

Pile Load Testing – Kentledge

- A *Pile Test* checks the pile design is adequate by loading up a pile by more than the amount of the building weight it is expected to carry, then measuring by how much it sinks, usually by about 10 mm or less.
- A Kentledge test works by building a grillage of weights on a frame over the pile, then jacking the pile down against the weights.
- The weights can be concrete or iron blocks. In either case the total can amount to *hundreds of tonnes*.
- Building up a kentledge test is a skilled job that is only to be carried out by a person trained for the purpose and working to a detailed drawing of the proposed assembly.
- Building a kentledge may mean working at height. Ensure the risk of falling is eliminated.
- When built, the kentledge assembly must be stable. Make sure the blocks are “bonded” like brickwork, with a block spanning the joint below.
- Concrete blocks usually have recessed lifting eyes to stack easily. This recess can be a water trap that promotes corrosion of the lifting point. Check each lifting eye as you use it .
- When complete, make sure the assembly is fenced off and warning signs erected



Q. Who is allowed to build a kentledge test?

Q. What must you check on each concrete block before you sling it?