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Website: www.ags-hk.org

## GROUND INVESTIGATION GUIDELINES 04.3 - DEEP EXCAVATIONS

## What do we need to know?

### **General Information Needed**

- Anticipated location and depth of temporary and permanent support systems
- Geological Model
- Thickness & type of material to be excavated, including variability
- Depth to competent strata
- Groundwater profile
- Variability of groundwater conditions (i.e. tidal, transient, artesian)?
- Risk of settlement due to dewatering etc.
- Adjacent structures sensitive to movement?
- · Existing utilities or structures (water/gas mains, tunnels, cables, etc)?

Scheme layout drawings & available GI records

> Drillholes, geophysics, cone penetration tests, probing, trial

Locate piezometers at permeability contrasts

\*Instrumentation

Existing plans

Pre-condition surveys, including settlement markers and tilt plate, for existing adjacent structures. Base-line monitoring

#### Sampling

Cohesive Soils: U100/U76/Mazier (transported soils or saprolites)

Piston (v.soft-soft soils)

Granular soils: Bulk samples, SPT split spoon U100/U76 & disturbed samples

Rock:

Double tube coring to prove rock. Air foam/mud flush (& triple tube drilling) through fault gouge or hydrothermally altered rock.

Groundwater

## Typical Properties to be Determined

- Properties of material to be excavated
- Properties of ground beneath excavation
- Properties of adjacent underlying ground
- Look for layers of high or low permeability that could affect dewatering

Earth pressures acting on support systems (temporary & permanent)

Water pressures acting on support systems (seepage) Stability and bearing capacity of base of excavation Settlement/movement parameters

Parameters for soil/structure interaction of support system/ surrounding ground

Likely depth of penetration of support system for stability/ groundwater cut-off

GW inflow and the need for recharge wells (to control settlement)

#### Others:

- Chemical properties of ground & variability
- Contamination of excavated material for disposal

#### **Typical Required Design Parameters**

#### In situ tests:

CPT, SPT, In situ density, impression packer/BH televiewer, pressuremeter

#### **Laboratory Tests:**

PSD, PI, natural w%, shear box, undrained triaxial, oedometer, effective stress shear strength

#### \*\*Groundwater testing:

Water pressure profile Packer tests Permeability tests Pumping tests

## **Chemical Tests:**

Cl. pH, SO<sub>3</sub>, redox

#### **Contamination Tests:**

**EPD Tech Circular** 1-1-92, PROPECC PN3/94, ETWB 34/2002, PNAP 152 & 155

Notes: \* Consideration should be given to early installation of geotechnical and structural instrumentation for the works to enable suitable baseline monitoring data to be obtained.

If possible, pump wells should be located outside the planned excavated area to reduce risk of piping failure through the backfilled well during excavation. If it is necessary to install the well inside the excavation area, proper grouting with bentonite - cement on completion of the pump test will be required & should be specified.

### **Deep Excavation - General Characteristics**



