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KEEP IT CLEAN

Clean your hard hat regularly with warm, soapy water: never use solvents or abrasives as these not only degrade its surface, they can also transfer onto your hair and skin, particularly when you sweat.

WEAR IT THE RIGHT WAY ROUND A hard hat worn back to front won't fully protect your head. The brim should be horizontal when you're facing forward: if not, be sure to adjust it before entering a site. If the peak gets in your way, ask for a peakless hard hat (they're easy to source). IT'S A HAT, NOT A BASKET! You'll have seen it many times and maybe you've done it yourself, but using

your hard hat for carrying or storing stuff is a really bad idea. Hard or sharp objects can easily damage your hat and even putting your gloves inside it could contaminate not only the hat, but your head, too. STORE IT SAFELY

Over-exposure to the sun's UV rays will degrade its outer shell. Keep your hat somewhere safe and well out of direct sunlight. That means NEVER leaving it on the front or back shelf in your vehicle!

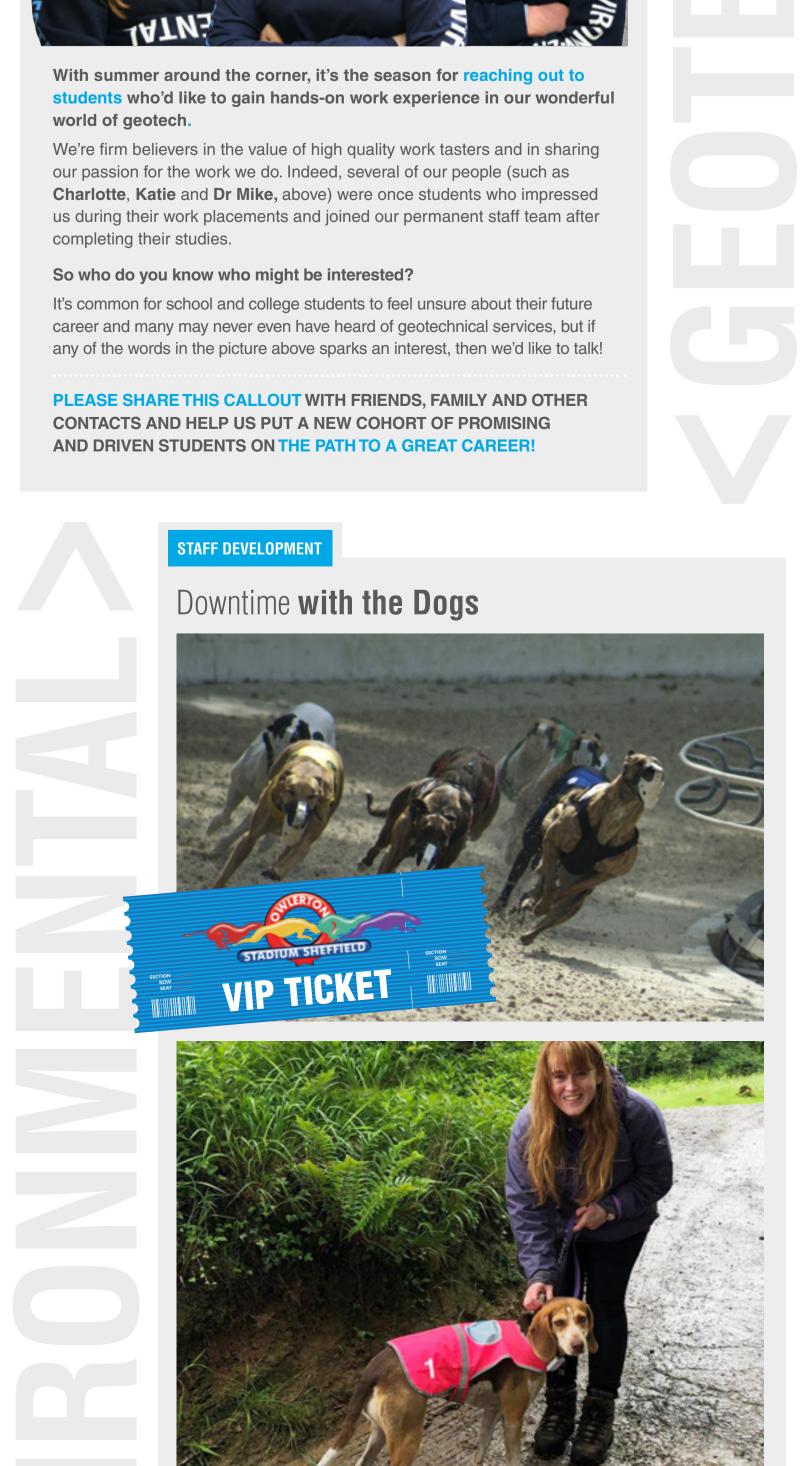
CHECK AND REPLACE They may be tough, but they don't last forever. It's good practice to check your hat each time you use it and give it a thorough examination at the start of every working week.

REMEMBER - this isn't a 'tick-box' exercise: it could easily be a matter of life and death. **REPORT** any cracks or signs of wear, and get a replacement. YOUR HAT WILL CARRY A 'BORN DATE' and should be replaced every 2-5 years. depending on wear.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Work Experience **Opportunities**

ENTHUSIASM SELF-MOTIVATION TEAMWORK SOIL MECHANICS DRILLING RIGS ENGINEERING ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE LABORATORY TESTING ROCK SAMPLES **GEOLOGY EARTH SCIENCE SITE INVESTIGATIONS BOREHOLES SUBSIDENCE HEALTH & SAFETY GREAT CUSTOMER SERVICE LIFELONG LEARNING**



The RGS team knows how to work and train hard, so it's only right that sometimes we take some quality downtime together, too!



came too) at the **Owlerton Greyhound Stadium**. Armed with VIP tickets and some tasty food and drink, we enjoyed great views of the racing from our comfy suite. And while we cut risk at every opportunity when we're at work, on this occasion we did chance a small bet or two and a couple of the team came up trumps with £50 wins.

