# MINUTES OF A TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

**Date:** Wednesday 6th September 2017
**Time:** 10:00am
**Location:** Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London, WC1H 9BD

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| **PRESENT:** | Craig Burton | Aarsleff Ground Engineering |
| | Chris Barker | Arup |
| | Mick Gavins | Atkins |
| | Andre Sampaio | A-Squared Studio |
| | James Binns | Byland |
| | Andrew Bell | Cementation Skanska |
| | Steve Hadley | Central Piling |
| | Chris Irvin | DYWIDAG-SYSTEMS |
| | Martyn Ellis | ESG |
| | Toby Hayward | Expanded |
| | Ebenezer Adenmosun | Geofirma Ltd |
| | Chris Beynon | JRL Civil Engineering |
| | David Roy | Keltbray Piling |
| | Keith Miller | Laing O'Rourke |
| | Jordan Chapman | Murphy Ground Engineering |
| | Kieran Herbert | Murphy Ground Engineering |
| | James Hayward | Pile Designs |
| | David Illingworth | Pile Designs |
| | Jack Clayton | Rock & Alluvium |
| | Jon Ball | Roger Bullivant |
| | Iwan Jones | TestConsult |
| | Simon Shaw | Van Elle |
| **In the Chair:** | Mark Pennington | BBGE |
| **Guest Speaker:** | Jim De Waele | Keller |
| **In Attendance:** | Ciaran Jennings | FPS Secretary |
| | Grace Hawkins | FPS Secretariat |

| No | TOPIC | ACTION |
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| 1 | **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** | |
| | Apologies had been received from Steve Wade, Chris Oram, Colin Ryan, Darren Milo, Owen Francis and Derek Egan. | |
| 2 | **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** | |
| | The minutes of the meeting held on the 7th June 2017 were approved. | |
| 3 | **MATTERS ARISING** | |
| | There were no matters arising. | |
| 4 | **LOAD CASES** | |
| | The draft paper on load cases was reviewed. James Binns commented that he thought the paper could be more forthright in the FPS' position and opinions and suggested that the tables 1 and 2 on page 2 could be presented in the E-Pile Schedule. Jon Ball agreed and that we should accept nothing other than the E-Pile Schedule in order to regularise the information. He thought that the benefits of using the Schedule could be pushed | |

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| | more in the paper and the paper promoted as something that some consultants are using.<br><br>The Chair commented there are two issues – reducing the complexity of load cases and promotion of the E-Pile Schedule. The integration of the Schedule into Structural Engineering software packages could be pursued in due course.<br><br>The relative complexity of the paper was discussed and it was determined that keeping the requirements as simple as possible was desirable. Chis Barker suggested that the paper should be written around an E-Pile Schedule example with notes. Andy Bell noted that the paper would need to be fairly short in order to be considered for inclusion in Structural Engineering magazine.<br><br>The Chair summarised that the paper should be redrafted to be more direct and concise the tables revised to reflect the E-Pile Schedule. The paper need to get across the point that load combinations, characteristic loads and design loads were all required. James Binns committed to making the changes.<br><br>Once the Guidance Note was completed opportunities to present it at the IStrucE regional forums will be sought. | **J Binns** |
| **5** | **SONIC TESTING vs TIP TESTING** | |
| **a)** | **FPS 'Integrity Testing' Working Group**<br>Mark Pennington reminded the group that the original brief was around whether sonic testing can replace TIP testing, owing to the safety issues of sonic testing when splicing cages.<br><br>Andy Bell commented a comparison approach had been taken to educate people on the differences and make clear the safety issues with sonic logging, but also raise the issues with other testing methods as it was not viable to ban sonic logging in favour of TIP testing. The intention was to allow contractors to make an informed decision about the testing they would use on site. Andy commented that Cementation no longer use sonic logging owing to the safety issues involved. Jim De Waele queried whether this had been tested in the commercial world. Andy replied that it had, but they had to work hard to convince the client that there were viable alternatives.<br><br>Jim De Waele commented there was a view at the Quarterly that sonic logging can be used, in light of this direction to alternative testing methods should be given for circumstances where you cannot join tubes safely.<br><br>Iwan Jones commented there was a factual inaccuracy in saying that TDR and sonic echo are governed by the same theory. He committed to sending in some rewording. | **I Jones** |
| **b)** | **Research project**<br>The Secretary informed the group that there had been a discussion at the Executive Committee about the possibility of carrying out a research project that would directly compare testing methods on the same pile. Alasdair Henderson is looking at possible sources of funding to support the idea. | |
| **6** | **SPERWall** | |
| | Jim de Waele gave a presentation on what has changed in the new edition.<br><br>He explained it had taken a full year to effect the revision and make some big improvements. The layout has been kept I the same with x3 parts A, B,C. B and C sections are together when talking about the same things and Part C provides notes for | |

