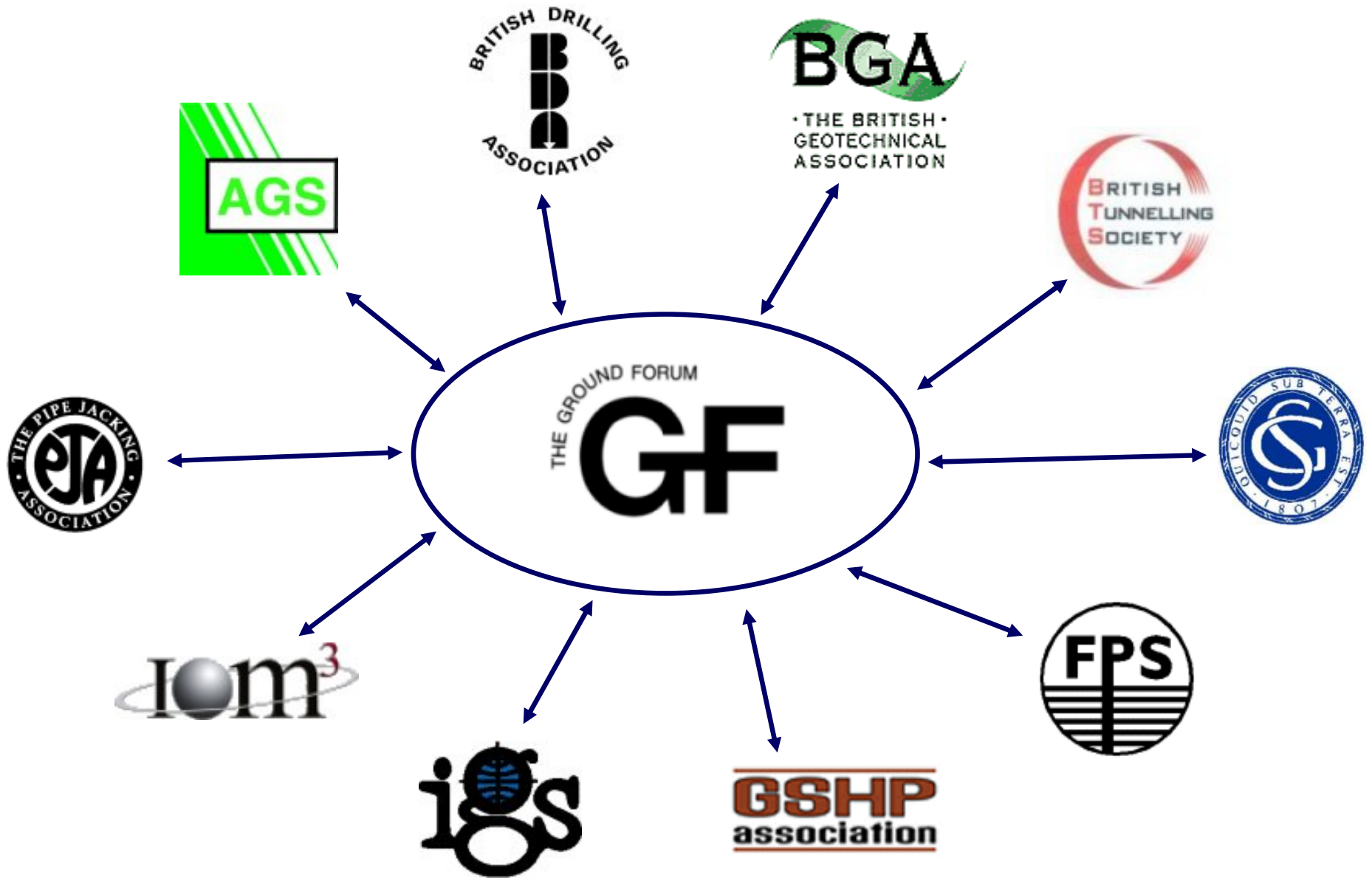


# **THE ROLE OF THE GROUND FORUM**

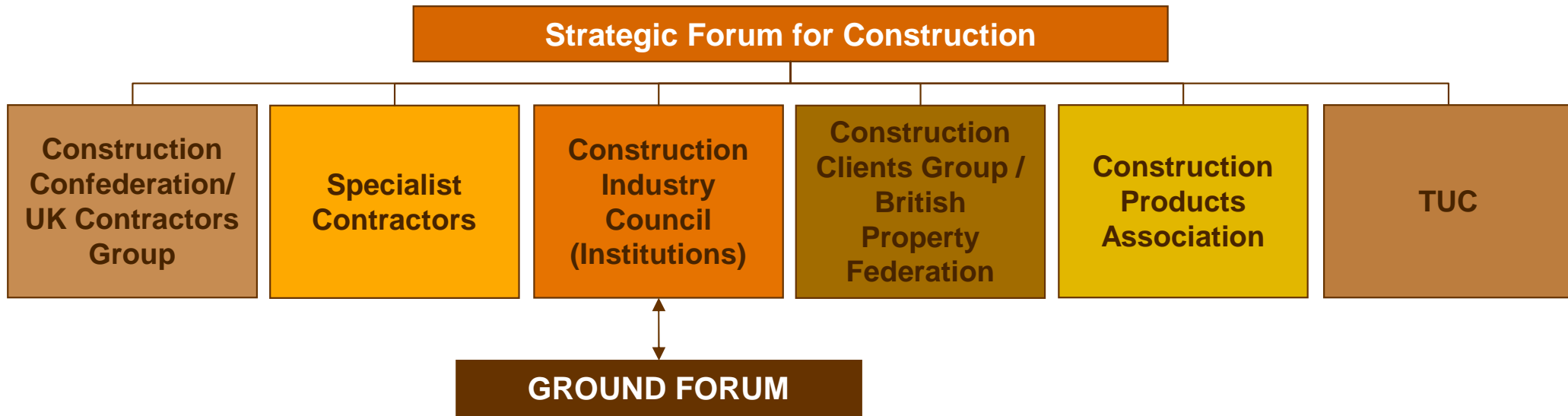
**Jim Cook, Chairman**



- Formed in 1993 by David Sherwood (then Chairman of FPS) and Cameron Craig (then Administrator of AGS).
- Umbrella organisation for UK ground engineering related industries.
- Opportunity for the Chairmen of the ground-related bodies to meet on a regular basis, to exchange information and co-ordinate activities.
- More specifically, the Ground Forum exists to:
  - provide an effective point of communication between Member Organisations
  - enhance the profile of the ground engineering industry
  - raise youth awareness of the satisfaction and rewards of a career in ground engineering
  - promote good practice in all ground related disciplines
  - enhance training
  - promote the value of good ground engineering
  - lobby the government and other construction organisations on issues of concern for the ground engineering sector



- To provide a central forum for communication between all Members and enhance the profile of the ground engineering industry
- To vigorously promote
  - Best practice throughout the industry
  - Active dialogue between Members
  - The value of geotechnics and engineering geology in building, civil engineering works, mining, quarrying and managing contaminated land
  - Continuous advancement and training through CPD Safe working practices
  - The interests of the Geotechnical Sector via the CIC
  - The interests and activities of its Members promoting the professional status of Geotechnical Advisors and Geotechnical Specialists



- Ground Forum is a member of the UK Construction Industry Council – a grouping of more than 50 construction organisations, which has considerable influence within the industry and at Government level.
- Through membership of the Construction Industry Council (CIC) and, more directly, through the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee (P&SC) Ground Forum is able to lobby ministers, other MPs and members of the House of Lords.
