



## THE CENTRAL SCOTLAND REGIONAL GROUP OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Notice of event: Tuesday 29th January 2019  
University of Strathclyde - Room 5.09a (Knowledge Exchange Hub), James Weir  
Building, Level 5, 75 Montrose Street, Glasgow G1 1XJ  
6.00pm for 6:15pm

### Re-thinking Site Investigation Design, Practice and Procurement

by  
**Len Threadgold**  
Chairman and Chief Engineer, Geotechnics Ltd

The ground is the greatest unknown in all construction projects so knowledge of its characteristics is key to efficiency, sustainability and safety of design and construction. The ground and structure need to interact so the scope and form of investigation needs to match the structure's specification. Better recognition of this by Clients, Engineers and Funders is needed. Re-thinking site investigation design, practice and procurement would go some way to achieve this and encourage quality from and for experienced professionals. Structures are specified; the ground is inherited, so collaboration between the designers and investigators is needed to balance expectation.



The techniques used within the site investigation industry have many experienced practitioners and their knowledge is essential to optimise investigation in the context of the site geology, its access constraints and the desired information. Site Investigation is site-specific R&D and a process that extends from initial concepts, through phased investigation work and construction to project completion and beyond.

The investigation product is data that need to be available for efficient use by designers. Adoption of the AGS Format for data transfer, assimilation and storage is allowing better and more rapid use of all the data and can satisfy BIM requirements; awareness of this tried and tested innovation is vital to progress.

More information on the Central Scotland Regional Group can be found on our [webpage](#).



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### Presenter

**Len Threadgold**  
Chairman and Chief Engineer, Geotechnics Ltd



Len Threadgold graduated in Civil Engineering from Liverpool University and, following research there, worked on airfield and bridge design and on construction at Faslane in Scotland. Since 1965, when he joined Cementation's Site Investigation department, he has been deeply involved with the investigation of the ground onto, into or below which all Civil Engineering work is constructed; this is his passion. He joined Exploration Associates in 1973 as Chief Engineer and in 1979 he set up his own consultancy in Site Investigation and Geotechnical Engineering, expanding it to establish a consultancy in Hong Kong. In 1983 he established Geotechnics Limited and continues to work at their office in Coventry.

The Company undertakes Site Investigation and Geotechnical Consultancy and is a leading independent specialist with additional offices in Chester, Exeter and Yorkshire.

Len has been Chairman of the ICE West Midlands, the Midland Geotechnical Society, has served on the Géotechnique Advisory Panel and on the committee of the BGS (now BGA) and AGS. He stimulated and chaired the working party that produced the AGS Format for software-independent transfer and storage of data on ground conditions. In 2017 he was awarded the John Mitchell Medal by the BGA and ICE "For excellence in geotechnical practice" and presented the associated lecture in January 2018. He is a member of the panel of RoGEP and is registered at Adviser level. He has written numerous articles, some papers and has done many presentations to professional groups and Universities.