



Association of Geotechnical & Geoenvironmental Specialists

ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

THUR 19TH MARCH 2026 | 08:30 – 17:15 | ONE GREAT GEORGE STREET, LONDON, SW1P 3AA



WELCOME TO THE 2026 AGS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

We are pleased to welcome you to the AGS Annual Conference 2026. This conference is

one of the highlights of the AGS calendar, bringing together professionals from across consultancy, contracting, academia and the wider supply chain. It allows us not only to share technical knowledge but to reflect on the challenges facing our industry and the direction we are collectively heading in.

Today's programme has been carefully planned to reflect the issues that matter most to our sector right now and follow the theme, challenges in geoscience. We will explore the complexities of unforeseen ground conditions and contractual risk, examine practical questions around drainage design and soakaway testing, and hear about managing pressurised gases during drilling. Sustainability and carbon reduction remain front and centre, and we will be discussing how carbon calculators are shaping geoscience decision-making in real-world projects.

We will also look ahead, with a panel discussion focused on the future of geoscience and how we inspire, support and retain early career professionals, which is critical to the long-term health of our industry. Later sessions will tackle evolving approaches to CDM, advances in laboratory testing and uncertainty, and the role of instrumentation and monitoring in delivering safer, more efficient projects.

I would like to thank our session chairs, speakers and panellists for their time and expertise, and of course everyone here today for being part of the AGS community. I encourage you to ask questions, share experiences and make the most of the networking opportunities throughout the day.

As a trade association, we are constantly trying to improve our service. If you have any feedback on the event which you'd like to share, please do email ags@ags.org.uk or complete the survey which will be emailed across post-event.

I hope you find the conference informative, thought-provoking and enjoyable.

Alex Lee
AGS Chair

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

08:30: REGISTRATION

09:15: SESSION ONE

Chaired by Alex Lee, AGS Chair and Partner at HKA

OPENING ADDRESS

Alex Lee, AGS Chair and Partner at HKA

UNFORESEEN GROUND CONDITIONS AND CONTRACTS

Daniel Johnson, Senior Associate at HFW and Joanne Wilkins, Senior Associate at HFW

BRE 365 SOAKAWAY TESTING: SHOULD IT BE UNDERTAKEN IN GEOLOGIES THAT PREVIOUS TESTING HAS SHOWN TO BE UNSUITABLE FOR SOAKAWAY / INFILTRATION DRAINAGE?

Simon Ruddlesden, Director at Ruddlesden Geotechnical



REFRESHMENT BREAK

11:15: SESSION TWO

Chaired by Lucy Bethell, Technical Director (Contaminated Land) at Mott MacDonald and Deputy Chair of SiLC PTP

MANAGING PRESSURISED GASES DURING DRILLING

Steve Wilson, Technical Director at EPG



CARBON CALCULATORS IN GEOSCIENCE: THE CHALLENGES IN BALANCING INNOVATION, INVESTIGATION, AND COST IN SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS

Sarah Cook, Director at Onyx Geo Consulting

LUNCH

13:20: SESSION 3

Chaired by Julia Nicholson, Sales Manager at Bauer Equipment and Vice Chair of the FPS Safety, Plant and Operations Committee

PANEL DISCUSSION THE FUTURE OF GEOSCIENCE: INSPIRING AND SUSTAINING EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS

Chaired by Dr Iain Stewart, UNESCO Chair of Geoscience & Society and Professor of Geoscience Communication at the University of Plymouth.



PANELLISTS: Luisa Hendry (Geology Communicator @scottishgeologist) Dr Nick Koor (Director and Owner of Koor Associates) Dr Ian Carr (Head of Subject for Geology and Environmental Science at The College of Richard Collyer) Jenny Boland (Director of Membership & Development at The Geological Society) Hebah Abdel-Hady (Senior Geo-environmental Consultant at Arcadis and Oliver Savill) Geotechnical Engineer at AtkinsRéalis

WHAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT 'CDM DIFFERENTLY'?

