

BS 8574:2014



BSI Standards Publication

# Code of practice for the management of geotechnical data for ground engineering projects

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Published by BSI Standards Limited 2014

ISBN 978 0 580 75023 6

ICS 01.040.93; 93.080.01

The following BSI references relate to the work on this document:

Committee reference B/526/3

Draft for comment 13/30244525 DC

**Publication history**

First published March 2014

**Amendments issued since publication**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Text affected</b>
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## Foreword

### Publishing information

This British Standard is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 31 March 2014. It was prepared by Subcommittee B/526/3, *Site investigation and ground testing*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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As a code of practice, this British Standard takes the form of guidance and recommendations. It should not be quoted as if it were a specification and particular care should be taken to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

Any user claiming compliance with this British Standard is expected to be able to justify any course of action that deviates from its recommendations.

It has been assumed in the preparation of this British Standard that the execution of its provisions will be entrusted to appropriately qualified and experienced people, for whose use it has been produced.

### Presentational conventions

The provisions of this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is "should".

*Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.*

The word "should" is used to express recommendations of this standard. The word "may" is used in the text to express permissibility, e.g. as an alternative to the primary recommendation of the clause. The word "can" is used to express possibility, e.g. a consequence of an action or an event.

Notes and commentaries are provided throughout the text of this standard. Notes give references and additional information that are important but do not form part of the recommendations. Commentaries give background information.

### Contractual and legal considerations

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

**Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.**

## Introduction

Each ground engineering project requires the collection of data from different sources and in a range of formats. The collected data are processed and transferred throughout the supply chain to be used by a variety of people and organizations.

The management and delivery of these data needs to be defined and maintained throughout each project, integrating the requirements set out in the project specification together with the objectives of those who produce and those who use the data. This can be achieved by the introduction of a data management system based on an organization's data management policy, which is covered in this standard.

A data management system is applicable to geotechnical and environmental investigations, construction projects with activities such as piling, earthworks and tunnelling, monitoring and asset management.

The procedures described in this standard facilitate the management of geotechnical data for use in a BIM project in accordance with PAS 1192.



## 1 Scope

This British Standard gives recommendations on the management of geotechnical data throughout the life cycle of civil engineering and building projects at both an organizational and project level.

It also gives recommendations on the collection, storage, archiving, sharing and transfer of logical data.

This British Standard is intended for engineering geologists, geotechnical and environmental engineers, geotechnical data managers, IT managers and project managers.

## 2 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this British Standard, the following terms and definitions apply.

- 2.1 data manager**  
person responsible for the data management system
- 2.2 data management plan**  
method of stating the requirements for maintaining, performing or improving data management at an operational level
- 2.3 data steward**  
person responsible for carrying out the processes needed for the data management system
- 2.4 data store**  
repository of project data  
*NOTE* An example of a data store is a computer database.
- 2.5 geotechnical data**  
facts or figures obtained from all phases of a geotechnical project, including derivations from other data  
*NOTE* Facts and figures might include text, numbers and formulae.
- 2.6 logical data**  
data connected by location and/or time and not the representation or the evaluation of those data
- 2.7 organization**  
company and/or project team
- 2.8 validation**  
control technique used to detect data that are in the correct format and within acceptable limits
- 2.9 verification**  
act of checking transferred data, usually at the stage of input to a computer system, by comparing copies of the data before and after transfer