It's been suggested that we swap Millie's high-vis jacket for a racing coat and check out whether her beagle legs are any match for a greyhound... So far, the jury's out on that one.

THE RGS FLEET

Ground Force: The Windowless Sampling Rig



Welcome to our second feature focusing on the heavy metal members of the RGS team!

It's time to introduce our trusty **Premier Tracker 110**, a windowless sampling rig. Windowless sampling involves boring through shallow, soft soils in order to examine the **ground conditions** beneath. The technique may also incorporate soil sampling for geotechnical and chemical analysis.

The robust and reliable Tracker 110 is capable of a range of drilling techniques for both environmental and geotechnical investigations. As well as windowless sampling, we use our Tracker 110 for standard penetration testing (SPT), dynamic probing, concrete coring and hydraulic breaking.

As one of the oldest in our fleet, the Tracker 110 is a well-respected member of the RGS family. It can be seen out and about on sites across the UK where it's operated primarily by Senior Driller Andrew Butcher (Wal) and his hard-working team-mate, Brad Miller.

INDUSTRY STANDARDS

Lab Fab!

Our in-house testing laboratory plays an ever-growing role at RGS and across the industry - a fact that's just been reinforced by BSI confirmation that the lab meets the newly revised standards (BS EN ISO/IEC 17025) for competence in testing and calibration.

This important accreditation has been awarded following a thorough UKAS assessment of all lab practices and procedures to prove technical competence, quality **systems** and the generation of technically valid results. Assessors noted that:



otechnica

GEOTECHNICAL

REPORT

This laboratory demonstrated a good understanding of the new standard's requirements. The surveillance visit also noted strong compliance to the new manual and procedures.

Staffed with highly trained and skilled technicians, the RGS lab offers a huge range of tests on soils, stabilised soils, rock, aggregates, chemicals and other materials. **Compaction**, **compressibility**, **shear strength**, **permeability** and other qualities all have great impact on a site's potential and our lab can provide reliable, high-ROI testing and analysis for any site on any scale.

DID YOU KNOW THAT WE OFFER FULL WASTE CLASSIFICATION AND WASTE ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA (WAC) TESTING? AND IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR HELP WITH CBR TESTING, WE CAN HELP EITHER IN SITU OR IN OUR LAB.

Just give us a call on 01484 604 354

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Probably the Best ROI in the World

Whilst working with one of our London clients at the end of May, our Non-Executive Director, Gary Farnell, was asked by another national brand to discuss how we can help safeguard their mission-critical, £1 billion construction project.

// CAPABILITY ASSURED

RGS works with clients of all sizes and no matter what the scale or scope of a project we have the resources, capability and integrity to deliver an outstanding job. We're perfectly comfortable working on huge national contracts across all our services, from major site investigations and infrastructure and environmental briefs to **laboratory** testing and **in situ** testing.

// MAXING THE RETURNS

We're not known for blowing our own trumpet, but let's face facts... Our detailed investigations, analysis and reports account for only a tiny percentage of any construction spend, yet they make a massive difference to projects. With us at your side, you can proceed with a safe, future-proofed site instead of ploughing ahead with a punishingly expensive failure. What's more, we add value at every step, supporting your project in every way we can towards a **successful conclusion**.

DO YOU HAVE OR KNOW OF LARGE-SCALE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS WE CAN SAFEGUARD FROM COSTLY PROBLEMS?

Just give us a call on 01484 604 354



One of our Geotechnical Engineers, Dan Goodwin, took a fascinating route into his career. A former soldier with the **530 Specialist Team Royal Engineers** (STRE), Dan

involved ensuring that land in military environments such as lrag, Afghanistan, the Falkland Islands, Oman and Kuwait is contaminant-free when it is handed back after occupation.

applied and developed his geotechnical skills worldwide. For example, his role

A highly experienced soldier with specialist skills, Dan has remained with his Royal Engineers team as a **Reservist** since leaving full-time service. His role demands at least **19 days' training**, military exercise and project work each year to maintain and develop his capabilities. RGS is proud to support Dan's continuing Army work by ensuring that his annual holiday entitlement remains unaffected by the additional 19+ days' Reservist work.

At RGS, Dan turns his hand to more peaceful (but equally challenging) geotechnics, supporting our **fieldwork**, **laboratory** and **engineering** teams in their projects across the UK. Clearly a man of commitment, this husband and dad is also planning to start a Master's degree in Advanced Geotechnical Engineering next year. The Master's degree will align Dan's gualifications more accurately with his valuable and extensive Army experience and enable him to move up the civilian industry 'ranks'.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT



part-time Domestic Technician Lauren Norcliffe has been part of the RGS family for years: since she was just thirteen, she's held weekend and holiday roles with us in various parts of the company.

As well as the prospect of a degree course at the **University of Westminster**, Lauren's now also eagerly awaiting a life-changing trip to **Zhenjiang**, **China**, as part of the Inclusive Business Lab's STEM+ Leadership Program. Lauren's 6-week experience in Zhenjiang will include leadership workshops and group activities designed to train the next generation about real-world applications of STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) and how these disciplines contribute to society.

RGS is very proud of Lauren's success in being selected for this prestigious trip, which we're delighted to help fund.

Watch this space for a fuller report of Lauren's leadership and STEM activities in China when she returns in August.

