

Pile Cropping

Traditionally, tops of concrete continuous flight auger (CFA) piles are broken down utilizing percussive breaker tools. This exposes operatives to significant vibration, noise and dust.

The following alternative methods are currently available:

Elliott Method

The piles are installed with polyurethane foam sleeves over each reinforcing bar at the correct pile cut-off level (see photo). Once cured and excavated, holes are drilled into the exposed pile and a concrete splitter inserted to induce a crack in the pile at cut-off level. The piles need to be installed with a lifting eye at the top to facilitate the easy removal of the unwanted pile head. Further information is available on case study DBP0002.



Recepieux Method

The piles are installed with polyurethane foam sleeves over each reinforcing bar at the correct pile cut-off level. Also, an arrangement of plastic tubes are fixed to the reinforcing cage with their base at the cut-off level (see photo). Once cured, the flasks are filled with expanding grout which when cured cracks the pile at cut-off level. The piles need to be installed with a lifting eye at the top to facilitate the easy removal of the unwanted pile head.



Mr Cropper Method

A hydraulically operated attachment to an excavator (see photo) which breaks down the pile in sections. Concrete remaining within the reinforced section of the pile may need some breaking down with a CP9 type breaker.



Benefits of using these alternative methods include:

- Significantly less exposure to vibration, noise and dust for operatives
- Significant time saving of at least 30 minutes per pile over traditional pile cropping
- No debris under foot which is a significant hazard in traditional pile cropping

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