

FEDERATION OF PILING SPECIALISTS

MINUTES OF A TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Thursday 21st May 2020

Time: 10:00am

Location: Online via Webex

PRESENT:

Chris Barker	Arup
Tony Suckling	A-Squared Studios Ltd
David Hard	Bachy Soletanche
Owen Francis	BAM Ritchies
Steve Hadley	Central Piling
Andrew Bond	Geocentrix
Ebenezer Adenmosun	Geofirma Ltd
Chris Beynon	JRL Civil Engineering
Andrew Heathcote	Keller
David Roy	Keltbray
Christopher Fox	Murphy
Darren Milo	Murphy
Kayvan Kiany	Rock & Alluvium
Jonathan Ball	Roger Bullivant Limited
Martyn Ellis	Socotec UK
Mark Toye	Socotec UK

In the Chair: Mark Pennington BBGE

In Attendance: Ciaran Jennings FPS Secretary
Grace Hawkins FPS Secretariat

Guest: Yuli Chaido Doulala-Rigby Tensar

No	TOPIC	ACTION
1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	Apologies had been received from Andrew Bell (Cementation Skanska).	
2	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING	
	The minutes of the meeting held on the 27 th February 2020 were approved.	
3	CIRIA PROPOSED UPDATE OF THEIR 1970s PILING GUIDES	
	<p>It was noted there have been no more volunteers to input into the steering group since the last meeting, the FPS Secretariat agreed to circulate a request again.</p> <p>Tony Suckling advised that he has been promoting this but felt the FPS should be careful who they select to sit on the steering group. He noted that it was important that piling contractors steered the guide and ensured that there the image of the industry was not damaged nor individual contractors. He suggested that the FPS request three members should be appointed to the steering committee. Tony added he would be happy to join the steering group and sign a confidentiality agreement.</p> <p>David Hard asked if the FPS Executive are in support, Ciaran advised it was agreed at the last FPS Quarterly meeting that the FPS will provide a note of endorsement and provide funding and the Executive support this decision. Steve Hadley added there is an approved level of funding.</p> <p>Ciaran agreed to confirm formal agreement from the FPS to CIRIA and ask what the timeline now looks like.</p>	Ciaran Jennings

	<p>Mark Pennington asked members to put time and effort into supporting Tony, as it will be more beneficial for the industry moving forward. Steve agreed members should not be afraid to share lessons learnt, he added he would have no issue showing a pile if it had a defect. It was noted at the last meeting that there was a strong view that the knowledge gained from people in the FPS should be incorporated into the guides to benefit new people coming into the industry.</p> <p>Chis Barker advised he agrees with Tony wholeheartedly, the information being supplied from members needs to be confidentially protected. It would affect development and the owner of the site, potentially creating an issue around the sale of the site.</p> <p><i>Post Meeting Note: In addition to Tony Suckling the following people also volunteered, and names were forwarded to CIRIA;</i> Chris Beynon Andrew Bell David Hard Andrew Heathcote David Roy</p>	
4.	TENSAR PLATE TESTING	
	<p>Yuli (Chaido) Doulala-Rigby advised she recently had a discussion with Steve Hadley, on the frequency of tensar plate testing of working platforms.</p> <p>She noted a lack of testing of working platforms before use in the industry, she added Tensar get around 30 to 40 designs per month. She suggested it would be worthwhile producing an industry wide testing guidance which is not mandatory but identifies what loading should be used and contains information all in one place. Tony Suckling was surprised there is a lack of testing, he advised the information can be found in the Earthworks specification.</p> <p>Yuli advised many smaller piling contractors use piling mats, noting about 80% of piling mats that Tensar design are for smaller contractors. Steve Hadley advised there are no specific comments towards the frequency of tests in existing guidance, he suggested there is an opportunity to standardise the guidance to be included with the working platform certificate.</p> <p>Mark Pennington noted individual companies mostly have their own specifications in place.</p> <p>Andrew Bond reported that there is some mention in the new Eurocodes, there are new rules which companies should invoke. He urged members to comment on the new draft of Eurocode. David Roy advised these are type of testing that members may wish to put onto a plate. Andrew added there is an ISO standard draft, he noted it does not look like it advises the load level, members may wish to contact ISO as this will affect how the testing is done. He added that in Eurocode 7 there is some indication to minimum load testing.</p> <p>Mark advised adding an addendum to BR470 may not stop members doing what they are doing but it was noted it would be easier for Tensar to say it should be tested before being built. Steve noted the FPS membership is about 80% of the industry by value, he suggested it would be beneficial if members could send in the general frequency that they do testing and then at the next meeting, the committee can review these comments.</p> <p>Ebenezer Adenmosun felt there is an issue with smaller companies with no affiliation to the FPS, Yuli agreed and advised that they are planning to talk to these companies. Mark suggested members get feedback from their organisations and review the decision to produce guidance at the next meeting.</p>	All
5.	INTEGRITY TESTING	
	<p>Mark Pennington advised that Integrity Testing was raised at the last Quarterly and Executive meetings; there are still some views to how we can make integrity testing safer. Steve Hadley advised he is not convinced in the technology of sonic echo on CFA piles, there is an opportunity to have a discussion with the associate members from the testing houses category. There may be other methods which are more reliable.</p> <p>The committee discussed tests on piles with a void. Jonathan Ball felt none of the methods pick it up, guidance produced by the committee suggest not using just one method. Martyn Ellis agreed with Jonathan that he is not convinced, a lot of it is interpretation.</p> <p>Tony Suckling agreed with Steve that it is right to challenge this. David Roy added there should be an emphasis on education particularly towards the structural engineers.</p>	