- Ground Forum is therefore beholden to provide balanced advice and opinions, and ensure it is not pushing a fringe view.

- Inclusion of ground engineering disciplines on the Home Office's Shortage Occupations List (engineering geologist, geotechnical engineer, tunnelling engineer and contaminated land specialist).
- Part of CIC lobby to the DTI, on behalf of CIC, to remove the 'country of origin' principle from the EU Services Directive (which would have allowed nationals from other EU countries to work in the UK under their laws, instead of UK laws)
- Contributing to the Cabinet Office's review of the Building Regulations
- Coordination of industry response to the inappropriate application by HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) of the Aggregates Levy to chalk arisings from a utilities tunnel
- Regular contributions to NCE Insite to promote ground engineering to schools and colleges

- Preparing for introduction of professional registration across all the ground related sectors - Registration of Ground Engineers
- Advice to Government on education and training of ground engineers required to meet the future demand of Nuclear Energy
- Supporting industry and academia on the need for MSc courses in ground engineering
- University survey regarding employer support
- Promote training
- Highlighting to Government concerns with the current financial climate and need for financial support to industry
- Monitor and promote European Directives
- Support Members Initiatives, specification, health and safety, waste etc

- Specialist Contractors offering complete ground engineering service (e.g. Wimpey Labs, Soil Mechanics, Foundation Engineering, Cementation etc).
- Provided in house foundation engineering development programme including training for young engineers
- Experience provided in:
  - Field work, Site Supervision, Insitu Testing, Sampling, GI, Piling, Ground Treatment, Earthworks etc
  - Logging, Laboratory testing
  - Design Office, including interpretative and factual reporting
- The result?

