



Dr D W Hight
BSc MSc PhD DIC FREng FRS
CEng FICE
Senior Consultant

Areas of expertise

Forensic geotechnical engineering and site characterisation; onshore and offshore foundations, slopes, earthworks, deep excavations, reclamations, flow slides, ground improvement, retaining structures, tunnels and pavements, the measurement of soil and rock properties in situ and in the laboratory, stability of ore cargoes and tailings dams.

Experience with GCG

Dr Hight is one of the founding directors of GCG and has been responsible for specialist advice to consulting firms, contractors, public authorities, solicitors, insurers and oil and power companies on a large number of UK and overseas projects. He has been instrumental in establishing GCG since its formation in 1983 as one of the leading geotechnical consultancies, focussing on technical excellence.

Technical Audits

Dr Hight has carried out technical audits of the geotechnical aspects of major projects, including the Gullfaks "C" gravity platform, Chek Lap Kok Airport (Hong Kong), the Rion-Antirion Fixed Link (Greece), the London-Birmingham High Speed Railway (HS2), and the Punta Catalina Power Station in the Dominican Republic.

Legal Assignments

Dr Hight has served as expert witness in litigation in the UK, Hong Kong, Singapore, USA, Australia and the Middle East. Cases have involved onshore and offshore site investigations, retaining wall failures, offshore foundations, breakwaters, piling, pipelines, ground improvement, reclamations, tunnel collapses, and landslides. He served as an expert witness in the Committee of Inquiry into the Nicoll Highway Collapse in Singapore.

Forensic Investigations

Forensic investigations carried out by Dr Hight include tunnel collapses in the UK (Gerrards Cross and Datchet) and overseas (Singapore, Brazil and Chile), a quay wall collapse in Barcelona, flow slide failures during construction of two major projects in Bangladesh, landslides in the UK, Brazil and Mauritius, and reclamation failures in the UK and Hong Kong.

External Advisor

Dr Hight has served as external advisor on the design and construction of a new port development in Egypt, on geotechnical aspects of design and construction of Terminal 5 at Heathrow Airport, and on the investigation and interpretation of ground conditions at the Port of Miami Tunnel. He has been advisor to the Arriyadh Development Authority on

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GEOTECHNICAL CONSULTING GROUP

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their rising groundwater problems and was a member of the International Consulting Board advising on construction of the Teles Pires Hydropower Project in the Brazilian Amazon. Dr Hight was a member of an Advisory Group set up by Nuclear Electric and Magnox to review the static and dynamic properties of the soils and rocks supporting the nuclear reactors at each of their sites in the UK. Most recently he has served on the Global Bauxite Working Group, investigating and reporting on moisture-controlled instability of bauxite cargoes for the International Maritime Organisation.

Current Assignments

Current assignments include advising on: earthworks at Hinkley Point C Nuclear Power Station; interpretation of ground conditions at the proposed wind farm on Dogger Bank; stabilisation of the Congo Soco Tailings Dam in Brazil; the reclamation for extension to Chek Lap Kok Airport; ground conditions at the Tuen Mun Chep Lap Kok Link Project Southern Outfall.

Publications, Presentations and Research

Dr Hight has published widely on the subjects of soil behaviour, offshore geotechnics, soil sampling, laboratory testing, stability problems, earthworks and foundations. He is the lead author of the CIRIA guide on "Engineering in the Lambeth Group" and has published a number of state-of-the-art reports on the properties of the London Clay. Dr Hight delivered the 38th Rankine Lecture in 1998 and the theme lecture on soil characterisation at the XVth International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering in 2001. More recently, David was invited to give the biennial 3rd Charles C. Ladd Memorial Lecture by the Boston Society of Civil Engineers in 2019.

Experience relevant to Havant Thicket Reservoir includes: previous involvement in the project with Jacobs; ground investigations for Abberton Dam raising, Abingdon Reservoir and Carsington Dam Failure; construction on and in London Clay and other stiff plastic clays, including deep excavations and embankments.

Education

Visiting Professor, Imperial College, London, 1993 - 2012
Distinguished Visiting Professor, National University of Singapore, 2000
Visiting Professor, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, 1999
Royal Society Industrial Fellowship, 1997 - 1998
Visiting Research Fellow, Nottingham University, 1988 - 1989
Visiting Research Fellow, Imperial College, London, 1985 - 1987
Visiting Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1983
PhD, Imperial College, London, 1983
Lecturer in Soil Mechanics, Imperial College, London, 1978 - 1983
Research Fellow, Imperial College, London, 1975 - 1978
MSc (Distinction), Imperial College, London, 1971
BSc (1st Class), Imperial College, London, 1965

Scholarships/Awards

British Geotechnical Association Medal, 2015 (for best reviewed paper)
Geotechnical Research Medal, UK Institution of Civil Engineers, 2008
Spirit of Telford Award (for contributions to engineering knowledge), ICE, 2006
Telford Gold Medal, UK Institution of Civil Engineers, 2003
British Geotechnical Society Prize, 1993 (for work on sampling and testing of soft clay)

Professional Qualifications & Memberships

Fellow of the Royal Society 2016 - present
Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering 2001 – present
Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers, 1997 – present (Member since 1970)
Member of the British Geotechnical Association