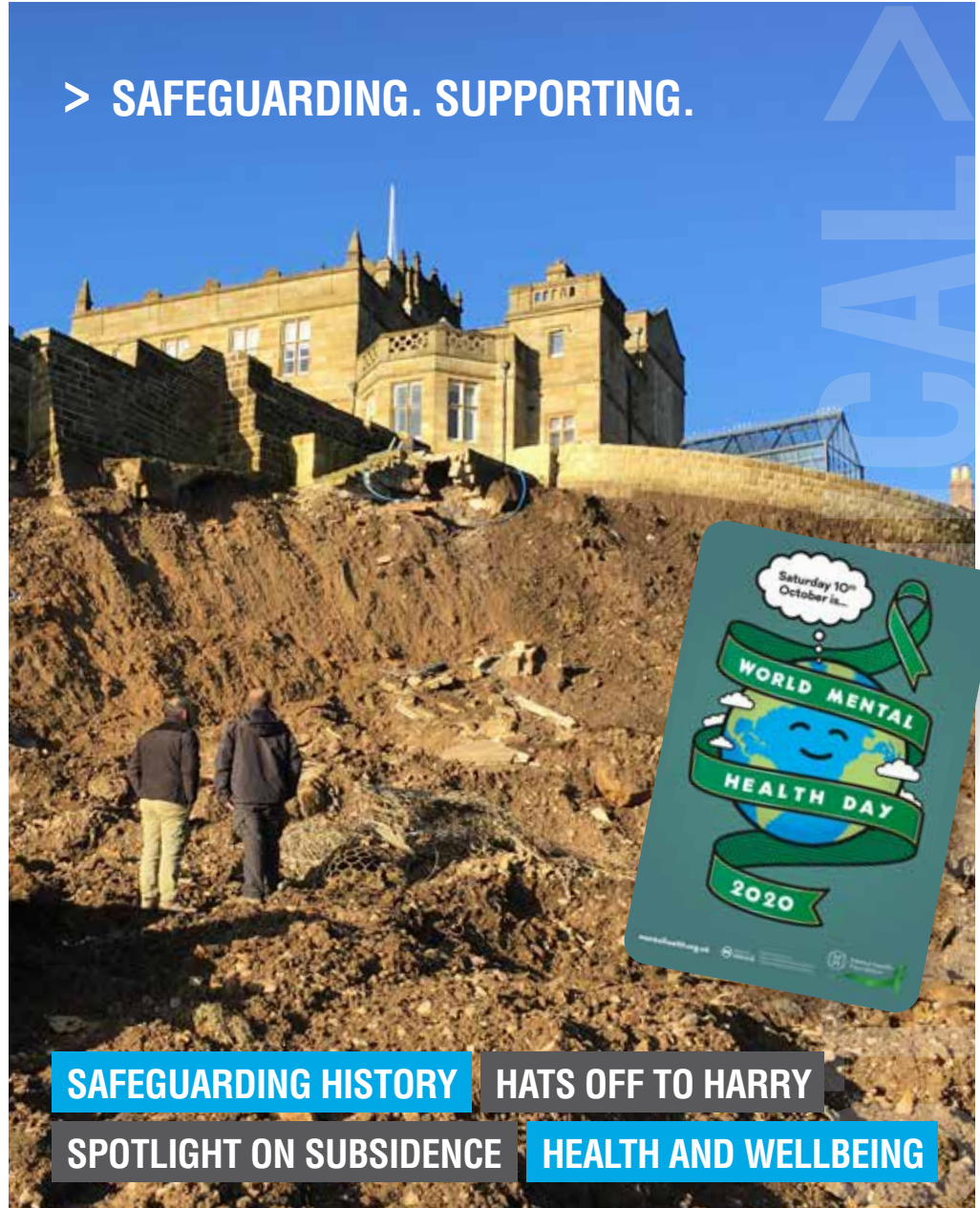




REGULAR NEWS AND VIEWS FROM **ROGERS GEOTECHNICAL SERVICES**

> SAFEGUARDING. SUPPORTING.



