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**BTS Promotes Best Practice Guide on
SCL Exclusion Zone Management**

In accordance with the ethos of The British Tunnelling Society (BTS) - to share knowledge related to the practice of tunnelling and underground construction - the BTS has made available for download the recently published best practice guide on Sprayed Concrete Lining (SCL) Exclusion Zone Management, which brings together a number processes and methods designed to prevent injury from falling materials.

The document, which is one of a number of similar documents available to download from the BTS website - [www.britishtunnelling.org.uk](http://www.britishtunnelling.org.uk) - was developedby Crossrail, with the aim of developing a unified solution to manage exclusion zones around the use of SCL. The document was also developed with the input of a number of companies involved in SCL work on the Crossrail, many of which are BTS corporate members, with their feedback contributing to the production of a comprehensive guide with the widest industry acceptance.

Speaking about the new Guidance Document, Roger Bridge, recent past Chair of the BTS said: “The SCL Guidance Document is a positive achievement for the UK tunnelling industry and underlines the entire sector’s commitment to best practice and the promotion of safety onsite. At the BTS we are focussed on ensuring information of this nature is promoted and available for all to benefit from. There have been a number of tragic incidents with the use of SCL over the past few years and whilst all parties endeavour to operate as safely as possible, a defined methodology is a tremendous leap forward to ensuring consistent protocols, agreed and acknowledged as best practice, are adopted by all.”

Roger continued “I hope that the document and the guidance it offers, is adopted across all UK projects, which is why it is being made available to the wider tunnelling industry and not just BTS members. With the present review of BS6164, the British Standard for Health and Safety in Tunnelling, underway, the BTS hopes that this document, or certainly parts of it, will form an integral component in its revision.”

For more information about the BTS and its new SCL Guidance document, contact the BTS by email bts@britishtunnelling.org.uk or visit the BTS website [www.britishtunneling.org.uk](http://www.britishtunneling.org.uk). The document can be downloaded here - <https://goo.gl/cCO0pi>

The BTS is an Associated Society of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE). With a current membership of 814 individual members and 266 corporate members, it is one of the most vibrant gatherings of professional tunnellers in the world.

Formed in 1971 to provide a forum for meetings and discussion on tunnel-related matters, the BTS also publishes industry guidelines and codes of practice; conducts training courses to advance the education of tunnelling professionals; actively supports the recruitment of young people to the industry; acknowledges excellence in tunnelling; sponsors and supports industry conferences; and advises Government and the general public on the tunnelling industry

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 **Roger Bridge, Recent Past Chair - BTS**