



CASE STUDY

STONEHENGE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Project Description

The Contract:

Stonehenge is one of the most important and loved ancient monuments in the world. However, its landscape setting is far from ideal and existing visitor facilities are inadequate. Over the years, there have been several attempts at improvement, with the latest plans for a new Visitor Centre at Airman's Corner recently being given the go-ahead by Wiltshire Council.

Geotechnical Engineering Ltd (GEL) were contracted by SKM Enviros on behalf of English Heritage to undertake a geotechnical/geoenvironmental ground investigation to facilitate the foundation design and quantify environmental issues for the proposed visitor centre and associated parking. The scope of work included surface geophysics comprising ground conductivity and a resistivity tomographic survey. Intrusive work included dynamic sampling, rotary open-hole drilling, trial pits, plate bearing testing and CBR testing. Following fieldwork activities GEL also undertook a program of geotechnical and contamination laboratory analysis and provided the client with both factual and interpretative information.

The Challenge:

The site covers approximately nine hectares of arable and pasture land and disruption to farming activities was to be kept to a minimum. The area is also subject to archaeological constraints. The superficial deposits are underlain by the Seaford Chalk formation which is not only classified as a major aquifer but also exhibits the risk of encountering dissolution features.

The Solution:

New sections of stock fencing were erected and fieldwork activities were carefully programmed to minimize the disruption caused to other land users. The fieldwork was fully supervised by our own Engineering Geologists who liaised directly with all interested parties. Intrusive fieldwork was further supervised by representatives from Wessex Archaeology to ensure full compliance with archaeological protocols. Prior to the commencement of intrusive fieldwork the investigative area was subject to a full geophysical survey to identify any areas where dissolution features may be encountered, and where required clean drilling techniques were employed.

The Testimonial:

"GEL provided the most economically viable bid...got the brief right...undertook the work in a very professional manner...and provided an excellent report". He was particularly impressed with the level of communication with GEL site staff.

Alex Carbray, SKM Enviros

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Or visit our website www.geoeng.co.uk

Project Overview

Project Name:

Stonehenge Environmental Improvements Project

Project Type:

New Construction

Client Name:

English Heritage

Date/Duration:

Oct 2009