Tony Putsman, Director at Xenophon Project Services



REFRESHMENT BREAK

15:15: SESSION 4

Chaired by Laura Devoy, Contracts Manager at Dunelm Geotechnical and Environmental and Member of the BDA Technical and Standards Sub-Committee

INSTRUMENTATION AND MONITORING – THE CARROT OR THE STICK?

Tim Clegg, Managing Director at Geosense

ASSESSING AND IMPROVING TESTING UNCERTAINTY IN GEOTECHNICAL LABORATORIES: THE PICTS SCHEME

Neda Mokaram, Geotechnical Project Manager (Advanced and Research Laboratory) at Geolabs

CLOSING ADDRESS

Alex Lee, AGS Chair and Partner at HKA

16:30 – 17:15: NETWORKING DRINKS AND CANAPE RECEPTION

#AGSANNUALCONFERENCE26

SPEAKERS AND PRESENTATIONS



SESSION 1 CHAIR ALEX LEE

AGS Chair and Partner
at HKA

Dr Alexander Lee has over 25 years of experience in ground risk and remediation and specialises as an expert witness. He is a Chartered Geologist and Scientist, a regular chair and presenter at both domestic and international conferences and is the outgoing chair of the National Brownfield Forum. He sits on the NQMS Steering Group, was a former Chair of the Society of Brownfield Risk Assessors and is an Accredited Risk Assessor.



DANIEL JOHNSON

Senior Associate at HFW

Daniel is a qualified lawyer and Senior Associate in HFW's Construction Team, specialising in construction disputes and avoidance. He has worked on infrastructure, oil and gas, offshore wind and other heavy engineering projects. He often works on cases involving complex technical issues and has extensive experience of advising contractors, sub-contractors, consultants, employers and insurers on a wide range of projects, both in the UK and internationally.



JOANNE WILKINS

Senior Associate at HFW

Joanne is a qualified lawyer and Senior Associate in HFW's Construction team. Joanne has advised on large infrastructure and engineering disputes both in the UK and internationally. She has particular experience in offshore construction, energy from waste and renewables. She advises contractors, employers and subcontractors on large scale projects across a variety of sectors including infrastructure, hydro-electric, oil & gas and offshore construction.

PRESENTATION

Unforeseen Ground Conditions and Contracts

Presented by Daniel Johnson and Joanne Wilkins
Unknown site conditions, and particularly ground risk, are among the most common sources of disputes on construction projects. In this session, we will explore how unforeseen ground conditions are dealt with under construction contracts. Specifically, we will explore the appropriate allocation of risk for ground conditions, discuss the importance of site data and relied upon information, consider the potential claims relating to ground

conditions under different contracts, and highlight common challenges faced by parties pursuing or defending such claims.



SIMON RUDDLESDEN

Director at Ruddlesden
Geotechnical

Simon is a Chartered Geologist who for the last 20+ years has been the director of Ruddlesden Geotechnical, a small ground investigation and geotechnical consultancy, based in Exeter, Devon. He has carried out more soakaway tests than he would like to admit.

PRESENTATION

BRE 365 Soakaway Testing: Should it be Undertaken in Geologies That Previous Testing Has Shown to Be Unsuitable for Soakaway/ Infiltration Drainage?

Presented by Simon Ruddlesden

Currently, at the request of regulators, large-scale BRE 365 soakaway tests are almost always undertaken to assess whether or not ground conditions are suitable for soakaway/ infiltration drainage, regardless of the geology. BRE 365 soakaway testing is relatively dangerous, mainly due to working at height risks, and is relatively resource-heavy, with regards to fuel/ carbon, water, time and money. Could we, as an industry, produce a map, using our collective soakaway/ infiltration testing results, to provide confidence to all involved in soakaway testing and infiltration drainage design, including regulators, that certain geologies do not need BRE 365 testing to demonstrate that ground conditions are unsuitable for soakaway/ infiltration drainage?



SESSION 2 CHAIR LUCY BTHELL

Technical Director
(Contaminated Land)
at Mott MacDonald and
Deputy Chair of SiLC PTP

Lucy is a Technical Director in contaminated land at Mott MacDonald and is a registered Specialist in Land Condition (SiLC). Lucy has over 20 years of experience in the sector and has worked on a range of brownfield projects in the UK, Europe and Africa. Lucy has a keen interest in emerging contaminants, Antimicrobial Resistance and big-picture cross-discipline challenges.



