



DRILLED AND GROUTED FOUNDATIONS IN CALCAREOUS SOILS

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Drilled and grouted foundations are a common foundation type for offshore structures in Australia where calcareous soils are prevalent. These soils are highly porous and prone to dissolution that may compromise foundation stability. The dissolution process can be accelerated by groundwater flow, increasing the likelihood of subsidence, drilled hole collapse and uneven settlement. The variability in calcareous soil composition and the potential for unexpected voids necessitate thorough geotechnical investigations and continuous monitoring. This presentation describes some of these risks and mitigations for consideration in planning, design and installation.

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Andrew Ripley, Subsea 7

With the exciting announcement of the first batch of feasibility licenses being awarded for designated areas for offshore wind in Australia, a number of developers are about to embark on the next stage of design. One of the key aspects that will be reviewed is the foundation design. The type of foundation selected is driven by metocean, soils, water depth and wind turbine size to name a few key variables. The foundation choice, and hence method of installation have varying acoustic impacts that need to be understood and considered from an environmental impact perspective. This presentation leverages off Subsea7's global experiences as an offshore wind installation contractor and will provide an overview of the different foundation types, installation techniques, associated noise levels and mitigation measures that have been employed to manage noise levels.

Abstract to follow

Doug Cleland, IQIP

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