



## ASUC BASEMENT GUIDELINES ENDORSED BY HSE

Following the publication of the ASUC *Guidance on Safe and Efficient Basement Construction* in 2013 the 179 page document quickly became essential reading for anyone involved in the commissioning, planning or construction of domestic basements to ensure all the issues relating to the work are fully considered before stating a project.

Now, in recognition of its value as the go-to-document before the commissioning of any basement work, the Guidelines have been endorsed by the Health and Safety Executive, which was consulted in the production of the publication, and calls for the advice it contains to be followed.

The FT reported earlier this year that the number of planning applications for basements below or near existing structures in the capital had doubled in two years to nearly 900 — twice as high as before the financial crisis, according to figures by Glenigan, which monitors applications.<sup>(1)</sup>

There has also been a significant rise in the number of health and safety incidents linked to basement construction including fatalities, injuries, and damage to buildings, as well as negative impact on people not involved in the works, notably local residents.

The Association of Specialist Underpinning Contractors (ASUC) is publishing these revised guidelines to improve the safety and efficiency of basement construction below or near to existing structures and to reduce negative impact on others, especially people living or working near to basement construction projects.

The revised document is available now to download free from the ASUC website at <http://www.asuc.org.uk> where you can also find a registered specialists contractor and find out more about ASUC and its work to improve best practice within the industry.

<sup>(1)</sup> Article in the Financial Times – 26 Feb 16, James Pickford

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ASUC is the only association representing specialist contractors in domestic: underpinning and subsidence repair techniques, engineered foundations and retrofit basements. The latent defects insurance can cover all the works carried out under contract at a property - not just the subsidence repair. Members of ASUC offer an extended range of foundation solutions, including new build, basements and other forms of subsidence repairs.

Members of ASUC are subject to annual health and safety reviews, are audited for technical expertise by an independent assessor, are monitored for financial probity and all share the common goals of setting the benchmark for standards within the industry, to lead in providing innovative solutions and maintain skills levels through education and training.

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