

**Meeting:** Groundwork Committee Meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday 08 June 2022  
**Time:** 10:30 – 12:30  
**Location:** Springfield Lodge, Colchester Road,  
Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 5PW  
**Chairman:** Dave Armsworth  
**Paper:** Minutes of meeting – Meeting 06



## Attendees

Steve Hammond (Chairman)	Anderson Group	Dave Armsworth	CONSTRUCT CSG
Ian Burnett	CONSTRUCT CSG	Richard Knight	Anderson Group
Richard Sanders	JF Hunt	Robert Aitkin	Realtime CE
Paul Johnson	Careys	Robert Moore	Byrne Bros
Martin Cragg	MPB		

## Apologies

Mick Bray	Tamdown	Damien Meehan	Toureen
Brian O'Brien	Careys	Luke Morley	RMD Kwikform

## 1. Welcome & Apologies

Dave Armsworth (DA) (CONSTRUCT) welcomed the attendees to the 6<sup>th</sup> CONSTRUCT Groundwork Committee meeting. DA informed the meeting that there was a couple of apologies 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 the Chairman and The Anderson Group for hosting the meeting. An attendance sheet was passed around.

SH asked if any reasons had been given for non-attendances – main reasons were due to the backlog from the Queens Jubilee weekend and short working week. The use of the Anderson Gp Head Office was not given as a reason (location for people to get to). DA is waiting for a reply from David Sheath (OHOB) as they may be able to host the next meeting. SH asked if the December meeting could be held in London with refreshments provided by CONSTRUCT. IB said this is achievable and will be looked at even if the meeting is co-attended by the H&S contingent.

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.

## 2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on Wednesday 23 March 22 and matters arising

There were a couple of action points discussed:

- **Common Standards – Groundworkers** - DA to distribute the common standard – the reviewed version is attached to these minutes.

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- **Slinging and signalling for a Banksman.** 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. Members were requested to provide calculations on factors for safely using attachments such as pipe lifters and fork attachments. **No replies were received – this was discussed again at this meeting -**
    - Paul Johnson (PJ) Clients insist on CPCS course and are not letting up for the ground works – Steve Hammond (SH) said that we still need to push for a groundworks slinger. Martin Cragg (MC) spoke about the NPORS route for the groundworkers which may be a better option PJ did say that the NPORS qualification has in the past been accepted by a client and that Careys have won the argument in that case. Richard Saunders – JF Hunt has a policy that all of their operatives involved with slinging and signalling are CPCS qualified. As this is a groundworks forum it is pertinent to remove the Concrete Frame space from this conversation.
    - SH said that CPCS and NPORS should be approached with the issues that are being experienced and what the industry is requiring for excavator's slinger signallers. NOCN could be approached with a view to put together a standard to submit to CPCS / NPORS. This committee would need to come up with a requirements list. It could be carried out as an endorsement to the current slinger signaller course. DA – CONSTRUCT has worked with the Formwork Suppliers Group, we would need the current TS for slinger / signaller and use it to build the groundworkers TS. RS mentioned to look at all duties section for the pick and carry element. SH replied that some consideration has been given to this element with the work that is being done on the attachment's familiarisation course. As the current CPCS slinger, signaller course is tower crane heavy, we need to come up with a solution for the groundworks space.
    - PJ asked if we should be including Banksmen duties in this course – this was received as a good idea and will need to be talked about with the course working group. A quick discussion was had around the use of communications systems with a valid point being brought up by RS in particular when crane lifting. JF Hunt said they had found that hands free radio sets can be problematic as the crane driver could hear others taking in the background while the channel is open. PJ echoed this with an example where a slinger signaller was controlling 2 cranes and forgot to change channel and in doing so ordered the wrong crane to make an operation. This highlighted that discipline with communications systems is of paramount importance. There may be a need for a short course on radio voice procedure.
    - It is envisaged that this will be a day of training. The current CPCS course is 4 day duration for new operatives and 2 day for experienced operatives. Action – **DA obtain the Training Standards for CPCS training standards. A subsequent meeting to be held.**
    - PJ said that he would speak to his lead AP on the topic of safety factors when using attachments such as the forks and pipe lifter. He suggested that this may be written in their group lifting with excavators plan. SH and RS said they have similar however it is a best guess caveat with no guidance from the OEMs. It seems to be a difficulty where the responsibility lays. Action – DA to speak to the group looking at the 1 Ton

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**Bags and Single Use Trip Slings. Action PJ to report back to the group on safety factor being used.**

- Members would 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. A follow up meeting was held with VP Groundforce including Chris Gearing and Mark Ibbotson – they are looking into providing a specific familiarisation course.

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**3. Feedback from the Council and update: Ian Burnett.**

Dennis Keogh a Contractor Representative on Council has retired from Laing O'Rourke/Expanded and CONSTRUCT Concrete Structures Group. Dennis provided technical support on reinforcement and rebar detailing. We wish Dennis a long and happy retirement.

