



Southern Renewals
Enterprise



Slope Stabilisation



Oct 2024



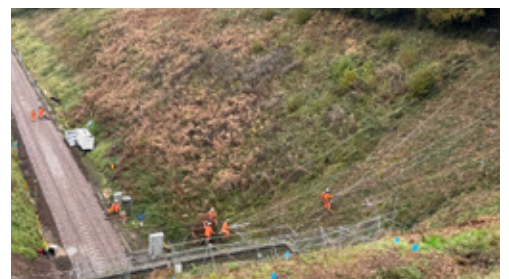
16 weeks

Universal Group were contracted by VolkerFitzpatrick as part of the SRE framework to install soil nails and netting at a landslide stabilisation project in Honiton.

On Tuesday 20 August, Network Rail's earthworks sensors in the Honiton tunnel cutting detected movement on one of the slopes, Universal Piling and Construction were engaged to carry out ground stabilisation works consisting of soil nailing and netting specifically designed to prevent any further slips.

After initially mobilising to site at short notice for these emergency works, our Piling & Geotechnical team quickly came up with the most efficient temporary works solution and methodology to enable these works to be delivered safely and without disrupting the operational railway at this logistically challenging site.

The soil nails were installed using various methods including a hydraulic drill mounted to an RRV which was used to install a small number of the lower nails from track level and the remainder of the nails were installed using a skid rig. The skid rig was tethered to either an excavator and winch or a series of Platipus Anchors c/w Quad plates installed around the cutting to assist in moving and positioning the drill rig around the cutting. Adapting both systems enabled the soil nailing and crest drainage works (carried out by other contractors) to run concurrently, having the two systems gave our team the flexibility to work in all areas cutting in order to deconflict both operations.



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Honiton Tunnel

Case Study: 09.04.25



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Our skid rigs and winches are all fully remote control allowing for our drillers to operate both the drill and the winch whilst maneuvering the equipment which helps to minimize HAVS, manual handling and the risk of entanglement.

To allow these works to be carried out without effecting the operational railway, a series of catch fences were installed during a possession to provide a protective barrier between the works and the live railway, which could retain any potential debris from the works. This ensured maximum efficiency with the works able to continue working under ALO conditions during normal working hours, hence reducing both cost & programme.

In total 297no. soil nails were installed along with 3,159m² of Tecco G65/3.

This was a fantastic achievement on a challenging project by all involved, All works were completed accident/incident free and on programme.



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