

# FEDERATION OF PILING SPECIALISTS

## MINUTES OF A TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

**Date:** Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

**Time:** 10:00am

**Location:** Online via Webex

**PRESENT:**

Chris Barker	Arup
Andrew Fingland	Atkins Global
David Hard	Bachy Soletanche
Richard Ball	Card Geotechnics Ltd
Andrew Bell	Cementation Skanska
Sebastian Draghici	Central Piling
Chris Chapman	FK Lowry
Andrew Bond	Geocentrix
Ebenezer Adenmosun	Geofirma Ltd
Iwan Jones	James Fisher Testing Services Limited
David Roy	Keltbray
Christopher Fox	Murphy
Omeed Matini	Rock & Alluvium
Jonathan Ball	Roger Bullivant Limited
Julia Hill	Roger Bullivant Limited

**In the Chair:** Mark Pennington BBGE

**In Attendance:** Ciaran Jennings FPS Secretary  
Grace Hawkins FPS Secretariat

No	TOPIC	ACTION
1	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
	Apologies had been received from Zoe Baldwin (Cementation Skanska), Toby Hayward (Expanded) and Mark Toye (Socotec UK).	
2	<b>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</b>	
	The minutes of the meeting held on the 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2020 were approved.	
3	<b>CIRIA PROPOSED UPDATE OF THEIR 1970s PILING GUIDES</b>	
	<p>Ciaran Jennings reported that five people from the Technical Committee volunteered to participate on the steering group, Ciaran added that Kieran Tully has confirmed that the FPS can put forward three people. It was noted that Tony Suckling will be attending the steering group separately to the FPS. Ciaran suggested from the five volunteers, three are put forward to attend the meetings, but all five volunteers are given the opportunity to review the documents. The Technical Committee agreed this is a sensible suggestion.</p> <p><i>Meeting Note: It was previously noted the following five volunteered:</i>            Chris Beynon            Andrew Bell            David Hard            Andrew Heathcote            David Roy</p> <p>Mark Pennington asked if any of the FPS Member Companies are planning to provide funding separate from the FPS funding, he advised that BBGE have plans to fund the update. Chris Barker advised he is also on the steering committee separate to the FPS.</p>	



	<p>Andrew Bell advised they have a recent example where before any testing they knew there would be an issue, he added the Thermal Testing showed the issue at 8 hours and Sonic Logging showed the problem at 48 hours.</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings advised there was suggestion some time ago by the EFFC to look at the interpretation of Sonic data and anomalies. Chris noted there was a Sonic Logging guidance published at the DFI in October 2019.</p> <p>Mark felt not much has changed since 2017, however Martyn Ellis could continue to review this. The Committee agreed there has not been much change and it was agreed to feed this back to the Executive Committee.</p>	<p><b>Ciaran Jennings</b></p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>e-PILE SCHEDULE PRESENTATION</b></p>	
	<p>Mark Pennington reported that he will be giving a presentation to the IStructE he which he plans to refer to the Site Investigation data.</p>	
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>SITE INVESTIGATION DATA</b></p>	
<p><b>a)</b></p>	<p><b>Guidance on Minimum Site investigation requirements for foundation design &amp; GI Questionnaire results</b></p> <p>Jonathan Ball reported that he provided a presentation to the FPS Early Careers Group on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020. They highlighted that the FPS should be publicising the findings to those outside of the FPS who are not aware of the issues raised. It was suggested to approach Build UK and media outlets such as GE and NCE.</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings agreed to raise this with Build UK to explore this.</p> <p>Jonathan agreed to circulate an up to date report to the Technical Committee, he noted the information in the last presentation has been superseded.</p> <p>Ebenezer Adenmosun asked if comparisons and sonic drilling will be included in the published documents. Jonathan advised there were some very valid points regarding design, but due to lack of data on sonic drilling, it would be hard to include.</p> <p>Ciaran reported that the BDA are looking to increase the pass mark on their audit process. It was noted the BDA are aiming to push cable percussion out of the industry. They have been influenced by the FPS audit model; Ciaran added companies who are BDA members may begin to push for safer practice.</p> <p>It was noted Julia Hill has joined the FPS Technical Committee to represent the FPS Early Career Group, Julia stated that education is key when looking at the importance of SI for procurement. She advised that the FPS ECG have recognised that the FPS is <i>preaching to the converted</i> and the FPS needs to aim to publicise the issues of poor quality SI to those who can influence change; it is felt these people are not currently appreciative of how quality influences procurement further down the line.</p> <p>Andrew Bond reported that the next update of Eurocode is not due to be published until 2024, however the technical content will be provided in November. Andrew advised he has been pushing to add depth and quantity to SI. He noted there has been some pushback from certain Nordic companies, he added he has concerns that they might try to pare back on the minimum standard. He urged Committee members to comment on the draft due for review in November and the draft due in April 2021. This standard will act as a strong drive for clients to be code compliant. Mark Pennington agreed SI need to change going forward to be Eurocode compliant.</p> <p>Mark suggested approaching Debbie Darling at Jooce PR for help promoting this. He also suggested this would make a good topic for an FPS podcast.</p> <p>Chris Barker asked Jonathan if the survey concluded if the industry is better or worse since the last survey ran in 2008. Jonathan replied it is about the same. He noted there have been significant improvements to digital construction with the use of BIM, but the industry is still well behind with regard to SI quality. Chris asked if region made a difference, Jonathan advised there was not much difference seen, however some slight improvement is seen in London. He noted this maybe due to clients being more educated on SI. He also noted the survey showed that the worst offenders for poor SI are the house builders.</p>	<p><b>Ciaran Jennings</b></p> <p><b>Jonathan Ball</b></p>

