



# Geotechnical Engineering - Contracting

Jon Bassett, Director & Geotechnical Engineer



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# Personal Introduction – My Role



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- Structural Soils, largest UK site investigation company
- Director for Structural Soils Ltd
  - Director of Northern Engineering – Castleford & Glasgow teams
  - Director of Marine Operations – UK wide
  - Oversight and management of all engineering projects in northern UK
  - Management of the engineering teams based in Castleford and Glasgow
  - Budgetary responsibility for Northern Engineering
  - Marketing and recruitment responsibility for SSL in ‘the North’
  - Tendering of large projects and marine projects
  - Office and buildings management in Castleford – offices, laboratory & plant depot



# Personal Introduction – Career Progression



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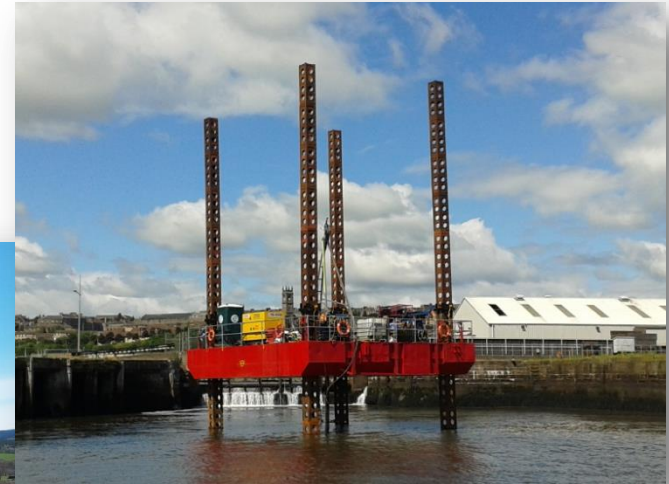
- Geology GCSE, Geology A-Level
- Geology BSc, Royal Holloway, University of London
  - 1yr working in Petroleum Exploration
- Engineering Geology MSc, Imperial College
  - 3yrs Fugro – nearshore site investigation
  - 3yrs STATS Ltd – onshore site investigation
  - 1.5yrs independent contracting / consulting
- Chartered Geologist, BGS
  - 2008: permanent contract with **SSL**, opened Glasgow office and built Scottish business through the recession
  - 2014: promoted to Director

# Job Role – Site Investigation Contracting



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- **Graduate** – 50% site based; short contracts supervising drilling rigs, logging samples and trial pits, client liaison, daily reporting  
50% office based; production of borehole logs, factual information, financial measurement of projects, basic reporting
- Typically shadow an experienced engineer for 2-3 months before undertaking uncomplicated projects independently



# Graduate Engineer – A Site Day



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- Meet at the yard and load sampling materials and installation materials into van before travelling to site.
- Meet drillers and Client's representative on site
- Give site SHE plan induction and brief drillers / site operatives on the works specification
- Supervise the works, log trial pits, log borehole samples
- Monitor works and ensure they are being carried out in line with the SHE plan
- Liaise with Client's representative to provide updates and receive instructions on monitoring installations

# Graduate Engineer – An Office Day



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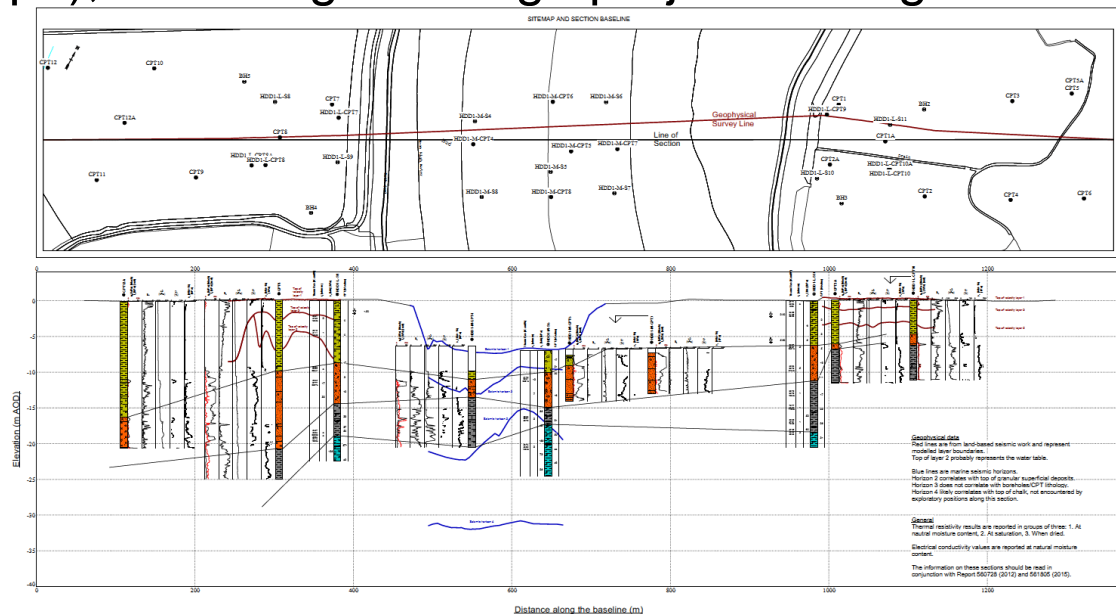
- Write up and submit to data management team field notes and results
- Log any outstanding samples and cores
- Core photography
- Prepare laboratory testing schedules – either for Client to Complete or SSL
- Write factual sections of reports
- Plan and arrange equipment required for future fieldworks

# Job Role – Site Investigation Contracting



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- **Engineer-Senior** – 25% site based: site management of larger more complex sites  
75% office based: project manage projects, financial responsibility, manage a small engineering team
- Opportunities for specialism (testing, industry sectors), international projects & opportunities (Cyprus, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Iraq, Turkey, western Europe), tendering and large project management



# Site Investigation Contracting – Would It Suit Me?



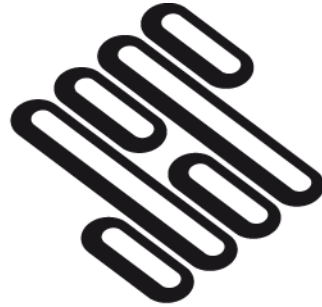
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- Suited to Geologists & Engineers who enjoy being in the field, are practical and self motivated
- Problem solver, diplomatic, organised
- An alternative career to mainly office based roles
- Potential for progression to senior positions



- Industry shortage of engineers – current skills gap
- Large growth in the UK SI market – major public sector schemes, large private sector investment





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**Castleford**

**Coventry**

**Glasgow**

**Hemel Hempstead**

**Tonbridge**

**[www.soils.co.uk](http://www.soils.co.uk)**

**Site investigation**

**Soil, rock & material testing**

**Geotechnical consultancy**

**Contaminated land assessment**