SAFEGUARDING HISTORY

HATS OFF TO HARRY

SPOTLIGHT ON SUBSIDENCE

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Welcome to RGS insite issue 56

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.

SAFEGUARDING HISTORY AT KIRBY KNOWLE CASTLE: AN INTRODUCTION



Environmental
Geotechnical
Specialists



This introduction prefaces a case study written by our Technical Director, [Steve Rogers](#). It follows a comprehensive project at a fascinating and historic site, in which we were expertly partnered by [Rose Consulting Engineers](#) and [HACS Group](#).

To go straight to the full case study, [click here](#).



Picture supplied by [crismatthews.com](#)

THE PROBLEM

Originally built in the **13th century**, the stately, Grade II listed **Kirby Knowle Castle**, with its 37 acres of formal gardens, woodland and open parkland, sits high on a hill overlooking Thirsk and the glorious North Yorkshire countryside. This magnificent building is now the private residence of **David Kempley**, and in **December 2019**, he faced a significant problem.

After a prolonged period of heavy rainfall, the **retained slope at the south east corner of the rampart failed**.

TAKING ACTION: INITIAL SURVEYS AND RESEARCH

David asked RGS to **examine the slippage and assess the risk to the main castle building**. Our initial site visit revealed that the rampart was extremely vulnerable, but we were also able to reassure David about the overall stability of the castle itself. With early visits showing that **movement was progressive**, we suggested **remedial measures** to reduce the impact of the slope movement on various parts of the building.

The iterative nature of our design work is fundamental here. When considering the remediation of failed slopes, we are not only undertaking design, but crucially, we are also carrying out **rigorous research**. As **highly experienced geotechnical engineers**, we consider a solution, testing and analysing to establish whether it works. Thus, we modify the works in an iterative process to achieve the most effective remediation.

[CLICK HERE TO READ STEVE ROGERS' FULL CASE STUDY.](#)
[IF YOU NEED ADVICE OR HELP WITH SLOPE SLIPPAGE OR OTHER GROUND MOVEMENTS, SIMPLY CALL OUR FRIENDLY TEAM TODAY ON **01484 604354**](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL
INSIDE
ISSUE
56



Geotechnical Spotlight on... **Subsidence**



£3BILLION
LOST TO SUBSIDENCE SINCE 2010*



SOLID AS A ROCK?

The land beneath our feet can seem so solid, so strong. No-one expects to drive up the road one day and find that their construction site, home, office or factory has **cracked, collapsed or even sunk** into the ground. It's unthinkable, isn't it?

The truth is, subsidence is one of the UK's commonest geohazards and its effects on sites and buildings are both widespread and costly. The British Geological Survey site reports that in the last decade, subsidence alone has cost the nation around £3billion.

WHAT IS SUBSIDENCE?

Subsidence describes a sudden or gradual downward movement of the ground. A number of factors can cause land to subside. They include the following:





1. **'SHRINK-SWELL' ACTION**, a result of changes in the moisture content of clay-rich soils near the surface. The changes may be due to variation in rainfall, vegetation, surface drainage, paving, leaks from drains and pipes. Clay-rich soils which both dry out and absorb water quickly may therefore cause heave (lifting) and subsidence as they and shrink and swell.

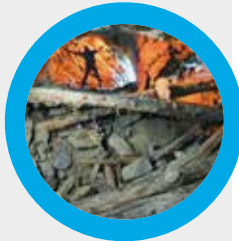


2. **SOLUBLE OR 'KARSITIC' ROCKS** (such as gypsum, chalk and limestone), commonly found across the UK are vulnerable to dissolution and weakening by acidic rain or significant movement of groundwater or waterways - and may thus collapse.



3. **COAL MINING** disrupts the ground and leaves voids which may cause the surface to subside.

