“My Industrial Fellowship will provide the direct experience and long-term collaborative relationships needed to establish myself as a research leader addressing the engineering challenges affecting railway infrastructure resilience.”

A Royal Academy of Engineering Industrial Fellowship will enable Dr Kevin Briggs to support Network Rail to identify improvements to the management and maintenance of thousands of kilometres of infrastructure earthworks, the excavation and piling of earth that form the foundation of Britain’s railway network. This will lead to a stronger, more resilient railway network and help to keep over 22,000 trains running each day in Britain.

Dr Briggs brings extensive geotechnical expertise to understanding the underlying causes of railway infrastructure deterioration. Ageing, heavier and faster trains, and a changing climate have all had an impact. A better understanding of this will help National Rail to provide cost-effective, targeted earthwork maintenance. The collaboration will also lead to new teaching content and industrial links for students.