



insite

ISSUE
73

April 2022



#RGSolidGround
18 YEARS DRILLING & ADVICE

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

> **SUPPORTING. INVESTING.**



RGS CSR

H&S MATTERS

UPSKILLING ON UXO

STAR IN THE COMMUNITY

ASK GRANNY!

DID YOU KNOW?

INSITE MEETS CHAY ROGERS

SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

Welcome to RGS insite issue 73

Our regular newsletter celebrates 19 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.

RGS CSR

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ENVIRONMENTAL

Corporate Social Responsibility has become big business, and rightly so. Prospective clients and employees want to see how a company operates before choosing to work with them and are interested in their track record of protecting people and the environment.

RGS is committed to operating in a socially responsible way. But what does this mean, and how does it help the people inside and close to our business?

BALANCING PEOPLE, THE PLANET AND PROFIT

As a commercial entity, we have financial objectives to meet that keep us operational. Yet we aim to do so using processes kind to our people and the environment.

We introduced a CSR policy as a set of rules to help everyone in the business support our people and our planet. By creating a means to improve socially and environmentally, this, in turn, drives us forward by increasing client engagement and our bottom line.

MEETING OUR OBJECTIVES MEANS: **INVESTING IN STAFF**

so individuals feel supported and stay well, physically and mentally.

FOLLOWING BEST PRACTICES

to ensure equality and maintain high health and safety standards.

MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT

on the communities in which we live and work.

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HOW RGS MEETS ITS CSR GOALS

➤ OUR PEOPLE

We **nurture** existing skills and **encourage** new ones to help our staff progress, with many accredited to support their **professional development**. We have developed **clear policies** to help assure people of our **commitment** to health and safety, equal opportunities and wellbeing.

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➤ OUR CLIENTS AND PARTNERS

We are transparent in our dealings with external parties, providing **clear** and **consistent information** about **products, services** and **activities**. We forge strong relationships through regular communication using our **e-newsletter** and **social media** platforms.

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➤ OUR COMMUNITY

We have **deeply-embedded links** to the **local community** and **charitable groups**, supporting their activities however we can. We encourage work experience for local school children studying at GCSE or A-Level and jobs for apprentices and graduates.

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➤ OUR ENVIRONMENT

We **minimize our environmental impact** wherever possible, working with local authorities and industry bodies to ensure compliance with current legislation. We use methods to **preserve** our local environment and **support** global initiatives.



[Click here](#) to download our CSR statement and learn more about our commitment to staff and the community around us.

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HOW CAN RGS HELP YOU? WHATEVER YOUR REQUIREMENT, FOR PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE AND A COMPETITIVE QUOTE CALL OUR HELPFUL TEAM ON [01484 604354](tel:01484604354)

H & S MATTERS

Workplace equipment



In last month's Insite, we introduced our new feature about health and safety at work. Each edition will focus on one of its many critical points - and under the spotlight this month, it's **Workplace Equipment**.

When it comes to safety, it all starts with your equipment. If it's not up to scratch, faulty, or used incorrectly, you or your teammates could be setting yourself up for a major fall or, worse, a fatality. It's something no business owner or worker wants to see happen - and neither do you.

A complex environment

It's a confusing topic - what do we mean by equipment? It's extremely varied, with so many types used in specific sectors. It doesn't help when the HSE, our governor for workplace health and safety in the UK, defines it as 'any equipment used by an employee at work'. That could be anything from a desk lamp to a deep-sea drilling rig!

Fortunately, we don't need to rely on common sense alone, with **strict rules** governing how we use workplace equipment in the UK. It is an employer's responsibility to **maintain equipment** so it stays safe for their employees to use without fear of an accident and free from hazards. Rules also refer to the environment and it's being adequately ventilated and illuminated to conduct work safely.

