

British Drilling Association

Founded 1976

NEWSLETTER

Committed to Excellence in Health & Safety, Quality of Workmanship and Technical Standards for the Benefit of the Drilling Industry and its Clients

September, 2012

Secretary's Column

Can't let the London 2012 Olympics pass without a mention here. It was a great event series, highly successful for Team GB and I'm sure made most of us proud of the achievements. Without over egging it, the Games has reminded the world that our nation is still capable of great vision, planning, technical ability, construction and organisation.

Drilling does not get a mention of course. We couldn't expect it to. We're well used to our industry being involved at very early stages on projects. By the time the buildings and infrastructure become visible we're generally well gone. However we should be proud of all the geotechnical and geo-environmental drilling that took place several years ago on one of Europe's largest contaminated sites that is now the Olympics Park. Other drilling applications also featured at this location and other event sites.

Self indulgent, but when the gongs are handed out for those who contributed to the Olympics success, it would be good to see drilling get one. Little chance however so perhaps we'll have to mint our own gong or gold medal.

For those in drilling who played a direct part on the Olympic sites, the rest of us are envious. You've got something to tell the kids and grandchildren about. Well done.

All thoughts are welcome, call:
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BS 5930 Revision

The business case for the revision of BS 5930, Code of practice for site investigation, has been accepted by BSI (British Standards Institute). BDA is revising two of its most important sections.

It was confirmed in August to BSI Committee B526/3, on which the BDA sits, that BSI has given the go ahead to a full revision of BS 5930. This follows a business case having been put forward for its revision and retention as a Code of Practice.

BDA is responsible to B526/3 for the initial revision of Section 2 - Ground investigation and Section 3 - Field investigations. A BDA working group has been established chaired by John Grainger, the BDA's Chairman, and has commenced revision work.

The intention of B526/3 is that a full BS 5930 revision draft will be completed by end 2012 which will then be available for public consultation.

CSCS Chief Executive

The new CSCS card scheme Chief Executive, Graham Wren, is a familiar face to BDA. He was previously MD of Balfour Beatty Ground Engineering (the Piling division); FPS Chairman, and NSCC Chairman. Therefore Graham understands the drilling industry.

BDA Secretary has renewed contact twice with Graham since his May appointment and at each meeting there's been some friendly banter.

Geothermal Drilling

Work is continuing on the BDA Project, partially funded by CITB ConstructionSkills, for Geothermal Drilling. Meanwhile the MCS (Microgeneration Certificate Scheme) Standard for heat pumps is being toughened up regarding competencies required of individuals employed by, or sub contracted to installers.

The BDA Project - Geothermal Drilling Qualifications, Training and Skills Development - for which the BDA is receiving a CITB ConstructionSkills grant has been extended to August 2013. It includes everything necessary to ensure that drilling operatives engaged on shallow geothermal (ground source) operations are appropriately qualified, trained and competent. It's the drilling industry's opportunity to lay down standards and requirements for those carrying geothermal drilling. Upskilling the existing drilling workforce and putting in place formalised training for new entrants are key aims for the project.

MIS 3005, the MCS Standard for heat pump contractors, is to have tougher competency requirements for the various 'roles' within an MCS certified enterprise. An individual may perform several 'roles' but for each one will have to demonstrate a minimum level of competence which will be specified e.g. qualification etc. Drilling is defined as a role and the BDA has written the competency requirements for this. It will include NVQ, CSCS and ongoing auditing.

BDA MEMBERSHIP

New Corporate Members

We welcome these new members to the BDA and look forward to being of assistance to them.

Endeavour Drilling Ltd

Cable Percussion Drilling, Rotary Drilling, Dynamic Sampling, CBRs, Engineers, Technicians, Monitoring of Gas/Groundwater, Inclonometers

Registered Member

Clint Rose

Managing Director

**Unit 7
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tel: 01621 741300
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Environmental Reclamation Services Ltd

Geochemical & Geotechnical SI, Site Testing & Monitoring, In-Situ Remediation, Hydrogeological Testing

Registered Member

Andrew Biggerstaff

Senior Engineering Geologist

**Westerhill Road
Bishopbriggs
Glasgow
G64 2QH**

tel: 0141 772 2789
fax: 0141 762 0212

email: info@ersremediation.com

Hastings & St Leonards Drilling Co

Cable Percussion, Site Investigation, Borehole Soakaways

Registered Member

Edward Malcolm Atkinson

Owner

**1 Vale Road
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East Sussex
TN37 6PT**

tel: 01424 442875
fax: 01424 442875

email: malcolmatkinson24446@yahoo.co.uk

Oakland Site Investigation Ltd

Windowless Sampling - Premier Rig, Handheld Windowless/Window Sampling, Soakages, DPSH Probing, Concrete Coring, Hand and Machine Excavated Test Pits, CBR, Plate Bearing

