

Deep Boreholes & Piezometers Broken Cross, South Lanarkshire

Hydracrat was employed by Scottish Coal Company Ltd to undertake a programme of deep boreholes and piezometer installations at Broken Cross Opencast Coal Mine in South Lanarkshire to depths up to 190m for the exploration and monitoring of the underlying strata and water table.



The project included the drilling, daily management and planning of multiple deep rotary boreholes in the active opencast mine and the immediate vicinity to determine the extent and quality of the underlying strata and groundwater conditions. Each borehole was specifically targeted to investigate the economic coal seams and determine the groundwater regime for future dewatering and subsequent extraction of resources.

Hydracrat were employed to complete 13 boreholes to depths between 65mbgl and 190mbgl. A mixture of flush types and drilling techniques made up the project with the primary goal being obtaining high quality rock cores for detailed logging and laboratory testing and the installation of deep groundwater monitoring points for water level monitoring and pump testing.

The project was completed within the allotted timeframe and on budget. No Health and Safety incidents were recorded and all operations were undertaken within the active mines safety regime and management.

“Hydracrat carry out exploratory drilling all over Scotland for SCCL from openholes, corings and the construction of monitoring boreholes to depths of up to 260m. Drill crews are very experienced and professional in carrying out the various duties under very arduous conditions. The Drilling Programmes are always carried out to a high standard and the drilling works are always completed to the timescale set and within budget”

John Walker, Technical Development Manager for Scottish Coal