



Press Release:

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FPS Establishes Working Group to Investigate New Methods of Pile Integrity Testing

The Federation of Piling Specialists (FPS) has established a Working Group to evaluate the many new methods of indirect pile testing, to address concerns that exist over their over interpretation and ensure results are both robust and calibrated against each other and against existing direct testing methods.

With the development of a number of new methods for the integrity testing of large diameter and deep bored piles, such as Thermal Integrity Profiling (TIP testing) and optical methods, the FPS feels methods need further examination to ensure the data they provide is of practical significance before they become a mainstream choice for specifiers. Presently there is caution that the indirect nature of these new testing methods require 'calibration' against previous forms of testing to satisfy specifiers that the testing is reliable, and will provide the same or better 'visibility' of a constructed pile and its properties.

Additionally, Sonic Logging, an indirect testing method already well-established, will be examined further with a view to looking at ways of improving safety reducing safety-related issues typically arising during the placement of long telescopic logging tubes in deep bores.

Alasdair Henderson, Chair of the FPS, said: "These new indirect testing methods should be perfect for installation verification of large bored piles used in the foundations of heavy structures and in retaining walls; however it is critical that the data these new testing methods present is reliable and meaningful compared to existing testing methodologies. The primary task of the Working Group will be the 'calibration' of these new methods of testing against each other and existing pile integrity test methods so that reliable and meaningful data sets can be produced that not only endure scrutiny, but help promote these new methods to commonplace application.

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Notes to Editors | About the FPS:

Established in 1964, the Federation of Piling Specialists (FPS) has proactively worked with its members to drive up standards within the industry. From a handful of members back in the days when rotary techniques were coming into use and crane-mounted and hydraulic equipment was in its infancy, the FPS represents most of the leading piling and geotechnical specialists in the construction sector.

Its independent auditing process, which all prospective members need to go through, ensures the highest standards are met, and this audit is repeated every three years to ensure standards are maintained and continually improved.

The FPS works closely with its members to establish standards and provide guidance across all piling and geotechnical areas as well as on wider construction related issues that affect the sector such as Building Information Modelling (BIM). Safety and training are the highest priorities.

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Alasdair Henderson, Chair of the FPS