rig checks

Be aware of overhead services and if required agree positioning of rig with statutory undertakers.

Check crown wheel cabling prior to erection of rig. DO NOT climb up the rig frame (as this would be classed as working at height) without an approved system in place, and climbing equipment.

Wear the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); in addition to your standard PPE wear ear defenders and eye protection. Never remove hard hats and ensure that they are in good condition to provide protection from falling objects.

Chains must be checked regularly, as they can be very dangerous if too worn or damaged.

Ropes must be checked regularly, as they can be very dangerous if too worn or damaged.

Check that legs and cross-bar are set up correctly and are level to minimise toppling risk.

It is recommended that non-rig operatives DO NOT step within ~10m of the drilling rig when operational.

Ensure tracks are unobstructed at all times.

Site investigation drilling technologies are not a new concept. Archaeologists have found evidence of drilling tools used by the Song Dynasty in China from 960AD – 1279AD to drill wells for salt.

The industrial revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries heralded significant advancements in mining and metallurgy, and with it came innovations in mechanical drilling such as rotary drilling, as well as the demand for them.

Most of today’s percussive and rotary drilling rigs use the same techniques developed over a hundred years ago, but with significant health and safety enhancements such as secondary winches, interlocking guarding, emergency stops, chalwyn valves, spark arrestors and pressure gauges.

The one factor that remains difficult to control is the human one!

U.K. legislation:
- LOLER; The Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998
- PUWER; The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998

Further details can be obtained from GOV.UK’s legislation webpages: www.legislation.gov.uk/

Geotechnics Ltd documents:
- RIG CHECKLIST SHEETS; we provide separate sheets for each type of drilling technique.
- Safe Working Procedures (SWPs) for each activity.
- TRAINING; We train our engineers in Site Supervision and the various drilling techniques.

With thanks to the following for their contribution:
- www.comacchio-industries.it/en/
- www.jksboyles.co.uk/
- www.dando.co.uk/
- www.geotechnics.co.uk/go-safe

www.dando.co.uk/