



Environmental
Geotechnical
Specialists

INSITE 77

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM ROGERS GEOTECHNICAL SERVICES



Welcome to Insite, keeping you up to date with industry news and RGS as we celebrate entering our 20th year in business.

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.

summer time and the living is easy.

It's the most wonderful time of the year: the great British summer!

Warmer, lighter days feel so much longer than their winter equivalents - it's no wonder most of us take time away from work during August, including the RGS team and many of our clients. Whether it's for family catch-ups, vacations, or just resting, taking a break is beneficial for our wellbeing, leaving us refreshed and ready to go again with our various work requests - from straightforward desktop surveys to full-scale boreholes and ground investigations using our in-house fleet of drilling rigs!



Of course, Autumn typically means cooler and often damper weather, which can challenge many physical ground-related works. In particular, any site situated on a slope is more prone to problems when it rains and depends on fairer weather to complete all aspects of an investigation - which means planning ahead and tackling each one as soon as possible before the likely lousy weather descends.



Whatever your ground investigation needs, we are here to help you. Offering highly detailed desk research, sampling, testing and analysis, and clear information about overcoming any risks, our team makes sure yours is ready to commence your construction project with clarity and peace of mind!

Do you need help with a ground investigation or geotechnical service?

CALL OUR HELPFUL TEAM TODAY ON 01484 604354

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Communicating Health and Safety



This month's Health and Safety feature is about **communicating** H&S information and guidance to your troops at work.

▲ talking 'bout safety

Keeping people safe at work is crucial to any business, whatever the sector. Yet everybody has to play their part - from the business leaders interpreting their legal requirements to each individual making sure they adhere to the guidance about safety.

How do you ensure everybody in your workplace knows what to do to stay safe?

▲ a safe work environment begins with clear, concise communication

Every workplace is different, so there is no hard-fast rule book about health and safety. Of course, hazards often remain the same from one place to the next, which is why many standard rules exist to help prevent workplace accidents and injuries.

Aside from accident prevention, workers feel better knowing you're looking out for their safety, which leads to an increased sense of wellbeing and greater productivity.

And guess what? Providing your workers with information about the hazards at play and how to avoid them is more than best practice - it's the law!

▲ know what to tell your teams

As with all things H&S, UK businesses are governed by a primary piece of legislation known as the [Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974](#).

Underneath this, employers can find more guidance in [The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999](#) about what to communicate to staff, including:



- ↗ risks and hazards in the workplace
- ↗ measures in place to help minimise them
- ↗ actions employees can take if they experience any risks
- ↗ how to use and care for equipment and PPE
- ↗ emergency procedures - what to do in the event of a fire, chemical leak, electrical hazard or security breach
- ↗ any site rules and safe working practises

▲ how and when to train staff

Fundamentally, information regarding health and safety needs to be available ongoing, not as a one-off training event. Ensuring your work-related messaging about health and safety is heard, understood and retained requires constant updates to your staff. Repetition is key!

And don't forget communication applies to all members of your team. Some may have reading difficulties and need additional support to understand the information you're providing. Others might work remotely and be unavailable to attend in-person training sessions.

▲ induction training

With H&S a business-critical topic, training needs to happen quickly whenever a new hire joins you.

It could be delivered to a whole team in a room, using a video or PowerPoint presentation to support the key messages applicable to the site or office. Or for remote workers, they might dial into a video conference call where your H&S Officer or HR delivers the session virtually. Either way, aim to provide writing materials for staff to take notes or even have a set template for them to work through as part of their training session.

▲ ongoing training

As your business grows, processes evolve, which may include introducing new equipment or systems that are hazardous. As with any changes, they need communicating to your staff - which is why regular health and safety training is imperative.

Even when nothing in the workplace has changed, humans are known to forget information at times and require a top-up! Having an H&S training calendar will help you to communicate the right messaging and regularly to help your teams remember all they need to know to stay safe.

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In their **own** words



While we're talking about communication...

You know how much we appreciate any positive feedback, and this latest comment from another satisfied client made our day recently.

During August, Steve visited a large national consultancy at their Leeds office to deliver CPD to their team – their fieldworkers and wider-reaching staff involved in investigation projects for Yorkshire Water. A representative had this to say after attending the session.

"Steve's presentation was very interesting and gave us geotechnical details that many of us (working outside of geotechnical field) didn't know about, and we found it very useful. Please thank Steve for this"

Bravo, Steve, for your commitment to upskilling the community around us and our clients, helping individuals to appreciate the criticality of groundworks and helping them deliver projects with clarity, accuracy and care.

Whatever your site investigation or geoenvironmental needs, our team gets the job done safely without compromise. For support...

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Another month, **another safety certificate!**



Recently, RGS submitted an application for our **SMAS Worksafe** accreditation. Great news: we passed!

The assessors, Acclaim, looked specifically at our activities and procedures in terms of:

- // Health and Safety (SSIP)
- // Finance and Business Standing
- // Anti-bribery and Modern Slavery

The accreditation is further testament to our dedication to running a compliant business and safe working environment, cementing RGS as an official **Contractor** who delivers accredited ground investigation services.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in ensuring we continue putting safe practices at the forefront of all we do.

Proper site investigations matter – don't leave your build at risk!

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Team RGS stays on song **with safety!**

daily. weekly. monthly.
quarterly. annually.
on every project.
constantly.

It's no surprise we take H&S seriously at RGS, working in such a hazardous environment as the construction industry. Here's how we approach communicating health and safety information to our local and regional teams to set them on the right footing from day one.

Daily: our MD, Emma, runs an optional meeting open to all staff, where H&S is open for discussion.

Weekly: our Lab and Engineering teams have a planning session with H&S on the agenda.

