



insite



#RGSolidGround
18 YEARS DRILLING & ADVICE

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

> **PROTECTING. DEVELOPING.**



MEET CLIVE KIRBY

ACTION FOR SAFER SITES

TWO GREAT RESOURCES

HIGH STANDARDS

GRANNY ROGERS

Welcome to RGS insite issue 68

Our regular newsletter celebrates 18 years 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
ISSUE
68



MEET CLIVE KIRBY

RGS'S NEW TECHNICAL LEAD

Following the retirement in June of Technical Director and an RGS founder, Steve Rogers, we are delighted to announce the arrival of **Clive Kirby**. As Technical Lead, Clive will lead and mentor our growing engineering team.

He will also advise on **technical issues**, both **geotechnical** and **geoenvironmental**, ensuring that the continuing high quality and cost-effective projects for which RGS is known.

Born in Surrey, Clive spent his early working life in Leeds, later returning to his childhood home town of **Burton upon Trent**, where he's lived ever since. Clive will join the expanded team based at our **new and larger Bretby office** (close to Burton), while also making regular visits to our Yorkshire HQ.

A lifelong scientist and engineer, Clive is a Chartered Geologist, has a **Master's Degree in Engineering Geology** and is a **Fellow of the Geological Society**. With a passion for "**proper geology**", he especially loves solving the **intricate geological problems** often associated with **mine workings** and **slopes**.

He also relishes managing complex site conditions, where **precision, timing and strategic planning are all crucial in delivering efficient and successful projects**. When asked to pick out a favourite project, Clive explained that he once had the pleasure of mentoring two engineers in their bid to become Chartered Geologists, and the news that they'd both been successful was one of his most satisfying professional moments.



Clive Kirby
RGS TECHNICAL LEAD

Clive is delighted to be part of the RGS team, and aims to be a positive, dependable and motivating leader.

ENVIRONMENTAL

THE
INSIDE
ISSUE
68



CONSTRUCTION HAZARDS

Action for safer sites



The health and safety of our **clients, site users** and of course **our own staff** is always of the highest priority at RGS, and it's a topic we revisit regularly in our rolling CPD programme.

When we recently heard that a driller working for another company had passed away onsite due to heart failure, this tragic news made us think hard... Events like this devastate families every day, and we felt that we should do whatever we could to prevent anything similar happening to our people and those with whom we work.



THE RGS DRILLING TEAM



ENVIRONMENTAL

As a result, we have now equipped all of our drilling crews' vans with their own automated external defibrillators (AEDs). These easily portable AEDs can literally save lives when a casualty's heart stops beating normally.

They are easy to use, and give clear voice instructions which guide the rescuer through every step of the process.

The financial investment is truly inconsequential given the peace of mind they bring and most crucially, potential lives saved. Naturally, we hope that we'll never need to use any of our defibrillators, but if we do, we're equipped and ready to help right away.

Allan Gilleard,
RGS Operations Manager:



“ Our fleet of vehicles is key to delivering valued staff to destinations as safely and quickly as possible. We felt that adding a **welfare vehicle** to the fleet and an **AED** to every van, 4 x 4, truck and trailer we use was nothing short of **essential**. We're pleased to say that it's now a reality. ”



Our **deepest sympathies** go to the family, friends and colleagues of the driller who lost his life far too soon. We hope that they might derive some comfort that his loss has alerted us – and indeed, many more of our colleagues and readers – to take action that could avoid similar tragedies in future.

LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION ON DEFIBRILLATORS AND HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODELS FOR YOUR BUSINESS? VISIT THE WEBSITES OF TRUSTED ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS ST. JOHN AMBULANCE OR THE BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION

THE
INSIDE
ISSUE
68



CLIENT RESOURCES

Two great resources for your business



The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) reported that **17 million** working days were lost last year across the UK as a result of stress, anxiety and depression. Furthermore, a recent survey by the mental health charity, Mind, suggests that the Covid-19 pandemic has seen a deterioration in the mental health of two in every five employees.

Mental health problems therefore not only damage the quality of individual and family lives, they also have a significant impact on business. With the prevalence of stress and other mental health issues, it's vital that every organisation does all it can to support and improve the mental wellbeing of its people.

At RGS, we're always interested in initiatives that can help us to improve our knowledge, understanding and skills in order to better support the wellbeing of everyone in the business. Two initiatives have recently come to our attention, and like us, you may wish to make the most of them.



ENVIRONMENTAL

THE
INSIDE
ISSUE
68

RESOURCE 1

VISIT WEBSITE ↗

The charity [MATES IN MIND](#) helps UK organisations of all sizes to improve mental health across their business. Prompted by the pressing issues of mental ill-health within the construction industry, the charity selected the sector for particular focus. More recently it has also prioritised the transport and logistics industries.

Offering e-learning, bespoke training and valuable support, Mates in Mind helps businesses to inform and educate their workforces and build a healthier, more constructive culture of wellbeing.