	<p>Mark asked the Committee if they should review the previous document on integrity testing methods.</p> <p>Chis Barker suggested the Committee agrees to review this and perhaps look at educating in the form of an article to highlight the issue. Steve suggesting introducing different ways of evaluating piles, he asked if the Committee should make a revision or produce an article. Mark agreed an article would highlight instrumentation.</p> <p>Martyn volunteered to help, noting that he was involved in producing the last document.</p>	Martyn Ellis
6.	SITE INVESTIGATION DATA	
a)	<p>Guidance on Minimum Site Investigation requirements for foundation design & GI Questionnaire results</p> <p>Jonathan Ball advised he had prepared a presentation which can be given at the next meeting, he added they have collated the figures and compared the results with the results from the previous survey. However, there is some more analysis to do in terms of size of the project.</p>	Jonathan Ball
7.	EUROCODES AND EXECUTION CODES	
a)	<p>Revision of EN1997-3 Clause 6 – Pile Design</p> <p>Andrew Bond presented updates to Eurocode 7 including model pile method. He advised the terms are new and very specific. Andrew provided the Committee with a quick review and asked members for feedback. He reported that the task group are collecting critical comments and minor improvements, the FPS need to feed this through to representatives.</p> <p>Jonathan Ball reported that there was a meeting 20th May 2020 and there is a second meeting finalising updates in June.</p>	All
b)	<p>Revision of Eurocode 7</p> <p>No report was given under this item.</p>	
c)	<p>Update of Codes</p> <p>No report was given under this item.</p>	
8.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
	<p>Bored Piling & Diaphragm Walls</p> <p>David Hard, had an email from BSI asking whether there was a view to change the execution codes for bored piling when they come round for review.</p> <p>Quarterly Feedback</p> <p>Steve Hadley reported that the Quarterly meeting had been held virtually in a series of smaller group video conferences. Overall there had been good engagement with these and there was a strong consensus that getting good digital information through the supply-chain remains a priority.</p> <p>Steve advised that he has started a monthly FPS podcast and that the first with Tim Chapman of Arup is on now Spotify;</p> <p>https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/the-fps-podcast/id1513832554</p> <p>Mentoring Scheme</p> <p>Steve also highlighted that if members of the Technical committee or their colleagues are prepared to volunteer as a mentor, they should get in touch with the FPS Secretariat or Ebenezer Adenmosun. The FPS is intent upon setting up a scheme to support undergraduate/graduate engineers enter the industry – especially those from BAME backgrounds and women, who are currently underrepresented in the industry.</p> <p>Tremie Guides</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings asked Mark Pennington to enquire if a presentation on the Tremie Guides by Chris Harnan can be included in Piling 2020.</p>	
9.	DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3rd September 2020 	

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5th November 2020
To start at 10am and held online via webex. | |
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