

Note on the 2019 EIG one day meeting on geotechnics

The EIG held its biennial One Day CPD Meeting on 19 June near Stratford on Avon when the topic was Quarry and Surface Mine Geotechnics. More than 100 attended with 12 exhibitors and with seven presentations and an extended discussion session. 95% of those attending were from the extractive industry, principally quarrying or were consultants or contractors to the industry emphasising the importance of these meetings as a professional training or updating day.

The meeting comprised an update session on the HSE's approach to stability issues and a review of recent developments in quarry geotechnics. There were presentations on the use of rock blocks and gabions in quarries, on the possible application of military type barrier for use in quarries and on an unexpected water tunnel problem on a gravel working. Much of the afternoon was however devoted to issues around standards and reporting practice in quarries including observations and findings of the QUJAC Geotechnical Group and discussion around that and whether it was time to adopt the Eurocodes into our Quarries Regulations.

In addition to the technical side the meeting provides an excellent networking opportunity between the Biennial EIG Conferences in alternate years to renew contacts and meet new professional colleagues during the meeting and beforehand for those who stay overnight. The exhibition held in the same room as the meeting was well attended.

Thanks must go to all those who assisted on the day including Adrian Charters, David Griffiths, Ben Matthews, Clive Mitchell and Leigh Sharp. The other contributors were Lee Clarke our Treasurer who handled the bookings and funds, John Peate who dealt with the exhibitors and to whom we wish well on his promotion to Lehigh Hanson in the USA and Geoff Walton and Craig Arditto who put the meeting together; Craig also chaired and coordinated much of the day's proceedings.

A provisional booking has been made for the same venue for Wednesday 16 June 2021. Several of those attending thought the theme for the next meeting should be similar to that of 2015 i.e. dealing with the hydrogeology and hydrology of quarries in the context of the latest regulations and requirements. Topics that have been suggested include water security, flood risks, groundwater cut-offs, drone technology and water management, and the EA and regulations etc. Clearly there are a number of issues of concern and interest to our professional interest group.

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