RESOURCE 2

VISIT WEBSITE ↗

Free, government-funded mental health courses are now available on demand. A range of online courses are available on the [HOME LEARNING](#) website. Currently, four of our own staff are signed up to take the nationally accredited Mental Health First Aid (NCFE CACHE Level 2 Certificate) course which generally takes 6-10 weeks to complete, but individuals can work at their own pace to suit their needs. The course includes a personal tutor for each learner.

We believe that the course will not only upskill our four delegates, but it will also enable them to cascade their learning and insights to fellow team members. Above all, it will help our workforce to become ever more aware of their colleagues' mental wellbeing, and empowered to help and support others whenever necessary.



Good luck to RGS team members, Val, Katie, Hattie and Tom, who are already signed up and working towards their Mental Health First Aid Certificate [NCFE CACHE LEVEL 2]

Mental health matters for every single business, no matter what they do or where they operate, so the support and expertise of organisations like **Mates in Mind** and **Home Learning** are a valuable resource for us all.

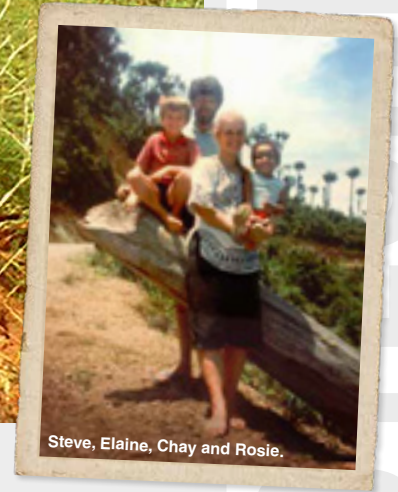
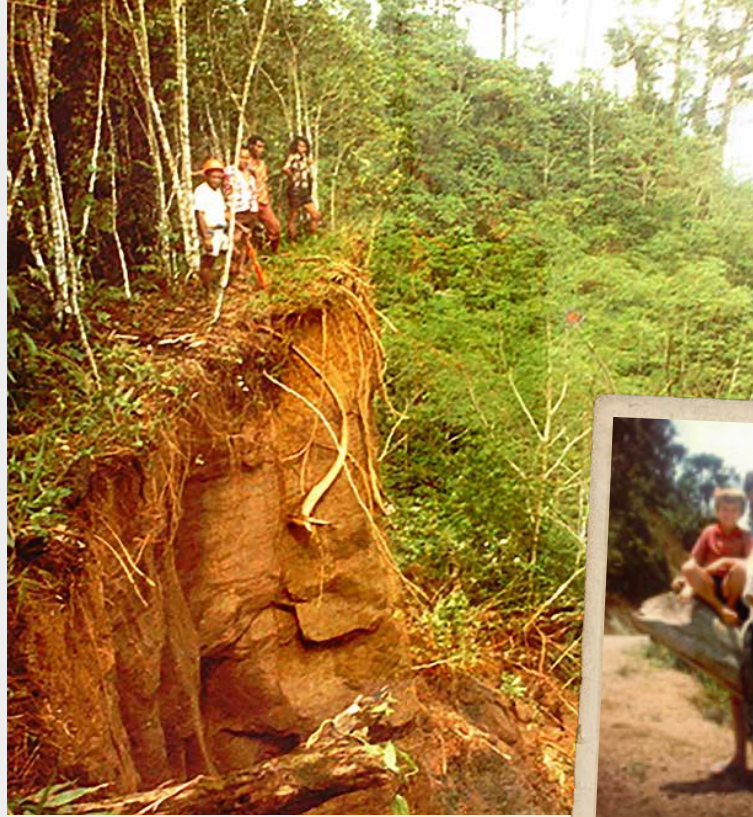
LOOKING FOR EXTRA SUPPORT OR FREE TRAINING IN MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES?

SIMPLY VISIT THE WEBSITES ABOVE AND GET STARTED!



THE ROGERS ARCHIVE

Granny Rogers' Musings: Episode 12 The stability (or otherwise) of slopes



Steve, Elaine, Chay and Rosie.

Granny Rogers retired in 1982, which was also the year in which my family and I moved to [Papua New Guinea](#), where I was looking forward to developing my geotechnical engineering career in a new and often challenging environment.

In Papua New Guinea, the landforms are very young, formed by the continual collision of the northward moving Australasian tectonic plate with the Pacific plate. As well as generating volcanoes and earthquakes, this collision continues to cause the Papua New Guinea land mass to rise up, forming overly steep, natural slopes.

As a result, large landslides occur frequently, threatening nearby villages and infrastructure. Furthermore, since the overall factor of safety of most of these natural slopes is unity at best, road construction can easily trigger mass movements.





