

Meeting: Groundwork Committee Meeting
Date: Wednesday 23 March 2022
Time: 10:30 – 12:30
Location: Nexus Park, Avenue East,
Skyline 120, Great Notley,
Braintree, Essex,
CM77 7AL
Chairman: Dave Armsworth



Attendees

Steve Hammond (Chairman)	Anderson Group	Dave Armsworth	CONSTRUCT CSG
Dave Campbell	CONSTRUCT CSG	Ian Burnett	CONSTRUCT CSG
Leo Picking	VP Groundforce	Luke Morley	RMD Kwikform
Brian O'Brien	Careys	Robert Aitkin	Realtime CE
Mick Bray	Tamdown	Ovi Gradinaru	JP Dunn
Richard Knight	Anderson Group	Richard Sanders	JF Hunt
Luke James	Morrisroe		

Apologies

Patrick Hennigan	Togher	Sean Brosnan	O'Shea
Ben Sanham	Lemon	Damien Meehan	Toureen

1. Welcome & Apologies

Dave Armsworth (DA) (CONSTRUCT) welcomed the attendees to the 5th CONSTRUCT Groundwork Committee meeting. DA informed the meeting that there was one apology received and that apologies would be recorded in the minutes of the next meeting. A list of attendees would be included in the minutes. Dave thanked Mick Bray and Tamdown for hosting the meeting. An attendance sheet was passed around.

DA provided a safety briefing before the meeting continued. The agenda was introduced using PowerPoint and the CONSTRUCT Competition Law Policy was read out. DA asked for a round of brief introductions to take place. Ian Burnett (CONSTRUCT General Manager) introduced himself to the committee and gave a brief career background touching on all experience that will help within this group and CONSTRUCT.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on Tuesday 07 Dec 21 and matters arising

There were a couple of action points discussed:

- Issue minutes of the meeting for comment.
- DA to look further into the use of the Eliba Hook – general comments are that it is not something that would be reliable in the groundworks environment due to the nature of the works and general abuse that the trench systems and lifting accessories get (more suited to a factory setting). **Closed**
- SH and DA spoke about prioritising the work stream for this committee which must be balanced against availability of people. There has been a great deal of work

identified which this group and other stake holders can make a difference with. This will start at the common training standard for groundworkers (more in agenda).

- Priority 1 – Common training standards groundworkers
- Priority 2 – Lifting Operations
- Priority 3 – Common practice with trenching.

3. **Presentation from VP Groundforce – Attachments Division & Training**

Leo Picking presented to the committee how VP Groundforce attachments are making it easier for machine operators to receive and interact with information and instructions for excavator attachments which VP Groundforce supply.

Each attachment is fitted with a QR Code that allows the operator to view operational information should the person have little or no experience with the attachment.

This was well received by the committee members; the QR code was seen to be something that will help reduce time delays with connection issues and also helps with the provision of information. In terms of further development, it was mentioned that other hire companies provide access to instructional videos, and these have proved to be very useful for the drivers and employers.

What was agreed by all is that for the likes of forklift (and extensions), pipe lifter attachments and others that are forward facing, the manufacturers of the attachment and the host machine do not provide information / instructions on how that attachment will influence the capability and stability of the machine. It appears that hirers are using their own factors of safety e.g. reduce the capacity of the forklift by 50% when at full extension of the excavator arm.

- **Action - Members are requested to provide calculations on factors for safely using these types of attachments.**

Members would also like to see training organisations offering training on attachment connection, quick hitch training and use of the attachments.

- **Action – Leo took note of this and will report back to the group if it is something that VP Groundforce can deliver.**

DA and the committee thanked Leo for delivering the presentation and individual members will be in contact as required.

4. **CONSTRUCT Council Update – Ian Burnett**

Secretariat Changes – Mineral Products Association/Concrete Centre took over secretariat duties from Build UK as of the start of 2022. MPA have a management team in place to look after digital marketing, events coordination, and finance etc.

As part of the new secretariate we wish to promote our members everyday work activities and any of their achievements via CONSTRUCT website, newsletter, and social media so please keep in touch.

CONSTRUCT charter is a new initiative to be used as part of membership of CONSTRUCT members sign up to the charter to confirm that they will be working to best practice and going above and beyond legislation to carry out work to high stands of workmanship, H&S, environmental, sustainability as well as equality and diversity. The charter will be a more in-depth process than the membership criteria already in place.

CONSTRUCT is now a member of the **Cross-Industry Construction Apprenticeship Task Force CCATF**.

There were no joining fees CONSTRUCT just needs align itself with the CCAFT Charter which are:

1. Support CCATF in the development of apprenticeships.
2. Help publicise CCATF.
3. Participate in CCATF meetings.
4. Participate in apprenticeship dialogue, discussion, and debate.
5. Signpost others to CCATF for membership.

