CLAIMS

1. A pile guide for supporting a pile as it is driven into a substrate, comprising:

a base frame; and

a pile guide member which is mounted on the base frame and defines a passageway with an inner peripheral surface to which a plurality of elongate members are attached, the plurality of elongate members being configured to engage a pile and guide it in a predetermined direction through the passageway as it is driven into a substrate, characterised in that at least one elongate member and the inner peripheral surface of the passageway have releasable inter-connecting profiles for releasably attaching the at least one elongate member to the inner peripheral surface.

2. A pile guide according to claim 1, in which the interconnecting profiles include a hook portion and a corresponding loop portion for receiving the hook portion.

3. A pile guide according to claim 2, in which the hook portion and corresponding loop portion are orientated such that movement of a pile through the passageway into a substrate beneath the base frame urges the hook portion to remain interconnected with the corresponding loop portion.

4. A pile guide according to claim 2 or claim 3, in which the corresponding loop portion is formed in part by a pair of support members defining a channel therebetween for receiving the at least one elongate member.

5. A pile guide according to any one of claims 1 to 4, in which the at least one elongate member and the peripheral surface of the passageway further comprise interengaging profiles, spaced from the interconnecting profiles, which are configured to support the at least one elongate member when attached to the inner peripheral surface of the passageway.

6. A pile guide according to any one of claims 1 to 5, further comprising a releasable lock mechanism for locking the at least one elongate member to the inner peripheral surface of the passageway once the interconnecting profiles are interconnected.

7. A pile guide according to claim 6, in which the releasable locking mechanism comprises a bolt which in use extends transversely through the at least one elongate member.

8 A method of adjusting a pile guide, comprising: providing a pile guide in accordance with any one of claims 4 to 7; removing the at least one elongate member by disconnecting the interconnecting profiles; providing at least one other elongate member with substantially the

same interconnecting profile as the at least one elongate member, but which is configured to project a different amount into the passageway when interconnected to the corresponding profile on the inner peripheral surface of the passageway; and attaching the at least one other elongate member to the inner peripheral surface by interconnecting their respective profiles.

9. A pile guide for supporting a pile as it is driven into a substrate, comprising:

a base frame; and

a pile guide member for guiding a pile as it is driven into a substrate when the base frame is resting thereon, the pile guide member comprising two parts each moveable between an operative position and an inoperative position, each part being pivotally mounted on the base frame by a support member for rotation about a respective first pivot axis;

characterised in that each part of the pile guide member is pivotally coupled to its support member for rotation about a respective second pivot axis which is spaced from the respective first pivot axis.

10. A pile guide according to claim 9, in which at least one part is moveable relative to the base frame from a substantially vertical orientation, when the pile guide member is in its operative position, to a substantially horizontal orientation following combined rotations through a first angle about the first pivot axis and a second angle about the second pivot axis.

11. A pile guide according to claim 9 or claim 10, in which at least one part is configured to rotate under gravity about the respective second pivot axis into an intervening position relative to its support member, when the pile guide member is released from its operative position.

12. A pile guide according to claim 11, in which said at least one part and its support member are configured to rotate under gravity about the respective first pivot axis only when said at least one part reaches the intervening position relative to its support member.

13. A pile guide according to claim 12, in which said at least one part and its support member have a combined centre of mass which is configured to move from one lateral side of the respective first pivot axis to an opposing lateral side as the said at least one part rotates about the respective second pivot axis from its operative position to the intervening position.

14. A pile guide according to any one of claims 9 to 13, further comprising a mechanism for restoring parts of the pile guide member to the operative position from the inoperative position.

15. A pile guide according to claim 14, in which the mechanism is configured to drive

movement of the parts of the pile guide member from the inoperative position to the operative position only.

16. A pile guide according to claim 14 or claim 15, in which the mechanism comprises a variable length strut or piston pivotally coupled between the base frame and the support member of one part for rotating that support member about its first pivot axis.

17. A pile guide according to any one of claims 14 to 16, in which the mechanism comprises a variable length strut or piston pivotally coupled between one part and its support member for rotating that one part about its second pivot axis.

18. A pile guide according to any one of claims 9 to 17, wherein each support member is mounted on the base frame via a mounting arrangement configured to vary displacement and/or orientation of each respective first pivot axis relative to a substrate-engaging surface of the base frame.

19. A pile guide according to claim 18, wherein at least one mounting arrangement may comprise a pair of couplings spaced along the respective first pivot axis, with at least one of the pair of couplings being displaceable relative to the substrate-engaging surface of the base frame in a direction perpendicular thereto.

CLAIMS

1. A pile guide (10) for supporting a pile as it is driven into a substrate, comprising:

a base frame (12); and

a pile guide member (100) which is mounted on the base frame (12) and defines a passageway with an inner peripheral surface (102) to which a plurality of elongate members (104) are attached, the plurality of elongate members (104) being configured to engage a pile and guide it in a predetermined direction through the passageway as it is driven into a substrate, characterised in that at least one elongate member (104) and the inner peripheral surface (102) of the passageway have releasable inter-connecting profiles (120,130) for releasably attaching the at least one elongate member (104) to the inner peripheral surface (102).