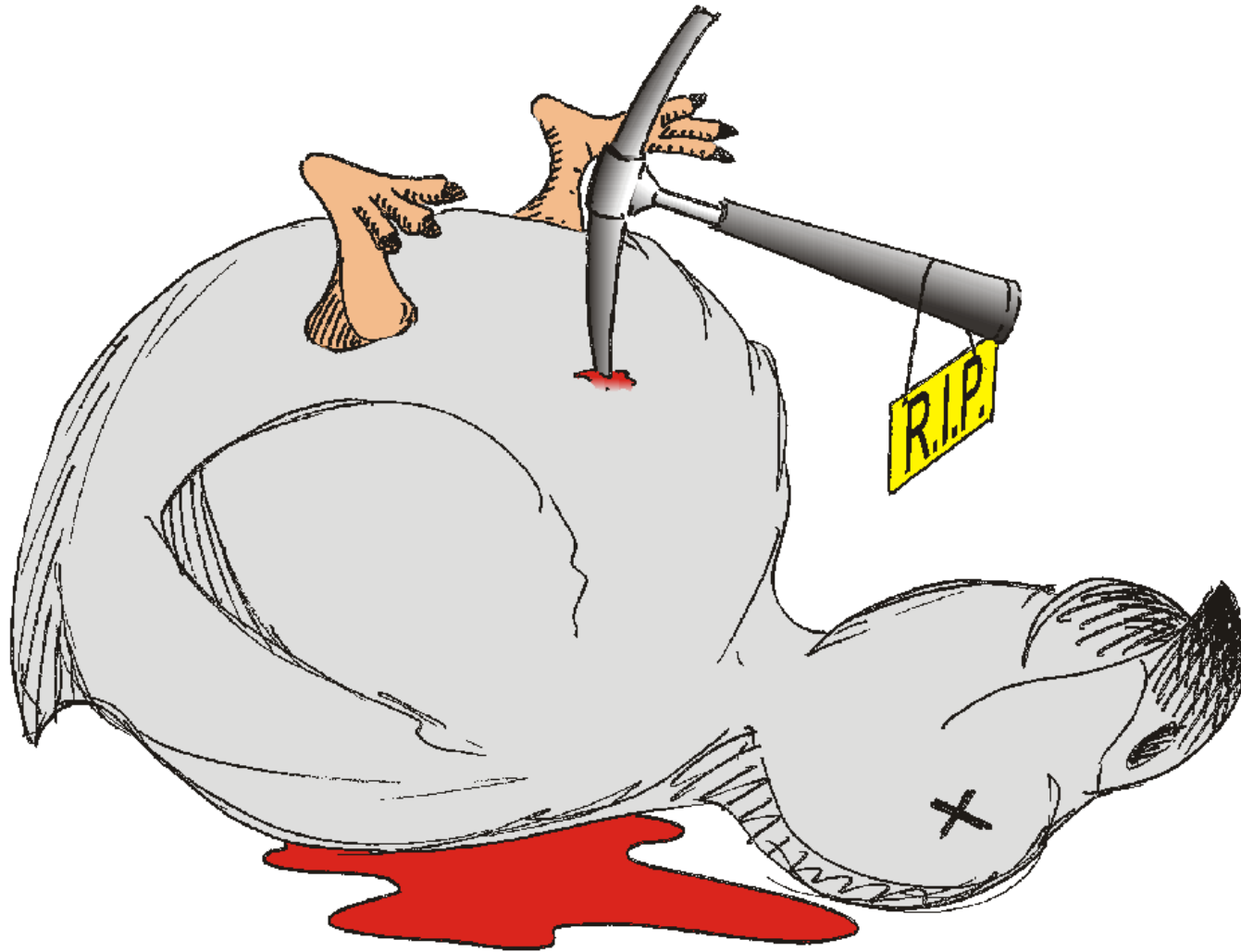
- After several years a competent ground engineer



