



European Weather Centre, Reading

September 2001

Main Contractor: Balvac Whitley Moran Ltd

As part of the expansion of the European Weather Centre, Reading, to accommodate increased forecasting computer capacity, Systems Geotechnique were contracted by Balvac Whitley Moran to design and install piles to support a new computer room floor slab within the existing facility. It was essential that the method incorporated a means of operating quietly and without vibration inside a specially constructed working cell with controlled atmosphere so as to protect adjacent computer installations which were to remain in operation. Access and workspace were extremely limited. Systems Geotechnique designed a scheme of 41No. 200mm diameter augered minipiles which were constructed using a hydraulically powered Technodrill TD308 mini rig. The powerpack for the rig, together with mixer and other ancillary equipment were stationed outside the building in a soundproofed enclosure and controlled via a radio link.