STEVE WILSON

Technical Director
at EPG

Steve is a Chartered Civil Engineer with 40 years' experience of geotechnical

engineering and surface water drainage design. He is one of the authors of the SuDS Manual and is a member of the team that is developing the Manual into the Rainwater Management Platform. He has extensive worldwide experience and the use of alternative infiltration and permeability tests to BRE365.

PRESENTATION

Managing Pressurised Gases During Drilling

Presented by Steve Wilson

Pressurised methane can potentially occur in many locations when drilling in the UK. The risk it can pose were highlighted in 2024 when a geothermal borehole encountered pressurised methane at around 100m depth and this ultimately resulted in an explosion in which two people were tragically killed. This presentation will discuss the risk assessment that is required under the CDM Regulations when planning the drilling of deep boreholes and factors that should be considered. It will describe some of the situations where pressurised gas is known to occur and the precautions that should be in place during drilling.



SARAH COOK

Director at Onyx Geo
Consulting

Sarah Cook is a Director and Technical Lead for Sustainability at Onyx Geo Consulting with over 20 years' experience in the environmental sector. She is a Chartered Geologist and qualified in Environmental Law and Practice, focusing on the sustainable remediation of brownfield sites. Sarah is in the AGS Sustainability Working Group and is currently developing a series of carbon calculator tools for site investigation and assist clients in sustainable development design.

PRESENTATION

Carbon Calculators in Geoscience: The Challenges in Balancing Innovation, Investigation, and Cost in Sustainable Projects

Presented by Sarah Cook

This presentation begins by examining the challenges of integrating new digital tools, such as carbon calculators, into established work practices. It will then explore the application of carbon calculators to quantify and manage the environmental impact of ground investigations. It will demonstrate how carbon accounting supports investigation design,

enabling practitioners to balance technical innovation, data quality, and cost efficiency. By linking carbon metrics with investigation planning, logistics, and material use, this session demonstrates how robust early-stage characterisation can reduce uncertainty, minimise embodied carbon, and deliver measurable sustainability gains across the project lifecycle.



SESSION 3 CHAIR JULIA NICHOLSON

Sales Manager at
Bauer Equipment
and Vice Chair of the
FPS Safety, Plant and
Operations Committee

Julia has eleven years' experience in the piling industry. After completing a Master's in Geology, Julia began her

career as a Geotechnical Engineer at Roger Bullivant where she progressed to Ground Improvement Manager. She is an active member of the Federation of Piling Specialists and previously served as Chair of the Early Careers Group. She is currently Vice Chair of the Safety, Plant and Operations Committee.

PANEL DISCUSSION SPEAKERS



[PANEL CHAIR] DR IAIN STEWART

UNESCO Chair of
Geoscience & Society and
Professor of Geoscience and
Communication at the

University of Plymouth.

Iain Stewart is Professor of Geoscience Communication at the University of Plymouth and a public broadcaster with BBC Science. In his role as UNESCO Chair in Geoscience and Society and as founder and inaugural Director of the University of Plymouth's Sustainable Earth Institute, Iain is responsible for the research and progressive contributions to geoscience and society. Iain is a global advocate for links between geoscience and sustainable development.



LUISA HENDRY

Geology Communicator
@scottishgeologist

Luisa is a science communicator and founder of Scottish Geology Tours who creates educational videos reaching up to 3M people each month. Luisa makes geology accessible to a wide audience of over 600K followers and is passionate about promoting the subject. Her work includes filming, content creation, talks, tours, TV/ Radio appearances and collaborations with the industry and inspiring public interest in geology and Earth Science.