Registered Member

John Essam

Director

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High Street
Upper Beeding
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BN44 3HZ**

tel: 01903 890746

email: john.essam@oaklandsi.co.uk
web: www.oaklandsi.co.uk

Soil Consultants Ltd

Ground Investigation, Geotechnical Consultancy, Contamination Appraisal

Registered Member

Stuart Wagstaff

Director

**Chiltern House
Earl Howe Road
Holmer Green
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP15 6QT**

tel: 01494 712494

email: stuart.w@soilconsultants.co.uk
web: www.soilconsultants.co.uk

BDA Dinner Dance Saturday 13th October Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

Opportunities still remain to book for the BDA's social event of the year but please let us know as soon as possible.

- Yorkshire's famous Spa town
- 4 Star hotel in heart of town
- Four course dinner
- Dancing to UK's best cover band

Book a table or come as a couple. You will be very welcome.

**For further details please see the BDA website:
www.britishdrillingassociation.co.uk
or
telephone: 01327 264622**

BDA on the WEB

***For latest news and updates visit our website
Our new website contains much needed information***

www.britishdrillingassociation.co.uk

BDA WEBSITE

www.britishdrillingassociation.co.uk

Since the launch of the new website in November 2010, we have received welcome compliments about its appearance, content and ease of use. The site is consistently receiving in excess of 130 hits a day. We are still in the process of developing more content and features so keep watching for changes.

Are your membership details correct?

Please check the site to ensure that your company title, address and contact numbers are correct. Please advise us of any changes required.

Members Activities

Each Corporate member has received a fax-back sheet on which they can list their activities. This needs returning for uploading to the BDA website. Please return it as soon as possible. If the sheet has been mislaid then please ask our office for a duplicate copy.

Your Website Link

On the fax-back sheet (see above) we offered the opportunity of a link to your own website to appear with your membership listing. Many members have already subscribed to this. Shortly we'll also be offering the addition of your company logo as part of this service. Contact our office for further details.

BDA Website Advertising

Now available is a facility for members to advertise on the BDA Website. Full details can be viewed on the website itself.

This is a great opportunity to profile your company and its services to a larger audience on a daily basis. The advertising rates compare very favourably with what's available elsewhere in order to provide a real benefit to members. Get in first before your competitors seize the undoubted opportunity.

Less or More Regulation? Why does Regulation matter anyway?

"Regulation in the drilling industry is killing it - we can't survive." That's one view. "There's not enough regulation to sort out the good boys from the bad" is an opposite view. What's the reality?

Look at the quotes above. Which one is instinctively nearest your own view? Perhaps an unfair question as most of us agree that there must always be a level of regulation otherwise it would be a free-for-all; accidents would happen; overall quality would suffer, and there'd be no common agreement on what's right or wrong.

What do we mean by "regulation"? Legally speaking, Regulations are laid down by Parliament. They're the law and everyone has to comply. Use a mobile phone while driving and you're breaking the law. Tow a trailer commercially (and a cable percussion rig is a trailer) more than 50 kilometers from your base, you have to have a tachograph and comply with driver hours. Even in these two examples people will dispute the absence of detail and say it's not clear. They'd be correct to a point in that the courts will ultimately decide on any individual case. Regulations are always written generically - they have to cover every person, company and activity. Don't expect the word "drilling" to appear in most Regulations that apply to our industry. The BDA spends a lot of time defining with regulators (HSE, EA etc) as to how each Regulation applies to our industry. Drill rig guarding is a prime example but also lifting Regulation (LOLER) and many more. The regulators respect BDA as the trade association for the ground drilling industry. Whatever the regulators and BDA agree is the ultimate advice regarding Regulation in the absence of any court judgement.

With regard to "Regulations" they are the law. The drilling sector is not big enough to change major legislation such as employment or tax law. Drilling employers have to comply. Should they choose to ignore the law on indisputable elements of the law then BDA is no supporter.

It's the area of disputable law elements that the BDA has to lead and does. Does any drill rig fall under LOLER which may have been written with cranes in mind? It most certainly does - this was agreed many years ago by BDA and HSE. Any drilling contractor not observing LOLER is non compliant. Observe that this applies to lifting accessories e.g. slings, shackles etc. and parts of assemblies e.g. lifting eyes on sinker bars.

