

Reducing the risk in ground investigation

CC Ground Investigations talks here about the benefits of experience and early engagement from pre-tender stage to completion

Mitigating the risk of unforeseen ground conditions and overrunning works is vital for rail projects. The added complexities of working on tunnels, bridges, cuttings and embankments on rail infrastructure make it vital to work with experienced contractors that you can trust.

Founded in 2001, CC Ground Investigations (CCGI) started small, but fast forward 15 years and the company still maintains the core values that have driven sustained growth. It now employs 58 drillers and engineers, operating a fleet of 17 drilling rigs, which allow CCGI to offer a range of innovative solutions for most rail ground investigation scenarios and environments.

The company's experienced rail staff offer a competent, flexible service that not only allows clients to be confident in its work but to benefit from the cost savings that experience, planning and efficiency can offer. CCGI is regularly involved in projects from GRIP 3 stage and has the RISQS product codes to allow the company to undertake all the services involved in ground investigation works.

Right from the initial email, phone call or pre-tender site visit the company is looking to work with its clients to develop a programme of works that delivers accurate and comprehensive data for the design team without compromising on quality or safety.

CCGI has a well-established internal training scheme for all its drilling crews which ensures it directs and mentors staff to achieve the standards it strives for. This is backed up with industry recognised training including SSSTS, NVQ Level 2 and the Industry Common Induction for all PTS staff.

Mark Carden, CCGI director and co-founder said: 'Our staff are a credit to the organisation. We all know that the rail environment can be very testing and a 'can do' attitude goes a long way. Our experience in the culture and working systems of the railway mean our staff buy into our safe systems of work and ensure that work is carried out safely.'

In the last 18 months CCGI has bought





four new Fraste PL-G rotary rigs, a 7.5ton truck mounted Vector HDD Vacuum Excavation unit, Geotool LMSR modular rig and two new Dando Terrier rigs. This investment represents part of a rolling replacement policy that ensures reliable and up-to-date equipment is used at all times.

'The new lightweight Dando terrier rig is particularly exciting,' explained CCGI director Rob Clarke. 'By utilising an alloy frame Dando have managed to reduce the weight of the rig by over 100kg giving it unrestricted use when being manoeuvred to and from position on track trolleys.'

'Another innovation we are bringing to the market is a modular window sample rig capable of casing boreholes, undertaking SPTs/undisturbed sampling and dynamic probing. This modular rig will allow access into difficult borehole locations, such as congested CESS areas and sloping ground. Look out for this in the near future.'

Great Western Electrification Programme (GWEP)

CCGI was involved at an early stage with Hochtief and designers, to establish ground conditions and structural conditions at 60

bridge structures along the Bath Corridor. CCGI visited all the sites to establish best approach and the most cost-effective method of undertaking the GI while still providing the designers with the data they required. Using its own crawler mounted multipurpose rotary rigs it was able to access into restricted locations and two years on the good working relationship continues.

New station at Worcester Parkway

This two phase project saw CCGI act as principle contractor for the phase one off-track works that included rotary boreholes and window sample boreholes, road design and trial pitting before going onto the infrastructure for phase two. CCGI liaised closely with the BAPA team in booking and planning the possessions for the ground investigation and also provided support to the County Council when dealing with the intricacies of working on and around the railway infrastructure.

Frameworks

CCGI is currently supporting regional main contractors in the North (including Northern Hub), Midlands and South Wales undertaking ground investigations most weeks/weekends for work including cutting/embankment stabilisations, bridge structure replacements and track lowering works.

Contact Mark Carden
Tel: 01452 739165
Email: info@ccground.co.uk
Website: www.ccground.co.uk