DR NICK KOOR

Director and Owner of
Koor Associates

Nick is an expert in Geological Engineering, with over 40 years' experience. He has worked as a consultant and as an academic in university education and applied research. Nick works as a technical expert and is currently Visiting Associate Professor at the



DR IAN CARR

Assistant Director
of the Science and
Maths Faculty, Head
of Subject for Geology
and Environmental
Science at The College

of Richard Collyer

Dr Ian Carr is the A-level Geology teacher at Collyer's in Horsham. His international fieldwork experience, gained from the Middle East, Arctic and North Africa, has inspired a generation of geologists. He has worked in the geotechnical industry and published post-graduate sedimentological research from three British Universities.



JENNY BOLAND

Director of Membership
& Development at The
Geological Society

Jenny leads membership and professional development strategy at the Geological Society, working across the geoscience community to strengthen engagement, inclusion and professional growth. She works with colleagues on the Society's This is Geoscience campaign, highlighting the vital role and future of geoscience in society.



HEBAH ABDEL-HADY

Senior Geo-
environmental
Consultant at Arcadis

Hebah specialises in contaminated land risk assessment with over 9 years' experience in a variety of public and private sectors. She conducts Detailed Quantitative Risk Assessments, including the assessment of sites

under Part 2A. Hebah leads a team of consultants and sits on the CL:AIRE Technology and Research Group as an Early Career Person. In 2023 Hebah was awarded Best Early Career Brownfield Professional at the Brownfield Awards.



OLIVER SAVILL

Geotechnical Engineer
at AtkinsRéalis

Oliver is a Chartered Geotechnical Engineer at AtkinsRéalis with 5 years' industry experience following graduation with a Civil and Environmental Engineering masters from the University of Exeter. Oliver has worked in geotechnical design, geohazard identification and remediation, asset management, and remote sensing, and has been actively involved in supporting academia through STEM events, university lectures, and facilitating PhD research.

PANEL DISCUSSION

The Future of Geoscience: Inspiring and Sustaining Early Career Professionals

The geoscience sector has long expressed concern over declining student numbers, particularly at higher education level. While some recent research suggests that enrolments may in fact be stabilising, and even rising in some areas, the profession continues to face challenges in attracting and retaining the next generation of talent.

This discussion will bring together voices from across academia, industry, and professional bodies to examine the latest trends in geoscience education and early careers. Discussion will focus on how to sustain and build on recent positive signs, while addressing ongoing barriers such as visibility of the profession, diversity, and competition with adjacent disciplines.

By sharing practical strategies, the panel will explore how the industry can collectively ensure that geoscience remains an attractive, accessible, and thriving career path.



TONY PUTSMAN
Director at Xenophon Project Services

Tony is a chartered civil engineer and qualified coach. He developed an interest in the 'people'

aspect of construction whilst working for major contractors and went on to set up his own risk management consultancy in 2002. Tony has worked with clients in all sectors of the industry as well as the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Institution of Civil Engineers.

PRESENTATION

What is Different about 'CDM Differently'?

Presented by Tony Putzman

The CDM 2015 Regulations instituted some significant changes to the requirements for satisfying legal duties when construction projects are conceived, designed and delivered.

In particular, the focus on what the HSE called 'unnecessary bureaucracy' should have been addressed by an industry that equates paperwork with a commitment to health and safety.

Recent experience, including working with Socotec, has reinforced the view that understanding of the Regulations is still very limited and the paperwork problem is widespread.

This presentation will outline how applying a 'CDM Differently' approach can help project teams to set a clear strategy for minimising risk and ensuring that the value of adequate site investigation is recognised from the start.



SESSION 4 CHAIR LAURA DEVOY

Contracts Manager, Scotland at Dunelm Geotechnical and Environmental and Member of the BDA

Technical and Standards Sub-Committee

Laura Devoy is a geologist with 10 years of experience in the Ground Investigation industry. Laura is part of the Technical and Standards sub-committee within the BDA and regularly attends meetings. She has worked on a range of projects in both a contracting and consultancy role and is passionate about STEM outreach.



TIM CLEGG
Managing Director at Geosense

Tim is the Managing Director of Geosense, a UK based, global supplier of geotechnical

instruments that supports clients to mitigate their geotechnical risk. Growing up around the ground investigation

industry he has spent more than 13 years within the Instrumentation and Monitoring industry. Tim is the AGS I&M Working Group leader, which is focused on flying the flag for instrumentation and developing best practise and education.

