



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Midlands Geotechnical Society Newsletter

Newsletter December 2012

In This Issue

December Meeting

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www.midlandgeotechnical.org.uk

Honorary Secretary:

Julian Hughes

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Meeting Venue

Lectures start: 7.00 pm

Location:

HAWORTH BUILDING,
University of Birmingham B15 2TT

Refreshments are available prior to the meeting in the Shell lounge, Department of Mechanical and Civil Engineering, from 6.15 pm onwards

Registered Charity Number: 514610

Monday December 3rd Meeting

Advances in Ground Improvement

Colin Serridge

Chief Engineer for the Ground Improvement section of
Balfour Beatty Ground Engineering Limited

Ground Improvement covers a range of techniques and processes including modification, chemical alteration, reinforcement, strengthening by drainage, densification by vibration or consolidation, electro-osmosis, and the use of the observational technique. This presentation will focus on advances and developments in one of the more commonly used ground improvement techniques within the UK - namely vibro stone columns, but will also include mention of dynamic compaction techniques and some of the newer and more novel ground improvement techniques recently introduced into the UK, including 'rigid inclusions' and geotextile encased columns.

Successful ground improvement implementation is dependent upon satisfactory site geotechnical characterisation and production of a ground model, an understanding of the ground improvement techniques being considered, including their application and the implementation of appropriate quality control and testing procedures. This will be reviewed in the context of vibro stone column ground improvement techniques, together with available specifications and selected case histories.

Colin Serridge is Chief Engineer within the Ground Improvement section of Balfour Beatty Ground Engineering Limited (BBGE). He is a Chartered Geologist with over 25 years experience in the design and project management of ground Improvement projects both within the UK and overseas and has written several conference and journal papers on the subject. He is currently a member of the editorial panel of the ICE Proceedings Ground Improvement Journal and has recently completed PhD research addressing the use of partial depth vibro stone columns beneath shallow footings in deep soft clay deposits.

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