LiDARRAS - A project to laser scan survey the NZETC WWI tunnels of Arras

Richard Hemi
School of Surveying

Abstract The little-known underground system of WWI tunnels of Arras in Northern France represents a permanent but unseen memorial to the brave and industrious actions of the New Zealand Engineering Tunnelling Company (NZETC). Their achievements remain relatively unknown to a wider public so in a period of WWI centenary commemorations, this project sets out to document and spatially record the tunnels using laser scanning technology, both to honour this group of men and preserve their story for future generations.

One stream of this research will investigate how Laser scanning can inform and assist in historical research of heritage sites. Can the captured scan point data in Arras help us to understand how the NZETC surveyors mapped the underground quarries and undertook the set out the various complex tunnel alignments?