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| | guidance. He anticipated that the proximity to the B section meant that they are more likely to be treated as part of the specification.<br><br>Jim further commented Part B1 is useful to new comers to the industry and sets out the process for them and the responsibilities of the various designers in the scheme: Principle designer, geotechnical designer and structural designer. We are a Specialist sub-contractor designer. These responsibilities can get blurred and you may end up taking on too much responsibility. SPERWall suggests the use of the e-pile schedule.<br><br>Other notable changes include:<br>• CFA – this now requires the auger to go to the base of the pile when starting concreting in order to prevent base failures. Instrumentation is now required on CFA piles in BIM formats<br>• New section on micropiling has been added. Segmental Flight Auger taxonomy has been used. The intent is to tighten up practice in this area, which is very dependent on skill/experience of operators.<br>• New section on Helical Steel Piles. Specified the need to instrument torque and define minimum torque requirements.<br><br>It was asked what frequency of testing was required, Jim committed to updating the group on this point. Martyn Ellis asked why e-data for testing was not a requirement. Jim explained that this was a compromise and had gone into Section C with the intention of becoming Section B on the fourth edition.<br><br>The Chair thanked Jim for his presentation. | |
| **7** | **DESIGN PRACTICES FOR SELF-DRILLING ANCHORS** | |
| | Chris Irvin reported that he had spoken to Derek Egan that morning and he agree that some of the comments received on the current draft need more consideration. Chris and Derek are to meet in the coming week to review them. The issues mainly focused on who this is aimed at and corrosion protection.<br><br>It was explained that Chris Oram originally raised the issue of hollow self-drilling bar being inappropriately used to undercut bids. Hollow bar cannot provide the same level of protection from corrosion. Chris invited anyone interested in the issues to attend the meeting. Mick Gavins offered to attend as he had a number of comments too. | |
| **8** | **EUROCODES AND EXECUTION CODES** | |
| **a)** | **Revision of Eurocode 7**<br>Andrew Bond had given his apologies, as he is at a Eurocode meeting. He will circulate an update and he will attend November meeting. | **A Bond** |
| **b)** | **BS8004 Appendix A**<br>The Guidance note has been issued and is being sent to Helical Pile contractors to get their view of it. Final version shall be ready for review next meeting.<br><br>The Chair raised the issue of whether the FPS should comment on this technique given the Members did not provide it directly. It was determined in discussion that this should be put to the Executive Committee for consideration. Jon Ball commented HS2 may need helical piles so Members may find they are being asked to use this form of pile. Jon agreed to chase up CO on paper. | **S Hadley**<br>**J Ball** |
| **c)** | **Update of Codes**<br>Derek Egan was not present to update on changes. He shall be asked to provide an update for the next meeting. | **FPS Secretariat** |

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| **d)** | **Eurocode 2 Structural Capacity**<br>David Roy commented that he took this subject will provide notes to all. He noted that there are clauses in EC2 relating to non—reinforced concrete with different limits to those generally used. | |
| **9** | **BUILDING INFORMATION MODELLING** | |
| **a)** | **AGS/FPS Data Information Transfer for Piling**<br>The Chair reminded the group that following Neil Chadwick's presentation a spreadsheet for comments and the presentation were circulated. He asked whether has anyone got any comments or would like to get involved.<br><br>Chris Barker said Neil has not received any comments but has had some volunteers. If people have comments please forward before the next meeting. Chris will send names to the Secretary.<br><br>Mark Pennington said that these can circulated to the FPS BIM group who are currently dormant. He also asked that question of ownership of a Geotechnical Dataformat be raised with the Executive Committee for consideration.<br><br>It was highlighted that the AGS Data Management Conference is due to take place on the 20th September at the Motorcycle Museum in Birmingham, which will provide comprehensive information on the AGS Dataformat and its use. | **FPS Secretary** |
| **10** | **RIG BEARING PRESSURE SPREADSHEETS** | |
| | It is anticipated there will be further training in December this year but dates need to be agreed with Derek. It was noted that some Members have paid Derek to provide training directly to them, so there is no requirement to wait for the FPS to organise a training day.<br><br>It was asked whether the new spreadsheet was available on the FPS website. The Secretary explained that it was not currently owing to the imminent launch of the new website and the policy of directing people to contact the Secretariat in order to encourage them to attend the training sessions. However, it would be made available on the new website.<br><br>Jon Ball commented that at a recent DFI conference in the US the FPS piling platform certificate was being advocated as the world's leading best practice. Ciaran Jennings commented that the FPS were in contact with Mary Ellen Large and were working to see the WPC rolled out across Europe and internationally. | |
| **11** | **INDUSTRY EVENTS** | |
| | Chalk Conference<br>Taking place next year, it was reported that the deadline for abstracts has passed.<br><br>Piling Conference 2020<br>Mark Pennington has put himself forward to represent the FPS Technical Committee.<br><br>DFI EFFC Conference 2018<br>It was reported that the deadline for abstracts has passed and papers are due in October. | |
| **12** | **SOCIAL EVENTS** | |
| **a)** | FPS Annual Awards Dinner taking place on the 20 October 2017, at the Sheraton Hotel in London . | |
| **13** | **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** | |

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| | Geosynthetics – BSI have contacted the FPS seeking volunteers for the Geosynthetics committee, however there was no interest from Members to attend.<br><br>Shear box Testing – Steve Hadley reported that the Ground Forum had reported that an interpretation of a laboratory shear box text had come up with an angle of friction of 48 degrees which opened a lot of interpretation that there was a lot of clay in the material. The implications of this was that the contractor assumed degree of 48 degrees which was wrong but as a result several embankments will need to be ripped out.<br><br>Rogep – Steve Hadley also reported that there was expected to be an acceleration in the number of people included on the register following the Grenfell Disaster. It was expected that specialist trades and accreditations are to come under more scrutiny.<br><br>Piling and archaeology; Historic England wrote to Keller and a number of people from the FPS volunteered. | |
| **14** | **DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS** | |
| | • Tuesday 7th November 2017<br><br>**All meetings are to start at 10am and will be held at Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London, WC1H 9BD** | |