

## Testing Datasheet No 10

### Pile Integrity Testing - A Good Practice Guide

- 1 Pile integrity testing is normally carried out after the piling contractor has left site. It is important therefore that the piling contractor provides the Principal Contractor with a specified contact person who will arrange for testing to be carried out when requested.
- 2 The contract documentation will normally specify how many visits to site are allowed to carry out the integrity testing or the minimum number of piles to be tested at each visit. This aspect can be usefully addressed during the pre-start or subsequent progress meetings.
- 3 It is good practice for the Principal Contractor to be provided with guidance on the preparation of piles for testing, specifically that:
  - The pile needs to be trimmed down to sound concrete.
  - Safe access needs to be provided for the test technician to gain access to the head of each pile.
  - The pile cap/ground beam excavations must be clear of any standing water.
  - The pile cap or ground beam reinforcement must **not** be in place.
  - Although a thin layer of blinding can be in place around the pile, it must neither cover the pile nor be greater than 75mm thick.
- 4 Where the integrity test results indicate there is an anomaly in the pile, the Principal Contractor should be advised at the earliest opportunity so that potential problems can be promptly addressed. It should be noted that anomalies identified at the time of testing may be re-evaluated after processing of the data. Hence, sufficient time in the Principal Contractor's programme should be allowed for dealing with any potential anomalies.

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