CONSTRUCT would like to announce a new member to council Lee Richardson who is the Technical Leader - Structural Solutions for Laing O'Rourke/Expanded. Lee has over 22 years' experience in project delivery across the UK and internationally with strong expertise in structural concrete. Lee is part of the Laing O'Rourke and Expanded technical leadership team with key responsibilities on projects from early engagement, through tender and to delivery on site.

With Robert Thompson from AJ Morrisroe & Sons stepping down from Council and his role as CFTF chairman at the end of 2021 CONSTRUCT would like to announce another new member to council Lee Brankley of Cares UK. Lee is the CEO of CARES and has been with cares since 1991. As the CEO from a governing body Lee would be able to keep us ahead of the curve on various matters such as rebar inflation and any certification changes.

Stair Formwork Ltd is a new supplier member to CONSTRUCT and I would like to welcome Joshua Brown and Gavin Timmins from Stair Formwork.

Golf Day 7<sup>th</sup> of July tickets can be booked on the CONSTRUCT website by linking up with the Lighthouse Club. SH fed back around previous experience, he asked if there would be more media coverage post event. IB mentioned that he will be there and will take photographs etc. The hope is that this annual event can be a CONSTRUCT led event with sponsorship provided by members.

AGM 14<sup>th</sup> of July invitations will be sent out soon, venue still being organised but will be Central London.

Construct Day 30<sup>th</sup> September Can be booked by visiting the CONSTRUCT website and clicking on events and then Construct Day & Awards 2022. You can book tables and single seats.

Sponsorship information can be located on the same page along with exhibitor information.

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

IB - ATO status is coming soon and training delivery will be posted on the CONSTRUCT website including:

CONSTRUCT will be working with Sorted Training to deliver short course as per those identified in the training survey:

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- Abrasive Wheels
  - Edge Protection - Leading Edge Protection Systems
  - IPAF 3A - Mobile Vertical machines Scissor Lifts - Access platform Operator Training
  - Slinger Signaller
  - SSSTS (Site Safety Plus)
  - Temporary Works Coordinator (Site Safety Plus)

The Skills Centre will also be used to deliver other courses such as NVQs and apprenticeships. SH asked how the information will be relayed to the members. IB – the MPA media dept will be plugging the courses via their newsletters and emails.

### **Go Construct STEM Ambassador scheme**

IB had a Teams call on 25<sup>th</sup> of May with:

Robert Smith CITB Product Developer and Sameerah Marshall CITB Product & Services Coordinator. Details can be found below:

Promo - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3hiUQ5X79A>

How to Register - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNaOlP-ifio>

How to add Scheme - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dA62s9u43-g>

They can provide one to one or group information in person or group session virtually or in person. SH spoke about the information provided on the STEM website for the construction industry is minimal. IB said that he is trying to influence change in this area. SH suggested that CITB need to engage with STEM to advertise construction trades as CITB is in receipt of money from the members and they are not seeing the return value in this area. SH also asked if there was any reference to Go Construct on the STEM website. DA checked at the time and there is no reference made including Logo to link. SH suggested that this should be on the front page of the home screen.

The next CFTF meeting is on 23<sup>rd</sup> June at Rawlplug training academy in Winnersh Wokingham RG1 5RA 10:30 start.

There will be guest speakers including:

- Carl Licorish from CITB discussing latest CITB updates.
- Dr Pietro Grandesso from Rawlplug discussing Rawlplug training and innovations.
- Gareth Davies from Sorted Training will be discussing CONSTRUCT ATO training delivery roll out as of July 2022.

There will also be a brief tour of the facilities and a demonstration of Rawlplug tools and training followed by refreshments.

SH mentioned that the tool kits held on the CONSTRUCT website need to be reviewed as the only project is for building a bridge when it should be a bridge, house and building. The PowerPoint presentation for build a building also needs to be reviewed for accuracy. IB said that he would take it as an action point. **Action IB – review CONSTRUCT Website**

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## **5. Discussion on Safety. – Committee Chairman**

RS – fed back to the group on the Trail by JF Hunt on the Radio Detection equipment that they are using. He said that the equipment is still not able to accurately detect the pot end cable. SH suggested that there is detection equipment of the next level that will

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detect all manner of services and obstructions however there is a significant cost. RS said that although they have a very robust safe system of work in place with permits, supervision and training however they have been caught out by pot end cables. Unless the SSOW is to slip trench the entire project area then there is a risk. The accuracy of service drawings inside and outside of London cannot be relied upon. RS – the pot end cables that are catching us out are located withing other service areas or objects (a dead service with a pot end running under it). GPR cannot help in this circumstance. RS is due to get feedback from the trial next week and will update the group after that. SH asked if others are having occurrences of cable strikes or near misses. There was mixed feedback. RK – mentioned about the difficulty of dealing with services that are encased in concrete or tarmac. SH asked if anyone has experience of using the CAT fitted to the excavators – the general feedback was that the sensor is prone to damage and the nature of people led to the drivers using the sensor to dig as close to the cable as they could without striking – this is clearly not what it is designed for. Through general discussion at the meeting it was clear the clients sequencing of services is not helpful as they add cables such as BT into the trench line once other services have been established. A more joined up approach is needed.