Monthly: visits from H&S Dave and colleague Rachel from WBL Consultants, including a site-wide walk and chat to staff to ensure any H&S concerns, however minor, can be voiced and addressed.

Quarterly: Managers meeting where the directors and department leaders come together and discuss issues business-wide, including any resolutions to H&S challenges.

Annually: H&S refresher training is compulsory for all RGS staff, which has been the case since 2010!

Per project: Project managers discuss H&S with our clients before work commences.



Role-specific training where required:

SITE SUPERVISOR SAFETY TRAINING SCHEME (SSSTS)

- accrediting staff to manage your site project safely.

BASELINE PERSONNEL SECURITY STANDARD (BPSS)

- clearance of any staff working with government assets.

CONSTRUCTION SKILLS CERTIFICATION SCHEME (CSCS)

- preparing our teams to work on sites.

AWARENESS COURSES

- such as working with asbestos and environmental site management.

TOOLBOX TALKS

- providing information on the right tools for each job and their safe use.

DRIVER TRAINING delivered by Premier Fleet to relevant staff, helping individuals to obtain CATC1 and B&E certification (no longer compulsory in the DVLA's eyes but critical to our teams carrying heavy, business-critical equipment on trailers!).

Our meticulous and thorough approach to H&S means everyone is unified and singing from the same hymn sheet, protecting themselves and their workmates.

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Katie Wallett SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER

How can we help you?

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

My role is varied, and I enjoy getting stuck into the many aspects of a project. From drafting quotes for client projects to producing site-specific Risk Assessments and Method Statements (RAMS) and scheduling work across our internal departments, there isn't much of the process where I am not involved! No two days are the same, making it varied and enjoyable.

How does your role help our RGS clients?

Communication is key to project management. I have contact with clients throughout the project journey, whether scoping what is required for a quote, dealing with various queries, or keeping them updated on progress. For a large part of the project, RGS clients liaise directly with me as I book the works and discuss what happens next. Any questions and a client knows I'm there to help keep things on track - which is a good feeling.

**Haleakala Crater**



What do you enjoy most about what you do?

I love organising and seeing a project run successfully, so this role is perfect for me. I also enjoy helping others; I like to think that I make the process feel as straightforward and smooth as possible for both our internal teams and also our clients, no matter what the project. Each project teaches me something new about the geoenvironmental world, which I find fascinating

If money was no object...

I enjoy taking holidays somewhere new. Being a geology fan, Hawaii is on my must-visit list - there are many natural wonders on every island, which would be incredible to explore. Another passion is attending concerts; I'm sure I would go to more if I had more money available. If a favourite band played a show in Hawaii, that would be a dream come true!!

How can our team help yours today? From desk studies and drilling to topographical surveys and training...

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We've got new shirts. Yours is waiting.



Are you looking to progress your career with an award-winning, inclusive, talented team of Geotech experts?

Due to our ongoing expansion, we currently have two exciting roles to fill at RGS.

// Geoenvironmental Engineer

// Graduate Geoenvironmental Engineer

If you're already working as an engineer in geosciences - or a recent graduate looking to break into this exciting world - one of our vacancies could be perfect for you!

[Click here](#) to download the full job specs, including all responsibilities and required credentials or alternatively...

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Did you know?



There is a brand-new podcast about to launch, all about ground investigations!

For those of you like us, keen to soak up any information about the subterranean world, get ready for **The Ground Investigation Podcast** - we think it will be a cracker!

A special shout-out to our communications guru, Tom, forever keeping an ear to the ground (sorry!) and keeping us up to speed on podcasts that might perk our interest. It goes to air on September 8th.

Will it break new ground for our sector? Let's listen in and find out!

RGS are site investigation and geoenvironmental experts. For ground works guidance and a competitive quote...

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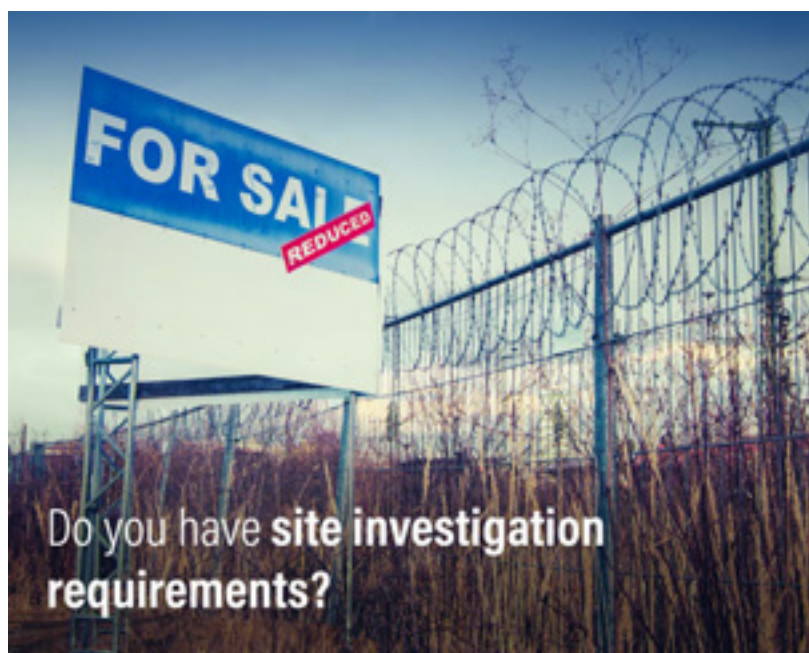
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requirements?**

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SEAMLESS APPROACHABLE

We'll **definitely** use RGS again!

We'd love to hear client feedback
about our services!

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