



# insite

ISSUE  
55

August 2020

#DecadeOfDrilling  
RGS Building on  
10 years of growth

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

> BUILDING. SUPPORTING.



TRAIN & GAIN

NEW KIT BRINGS BIG BENEFITS

HIGH PRAISE

BUILDING MENTAL HEALTH

LOCKDOWN ADVENTURES

## Welcome to RGS insite issue 55

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.

# TRAIN & GAIN

Environmental  
Geotechnical  
Specialists



This year has seen organisations worldwide adapting to a new norm of virtual meetings, conferences and other events, and at RGS we've embraced this change across our business.

While there will always be a place for face-to-face training, the virtual environment is a **very flexible and effective** means of keeping individuals and teams **updated and informed** on a vast array of topics.

In early August, RGS Technical Director, **Steve Rogers**, used **Microsoft Teams** to deliver an in-depth training session for 45 delegates from the European construction services specialists, **VolkerWessels**.



## TAILOR MADE TRAINING

**VolkerWessels** have commissioned a further presentation in late August - a brand new, bespoke session with an unusual focus.

**Site Investigations: the 1.2m Conundrum** will explore the problem of information lost when analysis of the top 1.2m soils is relinquished in a site investigation.

It's an important question and demands careful consideration, as this significant data can reduce costs when designing temporary works such as pile platforms.

**VolkerWessels'** tailored training will give their decision makers a fuller understanding of the issues and the solutions available.



The two-hour training session incorporated a variety of presentation methods including **instruction, PowerPoint visuals**, and a **chat facility** allowed delegates to ask questions or offer comments at any point. In addition, both **Steve** and **Emma** remained online following the presentation to discuss any further questions and ideas.

As **Steve** reflects, there are a **number of benefits** to be gained from the use of virtual training.

“ Although I missed the face-to-face interaction of a 'normal' training session, the virtual training method offered some **valuable advantages for our delegates**. Clearly it **eliminates the costs of travel** and accommodation, and delegates were free to join the event **from the comfort of their own homes, gardens, offices** - indeed, wherever they wished, connectivity permitting.

This added a **'focused yet relaxed'** atmosphere to the presentation, with some of the group learning over lunch or a coffee (maybe this helped facilitate the great questions!) ”

## WANT TO REFRESH OR UPSKILL YOUR PEOPLE?

We offer a range of top quality training modules as well as **bespoke courses** to match your exact needs - all deliverable virtually or in person to suit you. Call our friendly team today on **01484 604354**.



CONTINUING INVESTMENT

New plate loading kit brings **bigger benefits!**



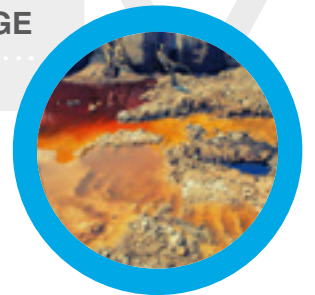
We're often asked to carry out **plate load tests** for clients who need to identify the bearing capacity and compaction level of soils on their sites.

To broaden our plate loading services, we've recently invested in a **powerful new Enerpac hydraulic jack** with twice the lifting power of our existing kit.

These specialised jacks are vital allies in securing reliable bearing capacity and soil settlement data, and our new advanced, digital model delivers significant advantages for clients and technicians alike.

FOR CLIENTS:

- // THE UKAS-ACCREDITED DIGITAL LOADING CELL DELIVERS **INCREASED MEASUREMENT ACCURACY**
- // A MAXIMUM LIFTING CAPACITY OF 230kN ALLOWS FOR **MUCH GREATER BEARING CAPACITY RANGE**





FOR TECHNICIANS:

- // ONSITE SET-UP IS **SIMPLER, LIGHTER AND CLEANER**
- // ADDITIONAL SAFETY FEATURES [LONGER HYDRAULIC HOSE & REMOTE DIGITAL READOUTS] ALLOW **GREATER DISTANCE BETWEEN TECHNICIAN AND HEAVY KENTLEDGE AND REDUCED RISK OF HYDRAULIC SPILLS**

[Click here](#) to find out more about plate load tests, and download our free info Sheet on [Working Platform Design](#).



NEED **PLATE LOAD TESTING** FOR YOUR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT?

Let RGS make your life easier! We always go the extra distance to deliver great service and friendly, professional support from start to finish. Call us today on **01484 604354**.

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INDUSTRY STANDARDS

## High praise from UKAS for the RGS laboratory



We always aim high at RGS, but achieving excellence is what really matters. We're therefore delighted to announce that our in-house laboratory has **once again been fully accredited by UKAS**, with warm praise from the assessors.