b)	<p>Ciaran suggested the Specialists in Land Condition Register (SiLC) may be able to promote the issue and raise awareness amongst the planning community under the National Quality Mark Scheme.</p> <p>Ebenezer noted they have previously had to respond to developers that they cannot do the designs being submitted with the SI provided, they need more information. Andrew Bond advised they have persuaded clients to get an in-depth SI with the idea it will cost less to design with more supporting data.</p> <p><b>Draft 1 of the Third Edition of the Yellow Book</b> Jonathan Ball reported that a copy of Draft 1 of the Third Edition of the Yellow Book was circulated to the FPS Technical in which the AGS requested comments. He noted he did not receive any comments from Committee members; however, he did not see anything in the draft that was concerning. Jonathan advised that there is scope for the FPS to add an annexe to it. It was agreed when lists are drafted, he will circulate to the Committee for review and to draft a list of what should be included for piling to the guide specification.</p>	Jonathan Ball
<b>8. EUROCODES AND EXECUTION CODES</b>		
a)  b)  c)	<p><b>Revision of EN1997-3 Clause 6 – Pile Design</b> It was reported draft 1 and 3 are due to be released in October, Andrew Bond advised the Committee to comment and he will go back to project team 6.</p> <p><b>Revision of Eurocode 7</b> Andrew Bond advised the next two commenting periods are crucial as they will be the last comments to be considered. Andrew Bond advised he will be contacting FPS members at the end of October to encourage comments. He will be able to provide the drafts before the next FPS Technical meeting and he will liaise with Jonathan Ball before the meeting and coordinate.</p> <p><b>Update on codes</b> David Hard reported there was a TC28 meeting in July, he noted the execution standards will come up for review in the next few years. David further advised that the next codes due for review is Deep Mixing, Deep Vibrations, Board Pile and D-Wall. It was noted they are aiming to include the EFFC Tremie guide into the Concrete guide.</p>	All Andrew Bond
<b>9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>		
	<p><b>Have members had any difficulties ensuring adequate cover is provided to reinforcement at the base of the pile?</b></p> <p>Emily Wood advised at BAM Ritchies they have had 4nr main bars extended 200mm below the base of the reinforcement cage as 'pile feet' to provide the required concrete cover of 75mm and to support the installed cage at the correct level giving some flexibility to the bore depth.</p> <p>It was noted prior to the installation of the first pile cage, the client requested that the (pile feet) bars where protected against corrosion. Emily noted this is not a requirement under the ICE Specification for piling and embedded retaining walls, or the Specification for Highway Works Series 1600 Piling and Embedding Retaining Walls. To provide cover the accepted method for provided cover to the steel was to apply galvanising paint spray to the lower 200mm of bar, fit a plastic mushroom cap to the base, and wrap in Denso tape. Emily asked if other members had had this requested before.</p> <p>David Roy advised they have seen this before as a requirement, Mark Pennington advised they had also had it requested before. However, he believes it is not necessary.</p> <p>Andrew Bell suggested putting mushroom caps on the bars. Emily was relieved it is commonly requested and suggested if it is not necessary, the FPS could write a technical note on it. Andrew Bell noted there is no structural need for it, but if requested they will do it. Mark agreed it is worthwhile producing a note on it. Emily agreed, noting Owen Francis has started to draft something.</p> <p><b>ICE MGE Guidance Update</b></p> <p>Andrew Bell reported that some ICE guidance is up for revision to be drafted by December, he added this might be opportunity for the FPS Technical Committee to input to it. Mark Pennington noted the guidance is only five years old, Andrew Bell agreed to find out what the objective is. Andrew Bond asked why they do not wait for the Eurocode.</p>	Emily Wood/Owen Francis

10.	DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS	
	<p>It was noted that meetings in 2020 have mostly taken place virtually online due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. Mark Pennington suggested that in 2021 if the situation continues to improve, two meetings should take place in person and two as virtual online meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020</li></ul> <p>To start at 10am and held online via webex.</p>	