2. A pile guide (10) according to claim 1, in which the interconnecting profiles (120,130) include a hook portion (122) and a corresponding loop portion (138) for receiving the hook portion (122).

3. A pile guide (10) according to claim 2, in which the hook portion (122) and corresponding loop portion (138) are orientated such that movement of a pile through the passageway into a substrate beneath the base frame urges the hook portion (122) to remain interconnected with the corresponding loop portion (138).

4. A pile guide (10) according to claim 2 or claim 3, in which the corresponding loop portion (138) is formed in part by a pair of support members (132) defining a channel (134) therebetween for receiving the at least one elongate member (104).

5. A pile guide (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 4, in which the at least one elongate member (104) and the peripheral surface (102) of the passageway further comprise interengaging profiles (124,140), spaced from the interconnecting profiles (120,130), which are configured to support the at least one elongate member (104) when attached to the inner peripheral surface (102) of the passageway.

6. A pile guide (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 5, further comprising a releasable lock mechanism (126,142) for locking the at least one elongate member (104) to the inner peripheral surface (102) of the passageway once the interconnecting profiles are interconnected.

7. A pile guide (10) according to claim 6, in which the releasable locking mechanism (126,142) comprises a bolt which in use extends transversely through the at least one elongate member (104).

8 A method of adjusting a pile guide, comprising: providing a pile guide (10) in accordance with any one of claims 4 to 7; removing the at least one elongate member (104) by disconnecting the interconnecting profiles (120,130); providing at least one other elongate member (104') with substantially the same interconnecting profile as the at least one elongate member, but which is configured to project a different amount into the passageway when interconnected to the corresponding profile on the inner peripheral surface (102) of the passageway; and attaching the at least one other elongate member (104') to the inner peripheral surface (102) by interconnecting their respective profiles.

9. A pile guide (10) for supporting a pile as it is driven into a substrate, comprising:

a base frame (12); and

a pile guide member (20) for guiding a pile as it is driven into a substrate when the base frame (12) is resting thereon, the pile guide member (20) comprising two parts (22) each moveable between an operative position and an inoperative position, each part (22) being pivotally mounted on the base frame (12) by a support member (30) for rotation about a respective first pivot axis (32);

characterised in that each part (22) of the pile guide member is pivotally coupled to its support member for rotation about a respective second pivot axis (34) which is spaced from the respective first pivot axis (32).

10. A pile guide (10) according to claim 9, in which at least one part (22) is moveable relative to the base frame (12) from a substantially vertical orientation, when the pile guide member (20) is in its operative position, to a substantially horizontal orientation following combined rotations through a first angle about the first pivot axis (32) and a second angle about the second pivot axis (34).

11. A pile guide (10) according to claim 9 or claim 10, in which at least one part (22) is configured to rotate under gravity about the respective second pivot axis (34) into an intervening position relative to its support member (30), when the pile guide member (20) is released from its operative position.

12. A pile guide (10) according to claim 11, in which said at least one part (22) and its support member (30) are configured to rotate under gravity about the respective first pivot axis (32) only when said at least one part (22) reaches the intervening position relative to its support member (30).

13. A pile guide (10) according to claim 12, in which said at least one part (22) and its

support member (30) have a combined centre of mass which is configured to move from one lateral side of the respective first pivot axis (32) to an opposing lateral side as the said at least one part (22) rotates about the respective second pivot axis (34) from its operative position to the intervening position.

14. A pile guide (10) according to any one of claims 9 to 13, further comprising a mechanism (50) for restoring parts (22) of the pile guide member (20) to the operative position from the inoperative position.

15. A pile guide (10) according to claim 14, in which the mechanism (50) is configured to drive movement of the parts (22) of the pile guide member (20) from the inoperative position to the operative position only.

16. A pile guide (10) according to claim 14 or claim 15, in which the mechanism (50) comprises a variable length strut or piston (52) pivotally coupled between the base frame (12) and the support member (30) of one part (22) for rotating that support member (30) about its first pivot axis (32).

17. A pile guide (10) according to any one of claims 14 to 16, in which the mechanism (50) comprises a variable length strut or piston (54) pivotally coupled between one part (22) and its support member (30) for rotating that one part (22) about its second pivot axis (34).

18. A pile guide (10) according to any one of claims 9 to 17, wherein each support member (30) is mounted on the base frame (12) via a mounting arrangement (60) configured to vary displacement and/or orientation of each respective first pivot axis (32) relative to a substrate-engaging surface (14) of the base frame (12).

19. A pile guide (10) according to claim 18, wherein at least one mounting arrangement (60) comprises a pair of couplings spaced along the respective first pivot axis (32), with at least one of the pair of couplings being displaceable relative to the substrate-engaging surface (14) of the base frame (12) in a direction perpendicular thereto.