Geotechnical Consulting Group

Mr John Davis

EurGeol CGeol BSc MSc DIC FGS

Senior Partner

Proven experts in a geotechnical world

Professional summary

Mr. John Davis is an engineering geologist and geotechnical engineer with over 37 years' experience. He has particular experience and expertise in the following areas:

Engineering geology, tunnelling, groundwater, ground improvement, foundations, retaining structures, slope stability earthworks, Quaternary engineering geology, ground investigation and disputes involving unforeseen ground conditions.

Education and Career

Since 2008: GCG, London

1992-2008: Carillion/TPS Consult, UK

1989-92: Property Services Agency, UK

1988-89: MSc, Imperial College London

1981-84: BSc in Geology, University of Hull

Memberships and professional qualifications

Since 2005: Chartered Scientist

Since 2002: European Geologist

Since 2000: Chartered Geologist

Since 2012: Registered as an 'Adviser' on the UK Register of Ground Engineering Professionals

Since 1994: Fellow of the Geological Society

Since 2022: Member of the European Federation of Geologists Geotechnical Expert Panel

Member of the British Tunnelling Society

Member of the British Geotechnical Association

Member of the Quaternary Research Association

Member of the Geologists' Association

Member of the Northern Mines Research Society

Experience with GCG

John joined Geotechnical Consulting Group in March 2008. For much of the following 8 years he mostly worked on the Crossrail Project in London where he was seconded to the client's Chief Engineer's Group. Here he was responsible for all geotechnical matters that arose in the eastern half of the project. In this role he was closely involved in the higher risk elements of Crossrail construction. Typically, these involved combinations of tunnel and box construction, ground improvement and dewatering.

Since Crossrail John has mainly worked as a CPR35 expert on ground engineering and geological disputes or as an advisor to contractors on geological issues on several major UK infrastructure projects. These tasks were often related to Geotechnical Baseline Reports.

He was lead author for CIRIA C807 'Geotechnical Baseline Reports, a Good Practice Guide' published in February 2023. GBRs are commercial contract documents which set out to clearly allocate below ground construction risk ownership between client and contractor.

John also regularly undertakes geotechnical and geological forensic investigations for insurers and loss adjusters. This work usually involves subsidence and/or landslips.

John provided technical due diligence advice for the funders of the Sirius Minerals polyhalite mine development in North Yorkshire.

John was a member of the task force appointed by Network Rail to review its earthworks management processes after the 2020 fatal Stonehaven derailment.

John is currently geotechnical lead for the Palace of Westminster Restoration and Renewal project design team and recently advised Lower Thames Crossing on ground related buildability issues relating to grouting, soil mixing and DWall construction.

Previous experience

John is an engineering geologist and geotechnical engineer with over 30 years of experience both within the UK and overseas. Early experience involved working in geotechnical investigation contracting and later working for a piling contractor. After

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Service on technical / professional bodies

Since 2022: Chair of the Engineering Group of the Geological Society

2020 - 2022: Vice-Chair of the Engineering Group of the Geological Society

Since 2009: CGeol Scrutineer for the Geological Society

Since 2021: Member of the Quaternary Research Association's Engineering Group committee.

Countries worked

UK, Spain, Portugal, Georgia, Bosnia, Slovakia, Gibraltar, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Ghana, Peru and Argentina.

graduating from his Imperial College Engineering Geology MSc course in 1989 he joined the Property Services Agency, a UK Government multi-disciplinary design organisation.

In 1992 the PSA became TPS and part of what was Carillion PLC. John remained with TPS and went on to become head of the TPS Geotechnical Engineering Team from 1999 until he left to join GCG in 2008.

During this time John was involved in a wide variety of design related and forensic geotechnical tasks involving foundations, retaining structures, basements, rock and soil slopes, groundwater, major earthworks, tunnels and chemical attack on concrete.

In the mid-1990s John was seconded to London Underground for 18 months where he conducted research into the impacts of rising groundwater on LUL infrastructure. This work changed LU's view of this issue from a drainage problem to one of distortion of escalator shafts. Towards the end of this period the focus, in conjunction with Thames Water, was on regional control of groundwater levels.