger projects generally need site-specific RAMS: we design highly detailed documents which include key information on features such as **buried and overhead services**, location of nearby A&E departments, access and **watercourses**, for example.

IF YOU NEED RAMS - OR IF YOU'RE UNSURE
CALL US ON 01484 604 354 FOR FRIENDLY, HELPFUL ADVICE.

Environmental Geotechnical Specialists





Do you need
**a phase one
environmental
desk study
report?**



RGS STANDARD **RGS PREMIUM**

Contact us for more details
and to discuss your options
for this service

For more information about your investigation requirements
please don't hesitate to contact us.

Telephone on 01484 604 354

[Click here to email us](#)

CLIENT FEEDBACK

Talk to us



We're always keen to hear what clients think of our service
and welcome feedback from within the industry.



We'd love to hear from you.

[Click here](#) to email us your comments