Subsidence occurring close to a building's foundations typically causes large cracks (>3mm) which are visible both inside and outside of a property. They are usually **diagonal, wider at the top than at the base** and often occur near windows, doors, or at the point where an extension meets the original building.



The best and most economical way of avoiding subsidence (or indeed for resolving dealing with the damage it causes to properties) is to arrange a **thorough site investigation**, in which **skilled geotechnical engineers will examine the ground beneath your site/property** and recommend appropriate solutions.

* Figures from The British Geological Survey

THINKING OF BUILDING? WORRIED ABOUT POSSIBLE SUBSIDENCE PROBLEMS? YOUR FRIENDLY, HELPFUL RGS EXPERTS ARE HERE TO HELP, WHEREVER YOU ARE IN THE UK.

OUR SKILLS COULD SAVE YOU A FORTUNE!

CALL US TODAY ON **01484 604354**



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



STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Hats off to Harry!



While most of the working population in Great Britain were pretty much housebound during the Covid-19 lockdown, **we all appreciate that our wonderful NHS staff, care workers and frontline staff in other key services were still at work and keeping the wheels of society rolling.** Like millions of others, we were out there regularly on a Thursday evening, showing our gratitude for the amazing work they do.

We'd also like to pay tribute to one of our own RGS family, who single-handedly kept our laboratory running every working day throughout the closures. Although geotechnical lab tests might not normally be a matter of life and death, they're often **mission-critical for site owners, developers, construction firms** and others.

Ensuring that our clients' all-important tests and analyses were done was down to our very own RGS lockdown hero, **Harry Letch.**





In typical style, **Harry's self-effacing** about his **significant contribution**. He reflects,

“ **The job had to be done.** I had the **capability and experience** to do it alone, so for me it was no big deal. Besides, with empty roads, the journey to work each day was dead easy - **a great start to the working day!** ”

All well and good - but we'd like to say a big THANK YOU to Harry for turning up, running the lab so proficiently and maintaining continuity for our lab clients, week after week.

THANK YOU!

And there's more...

No, that's not all that Harry achieved during lockdown... Apart from **'lone working' full-time**, he also managed to **move house AND study for a CMI (Chartered Management Institute Level 5 Award in Management and Leadership!**

Skilled and qualified in all of the lab's testing and analysis work, Harry knew that management and leadership would be an important next step in his career, so he signed up for the online CMI course in March this year and completed it successfully in July. He might choose to follow a **Level 5 Diploma** or the **Extended Diploma** later, but for now, he's just getting on with his job - and maybe decorating his new home!

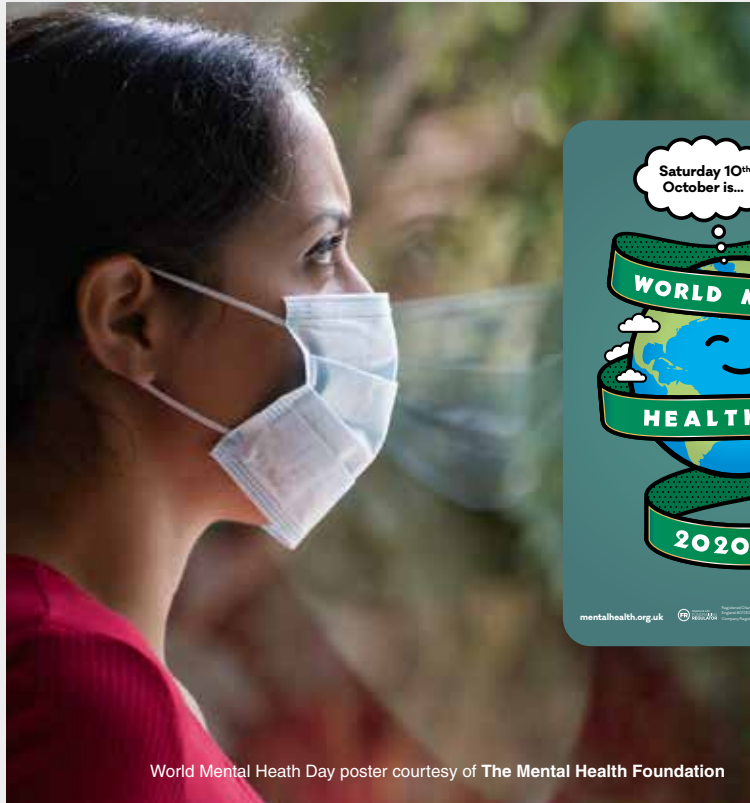
Great work all round, Harry!





HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Mental health: You can make a difference!



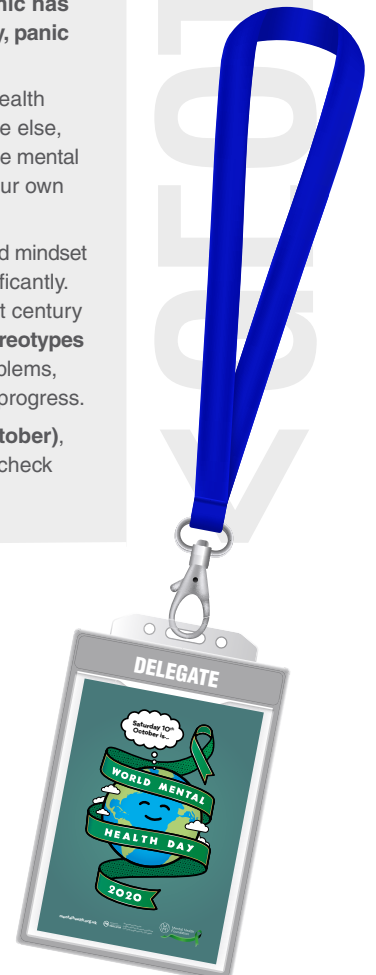
World Mental Health Day poster courtesy of The Mental Health Foundation

2020 is a tough year the world over, and tougher still for those facing mental health issues. It's no surprise that the Covid-19 pandemic has exposed more of us than ever to episodes of depression, anxiety, panic attacks and other challenges.

Once upon a time, we might have thought that 'people with mental health problems' were a minority - and that those things happen to someone else, not me. Thankfully, most now realise that almost all of us will experience mental illness at some point in our lives, whether that involves coping with our own issues or those of family members and friends.

But if all this seems downbeat and negative, think again. The culture and mindset in the UK and in many other countries is changing steadily and significantly. By acknowledging mental health issues as a common feature of 21st century life and becoming more informed, we're **reducing fear**, **debunking stereotypes** and **shining a light on all that we can do** both to prevent such problems, and to give the right support to help ourselves and others cope and progress.

With **World Mental Health Day** coming up soon (**Saturday 10th October**), now's the time to support initiatives for better mental health - and to check on your own wellbeing, too.





WE'VE COME UP WITH A FEW SUGGESTIONS, BUT **FEEL FREE TO BE CREATIVE AND MAKE YOUR OWN PLANS!**

// **SIGN UP FOR A SHORT COURSE.** You could become your firm's **Mental Health First Aider**, or maybe **boost your whole staff team's mental health awareness**. There are lots to choose from, so get Googling!



// **CALL A FRIEND** who you've not spoken to for a while.

// **ARRANGE A TEAM LUNCHTIME MEET** (ideally with cake!) and simply get to know each other better. **No talking shop**. Just take part, and listen.

// **TAKE UP A NEW SPORT OR HOBBY...** either as an individual or with mates and be sure to **set aside regular downtime** to enjoy it.

// **CHOOSE A MENTAL HEALTH CHARITY** that you could support as a company or team, and **plan an event** to get the ball rolling.

We'd love to hear about your plans, and we'll update you on our own mental health and wellbeing initiatives at RGS, too.

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

Telephone on 01484 604 354

Click here to email us



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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.

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THE
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