

Geocomposite Drainage in Highway Engineering and Earthworks

IGS UK Chapter

Event Collaborator:	University of Central Lancashire
Date:	Thursday, 23 March 2017
Location:	Foster Building Lecture Theatre 3, City Campus Preston, UCLAN
Arrival Time:	17.30
Start Time:	18.00
Refreshments:	Yes – sandwiches, cake, tea and coffee

Student Competition:

A student prize is open to all student attendants for the submission of a good quality report [max 500 words] on this event. The winning entrant will receive a £100 voucher for amazon.co.uk plus free membership to the IGS UK chapter as a student member. The student report should be emailed to the IGS Chair at crigby@tensar.co.uk and the winning report will be chosen by the IGS UK committee.

Synopsis:

Geocomposite drainage products have many potential applications, not only in highway engineering but most projects involving earthworks.

Applications that will be described include:

- Starter layers and drainage blankets
- Improvement of poor ground and marginal fills
- Drainage at subgrade level
- Fin drains and under-channel drainage
- Cut-off, counterfort, slope and verge drainage
- Drainage of reinforced soil structures
- Drainage behind retaining walls and tunnel linings.



Drainage geocomposites offer benefits to the environment by reducing the need for aggregates and their transport. The materials are light, easily transported around site and can be placed using a minimum of plant and labour. They may offer economies in earthwork quantities if they are incorporated at the design stage. There are many drainage geocomposites on the market, some better than others. What to look for in terms of construction and performance of geocomposite drains and how to specify them will be outlined. This not always well understood.

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About the Speaker: Mike Stephen, Retired / Consultant to ABG Limited

Mike Stephen is a chartered civil engineer who specialised in geotechnics and geosynthetics for 40 years. Mike worked for Soil Mechanics Limited in site investigation and geotechnical consultancy for 13 years and took a year out to study for an MSc in Engineering Geology at Imperial College. He then joined Surrey County Council as Geotechnical Team Leader where he remained for 16 years and contributed to a number of major schemes including A331 Blackwater Valley Route and A244 Walton Bridge. He developed an inspection and management regime for the county's roadside slopes and was responsible for the investigation and remediation of a large landslip beside the M25. Mike later worked for various consulting engineers, principally on geotechnical aspects of major highway schemes and in landfill engineering. In January 2011 he joined ABG Ltd as Technical Manager, responsible for most aspects of engineering design with geosynthetics and also for aspects of product development. Mike retired in 2016 but is retained as a consultant by ABG; he is currently Secretary of the IGS UK Chapter and has authored or co-authored five published papers.



The IGS UK Chapter is a member of the Ground Forum

