GEOSCIENTIFIC DESK STUDY REPORTING

Capability Statement CS1 | Rev 2.0 | November 2026

Magnum GSI prepares geoscientific desk studies that set out what is already known about a site before any ground is broken: its geology and hydrogeology, its history, its environmental setting and the ground risks that follow from them. A desk study is the first stage of ground investigation under BS 5930:2015+A1:2020 and the cheapest point at which to find a problem. We offer it at two levels: GeoScreen, our automated screening reports, and an authored desk study written by a geotechnical engineer.

What we provide

- **GeoScreen screening reports.** Automated ground risk reports for any site in England, Wales or Scotland, ordered online and delivered by email in minutes. Around 30 public datasets are queried and 11 geohazards plus the source protection zone are rated by explicit rules, with 18 figures. Tier 0 Ground Risk Snapshot from £75 + VAT; Tier 1 Ground Risk Report, with full narrative, conceptual site model and recommendations, from £150 + VAT. A single point, a site boundary or a linear route.
- **Authored desk study.** A BS 5930 desk study prepared by a geotechnical engineer: review of historical maps and aerial photography, BGS geology and borehole records, previous investigations, mining and regulatory registers, flood and hydrogeological data, and a site walkover. The report gives a preliminary conceptual site model, a ground risk register and a recommended scope for intrusive investigation.
- **Scope to suit the project.** Geotechnical, geo-environmental (Phase 1 preliminary risk assessment to BS 10175 and the Land Contamination Risk Management guidance), hydrogeological and flood-related content can be included or left out according to what the project needs, in our format or the client's.
- **Clear next steps.** Every desk study ends with what the findings mean for the proposed development and what should be done next, so the client can brief a design team or a ground investigation contractor straight away.

How we work

We start from the question the client needs answered, not from a standard list. Every source is named, every limitation is stated, and each rating or judgement can be traced back to the data behind it. Where the data is thin we say so rather than guess. GeoScreen reports arrive in minutes; the programme for an authored desk study is agreed at the outset and held to.

Who it is for

Developers, architects and planners at site selection and feasibility; solicitors, funders and insurers assessing ground-related liabilities; contractors pricing a scheme; and asset owners and infrastructure teams who need an independent view of ground conditions.

Standards and quality

BS 5930:2015+A1:2020; BS EN 1997-1 and 1997-2 (Eurocode 7); BS 10175:2011+A2:2017; national planning policy (NPPF, Planning Policy Wales, NPF4) for planning context. Work is carried out under Magnum GSI's ISO 9001 certified quality management system (certificate 251677) and the company holds Cyber Essentials certification across the whole organisation. Every report is checked by a second engineer before issue.

Coverage

England, Wales and Scotland. Single plots to industrial and infrastructure sites.

Contact

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