CLAIMS

1. A template (1) for use in installing a plurality of piles relative to one another in an underwater ground formation, comprising a template frame (2) and a plurality of pile guides (3) having parallel pile guide centrelines (4) and being fixed to the template frame (2), wherein each pile guide (3) is provided with a pile guide frame (5) that surrounds a passageway (6) configured for passing a pile therethrough, wherein each pile guide frame (5) includes an upper end and a lower end and the template (1) has a template centre located in the middle of the pile guide centrelines (4), wherein each pile guide (3) is provided with a spacer (8) being fixed to the pile guide frame (5) and protruding into the passageway (6), wherein the spacer (8) has a pile contact surface (10) for guiding a pile during driving it into the ground, which pile contact surface (10) encloses an imaginary cylinder including a centreline which coincides with the pile guide centreline (4), **characterized in that** in circumferential direction about the pile guide centerline (4) the location of the pile contact surface (10) shifts with respect to the corresponding pile guide frame (5) in a direction from the lower end to the upper end thereof as seen in a direction from the template centre to the pile guide centreline (4).

2. A template (1) according to claim 1, wherein the pile contact surface (10) extends parallel to a plane which is angled with respect to a base plane that extends perpendicular to the pile guide centrelines (4).

3. A template (1) according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the spacer comprises a plurality of spacer elements (8) located at angular distance from each other about the pile guide centreline (4), hence forming a discontinuous pile

contact surface comprising discrete contact surface portions (10) at the respective spacer elements.

4. A template (1) according to claim 3, wherein the contact surface portions (10) of each pile guide (3) are oblong having longitudinal directions which extend parallel to the pile guide centreline (4).

5. A template (1) according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the contact surface portions (10) have equal lengths.

6. A template (1) according to one of the claims 3-5, wherein the contact surface portions (10) of neighbouring spacer elements (8) overlap each other in a direction along the pile guide centreline (4).

7. A template (1) according to one of the preceding claims, wherein each of the pile guide frames (5) comprises a cylindrical tube.

8. A template (1) according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the spacer of the pile guide (3) forms a lower spacer (8) and the pile guide (3) comprises an upper spacer (7) which is located between the lower spacer (8) and the upper end of the pile guide frame (5).

9. A template (1) according to claim 8, wherein the upper spacer (7) has an upper pile contact surface (9) for guiding a pile during driving it into the ground, which encloses said imaginary cylinder.

10. A template according to claim 8 or 9, and claim 3, wherein the spacer elements of the lower spacer form lower spacer elements (8) and wherein the upper spacer comprises a plurality of upper spacer elements (7) located at angular distance from each other about the pile guide centreline (4), hence forming a discontinuous upper pile contact surface comprising discrete contact surface portions (9) at the upper spacer elements (7).

11. A template (1) according to claim 10, wherein the upper spacer elements (7) are displaceable in radial direction with respect to the pile guide frame (5).

12. A method of using the template (1) according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the template (1) is placed on the ground, piles are inserted into the respective pile guides (3) and driven into the ground until upper ends of the respective piles have arrived at the pile contact surface (10) of the spacer (8) or, if applicable, at a position below the upper pile contact surface (9) of the upper spacer (7), after which the template (1) is lifted from the piles that are driven into the ground.