

Geotechnical Society of Ireland, Civil Division & Water and Environmental Engineering Society

Free Half Day Seminar Ground Risk in Civil Engineering

Wednesday April 26th 2017

Engineers Ireland

22 Clyde Road, Dublin 4

Admission – Free Entry

Programme

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|---------------|---|
| 2.00pm | Welcome – David Gill Chartered Engineer, AGL Consulting & Chairperson, Geotechnical Society of Ireland (GSI) |
| 2.05pm | Grounds for dispute
Tony Bracegirdle – Senior Partner, Geotechnical Consulting Group (GCG) |
| 3.05pm | Questions and Answers |
| 3.20pm | GSI Chairperson’s Review |
| 3.30pm | Tea/Coffee Break |
| 3.50pm | The state of ground investigation specification in Ireland – can it be, should it be improved?
Brian Byrne Chartered Engineer – IT Carlow |
| 4.40pm | Questions and Answers |
| 4.50pm | Some trends from recent geotechnical projects in Ireland
Paul Quigley Chartered Engineer – Principal Engineer, Gavin and Doherty Geosolutions (GDG) |
| 5.20pm | Questions and Answers |
| 5.30pm | Seminar Close |
| 5.35pm | Geotechnical Society AGM |
| 6.00pm | AGM Close |

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Lecture Details

Grounds for dispute

Tony Bracegirdle (Geotechnical Consulting Group)

Speaker: Tony Bracegirdle is a Senior Partner of the Geotechnical Consulting Group, based in London, and a former chairman of the British Geotechnical Association. He has been involved with infrastructure construction both internationally and in London for many years. He has also a wide experience as an expert in resolving disputes and in dealing with large loss insurance claims. The discussion is based on his personal experiences and observations made in the course of his work.



Abstract: This discussion examines why it is that so many disputes arise over ground conditions and engineering of the ground. Current trends in cost recovery are examined. Some examples of recurring problems and hazards are provided and ways of reducing the chances of facing a recovery action are suggested.



Lecture Details

The state of ground investigation specification in Ireland – can it be, should it be improved?

Brian Byrne Chartered Engineer (IT Carlow)

Speaker: Brian Byrne is a Lecturer in Civil Engineering at the Institute of Technology Carlow and an independent geotechnical consultant. Brian has over twenty five years' experience as a geotechnical engineer in Ireland and the United States. He is also a Chartered Engineer and Chartered Health & Safety Practitioner.



Abstract: Engineers Ireland published the 2nd edition of the “Specification and Related Documents for Ground Investigation in Ireland” in 2016 which was a revised version of the 2006 first Edition. This latest edition was updated in order to incorporate changes in practice due to Eurocode 7, environmental legislation and practice and health and safety legislation.

This lecture investigates how ground investigation in Ireland is currently specified, who scopes and specifies the investigations, the basis by which ground investigation contracts are awarded, the significance of cost (lowest tender) and the level of supervision during the course of the field investigations. A number of case studies will be discussed where construction and/or post-construction issues have arisen due to “unforeseen” ground conditions. The issue of falsification of ground investigation information will also be addressed, whether it occurs, whether it is possible to identify if it does occur and whether it is possible to reduce or eliminate.

The lecture also seeks to answer two questions regarding laboratory testing for GI contracts. First, what quality assurance measures are undertaken by those specifying and monitoring GI works regarding laboratory testing? Second, should the accreditation of GI laboratories be a requirement within GI contracts?

Finally an alternative approach to procuring ground investigation is suggested for consideration for Irish practice.

Lecture Details

Some trends from recent geotechnical projects in Ireland

Paul Quigley Chartered Engineer (Gavin and Doherty Geosolutions)

Speaker: Paul Quigley is a Chartered Engineer and Principal Engineer at Gavin and Doherty Geosolutions in Dublin. Paul has twenty years' experience in geotechnical engineering and has worked on major projects in Ireland, UK, Canada and Sweden. Paul is a former chairman of the Geotechnical Society of Ireland and has published numerous papers on soft soils, geotechnical risk and commercial aspects of geotechnical engineering.



Abstract: Ground investigations are an essential part of risk management for civil and structural projects. The presenter and his colleagues at the Geotechnical Society of Ireland have collected a large data set of the commercial aspects from ground investigations and geotechnical projects in Ireland. This presentation looks at some of the trends from the data and comments on some of the commercial aspects from the study. The presentation compares tender and construction costs to investigate the degree of overspend on ground investigation contracts and discusses appropriate contractual arrangements. The presentation also compares the intensity of ground investigation points against recommendations presented in Eurocode 7. A comparison between the ground investigation costs and the overall project capital costs are also presented for both building and road projects in Ireland and compared to published international correlations.

