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Jurassic Railway: Engineering Geology of HS2 in the South Midlands

Simon Butler

(Chief Engineering Geologist, Atkins & Senior Project Engineer, HS2)

Tuesday 14th November 2023 | Mott MacDonald, 10 Livery St, Birmingham B3 3NU / Zoom Video Conference | 6:30pm start

Abstract:

HS2 is the UK's developing High Speed Rail Connection between the North, the Midlands and the South East of England. The route of HS2 Phase 1 runs near perpendicular to the grain of the geology of the English South Midlands. The section of route between the Chiltern Tunnels and the edge of the West Midlands conurbation covers about 100 million years for geological time, from the Cretaceous to the Triassic, and gives an insight into the Jurassic Mudrocks of the English Midlands.

HS2 is a work in progress, as is much of the learning and research that will come from it. This talk will introduce the key geologies encountered by the works undertaken to design and build this major engineering project, give an insight into some of the findings to date and discuss the 'learning legacy' that HS2 aims to provide to future earth science professionals.



HS2 Railway Cutting in Construction

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About the Speaker:

Simon is a Chartered Engineering Geologist with over 30 years' experience of geotechnical engineering within the civil and structural engineering industry. He has worked with both large multi-disciplinary designers and specialist geotechnical consultants on a wide range of projects including large infrastructure programmes, commercial and residential building schemes and land reclamation projects, providing ground risk advice to private clients, contractors and government agencies in the UK and overseas.

Since 2017, Simon has been seconded into the HS2 project as a Senior Project Engineer to provide technical support and risk management advice to the UK's largest infrastructure project.

Simon is a strong advocate for the value that an understanding of geology and geohazards, and an acceptance of the uncertainty that surrounds that understanding, can bring to the safe and successful planning and execution of construction projects.



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