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WORKPLACE REGULATIONS

PROVISION AND USE OF WORK EQUIPMENT

Equipment selection, use and maintenance

LIFTING OPERATIONS AND LIFTING EQUIPMENT

Risk assessment when lifting

WORK AT HEIGHT

Working on a ladder, tower or MEWP



Equipment hazards

Numerous types of equipment are more prone to causing accidents than others and deemed hazardous, with moving parts a major culprit. Contact, entanglement or being struck by a part ejected from a moving machine can all cause serious injury.

To help prevent accidents caused by hazardous equipment, always:

- Fit the **relevant guarding** to machinery and educate machine operators on its purpose
- Conduct **risk assessments** on each piece of equipment that presents a hazard
- Ensure staff wear **appropriate protective clothing** and headwear when operating specific equipment (e.g. when operating a drill)

HAZARDS 101 When purchasing new machinery, check for a CE mark, EC declaration and clear instructions on its use.

Maintenance

Looking after equipment helps it last for many years, yet maintenance has a much bigger purpose than preservation - it's critical to keeping it safe for staff to use and preventing accidents.

Employers must do the following:

- Check the safety guards **regularly** to ensure they are working properly
- Implement **routine safety checks** daily for critical items and weekly or monthly for all other equipment - and apply the correct remedies
- Use **competent, trained professionals** to maintain and check machinery and equipment

SAFETY 101 Always turn off machinery and power before performing maintenance procedures.



Training

Staff have a lot to think about performing their job, and it's the employer's responsibility to ensure they receive adequate training before using equipment - certainly when operating specialist equipment that presents a danger.



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Train each member of staff in full to understand:

- How to operate the equipment **safely**
.....
- How to **spot hazards** and negate any associated danger
.....
- How to **deal with an emergency**
.....

TRAINING 101 Besides providing H&S training during staff induction, remember to deliver equipment safety training specific to the job and regular refresher training on all safety procedures.



Working at height

Falling from a height remains one of the biggest causes of workplace injuries. At RGS, while we conduct much of our work at ground level, there are times when projects are classed as working at height - such as when we dig a trial pit and extra care is taken to prevent people or animals from falling in. Also, we regularly use a **MEWP** (Mobile Elevated Work Platform) to access and complete projects high above the ground.

The Work at Height Regulations (2005) help employers and staff carry out working at height safely, whether it's from a **LADDER, TOWER, SCAFFOLDING, MEWP** or on the **BACK OF A LORRY**. Risk assessments are **ESSENTIAL** to negate any environmental concerns - fragile or slippery surfaces, overhead hazards or inclement weather - and highlight when **ADDITIONAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT** is necessary (for example, a harness or safety guards).

We hope today's feature about workplace equipment is helpful - although it merely scratches the surface of what is a varied and complex topic.

[Click here](#) to find lots of detailed information from the HSE.

Our teams are trained in workplace H&S including how to use and maintain equipment to preserve the safety of themselves and others around them.

**WHATEVER YOUR GEOTECH PROJECT, FOR HELP AND GUIDANCE
CALL OUR HELPFUL TEAM ON [01484 604354](tel:01484604354)**



Upskilling on **UXO**



When **military explosives** fail to explode as intended, they pose a threat to people and buildings close by.

Bombs, rockets, grenades, shells and hazardous residues might remain a risk after a partial or failed detonation and require experts to remove them and prepare the area for safe construction.

Unexploded Explosive Ordnance (UXO)

Designed for individuals working in construction, development, environmental and engineering sectors, the UXO course prepares personnel to deal with any dangerous unexploded hazards they uncover.

Approved by the IIRSM, UXO certification counts towards an individual's CPD.

All RGS staff were enrolled on a course recently provided by **Brimstone UXO**, with Toby the first to complete the online certification. **Well done, Toby!**

[Click here](#) to read our **UXO** data sheet

RGS IN THE COMMUNITY

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Star in the community



Last month, we told you about our work with an incredible local charity, Kirkwood Hospice. Yet this is only the tip of the iceberg for team RGS, who loves helping the local community...

