

# MAKING GEOSCIENCE DATA AND INFORMATION MORE ACCESSIBLE IN URBAN ENVIRONMENTS

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The BGS has a collection of over a million UK borehole records held in the National Geoscience Data Centre, and thousands of new ground investigation records are added each year. This data provides vital geological, geotechnical and geoenvironmental information that is essential for construction, infrastructure and academic research particularly in urban areas where the majority of the boreholes are drilled.

However, the BGS estimates that 80% of borehole data is not reported to them, resulting in an estimated loss of data and knowledge to the UK economy valued in the region of £150-200 million per year.

There are several BGS-lead initiatives to help address this problem such as 'Dig to Share' and 'Big Borehole Dig' project which work with the industry to change the culture around data sharing. The BGS has also put in place data sharing agreements with organisations, like Network Rail, Environment Agency and the Welsh Government, committing them, and their contractors, to provide their ground investigation records to the BGS.

In the last couple of years, the BGS has been working with the UK government to develop standardised clauses regarding ground investigation data that can be used by all public sector organisations. These clauses are now in the latest version of the UK Construction Playbook, which sets out key policies and guidance for how public projects are assessed, procured and delivered. The Playbook should be

adopted by central government and arm's length bodies on a 'Comply or Explain' basis.

The use- and re-use of this data means that BGS can offer further products and applications such as the BGS Urban Interactive Model Viewer. The web-based delivery tool links geological, hydrogeological, and engineering geology reports to visualisations of synthetic cross-sections, boreholes and slices derived from the 3D model, providing an entry point to a wide range of BGS literature and data. This is one amongst many applications and delivery mechanisms in which the BGS is engaging with.