

Uncertainty in ground conditions is the biggest factor to UK construction delays; it inhibits local authorities being able to de-risk brownfield redevelopment; and the lack of awareness of available data on the subsurface means it is largely overlooked within local development planning.

Greater re-use of the large amount of high quality ground investigation data which exists in the UK, would reduce this uncertainty. The BGS and the National Geoscience Data Centre (NGDC) are working to roll-out a new UK portal of standardised digital surface data, which will collate and provide access to validated AGS digital data in the UK. Desk studies, project design, ground investigations and construction can all be based on wider data and knowledge of the subsurface – lowering project costs and financial risk, with increased certainty in ground conditions, and enabling more effective design.

This presentation will detail the work being undertaken, engaging with Local Authorities to assess how SI data can be used more effectively in planning processes – so that there is more effective zoning of land for different types of development, and ensuring there is greater realisation of available subsurface resources and conditions earlier in planning processes. As part of this, the work will be assisting Glasgow City Council to write the UK's first Subsurface Supplementary Planning guidance over the next 3 years.