



**STRUCTURAL
SOILS LTD**

Recent projects

West Ham, London

Ground investigation for a flood alleviation scheme including a deep sewer access shaft. The site work included 12 cable percussion boreholes to 20 m depth, several of which were extended to 40 m depth by rotary coring. Multiple casing strings were required owing to contaminated ground, and there was an unexploded ordnance risk on the site.

The client was Thames Water and the project value was £200,000.

Sizewell C

Supplementary ground investigation to establish geotechnical and chemical properties of a body of peat. Work included forty 10-m cable percussion boreholes with piston sampling. The client was British Energy and the project value was £110,000.



Cable percussive boreholes

For large-scale projects and where difficult ground conditions are encountered at a site, cable percussive boreholes are a common method of site investigation. Using a Land Rover-towed rig or a specialist cut down rig suited to restricted access locations, most sites can be investigated. In situ testing techniques including standard penetration testing, permeability testing and borehole vane testing can all be carried out in the boreholes in order to allow our engineers to provide information for geotechnical design. Disturbed and undisturbed samples are retrieved from the boreholes for inspection by engineers and subsequent testing in our laboratories.

Instrumentation such as gas and groundwater monitoring standpipes, piezometers, inclinometers and extensometers can be readily installed in cable percussion boreholes. Boreholes are logged by suitably qualified engineers and geologists.

How can we help?

If you are planning any development involving construction, you are likely to require a site investigation. Structural Soils Limited (an RSK company) is always pleased to offer advice at an early stage and will provide information on geology, recommended investigation techniques and suggested scopes of work, usually without charge. In return we would expect to be invited to quote or provide a price for the investigation. Owing to our competitive pricing structure, we win approximately 40–50% of contracts priced. We then undertake the works using the most relevant equipment available. Common methods used on site include trial pitting, dynamic sampling, cable percussion drilling and rotary drilling, but we also have access to geophysical methods and static cone penetration testing. Geotechnical laboratory testing is undertaken in our laboratories in Bristol, Castleford and Hemel Hempstead, and chemical testing is undertaken by an accredited laboratory with which we have strong and long-standing relations.

Factual and interpretive reports are prepared by our team of experienced engineers, geologists and environmental scientists, and provide advice on foundation solutions, contamination levels and remediation options.

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