We're a fortunate team at RGS - a happy and healthy bunch who supports one another through thick and thin. Yet beyond our four walls lies a big wide world - and while it's impossible to extend our support in all directions, we strive to do as much as we can locally to improve the lives of others.

Helping in and beyond Shelley!

Donating to Circus Starr. The charity calls itself a 'Circus with a purpose', bringing smiles to the faces of hundreds of disadvantaged children as they bring their show to UK towns. By making a regular donation, RGS helps the charity create memories that last a lifetime.

Volunteering at Share Academy. Based in Kirklees and Calderdale, the multi-academy trust consists of five primary and three secondary schools. **Katie**, our Senior Project Manager, and **Emma**, our MD, act as voluntary Members, helping appoint trustees and directors and overseeing the governance of the Trust. They attend Member meetings, auditing each one to monitor the trust board's activities and writing reports and presentations as required.

Sponsoring Shelley Cricket Club. RGS staff love their sport! As club sponsors, we're helping young people to appreciate the great game and enjoy the benefits team sport brings to their development.

IT'S NOT JUST THE LOCAL COMMUNITY WHO RELIES ON US - SO DO OUR VALUED CLIENTS! HOW CAN WE SUPPORT YOU TODAY?

CALL OUR HELPFUL TEAM ON **01484 604354**



WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

Ask **Granny!**



Recently, while **meeting a new client** at their site, one of our engineers was asked the question:

How long will it take to complete **all phases** of a ground investigation?

It would have made Granny Rogers smile, no doubt, a stickler for getting any job done promptly and with the utmost accuracy.

Of course, there is no straightforward answer since all sites differ - and the ground beneath them - with some needing longer than others to investigate in full. Yet the steps to the process remain the same from one environment to the next. While we cannot give a hard and fast timeline, our vast experience providing ground investigation services to our clients means we can provide you with more than a 'finger in the air' response!





PHASE 1 DESK STUDY

Our team collates information about the site including its previous uses and potential risks associated with the environment.

It takes between **7-10 WORKING DAYS** days to complete the report.

PHASE 1
7-10

PHASE 2 SITE INVESTIGATION

We conduct physical tests of the ground at the site; collecting soil and rock samples and testing them for contamination and geotechnical risks at our UKAS accredited laboratory.

We are normally able to mobilise to site within **7-10 WORKING DAYS** using shallow or deep borehole excavation.

It then takes approximately **10-13 WORKING DAYS** or logging of samples and laboratory testing, after which we complete the report within **25 WORKING DAYS** from completion of fieldworks (including any remedial suggestions where contamination is present).

PHASE 2
7-10

THEN
10-13

THEN
25

PHASE 3 REMEDIATION STRATEGY

We produce a detailed report including the steps to remediate a contaminated site for use as a working document during construction.

It takes **5 WORKING DAYS** from instruction to produce the strategy and report.

PHASE 3
5

PHASE 4 VALIDATION REPORT

We verify that you completed the remediation steps outlined in Phase 3 to the required standards.

We are normally able to mobilise to site within **7-10 WORKING DAYS** undertaking hand-dug trial pits.

It then takes approx. **10-13 WORKING DAYS** for logging of samples and laboratory testing, after which we complete the report within **5 WORKING DAYS** from completion of testing.

PHASE 4
7-10

THEN
10-13

THEN
5

.....
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SUPPORT WITH ANY PHASE OF THE GROUND INVESTIGATION PROCESS?

CALL OUR HELPFUL TEAM ON **01484 604354**



HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Did you know?



April is **Stress Awareness Month** in the UK, created to highlight the growing phenomenon of stress, its many causes and ways to prevent or manage it.

Unfortunately, many stress-related issues can be traced back to the workplace. People are anxious about work for numerous reasons - including fear of losing their job, an unsafe working environment or financial worries.

While workplace stress might be more prominent than ever, we're better equipped nowadays to deal with issues as they arise, and most companies have a strategy to **help workers minimise and manage stress**.

RGS is no different.