We are in talks with **Women Into Construction** to see what connection we can make and how we can help each other with our common objectives of equality and diversity.

CONSTRUCT Day & Awards will take place on 30th of September at Tobacco Dock. Booking arrangements will be displayed on the CONSTRUCT website in due course.

The website will be set up so that you can book tables/places online. See the events section website for more information (booking facility to be available shortly).

Charity Golf Day – This year's Golf Day will be held on Thursday 7th July 2022 at Bocket Hall in Welwyn Garden City.

CONSTRUCT has teamed up with the construction charity The Lighthouse club and Go Privilege to host a member golf day and raise money for charity.

You can book places on the events section of the website Golf Day booking form.

5. **CONSTRUCT Training update: Ian Burnett.**

ATO Approved Training Organisation – CONSTRUCT now has now been issued with ATO status meaning CONSTRUCT can deliver assured CITB courses as well as approving 3rd parties to delivery training on behalf of CONSTRUCT after undergoing strict quality assurance.

I have been in contact with a couple of 3rd parties i.e., Citrus, Project Skills Solutions and Build East Skills Centre to arrange training such as abrasive wheel edge protection in line with CONSTRUCT Training analysis from 2021.

A new training analysis will be carried out in 2022, which will aim to seek a more conclusive analysis of the training needs of members.

Concrete Pumping Supervisor Course – This course is available and has been delivered by TUTS; please make contact with them should you need your supervisors upskilling. DA is liaising with companies that provide animated video as it continues to be a challenge to get onto a live site. The advantages are many including easier to organise and easier to edit at some later date should things change.

Temporary Works Concrete Specialist course – DA has put together a working group to develop a training standard that will allow concrete frame and groundworks (civils) to be given sector specific temporary works training. The group has had one meeting and the next is due in April.

Single Trip Slings and Bags – CFTF will be working with the British Association of Reinforcement (BAR) and the Lead AP Group to produce a reference guidance for industry looking at the differing definitions and a variety of issues across Industry related to the use of Single Trip Slings and Bags.

Erecting and Dismantling Concrete Boom Training - CFTF will be developing an industry recognised training course for Erecting and Dismantling Concrete Boom as

requested by a couple of members. IB will be attending a training session on 1st of April to gain some first-hand knowledge of the process.

CITB update from Carl Licorish:

- As of March, all test centres will require CCTV and audio for the highest level of security.
- 3rd party broker bookings will no longer be accepted, and all payments will be required by credit or debit card.
- The CSCS test price will increase rising from £22 to £22.50 as of April.
- Site Safety Plus course fees and price of books etc have been frozen so there will not be a price rise in 2022.
- CITB is not currently accepting applications to become an Internet Test Centre (ITC) to deliver tests such as the Health, Safety and Environment (HS&E) test but may be open to a business case.
- A new leadership and management grant will be available from April for 12 short courses.
- Working groups for plant qualifications are being set up by CITB and they are requesting input from members.
- Temporary Works courses are under view by CITB probably not available to the back end of the year.
- Nation Occupational Standards (NOS) there has been an update from Built Environment Awarding Body Forum (BEABF) stating *Construction Contracting Operations and piling operations will be reviewed in April.*

Training analysis 2021 – A training analysis was carried out in 2021 but unfortunately there was not a great response from CONSTRUCT members.

From the Training analysis 2021 the courses that were most popular were:

- Abrasive Wheels
- Edge Protection
- IPAF 3A - Mobile Vertical machines Scissor Lifts
- Slinger Signaller
- SSSTS
- Temporary Works Coordinator

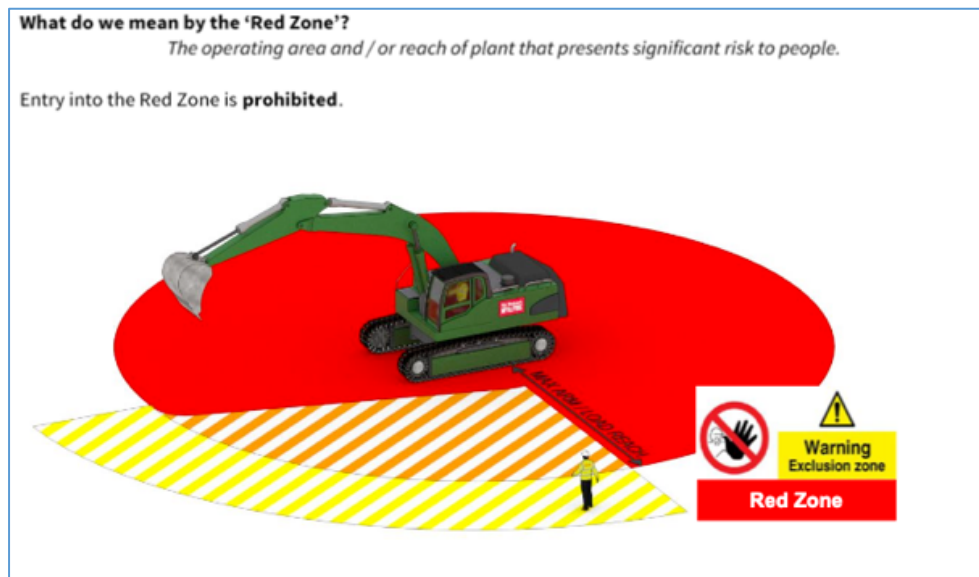
From the Training analysis 2021 the least popular courses (below 50% ticked the boxes) were:

- Crane Loading Platforms (Cantideck)
- Crane Supervision
- IPAF 3B - Mobile Boom machines
- Cube Making Course
- Fire safety training
- Plant and Vehicle Marshaller
- Work at Height Rescue

6. Discussion on Safety. – Committee Chairman

Excavator safety zones. SH opened up the discussion with information on a recent HSE interaction. The diagram below is generally used by groundworks contractors to show the interaction zones within a machines operational working envelope. In normal circumstances the Red Zone must not be encroached into by any person or machine; however, there are times where a banksman will need to attach items such as lifting accessories. This action directly contravenes the contractors safe system of work and therefore the person and machine driver are working outside of the agreed risk assessment. The HSE asked for a review of the documentation to add that at times the Red Zone needs to be breached but the mitigation must also be added. Members should

look at their SSOW where exclusion zones are mentioned and make sure that the information and instruction covers the need for someone to enter.



7. **Discussion on quality & training. – Committee Chairman.**

Common Standards – Groundworkers. SH mentioned that this topic is the current priority for the group as it was jointly agreed to be of something that is a common requirement and a tangible project. DA, displayed the current thinking for groundworker competencies and asked that the members review the document and add comment where necessary. The aim is to have this common standard completed before the next meeting so that we may move onto another discipline within the groundworks space.

An idea was floated to have the common standard database link to ATOs which have gone through a CONSTRUCT vetting/PQQ process. This was met with mixed comments as companies have their own preferred and trusted training providers.

- **Action – DA to distribute the common standard. Members to review and add feedback.**

Slinging and signalling for a Banksman. SH has found that training provision from banksmen is not joined up, some training courses have a prerequisite that the delegate has a machine driver competency or in some cases an AP. This is not achievable. At present members are sending their banksmen on Slinger and Signaller courses but; members have found that it is a challenge to take a trained slinger signaller from the concrete frame environment into the groundworks environment as conditions in the groundworks space can be more arduous.

- **Action – Priority 2 – SH asked all members to put down what their aspirations are for slinger signaller to do from a training point of view – this is so that an outline standard can be put together for review.**

There was a quick debate on planning excavator lifts and competency; it was suggested that a competent person can plan excavator lifts but does not need to be AP qualified. SH suggested that he will clarify this so that we can be sure of competency requirements.

8. **Discussion Occupational Health. – Committee Chairman**

SH talked about the critical worker medical and how CPA approached machine drivers regarding this. He opened this up to the floor and the general feedback is that all members are carrying this; no further action on this point.

9. **Discussion on Environmental Considerations.**

Permits to discharge – DA asked members for feedback on the process for obtaining a PTD and in what cases they see it as being required. Members generally obtain a PTD as a matter of course just in case they need to discharge construction waste water/silt etc even though they plan to mitigate the risk. The process is well known but protracted due to the need to use a middleman dictated by Thames Water; very bureaucratic, but it's a known. No further action required.

10. **Sharing Good Practice. - Committee Chairman**

Members are welcome to share good practice.

- RS – JF Hunt are trialling ground scanners to help with identifying 'pot ends'. The equipment supplied by Radiodetection is a survey scanner as well as a CAT and Gen type scanner. Other members mentioned that they had problems identifying services where they are masked by other services that have been decommissioned but are still in the vicinity of a pot end cable. RS will report back on the trial once complete.

11. **Accidents and Near Misses. - Committee Chairman**

Nothing to report on this item.

12. **Any Other Business**

There being no further business, DA thanked Leo for giving the time to present and also Mick and Tamdown for hosting the meeting; meeting closed.

13. **Future Meetings**

Groundworks Committee

- Wednesday 08 June 2022 – Venue TBC Host required
- Wednesday 28 September 2022 - Venue TBC Host required
- Wednesday 14 December 2022 - Venue TBC Host required

HSE Committee

- Wednesday 1 June 2022 – Realtime Civil Engineering.
- Wednesday 14 September 2022 - Venue TBC Host required
- Wednesday 7 December 2022 - Venue TBC Host required