ISSMGE - TC206
Management Group Meeting
9-9-2026 at 09:00 – 09.30hrs - UK time

Update on TC206 work

Duncan Nicholson - Chairperson TC206

Ying Chen – Vice Chair

Alessandro Martucci - Secretary

Management Group - Agenda

1. **Minutes of 3/06/26.** Chaired by Duncan
2. **Administration.**
   - **ISSMGE links (Alessandro).**
3. **Conferences**
   - **OM Conference 17/3/26 at Imperial College.**
     - **Presentations uploaded to ISSMGE TC206 site.**
     - **Current balance.**
   - **Vienna Conf. Update**
     - **Keynote / Oral / Poster/ Workshop.**
4. **CIRIA Guide R185 OM Revision**
   - **Arup/ Mott MacDonald - Progress.**
5. **ICE Geot. Eng. Journal – Special Issue.**
   - **Ying Chen to update.**
6. **Working Groups Short Report – next meetings**
   - **RTBA** **Franz**
   - **Monitoring Group** **Hock**
   - **Contracts** **Tony**
   - **Eurocode** **Johan**
   - **Tunnels** **Chris**
   - **Old Structures** **Mandy**
7. **TC206 Members' meeting** (09.30hrs UK time)
   - **Previous Tech Com Meeting - 30/6/26**
   - **30/9/2026 – Tony O'Brien**

   Vienna Keynote Presentation.
8. **TC206 Management Meeting** (09.00hrs UK time)
   - **Late Meeting 30 June 2026**
   - **Summer break**
   - **9 September 2026** **09.00hrs UK time**
   - **7 October 2026** **09.00hrs UK time**
   - **11 November 2026** **09.00hrs UK time**
   - **9 December 2026** **09.00hrs UK time**

1) Minutes /Notes from TC206 Management Group on 3/6/26

- Vienna Conf Workshop Planning
  - Programme very tight - concern about time for Q and A
    - Discussed with chairpersons – they must drive programme.
    - We will gain 15 minutes at the end for discussion.
  - Informal Dinner Planning
    - Discussed later.
- File sharing on ISSMGE TC206.

- Other Actions covered by presentation.

2) Administration

- Alessandro Martucci – Secretary

- Data storage is set up. - Done.

- Update TC206 web pages.

ISSMGE Site Update



https://www.issmge.org/committees/technical-committees/applications/observational-method

Observational Method

- About
- News
- Terms of Reference
- Membership
- Planned Activities
- Deliverables
- Members Group Minutes and PPTs
- Management Group Minutes and PPTs
- Working Groups Minutes and PPTs
- 1st TC206 Conference (17/03/2026) - Photos and Presentations
- Contact

Sign-up to receive committee news

Host Member Society: United Kingdom

Short name: **Observational Method** (TC206) - Terms of Reference - approved

Contact: TC206 Secretary, Alessandro Martucci

TC-206 External Website: tc206issmge

Edit

ISSMGE TC206 Site Update

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https://www.issmge.org/filemanager/technical_committee_pages/82/1.1_D._Nicholson_-_Introduction_to_Observational_Method_Development_and_TC206.pdf

https://www.issmge.org/filemanager/technical_committee_pages/82/1.2_T._O_Brien_-_What_does_the_Observational_Method_need_to_succeed.pdf

https://www.issmge.org/filemanager/technical_committee_pages/82/1.3.0_M._Sanchez_Technical_Oversight_Committee_TOC.pdf

https://www.issmge.org/filemanager/technical_committee_pages/82/1.3.2_Links_with_Technical_Committees_-TC103_ERTC7.pdf

https://www.issmge.org/filemanager/technical_committee_pages/82/1.3.2_Links_with_Technical_Committees_-TC220.pdf

https://www.issmge.org/filemanager/technical_committee_pages/82/1.3.3_A._Franza_-_Geotechnical_Aspects_of_Undreground_Construction_in_Soft_Ground.pdf

https://www.issmge.org/filemanager/technical_committee_pages/82/2.1_S._Lacasse_-_Uncertainty_in_our_data_and_uncertainty_in_design.pdf

https://www.issmge.org/filemanager/technical_committee_pages/82/2.2._J._Standing_-_How_Reliable_is_Instrumentation_Understanding_IM_reliability.pdf

https://www.issmge.org/filemanager/technical_committee_pages/82/3.1_F._Tschuchnigg_-_Developments_in_Real_Time_Back_Analysis_Development_RTBApdf.pdf

https://www.issmge.org/filemanager/technical_committee_pages/82/3.2_D._Taborda_-_Fusing_numerical_analysis_with_Artificial_ntelligence_delivering_near_real-time_back_analysis_for_the_observational_method.pdf

https://www.issmge.org/filemanager/technical_committee_pages/82/3.3_L.L._Hock_-_Near_Real-Time_Back_Analysis_in_Practice_A_Case_Study_using_DAARWIN.pdf

http://www.issmge.org/filemanager/technical_committee_pages/82/3.4_S._Hardy_-_Real_Time_Back_Analysis_in_Practice_Some_recent_experiences_with_Gofer_META.pdf

https://www.issmge.org/filemanager/technical_committee_pages/82/3.5_L._Piciullo_-_geotechnical_modelling_for_real-time_IoT-based_real-time_slope_stability_slope_stability_forecast_and_warning.pdf