One of the biggest challenges with stress lies in having people talk about their concerns. To overcome this, we encourage open dialogue between managers and teams to tackle issues as they occur, with H&S and wellbeing policies to help guide staff during difficult times.

With an emphasis on teamwork, we've created **a culture of togetherness** where individuals always **'have their comrade's back'**, helping everyone stay grounded.



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WHEN WORK IS PROVING TOUGH - TALK TO A TEAM MATE. REMEMBER, YOU CAN ALWAYS TALK TO US! WE'RE HERE TO HELP OUR STAFF, CLIENTS AND THE COMMUNITY HOWEVER WE CAN.

CALL OUR HELPFUL TEAM ON **01484 604354**



INSITE MEETS

Chay Rogers OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

HOW CAN WE HELP?



What does your role involve? Describe a **typical day**.

A typical day would usually involve a site visit for a **PHASE 1 DESK STUDY** or an **ACCESS CHECK**. The information I gather about the site is then transferred to the project management team or engineers so they fully understand the on-site condition. With our customers dotted across the length and breadth of Britain, a site visit can be anywhere in the country so I spend a lot of my time driving.

I also work with **Alan, our Fieldworks Manager**, daily to ensure we deliver the best possible service to our clients. When based in the office recently, I have been working on a marketing strategy, ways to improve our social media profile and **expanding our area offices**.

Our regular board and management meetings keep everyone **up to date** on happenings company-wide and **aligned** on our goals.





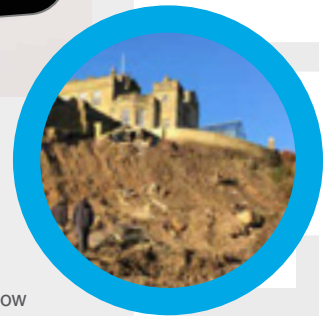
How does **your role** help our RGS clients?

I can clearly understand the ground conditions by visiting the site, allowing us to form an effective investigation strategy. This means less disruption on-site and, as such, less cost to the client. I also aim to make our communications more consistent and regular so that when people think geotechnical services, they think RGS.



What do you **enjoy most** about what you do?

I really enjoy helping clients that have a problem. Something has gone wrong and is out of their control, like a failed retaining wall or a slope stability issue, and they need advice. Helping those clients find a quick and effective solution with minimal disruption makes me happy. I also enjoy talking to clients about their projects, no matter how big or small. I have been invited back to a few exciting house builds on their completion to see first-hand what happened next. It's good knowing I have played a part in their success.



If money was **no object**...

I would live in the sun, Lanzarote or somewhere in Greece and drink strawberry daiquiris on repeat while lounging next to my pool overlooking the sea. It's not too much to ask, is it?!

Support for Ukraine



You may have spotted a story in the local press recently featuring Operations Director, [Chay Rogers](#).

Together with five friends, all from the Huddersfield area, Chay and the team embarked on a 2,700-mile round-trip to a **refugee centre in Prezemysyl, Poland**, providing its many sheltering Ukrainians with urgent supplies.

Donations from locals in and around **Denby Dale** amounted to three long-wheel base vans filled with medical supplies, food, sanitation products and first aid kits. The package also included cards of hope, hand-written by children from **St Aidan's Academy School** in Skelmanthorpe.

The journey took the men by road to **North Shields**, then by ferry to **Amsterdam**, and again by road through Europe to the **Polish** and Ukrainian border. After dropping the supplies at the centre, the men returned home immediately.

A GoFundMe page raised money towards the cost of fuel and ferries, quickly smashing its original target of £2,500 and eventually raising over **£14,000**, with excess funds put towards more supplies.

Reflecting on his experience, Chay told us:

“ It's extremely **humbling** and makes you realise just how lucky we are. We didn't have any contact with the refugees but saw many arriving by bus, and they looked to have very little possessions - some, **only the clothes on their back**. Ours was a small gesture but one I'm **proud** to have played a part in. ”

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Do you need
continuing professional
development support?
[CPD]



Contact us for
further information

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
your feedback.

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

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