Guioa Acutifolia

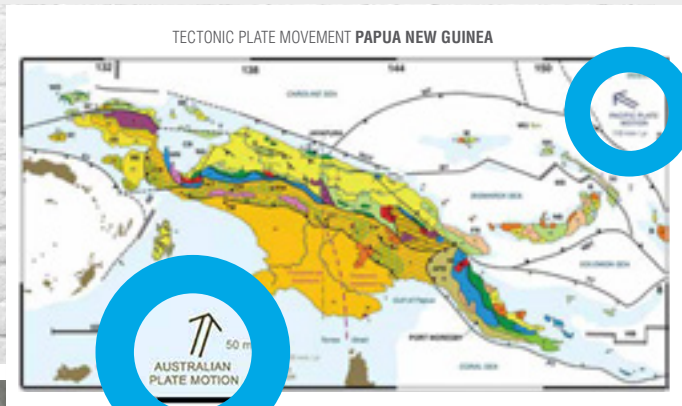
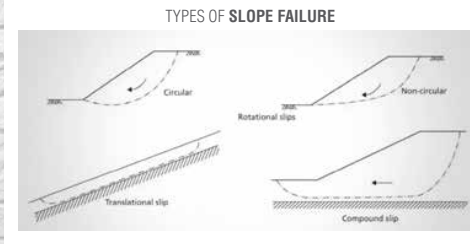


Image of Guioa Acutifolia by Melburnian



“ In the cooling shade of a fine Guioa tree, I sat one hot Papuan day with Granny Rogers, discussing the challenges of these fragile slopes. After a while, she sat forward in her chair and raised a knowing eyebrow. **“In fact, Steve,”** she said, **“to a slightly lesser extent, the same thing has occurred back in England – Lancashire and Yorkshire.”** Noting my doubtful expression, she went on to explain a little further. **“In the UK, slopes in some of the valleys were very steep as a result of glacial scouring.”** She looked at me intently and I could see that she was getting into her stride on one of her many specialist subjects. **“Now!”** she enthused, **“These slopes are still trying to revert to equilibrium, and that inevitably means that mass movements happen frequently.”**

As we continued our intense discussion on slope stability (cups of tea going cold by our side), my wise old Granny said something which resonated strongly with me – and which I still use to this day... You see, just like her – when discussing slope stability with a client, I’ve often heard the response that the slope has been there for hundreds of years and it’s never failed so far. My Granny would give them the plain and simple truth: **“You are absolutely correct, and the slope will remain stable right up to the very second that it fails!”**

If Granny Rogers were here now, I think she’d be very concerned that global warming is likely to increase the UK’s rainfall, which in turn will trigger mass movement in slopes and retaining structures that until that moment appeared stable. In this context, I instantly recall her urgent reminder that, **“Drainage for slopes and retaining structures is of paramount importance!”** Never was a truer word spoken. ”

Steve Rogers





CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

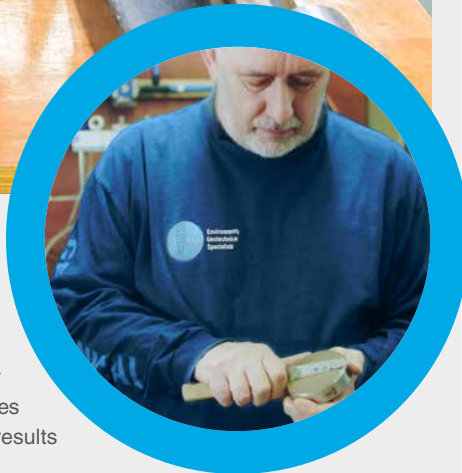
High standards demand a nose for the improbable



As a quality-focused organisation, RGS well understands the **value and importance** continuing professional development (CPD). Indeed, regular team training as well as individual development courses lie at the heart of our business.

Our rolling programme is wide-ranging, with health and safety, wellbeing and technical topics featuring most frequently.

Many of you know **Steve Rogers**, our recently retired Technical Director, who maintains his close link with us and returns to our Yorkshire HQ sometimes to share his many years of knowledge and experience with our team. In early November, Steve presented a full day of training which comprised several sessions. Two sessions specifically for newer recruits and technicians covered topics relating to the geological context of RGS's work as well as an introduction to soil phase relationships.



After lunch, the entire team attended a presentation on **classification testing**. In this lively session, Steve encouraged engineers and technicians alike to assure quality through a clear understanding of testing procedures and constantly scrutinising test results for possible errors.

As he explained in the interview featured in **Insite 64** this summer, technology can sometimes mask anomalies and errors. It's therefore very important that engineers and technicians alike have a **clear understanding** of procedures and methodology, and routinely question any test results that don't seem quite right.

A true geotechnical professional, it seems, must develop a nose for every potential error to make sure that **quality always comes first!**"

RGS OFFERS TRAINING, CPD AND EXPERT WITNESS CONSULTANCY FOR ANY ORGANISATION REQUIRING OUR SUPPORT.

TO FIND OUT MORE, CALL OUR HELPFUL TEAM ON **01484 604354**



Do you need
a coal mining
risk assessment?
[CMRA]

Contact us for help, advice
and hassle-free 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

“ The RGS team has been brilliant: their service is seamless
and efficient. We'll definitely use them again! ”

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.

