

Site Investigation

Second Edition

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Preface

It is now over 12 years since we completed the first edition of this book. In the intervening time there have been a number of important advances in the way that site investigations are carried out, both in the UK and elsewhere. In this new edition we have described those techniques which are now in regular commercial use, some of which were presaged in our first edition. But, as in the first edition of this book, we have avoided including descriptions of techniques which we believe will remain largely in the research field.

For the second edition we have added substantial new material on:

- specification and procurement;
- desk studies;
- geophysical investigation techniques;
- sample disturbance and sampling methods;
- *in situ* testing; and
- laboratory testing.

The object of this book remains the same: we aim to improve the quality of site investigation by providing a relatively simple and concise reference book intended to be read by civil and structural engineers and engineering geologists, when undergraduates and postgraduates, but particularly when in practice. The text is intended to inform the reader of available techniques, and to illustrate the advantages and disadvantages of these techniques.

Site investigation is a complex process. It is vital to the success of any construction project, since inadequate investigation can lead to very large construction cost overruns. If site investigation is to be effective then it must be carried out in a systematic way, using techniques that are relevant, reliable and cost-effective. We hope that readers will find this text a useful introduction to this important part of the building and construction process.