

M20 Ground Investigation

BACKGROUND

Southern Testing has recently completed an investigation to assess ground conditions at the location of proposed CCTV masts along the M20 Motorway from Junctions 7 to 12 on both sides of the carriageway.

All exploratory hole locations were situated on the verges, and required temporary closure of the hard shoulder during the works.

Accurate timetabling and liaison with the traffic management specialists was vital to ensure a smooth transition from one side of the motorway to the other without causing unnecessary delays.

Due to the wide geographic area, the geology at each site varied significantly, from Gault Clay, Folkestone Beds, Sandgate Beds and Hythe Beds as well as fill soils used to construct the highway embankments.



INVESTIGATION

A 10m borehole and 10m dynamic probe was required at each location, with in-situ resistivity testing.

Because of the varied geological conditions, restricted access and sloping ground levels, several types of low disturbance tracked drilling rigs were required.

Southern Testing were able to provide a Sedidril Flight Auger rig, a Competitor Windowless Sampler rig, a Geotool DPT rig and a Comacchio 205 combined Rotary and DTHH rig.

Careful services searches were required due to the number of communication cables (electricity and fibre optic) that were situated on the verges.

One exploratory hole location required a night time closure due to the proximity of a slip-road. The rig was mobilised for night works with supplied additional lighting.

All works were completed within the tight specified timescales with detailed logs and in-situ test data, so facilitating the design of the mini piles/pads for the CCTV masts.