PRESENTATION

Instrumentation and Monitoring – The Carrot or the Stick?

Presented by Tim Clegg

Risk is everywhere. We work with it, manage it and mitigate it every day. When we get it wrong, risk can often turn into disaster. Understandably, these are the events that we talk most about. However, opportunity is everywhere. We work with it, manage it and capitalise on it every day. Tim will explore the notion of Instrumentation and Monitoring through two lenses, the carrot and the stick. Exploring why it is important to be respectful of the risk but also to understand the opportunity of using data to better understand reality and how it shouldn't be one or the other.



NEDA MOKARAM
Geotechnical Project Manager (Advanced and Research Laboratory) at Geolabs

Neda is the Geotechnical Project Manager of the

Advanced and Research Laboratory at Geolabs Limited, where she manages complex testing programmes. She is a hands-on geotechnical engineer with expertise in advanced element testing, especially with dynamic (cyclic) behaviour of soils. She also serves as an elected Trustee on the BGA Executive Committee, advocating for laboratory professionals within the industry.

PRESENTATION

Assessing and Improving Testing Uncertainty in Geotechnical Laboratories: The PICTS Scheme

Presented by Neda Mokaram

UKAS Accreditation alone is not always sufficient to ensure accurate and reliable laboratory test results. This presentation explores how proficiency testing provides an additional, practical measure of quality by comparing results between different laboratories to assess uncertainty and performance. With examples from the long-running Proficiency and Interlaboratory Comparison Testing Scheme (PICTS) – established and managed by Geolabs Limited since 2005 – this presentation demonstrates how proficiency testing highlights uncertainty in common soil and rock tests, identifies procedural weaknesses, and ultimately derives consistency, confidence, and continual improvement in geotechnical laboratory testing.

AGS WORKING GROUPS

The AGS consists of nine Working Groups, plus the Executive Committee. Each Working Group brings together experts and representatives from across the industry to agree and shape best practice and collaborate to find the consensus on the issues that affect our members and the wider industry.

Our Working Groups meet four times a year. If you'd like to join a working group or would like any further information on its activities, email Katie Kennedy on ags@ags.org.uk.

BUSINESS PRACTICE WORKING GROUP

Working Group Leader: Geraint Williams, Associate Technical Director at HKA

The Business Practice Working Group are responsible for the governance, finances, promotion of the AGS and liaison with other organisations. Their work over the last year includes:

- Surveying of members on the AGS' priorities for 2026.
- Signing the Memorandum of Understanding and Terms of Reference with CIRIA, IOM3 and GBA. Also increasing engagement and improved collaborations with GAOF, BDA, Geol Soc, IStructE, FPS and BGA.
- Updating Business and Marketing Plans, including KPIs and Risk Register.

CONTAMINATED LAND WORKING GROUP

Working Group Leader: Geraint Williams, Associate Technical Director at HKA

This Group works to keep AGS Members informed of developments to do with contaminated land and the environment. It provides advice and feedback to other organisations, committees and government bodies on documentation and policy. Over the past 12 months, the Group has:

- Consulted on v3 of the DoWCoP.
- Contributed to the drafting of BS 10175 and BS 8576 and continued involvement in C4SL and National Brownfield Forum. The group have also been participating in an initiative to update the former Department of Environment Industrial Profiles.
- Published articles in AGS Magazine including Gas Monitoring and the AGS format; Interpreting Historical Soil Data: Analytical Challenges and Evolving Methods and Monitoring Turbidity within Groundwater during Piling Operations.

DATA MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

Working Group Leader: Jackie Bland, Principal Ground Investigation Data Manager at Structural Soils

Formed in 1992 the Data Management Working Group is responsible for developing the AGS Data Format, monitoring its use and revising the format to meet the needs of users. Since March 2025, the Group has:

- Delivered a highly successful AGS Data Conference in December 2025 to 140 delegates at the Thinktank Science Museum in Birmingham.
- The group delivered the AGS 4.2 document.
- The Working Group also attended a 2-day event in Birmingham for planning the AGS5 data transfer format. They also held a focus group, continuing investigation on AGS5 which plans to be delivered circa 2030.

GEOTECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

Working Group Leader: Alex Dent, Associate Director at WSP

The Geotechnical Group work to promote technical excellence to the wider geotechnical engineering professional community and to raise awareness of the need for geotechnical engineering input to all construction projects and land asset management to clients and asset owners. Throughout the past year, the Group have:

- Delivered active and fruitful collaborations with the North American Geoprofessional Business Association (GBA), IStructE and IOM3.
- Created active subgroups which are dealing with the Next Generation Eurocodes, Infiltration Testing and Underpinning.
- Published the Client Guide to CPT Testing and articles in AGS Magazine including an article on Foundation Reuse.

INSTRUMENTATION AND MONITORING WORKING GROUP

Working Group Leader: Tim Clegg, Managing Director at Geosense

The Instrumentation & Monitoring (I&M) Working Group aims to promote geotechnical, structural, and environmental instrumentation and monitoring to the geotechnical, geoenvironmental, and wider ground engineering community. Some of their recent activities include:

- Completed a survey about the view of I&M which will be rolled out to a wider audience.

- Delivered a webinar on, Instrumentation and Monitoring – Data Driven Actions in February.
- Increased group membership to include a wider group of the supply chain which better represents the full industry.

LABORATORIES WORKING GROUP

Working Group Leader: Dr Ken Scally, Adjunct Professor at Normec DETS and Latis Scientific Laboratories.

The Laboratories Working Group deals with issues surrounding testing, safety and quality that relate to the accurate analysis of the fluids, soils, gases and materials found in the ground. Over the past 12 months, the Group completed the below activities to name but a few:

- Technical collaboration with external experts sharing best practice and technical presentations on laboratory capability development, equipment performance, and field-laboratory correlation initiatives.
- The group are active in the development, review, and alignment of analytical and safety standards, including PFAS methods (CAS number harmonisation, draft HPLC-MS standards). They have also continued engagement with UKAS and other organisations.
- Addressed laboratory quality and safety issues through work on bioaccessibility, chemical safety support, equipment standards, and engagement with manufacturers and suppliers to improve consistency and performance across geotechnical and geoenvironmental laboratories.

LOSS PREVENTION WORKING GROUP

Working Group Leader: Jo Strange, Director at Jo Strange Consulting

This Working Group provides information and advice to enable management of risk to benefit of both members and clients. The Group's activities include the preparation of Loss Prevention Alerts, Loss Prevention Guidance, Client Guides and Magazine articles about current and emerging legal, contractual and insurance issues. They have recently:

- Published the AGS Glossary of 'Need to Know' Intellectual Property Terms.
- Published several articles in AGS Magazine including, Increasing and Emerging Environmental Disputes, Why Use Licensed Water Standpipes and The Building Safety Act 2022: A Snapshot of What You Need to Know.
- Reviewed and updated several historic Loss Prevention Alerts (LPA) and published multiple pertinent LPAs.



SAFETY WORKING GROUP

Working Group Leader: Elizabeth Withington, Principal Engineering Geologist at CC Ground Investigations

The Safety Working Group's aims are to promote safety awareness for the geotechnical and geoenvironmental industry. The group have recently taken part in the following activities:

- In September 2025 the Group hosted a highly successful webinar entitled, Trial Pitting: Controlling the Risks. 478 delegates registered to attend.
- Following on from the webinar, the Group have formed a trial pitting subgroup who are working on the challenges associated with Trial Pits.
- The Group have been working on the AGS Health & Safety Manual. Safety guidance is published on a topic-by-topic basis and the Working Group hope to collate all guidance into one document this year.

SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP

Working Group Leader: Alison Nicholson, Geoenvironmental Team Lead, Associate Director at Buro Happold

This working group aims to promote and encourage sustainable practices and decision making in the field of geotechnical and geoenvironmental science. The group have recently been focusing on:

- On 12th June 2025, the group held a webinar entitled, Sustainability – Practical Steps for AGS Members. 162 delegates registered to attend.
- The Group launched the AGS Sustainability Charter.
- Currently completing beta testing of the Site Investigation Carbon Calculator.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPONSORS

SOIL ENGINEERING

Soil Engineering Geoservices provide market-leading capabilities in drilling and testing related disciplines. From Ground Investigation to Drilling & Grouting, Laboratory Testing to Instrumentation & Monitoring, we support your geotechnical journey every step of the way. Talk to us to see how, as part of the country's most capable family of geotechnical businesses, we can fulfil your ambitions. www.soil-engineering.co.uk



SOCOTEC UK

SOCOTEC UK is a leading provider of testing, inspection, and certification services for the construction, infrastructure, and environmental industries. They offer a wide range of services to help clients manage risk and ensure asset integrity, supporting them throughout the entire lifecycle of their projects. www.socotec.co.uk/our-services/ground-investigation-services



IGNE

Igne specialises in geo-environmental and geotechnical ground investigation, site surveys, UXO mitigation, materials testing, water and geothermal supplies. We deliver innovative solutions to pre-construction and infrastructure challenges, are committed to quality, reliability, and partnership, and support clients across the UK achieve exceptional project outcomes on time, on budget and safely. www.igne.com



GROUNDSURE

Groundsure provides data to gain insights on environmental risks for site assessment and development. Our unique, unrivalled library includes the largest historical land use data, current and historical mapping and unique datasets. Additionally with Groundsure Explorer, geotechnical clients can integrate site risk data into their project workflow seamlessly and easily. www.groundsure.com



BRIMSTONE UXO

Brimstone UXO reduces the risks of unexploded ordnance through innovation, expertise, and advanced technologies. We support the geological, environmental, construction and defence sectors, with the capabilities to offer a full spectrum of UXO risk mitigation services, from initial risk assessments to final explosive demolitions. www.brimstoneuxo.com



EIJKELKAMP FRASTE UK

Eijkelkamp Fraste UK specialises in delivering high-quality drilling equipment and soil investigation solutions. Combining Fraste's innovative drilling rigs with Eijkelkamp's expertise in environmental and geotechnical tools. We provide reliable equipment and services for industries such as construction, mining, and environmental monitoring, ensuring precision, efficiency, and sustainability across projects. www.efrigs.co.uk



VAN WALT

Van Walt Ltd, suppliers of equipment and solutions for soil and water research. For over 40 years we have developed our expertise and experience to bring you best-in-class equipment for soil, water and groundwater monitoring. Our team design, source, install, supply, rent and repair equipment for environmental research. www.vanwalt.com



NORMEC I2 ANALYTICAL

Normec i2 Analytical offers extensive analytical services encompassing Environmental Chemistry, Materials and Geotechnical Testing, Site Services and Air Testing across a wide range of industries. Complemented by exceptional customer service, with streamlined in-house logistics, Normec i2 Analytical has a client-centric approach to delivering accurate results and expert guidance for informed decision-making and regulatory compliance. www.norm.ec/i2analytical



BAM RITCHIES

BAM Ritchies the Ground Engineering Contractor of the Year 2025, delivers SMARter Ground Engineering built on over 60 years' experience. We have a reputation as the go-to ground engineering team for problem solving and sustainable delivery. We use industry-leading digital construction methods to stage digital rehearsals, so you'll know exactly what to expect from your project. www.bamnuttall.co.uk/groundengineering



AFITEXINOV UK LTD

AFITEXINOV UK LTD is a specialist manufacturer of geosynthetic solutions for over 30 years. Our services are focused on applications such as structural drainage, water barrier linings and soil reinforcement solutions. Our focus industry sectors are in geotechnical applications in public works, environmental projects, residential developments and mining activities. www.afitex.co.uk



GEOSENSE

Geosense is an award-winning UK manufacturer of instrumentation used in over 100 countries for the design and construction of earth structures, basements, foundations, and linear infrastructure. Our range of sensors, including MEMS inclinometers, vibrating wire piezometers, and data acquisition systems provide reliable, real-time data with major projects including HS2, Melbourne Metro, Australia and Grand Paris, France. www.geosense.com



