



The Aims of the Digital Transformation of Ground Data Working Group (DTGD)

1. Champion Industry-Wide Digital Ground Data Transformation

To be the collective voice for the digital transformation of ground engineering, uniting clients, consultants, contractors, software providers, academia and industry to share knowledge, coordinate input, develop best practice, and improve how ground data is created, managed, shared and applied for the benefit of infrastructure, society and the environment.

2. Advocate for Responsible Sharing and Reuse of Ground Data

Promoting open, secure, and scalable data sharing and reuse of ground data, including via national repositories, by working with industry, government, and regulators to address barriers around data ownership, liability, and confidentiality. Ensure that data is treated as a long-term asset to unlock its long-term value for better decision-making and reducing risk earlier in a project.

3. Strengthen Ground Data Management Across the Asset Lifecycle

Improve how ground data is specified, managed and exchanged throughout the project and asset lifecycle by promoting consistent data requirements, good data management practice, and recognised specifications - in particular the AGS Data Format. The group will collaborate with other AGS's Working Groups to educate industry on practical approaches that improve data quality, consistency, interoperability, and reuse across projects, organisations, and software platforms.

4. Build Industry-Wide Capability in Digital Ground Engineering

Support the development of the future geo-digital workforce by identifying and promoting the knowledge, skills, behaviours and competencies required to manage, analyse, interpret, and share digital ground data throughout the asset lifecycle. Establish a competency framework and associated learning pathways that support education, professional development and industry-wide upskilling, enabling organisations of all sizes to build resilient teams, strengthen succession planning and accelerate the adoption of best practice in digital ground engineering.

5. Enable connected data and information throughout the asset lifecycle

Promote the seamless flow of ground data and information across the asset lifecycle, from investigation through to design, construction and operation. Work with industry stakeholders and software providers to define common requirements, improve interoperability, and encourage the development of tools, platforms and workflows that better meet the needs of ground engineering professionals and asset owners.

Terms of Reference

1. Identification

The **Digital Transformation of Ground Data Working Group (DTGD)** is, until such times as a re-arrangement of the Association takes place, one of the Standing Working Groups.

2. Composition and Membership

In common with all working groups, the DTGD consists of the WG Leader appointed to the Executive by the Members of the Association, and who is supported by an appropriate number of Members of the Association, supplemented as necessary, by individuals from the wider industry, such that the WG can function efficiently and effectively. Members of the DTGD are appointed directly by the DTGD Leader from among the Specialists within the Membership. From time-to-time specific tasks may be identified which may require an ad hoc specialist sub-committee to be created by the WG Leader. The WG Leader may choose to co-opt specialists outside of the Membership to assist the understanding of the technical, legal and/or legislative requirements. The WG Leaders will review the membership of their WG directly after the AGM – usually in March or April each year. At this review, those who have not significantly contributed to the work of the WG over the past year may be retired and new members sought to replace them. In addition to those members of the WG who are appointed by the WG Leader, Members of the Association who wish to serve on any of the WGs may inform the Administrator of their interest, which will, in turn, be conveyed to the WG Leader for their decision to accept or decline. There is no fixed number of members of the DTGD.

3. Duties

The duties of the DTGD (and all other WGs) are:

- i) To fulfil the brief given to it by the AGS Chair, via its WG Leader, and
- II) To create a collaborative environment where open, honest, non-judgmental discussions can take place, and
- III) To communicate and engage with the Membership of the Association and the wider industry on matters relating to their Working Group.

The members of the DTGD and all WGs and their various sub-committees are expected to participate actively and contribute to the work of their WG. Thus, membership of a DTGD is not a virtual sinecure – it will not be sufficient merely to be present at meetings – everybody should expect to have tasks assigned to them, for completion outside the meetings.

4. Line of Responsibility

All Standing WGs report to the Executive Committee via their WG Leader.

Modus operandi

- 1 The DTGD Leader will draft an outline programme of work or list of activities for the current year and gain agreement from the DTGD.
- 2 The Byelaws require that each WG shall arrange to meet, at least two times annually. The DTGD Working Group aims to meet at least four times a year (virtual or face to face) and the Administrator shall consult with the WG Leader and choose the location, date and time for each meeting. The Administrator will communicate this with the members of the Working Group at least 30 days prior to the meeting.
- 3 In the interval between physical meetings, the DTGD members will continue to communicate with each other by whatever means and at such frequency that will enable them to conduct their business efficiently. The DTGD Leader will co-ordinate such communication, with the assistance of the Administrator.
- 4 The Byelaws specify that the DTGD Leader (and Leaders of all other WGs) will make the decisions of their WG, having considered the arguments and advice given to them by the members of the Group.
- 5 Working with the Administrator, the DTGD Leader will formulate and finalise the agenda for all of the DTGD's meetings.
- 6 Each member of the DTGD who has an action from the previous meeting against their name must complete the action in accordance with the published timetable of actions referred to in item 8, and provide any supporting papers such that they can be issued with the Agenda for the next meeting.
- 7 A member who wishes to raise a substantial issue, shall provide, whenever possible, a brief on their subject to the DTGD Leader or Administrator for consideration and inclusion in the Agenda for the next meeting.
- 8 In an effort to streamline the proceedings of meetings, all papers will be taken as read and, if for information only, will be annotated thus and will not be discussed further in the meeting. Self-evidently, this does not apply to papers for further discussion or matters for decision.
- 9 The DTGD Leader shall arrange with the Administrator to organise, distribute and make available the records of all activities of the DTGD, as appropriate.
- 10 The DTGD leader shall approve the minutes of a meeting within two weeks of issue by the Secretariat.
- 11 When the finalised record of a meeting is distributed to the DTGD members, it will, as a matter of routine, be accompanied by a list of actions arising from the meeting for members to progress, together with a timetable for those actions leading up to the next meeting. The group's terms of reference and objectives was planned for a future meeting, with members invited to submit ideas and suggestions.

Activities for the Current Year (2026 - 2027)

To alleviate the AGS Chair's burden, the Digital Transformation of Ground Data WG Leader will draft an outline programme of work or list of activities for the current year. This draft will be discussed with the AGS Chair and agreement reached on the final listing, after which the information will be conveyed to the Digital Transformation of Ground Data WG members. There will be an opportunity for the WG members to see and add other business to the programme before it is finalised.

The Byelaws state that 'The Working Groups shall undertake such activities as enable them to fulfil their duties' and that the WG Leader will co-ordinate these activities, with the assistance of the Administrator.

The currently known activities of the Digital Transformation of Ground Data WG for 2026-2027 are listed below. They have already been seen by the WG members and agreed with the AGS Chair. Inevitably, there will be other activities added through the year, as they arise.

- 1 Coordinate revised text for the UK Specification for Ground Investigation (the "Yellow Book") to promote data sharing with the British Geological Survey (BGS) and public availability of GI data
- 2 Develop guidance on practical routes for sharing GI data with BGS (e.g. AGS briefing note: "Practical considerations for sharing ground investigation data with BGS".)
- 3 Research and develop the concept for a Federation of Piling Specialist (FPS)-style platform for Ground Investigation contractors and/or Consultants to share the position and ownership/accessibility of ground investigation metadata that are not already available from the BGS' database
- 4 Work with the AGS's Business Practice and Loss Prevention Working Groups to prepare a position statement on responsible sharing and reuse of ground investigation data that addresses issues such as data ownership, liability, and confidentiality.
- 5 Engage software providers regarding data formats, and matters that pertain the scope of the WG.
- 6 Engage and inform the industry via articles, presentations to conferences, attendance of roundtables etc.

Published 2026