MC talked about the risks with using the VACEX and the overreliance on its capability or misunderstanding of it by inexperienced drivers. Damage has occurred to the shrink wrapping on 11KVA cable as an operator incorrectly used the hose. Advice is to subcontract this operation to a specialist.

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## 6. Discussion on quality & training. – Committee Chairman.

DA fed back to the group on the CONSTRUCT and VP Groundforce meeting held to discuss an excavator attachments course. The meeting was productive, at present VP Groundforce are looking at costs to produce a course and once agreed they will move onto the development. One of the challenges was duration of the course balanced against the level of content and desire to test competence. As the CONSTRUCT attendees did not think a course with a testing element was needed (trained operatives only to attend) then the course would be that of an 'awareness course' rather than a training course. A summary of the aims is below:

- Learner outcome:
  - Delegate is to be aware of his obligation to HASWA 1974.
  - Delegate is to be aware of the safe connection, operation and removal of attachments.
- Attachments Covered:
  - Pallet Fork and Extensions
  - Pipe laying hook
  - Pouring Bucket
  - Pile cropper
  - Hydraulic breaker
- Duration
  - 1 day

The discussion opened up about familiarisation training and the requests from Clients to prove that a plant driver is familiarised on a specific machine variant. Some are asking for evidence of this and look to 3<sup>rd</sup> party familiarisation and assessment. CPA guidance suggests that a trained driver is capable of self-familiarisation on new variants; all they need is time, space and access to the operators instructions for use. This should be sufficient if the machine is not overly different.

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PJ raised a point that drivers still may not be receiving sufficient instruction on the machines. An example was a driver's machine making contact with an overhead obstruction. The machine was fitted with a height limiter, but the driver did not know how to use it. This would be an example of when self-familiarisation is not the best idea. Maybe the plant department should keep a data base on machines where cab and controls are significantly different to other variants. The lifting duty charts are not easy to understand and drivers have had problems interpreting the data, this can lead to over reliance on the ASLI. This is a discussion to be taken up. SH asked if anyone knew if this kind of thing is covered in the CPCS lifting operations endorsement? RM mentioned that he has a driver to attend the course soon and will feed back. **Action RS to feedback on the lifting operations course.**

Members should consider a familiarisation category on the machine daily checks – this could have a QR code to the machines operating instruction.

**Groundworkers Common Standard.** DA showed the excel spreadsheet to the group and the serials were run through line by line with agreement made on what was desirable and essential training for groundworkers. SH asked the group if anyone had found a groundwork specific asbestos awareness course; RM mentioned that Byrnes have a in house asbestos training for remediation teams, he will feed back to the group.

**Action – Robert Moore**

**Action – Dave Armsworth – distribute the common standard.**

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

SH talked about a wearable dust monitoring device which could be considered for use in high-risk areas. The device will alarm when there is an increase of respirable or inhalable dust levels. Exposure levels can be recorded so this may help with occupational health claims for employees and the employer. The product is called dust canary. A link is below: <https://dustcanary.com>

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8. **Discussion on Environmental Considerations.**

A question from Mick Bray was asked to be posed to the group in his absence – Are companies being asked to help Clients produce Construction Environmental Management Plans. The general feedback was that they have been asked to input some information on their waste management plan. This is usually requested from the local authority and the responsibility lays with the Principle Contractor.

MC asked a question to the group when using a crusher bucket is there a requirement for waste management licence or exemption? DA found the following:

*CL:AIRE is a code of practice (CoP) that provides a **framework which allows the re-use of excavated materials on-site or their transfer between sites**, without being classified as waste. It therefore provides an alternative to the use of Environmental Permits or exemptions.*

Using such materials to form a working platform such as a pile mat may not meet the standards for the pavement design.

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

- Nothing was discussed as the meeting needed to move along.

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

There were a couple of examples where foot injuries had occurred where the top of the foot had been injured due to materials crushing the foot – coming into contact with the foot.

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These could have been avoided with more attention to safe stacking on site and ensuring that materials are removed safely if banding has become detached. One of the clients was considering enforcing the use of full foot protection where the boot has a protective cover. It was agreed that this would not be conducive to good practice.

It appears that there is an increase in foot injuries and employees are being asked detailed questions about the type of footwear when they are reporting to hospital with the injury.

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11. **Any Other Business**

SH went through the next meeting schedule – a discussion was had again about linking the Groundworks and H&S meeting together for Decembers meeting; this may clear up a tight schedule due to the holiday period. DA will mention this on the H&S meeting.

There being no further business, SH thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished all a safe journey home.

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12. **Future Meetings**

**Groundworks Committee**

- Wednesday 28 September 2022 - Venue TBC Host required
- Wednesday 14 December 2022 - Venue TBC Host required

**HSE Committee**

- Wednesday 14 September 2022 - Venue TBC Host required
- Wednesday 7 December 2022 - Venue TBC Host required