

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT FOR PRESENTATION AT THE QUARTERLY MEETING ON 13th FEBRUARY 2020

Date of Reported Meeting: Thursday 14th November 2019

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 27th February 2020

Guidance on Minimum SI Requirements

The FPS Technical Committee is looking at the guidance on 'Minimum Standard for Site Investigation for Piling' which is being led by Jonathan Ball. They have re-run the SI survey from 2008 in order to get a clear opinion on quality of site investigation and see what change has occurred in the past 10 years. The deadline for the survey was the end of 2019 and the responses are being reviewed.

CIRIA guides

The FPS Technical committee invited Kieran Tully from CIRIA to talk to the Committee. Kieran advised CIRIA would be looking for £50k for a light update and £75k for more in depth updates. He advised so far Tier ones have funded the project, but support is needed from the large clients to encourage further support. The intention would be to produce a pipeline of the guides until October 2022, but it depends on the funding and the appetite for the scope. The FPS Technical Committee strongly felt the FPS should agree to support this financially and contribute technical expertise.

NHBC acceptance to CIRIA designed bored piles design in Chalk, without Pile Load Testing

A member of the Technical Committee recently found that the NHBC no longer accept piles designed without load testing with a global Factor of Safety of 2.5 in accordance with CIRIA C574 & PR86. Instead they are reverting to their internal guidance of either a FoS=3.0 or an EC7 design. After speaking with the NHBC it was suggested if an industry body like the FPS can provide some up to date revised guidance to substantiate the obviation of working pile tests under these circumstances, then they will look at the information and if necessary amend their in-house guidance. Therefore, it was agreed to update the chalk guidance.

AGS Procurement of Ground Investigation Steering Group

The AGS Procurement of Ground Investigation Steering Group has been convened, they invited the FPS to be involved to help raise the profile of Site Investigation. It was noted they are looking for a fundamental shift in SI.

Load Cases Guidance Document Presentation

It was previously reported that a presentation has been produced to aid uptake by structural engineers, the purpose of the presentation is to be given regionally or to clients. The FPS will be presenting the e-pile schedule to IStructE which has now been set for the 8th July.

Update of Codes

Andrew Bond provided a short presentation for the Eurocode 7 Parts 2 and 3 timetable for submitting UK comments. The Technical Committee met prior to the end of the year to collate comments for an FPS submission.

FPS Digital Development Task Group

The Digital Development Group have two aims; to update the guidance notes on BIM and to work in conjunction with the AGS and DFI. The Digital Development Task Group will look at how to get involved in the process of getting Data in AGS Format, it was noted they need to push AGS Data as a standard format and look at making it a contractual requirement. The Group has the latest proposal to use AGS data for piling information and this is currently being reviewed.

Rig Bearing Pressure Spreadsheets

The FPS Rig Bearing Pressure Spreadsheet workshops took place in Derby and London, hosted by Remedy Geotechnics who explain how to use the spreadsheet correctly using worked examples. These are free to FPS Members and there is a £95 + VAT charge for non-members.

Industry Events to Note

BGA piling conference taking place on the 15-16th September 2020 in Durham.