3) Conference

- **21st ICSMGE Vienna Conference TC206 Involvement (14-19 June 2026)**

  - **Oral session booked (90 Minutes). –** TC206 to define 6 paper for 10-12 min. presentations
  - Joint session on Monday 15/6/26 (MO-05) in Room N1.

  - **Poster Session / Single Slide –** TC206 to allocate 13 places.
  - Joint session on Wednesday 17/6/26 (WE13) in Room N1.

  - **"Workshop" Session (90 minutes**?) – TC206 to organise.
  - Session on Tuesday, June 16th, 16:15-17:45 in Room L1, capacity 135

Vienna Conf – Six Oral Presentations -



Six Oral Presentations – Summarised at TC206 Tech Committee Meeting (30/6/26)

Application of the observational method for the optimisation of supports: examples of the extension of the Knuedler car park and the Hosingen bypass in Luxembourg

Steve Gruslin, Tiffany Hennebaut

Application of the Observational Method to existing structures: quay walls

Mandy Korff, Rick Voortman, Geeralt van den Ham

Effective implementation of the Observational Method for the HS2 Old Oak Common station box

Joao Angelino, Stuart Hardy, Matthew Sharratt

Observational Method in Hong Kong's Context

Alvin LAM, James SZE, Jack YIU

Application of the observational method on high speed two retaining structures

Hock Liong Liew, Natalie Wride, Alice Smith, Joe Mazgajczyk, Anthony O' Brien

Back Analysis and Observational Method for Strut Removal for a Deep Underground Excavation in Singapore using Genetic Algorithm Tools

Rosemary Jia Jing Vong, Kannan Vinayagam, Nicholas Mace, Michael Gordon Williamson, Jasper Mong Kiak Sim

MOTT MACDONALD

2026 AUSTRIA VIENNA WHERE IT ALL BEGAN 21st ICSMGE

Invited Keynote Lecture

THE OBSERVATIONAL METHOD Lessons learnt and future potential



Tony O'Brien, FREng.
MM Fellow

Hock Liong Liew, MICE.
Technical Director

Lecture will be repeated at the Tech Committee Meeting on the 30/9/26

Develop Links with other ISSMGE Technical Committees

- TC206 Chair – Duncan Nicholson
- ISSMGE TC overview – Marcelo Sánchez
- TC 220- Field Monitoring (Andrew Ridley).
- ERTC7/TC 103, - Numerical (Franz Tschuchnigg),
- TC 204 - Tunnels, (Giulia Viggiani).
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- Other Tech Committees –
- TC207 -Walls (Prof Ong),
- TC208 - Slopes (Prof Cotecchia),
- TC 222 - BIM. TC 304 - Risk. TC 309 – Machine Learning.

4) CIRIA Revised R185 on OM

- Contract awarded to Arup / Mott MacDonald
- Kick off Meeting with Collaborators on 10/12/2023.
- CIRIA Steering Group Meetings on 3/12/25 and 10/2/26
- Using OM Conference 17/3/25 to gather industry feedback.

- Johan Spross is TC206 Rep. on steering group.

- First draft - April 26
- Next Draft - October 26

ICE Proceeding – Geotechnical Engineering - Special Theme Issue (Ying Chen)

ICE Proceeding Call for Paper

Call for Papers: New Developments in Observational Method | Emerald Publishing

- Topics:
  - Case Histories
  - Developments of OM in past two decades

- Key Dates:
  - Abstract by 8th March
  - Full length paper by 12th July
  - Final Journal review - November 2026

ICE Proceeding – Geotechnical Engineering - Special Theme Issue

- Current Programme:



Abstract to be submitted

Full length paper draft to be submitted – Extended 4 weeks

Final Journal paper – Review in progress

Publish Special Theme OM Issue

ICE Proceeding – Geotechnical Engineering - Special Issue on OM (11 draft papers submitted)

1	Observational Method and Back-Analysis for Bored Pile Design Verification in Heterogeneous Strata, Manila, Philippines
2	What is (and is not) Observational Method
3	Observational monitoring of Earth Structure on London Underground asset management
4	Surrogate-enabled automatic real-time back-analysis for the observational method: a case study from Old Oak Common
5	The application of the Observational Method during the construction of the Crossover Box at Battersea Underground Station on the NLE
6	Practical application of the observational method within the second generation of Eurocode 7
7	Field monitoring of wall deflections and thermal effects on temporary props in Oxford clay
8	Results of monitoring at the Crossrail Tottenham Court Road Station Western Ticket Hall deep excavation case
9	How reliable is I&M when assessed within the OM framework?
10	The Observational Method is also a risk-informed approach to ensure robust design
11	From Peck to the Digital Twin: A Conceptual Framework for a Machine-Learning-Enabled Observational Method