The report notes,

“ The conclusion of this assessment is that RGS are achieving a **good level of conformance** with the requirements of ISO/EIC 17025: 2017 and its accredited tests and the test methods demonstrated, through the **effective use** of its management system, its audit programme and the **technical expertise** of its personnel. **Confidence can be placed in its ability to perform all** the tests in its schedule, in accordance with published standard. ”



The report also commented on **the positivity encountered by the UKAS auditors** during the assessment:

“ The assessment was a **positive** one with **excellent co-operation from all members** of the laboratory, management and staff. **UKAS would like to thank the laboratory** for their openness and for their hospitality during the visit. ”

**INTERESTED IN OUR LABORATORY SERVICES?**

[Click here](#) to find out more about our lab team, what they do and how they could help you.



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



## INDUSTRY STANDARDS

### Accreditation: the wider picture

Continuing the theme of quality and accreditation, the summary below highlights our **rock-solid commitment to the highest standards in everything we do.**



**All our ISO MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS ACCREDITATIONS** (ISO 9001 - QUALITY; 14001 - ENVIRONMENTAL AND 45001 - OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY) **are your assurance that all our systems and practices either meet or exceed the required standards.**



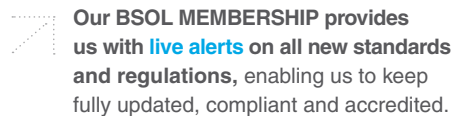
**GOING FOR GOLD!**

RGS is a **SILVER MEMBER OF CONSTRUCTIONLINE** and we'll be **'going for Gold'** very soon! Government-run, Constructionline is the UK's largest pre-qualification scheme and our membership demonstrates our commitment to excellence in compliance, health and safety, financial and operational management - indeed, in all that we do.



**INDUSTRY WIDE ASSURANCE**

A further indicator of the high standards we set and expect in our work, **SSIP MEMBERSHIP** confirms RGS's professional assurance of health and safety compliance, development and continuous improvement. As members, an additional level of assessment has pre-qualified us to work across the construction sector, both public and private.



Our **BSOL MEMBERSHIP** provides us with **live alerts** on all new standards and regulations, enabling us to keep fully updated, compliant and accredited.

**We rigorously maintain all our accreditations and run continual training and specialist audits to ensure they are all fully embedded in our daily practice.**



HEALTH AND WELLBEING

# Building mental health



**MENTAL HEALTH AT WORK**

Rather like strong and secure foundations, mental health is far more crucial than a 'nice to have' throughout the workplace: it's a factor that can either **strengthen and empower individuals and companies** - or weaken and consume.

Until recently, employees in the construction industry have perhaps found it hard to flag a problem or ask for help. However, many lessons have been learned, and like other proactive construction companies, we at RGS are fully committed to promoting the mental health and wellbeing of our people. We're also keen to spread the word, and make mental health **a fundamental element** of our policy, practice and communications.

The Mental Health at Work site continues to offer great resources that help individuals and businesses to support healthier minds and promote employee wellbeing. Of particular interest to our sector is a **Building Mental Health in Construction toolkit** which offers a 5-step framework for building a supportive culture, as well as a set of valuable and free resources to educate and train your people towards a healthier, happier and more resilient future.

**TOOLKIT**

## Building mental health in construction

Construction can be a rewarding and varied industry to work in. But it's also one where pressures can be high, and people can be more likely than average to experience work-related stress and other mental health issues. For employees, it often hasn't felt easy to come forward, mention that something's wrong or ask a colleague to talk.

But things are changing. More and more construction businesses are starting to see their staff's mental health as a priority. And with plenty of help, information and training available, it's easier than ever to put employee mental health and wellbeing at the heart of your organisation. We invited colleagues at Building Mental Health to put together this toolkit of resources to show you where to start and how to take things further.

For example, you'll find **videos**, a **toolbox talk**, sources of help and advice and information on **grants available** to pay for training courses.

[Click here](#) to visit the Toolkit.







LOCKDOWN ADVENTURES

## Preventing catastrophe at the castle!



Picture supplied by [crismatthews.com](http://crismatthews.com)

In late 2019, when a major slope failure occurred along the line of a walled garden at Kirby Knowle Castle near Thirsk, owner David Kempley feared for the safety of his beautiful, Grade II Listed property. He reached out to RGS, asking for their help in assessing and resolving the threat.

Delighted to assist and advise, we have since delivered a site investigation along with a full report and recommendations. Following our subsequent remediation design, works to reinstate and protect the Castle buildings began in the spring.

**WATCH THIS SPACE**

WATCH THIS SPACE... NEXT MONTH'S INSITE WILL TELL **THE FULL STORY** OF KIRBY KNOWLE CASTLE'S RETURN TO FULL STRENGTH!

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

Telephone on [01484 604 354](tel:01484604354)

[Click here to email us](#)

### CLIENT FEEDBACK

## Talk to us

“ RGS were professional and courteous throughout the whole process. Highly recommended! ”

We're always keen to hear **what clients think** of our service and welcome feedback from our clients, colleagues and associates.

We're looking forward to hearing from YOU!

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

Environmental  
Geotechnical  
Specialists



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