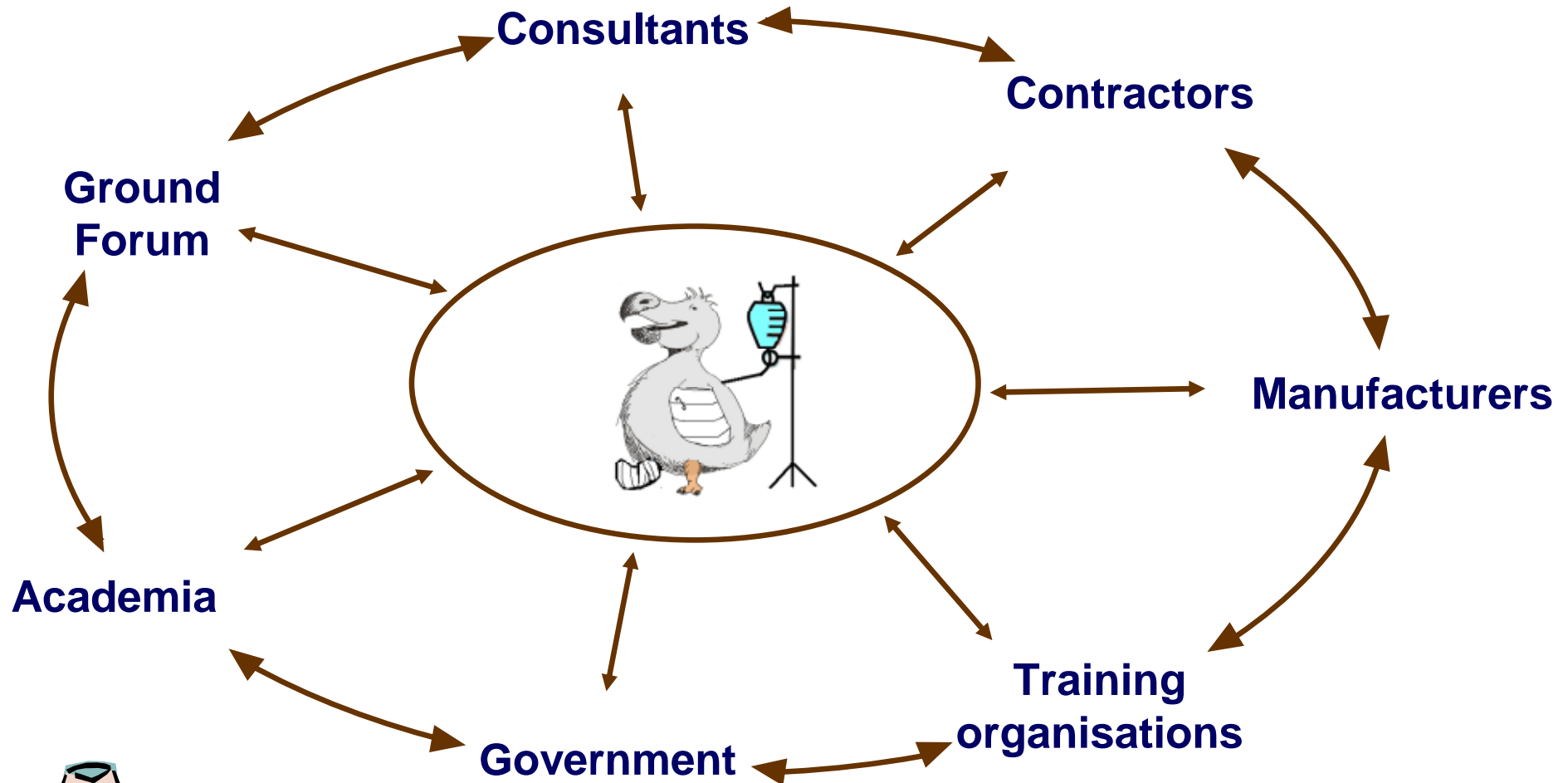
# The Geododo!

- Fragmentation - move to the use of subcontract drilling firms and use of agency “engineers”
- Increase in consultancies developing in house geotechnical capability – shift of engineering skills
- Best practice ignored by Clients i.e. ground engineering being carried out by non specialists
- Change in market forces - specialist contractors retrench
- Education:
  - Soft options
  - Demise of technician, sandwich type BSc and MSc courses
  - De-selection of core subjects
  - In-house training diminished
- Result?

# The Demise of the Geododo?



- Develop a training programme
- Identify needs:
  - Field work, logging, sampling, insitu testing, supervision
  - Laboratory testing, sample suitability and appropriate tests
  - Foundation construction experience, piling, ground improvement, shallow foundations, excavation,
  - Monitoring, instrumentation, ground and structural movements
- Collaboration
- Recognise value





# A Gaggle of Geododos

