

## **Abstract for Geological Society, CSRG Talk – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011**

St Helena Island is one of the most remote inhabited islands in the world. Situated in the South Atlantic Ocean and with access only by sea, any engineering project has significant logistical issues to overcome. Between January and August 2008 rockfall protection measures were installed on the cliff above Jamestown Wharf, St Helena. The wharf, which is a critical part of the islands infrastructure providing the only access for passengers and cargo, had a history of regular rockfalls from the 200m high basaltic cliff located above.

The rockfall protection measures, which were designed by W A Fairhurst & Partners and installed by CAN France, included 113,000m<sup>2</sup> standard and reinforced draped rockfall containment netting and 560m rockfall catch fences.

The draped rockfall containment netting, that forms the largest part of the works, is a dynamic system with the ability to dissipate high energies to efficiently bring under control small and large failure masses.

Following this work, W A Fairhurst and CAN France returned to St Helena in 2010 to extend the area benefiting from rockfall risk reduction with a second rockfall protection project. This work, which is now nearing completion, involved erecting around 5000m of rockfall catch fences throughout Jamestown, the only town in St Helena. Both projects make Jamestown and St Helena a safer place to live and visit.

Stacy English of W A Fairhurst and Partners is a Chartered Geologist and former Glossop Award winner with a well developed expertise in rock engineering. She has performed the role of lead technical engineer for a number of complex rockfall protection and risk management projects throughout the UK and overseas. Stacy worked on the design of both rockfall protection projects in St Helena and also resided in St Helena to supervise the implementation phase of each, returning from the latest project mid-February 2011.