LANDMARK INFORMATION GROUP

Realise the untapped potential of geodata and location insight with single point access to the biggest, most comprehensive and accurate datasets across property, land and environment in the UK. From mapping and environmental reports to consultancy services, we have the tools, capabilities and expertise to help you make more informed decisions faster. www.landmark.co.uk



SOILSAFE

As developer and researcher of the novel and sustainable Advanced Continuous Surface Wave (ACSW) shear wave velocity profiling system, SoilSafe holds specialist knowledge valuable for the development of ground engineering practice and are committed to developing sustainable solutions in line with UK net zero targets. www.soilsafe.co.uk



IN SITU SITE INVESTIGATION

In Situ Site Investigation is a specialist geotechnical and geo-environmental site investigation company carrying out all aspects of Cone Penetration Testing (CPT) techniques as well as all methods of Pressuremeters. Our expanding array of rigs and equipment enable us to work on any site across the UK and worldwide. www.insituseries.com



DR. SAUER & PARTNERS

Dr. Sauer & Partners – tunnelling technology pioneers who create thoughtful solutions to some of the world's toughest ground engineering challenges. We build on deep experience and expertise, taking a human and collaborative approach. We design better, bolder solutions that meet the world's changing needs, pushing the boundaries of what can be achieved. www.dr-sauer.com



EQUIPE GROUP

Equipe are the UK's leading provider of geotechnical training, innovations, assessments and events. Specialising in creating innovative solutions for the geotechnical market such as KeyLogbook and RhinoCorebox, Equipe offers specialist health & safety courses alongside in-depth technical training such as soil & rock description logging and geotechnical foundation design. www.equipegroup.com



HUESKER

HUESKER is a market leader in the manufacture of geosynthetics. Its products and services provide solutions for earthworks and foundations, roads and pavements, environmental and hydraulic engineering. We pride ourselves on constantly innovating to create more sustainable solutions and reduce the risks associated with ground engineering. www.huesker.co.uk



FIELDERS

For over 30 years, Fielders has placed the highest-quality geoscience professionals across land and offshore projects. From engineering geologists and geotechnical engineers to geo-environmental specialists and geophysicists, we deliver permanent and contract talent – combining advanced automation with deep, specialist human expertise to ensure the right technical match. www.fieldergeotechnics.com





CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AGS AWARD WINNERS FOR 2026. THESE MEMBERS HAVE BEEN NOMINATED BY THEIR WORKING GROUP LEADERS FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY WORK AND ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AGS.

Business Practice Working Group Award:

David Hutchinson, AGS Honorary Member

Contaminated Land Working Group Award:

Mike Plimmer, Principal Geoenvironmental Engineer at Geotechnical & Environmental Associates

Data Management Working Group Award:

Conrad Stewart, Data Manager at Harrison Group Environmental

Geotechnical Working Group Award:

Jai Shah, Associate – Ground Engineering at Ramboll

Laboratories Working Group Award:

John Masters, Director at Geolabs

Loss Prevention Working Group Award:

Kathryn Eva, Senior Associate at Beale & Co

Safety Working Group Award:

Madeleine Bardsley, Technical Director and H&S Lead, Ground & Water at WSP

Sustainability Working Group Award:

Natalie Cropp, Director (Sustainability) at Tony Gee and Partners

SPECIAL THANKS

A special thanks to Alex Lee, Geraint Williams, Vivien Dent, Sally Hudson, Bradley Falcus, Katie Kennedy and Caroline Kratz for their help and support in organising the AGS Annual Conference 2026.

The AGS would also like to extend its thanks to the Federation of Piling Specialists (FPS), British Drilling Association (BDA), The Geological Society and Specialist in Ground Condition (SiLC) for supporting the event.



AGS LEGAL HELPLINE

If you're an AGS Member and are looking for legal advice, please contact Beale & Co on **+44 (0) 20 7469 0400** and quote 'AGS Helpline' where the first 15 minutes of legal advice will be free of charge.
www.beale-law.com