Regulation, apart from the legal definition, is however far broader in our definition. It includes Codes of Practice (COP) which are officially issued as guidance to Regulations; British Standards (BSI), and industry guidance. In a court of law which determines the interpretation of government Regulation, COPs are taken first. In the absence of COPs, then BSIs are taken next, and then agreed industry guidance. Suffice it to say that, where drilling is concerned, the Regulations, COPs and BSIs (other than geotechnical sampling) don't particularly supply sufficient detail.

Self regulation of an industry is encouraged by government and the regulators. Government / Regulators can't be everywhere. Therefore the industry sector has to draw up what it considers as compliance with the law, and further it has to address COPs, BSI and issue industry guidance. This is the function of trade associations who command a representative membership of the sector. BDA is the body for the drilling industry that fulfills this.

Let's talk about the drilling industry. What is BDA's position regarding less or more regulation in the widest sense? It is recognised that the drilling industry is experiencing tough times. Volume of work is limited and competitive tendering has driven down prices. This is similar to many other occupations. For the BDA to advocate increased costs by increasing the burden of "regulation" would not be appropriate at this time. However the BDA recognises that existing "regulation" must be complied with and that there should always be work going on to improve existing standards.

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Less or More Regulation? continued from page 3

In order for any sector to provide quality products, have safe working and be able to differentiate between good and poor contractors, it is necessary for it to have agreed and understood benchmarks. It must also have means of checking for compliance and ways to encourage / enforce compliance. The drilling sector is no different.

It's true that the volume of Regulation (particularly health & safety); BSI Standards (especially those derived from Eurocode); qualification requirements (NVQs and on going auditing), and other requirements have grown considerably over the past twenty years. The cost of complying with everything is not inconsiderable. There are voices, especially in recessionary times, that say it's all gone too far and the costs can't be met. The temptation to cut some of these costs by effectively ignoring parts of regulation, standards and requirements is strong. Hence the "Regulation in the drilling industry is killing it - we can't survive".

The reality is that the better companies, who also incur these regulatory costs, are surviving. There can be many reasons for this including prior investment in compliant plant / equipment / personnel; diversification in new applications / methods; good management; sound pricing policies etc. etc. It's said that the larger companies can afford all the costs but this is not true. In fact the larger companies incur greater costs on a percentage basis because they're monitored more by larger clients.

Complying to regulation is a business cost. Like all other costs it should be built into overall cost and jobs then priced accordingly. The drilling industry overall should be singing from the same hymn sheet and telling every client which regulations, standards etc. have to be complied with. Very often the client has no idea what we should be complying to. If the client has no knowledge of this then how can judgement be made between competing tenders?

BDA Audit Information

BDA Audit is the successor to BDA Drilling Accreditation and differs from the former scheme in that all audited operatives possess an NVQ, level 2, in Land Drilling and valid CSCS card in Land Drilling. It's open to Lead Drillers / Drillers and any drilling discipline.

It's becoming a necessity. Clients will be specifying it in order to conform to Eurocode & British Standards - BS 22475-2 & -3 and Amendment 2 of BS 5930 - and also the revised SISG (Site Investigation Steering Group) documents. It will also be necessary for those in geothermal drilling in order to satisfy the UKAS certification scheme requirements.

Please note that the BDA Driller Accreditation Scheme was wound up in 2005. Those who belonged to it should no longer be claiming that they are currently BDA Accredited. This would be an act of misrepresentation and the Association retains the right to take action should evidence reach it of this taking place.

BDA Audit is the only accreditation now issued for drilling operatives. Don't get left behind in not being able to satisfy tender requirements. Apply for details now to the BDA office and get ahead of the crowd.

NEW PUBLICATION Contaminated Land

Guidance for Safe Intrusive Activities on Contaminated or Potentially Contaminated Land

This new document is a complete revision of the BDA "Guidance Notes for the Safe Drilling of Landfills & Contaminated Land" published in 1992. The original document became famous for introducing site categorisation - green, yellow and red - and went on to being republished by Thomas Telford as SISG Part 4.

The new document comprises 52 pages and is in A4 booklet format.

It is essential reading for all who have to specify or carry out intrusive activity on contaminated land and features much on CDM 2007 and how to decide as to the site categorisation.

The document is available from the BDA Office @ £20 + £1.50 post & packing for BDA members. Telephone 01327 264622, fax 01327 264623, email office@britishdrillingassociation.co.uk

You may also like to order the Guidance for the Safe Operation of Cable Percussion Rigs and Equipment at the same price which was published in 2005 or its sister document on Dynamic Sampling published in 2007.

AND FINALLY

The holiday season and our variable summer will be drawing to a close when you read this. Thoughts will be turning to what sort of a year has it been and, dare I say, many members will shortly have to think about a budget for 2013.

If anyone has a good crystal ball could they loan it to the Association? I'm sure that BDA members would appreciate any assistance that could be given!

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