Black – case histories (5) Red – OM and Eurocode (2) Blue - Risk base (1) Green – RTBA (2)

6) TC206 Working Group - Updates

- **RTBA – Franz Tschurchnigg** -
- **Monitoring – Leaders - Hock, Dorota, Leen**.
- **Historical Structures** – Mandy Korff.
- **Eurocodes** – Johan Spross.
- **Contracts** – Tony O'Brien.
- **Tunnels** – Chris Menkiti.

- **RTBA NEXT MEETING – 21/9/26 - 10.30hrs (UK time)**

Part 1: Presentation

Title: **Multi-Source Data Integration for Soil Parameter Uncertainty Quantification**

Authors: Ningxin Yang, Truong Le, Lidija Zdravkovic, and David Potts

Abstract: This work introduces a sequential Bayesian framework for soil parameter uncertainty quantification using multi-source field observations. The framework integrates reduced-order modelling with a custom likelihood formulation to account for multiple sources of uncertainty and is demonstrated using a full-scale laterally loaded pile test.

Part 2: Internal Matters

Planning next meeting

Monitoring Group
(Hock, Leen, Dorota, Duncan.)

-
- Possible Next Meeting - Joe Milton - Network Rail
- Future Meeting - Jamie Standing – Presenting Special Issue Paper.
- Future Meeting – HS2 – Instrumentation performance
- Goal – Develop Flow Charts for :-
  - OM on historical Structures.
  - I&M contractual and supervision arrangement.

Existing Structures – Mandy Korff
Next meeting 29/9/26

- Agenda ? Good motivation – Client involvement / ownership.

- **Interact with - Revised CIRIA R185 on OM.**

- This includes :-
  - Old canal walls, - Old dock walls, - Leen and Arup Canary Wharf Banana walls
  - Old railway walls – PVE walls Euston.
  - Old cut slopes - TFL / HA/ Network rail (GCG)
  - Embankment fill - London Underground
  - Reuse of building foundation, - Dinesh Patel
  - Bridges, - Structural Health Monitoring process. ??
- Eurocode 0 Part 2 - UK rep? contact Andrew Bond? Stuart Hardy?

Eurocodes - Johan Spross

- Last meeting 5/6/26 - EC7 examples
- Three Eurocode / OM papers in Special Issue. –
  - Presentations / discussions.
- New Eurocode – Project Importance - Classification.
- Input into CIRIA Guide.

Contracts - update by Tony O'Brien

- Need to complete table of OM projects with cost savings. -

- **CIRIA Revised R185 - Sections on Clients and Contracts. –**
  - Client Culture - Consensus at start of OM
  - Need for Cat 3 checker to reassess temp work changes.
  - TAA / AIP Approvals.
  - Structural Heath Monitoring – client requirements.
- Use for broader discussions.

- Link with ICE Client Initiatives.
- Link to new OM Projects.

Tunnelling Working Group - update by C Menkiti

Leadership.

Chris Menkiti leads this group.

- Chris has a GCG person.
- Input into CIRIA GUIDE.
- Call for tunnel conf papers?

Restarting Tunnelling Working Group

For the Management meeting on 13/11/24 and TC206 meeting we need a presentation on:-

- List people who previously attended the Tunnelling WG.
- Terms of Reference. – topics
- Links with TC204
- Define tunnelling approach to OM and compare with Infrastructure approach. What can we learn?
- Triggers and design.
- Examples.
- HS2 – bored tunnels. SAALG presenting
- HS2 - SCL tunnels. Colin Eddie Presenting
- Silvertown tunnel.
- Sensors and RTBA . – new sensors on cutting wheel.
- Aim for a meeting before Christmas.

7 & 8) Next TC206 Meetings

- **ISSMGE - TC206 Tech Committee - Members meetings:**
  - 30 June 2026 – Duncan Nicholson – Vienna Conf - Summary of papers
  - 30 Sept 2026 – Tony O'Brien -
    - Vienna Keynote - THE OBSERVATIONAL METHOD - Lessons learnt and future potential
  - End Jan 2027 - Special Issue or Ciria Guide innovations? Too soon?

- **TC206 Management Group Meetings**
  - Last meeting - 03 June 2026 09:00am UK time
  - Summer break TBC
  - 9 September - 09.00hrs

  - 7 October - 09.00hrs – UK time
  - 11 November - 09.00hrs – UK time
  - 9 December - 09.00hrs – UK time

Any Questions