

Quaternary Geological Ground Models for the Reduction of **Engineering Risk**



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Bryan Lovell Meeting 2016: Water, hazards and risk: Managing runcertainty in a changing world





Themes – Ground Risk

- Quaternary Geological Ground Models for the Reduction of Engineering Risk
 - Quaternary Period & Engineering Legacy
 - Lateral & vertical variability
 - Diversity of materials
 - Strength
 - Permeability
 - Engineering behaviour
 - Diversity of landforms
 - Geohazards
 - Reactivation
 - Case studies
- How to reduce the risk?
 - Education & Field Experience
 - The EGGS Working Party Report



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Quaternary

- Glacial
- Non-Glacial
- Stadials
- Interstadials
- Sea-level rise & fall
- Cold, Very Cold, Warm & Very Warm





UK Geology

Where are The Quaternary Deposits & Landsystems?





UK Geology



The Quaternary Legacy







- Periglacial
- Ice Marginal
- Glacial







Quaternary Legacy

• How to deal with the engineering risk posed by the Quaternary Legacy Hazard?





Terrain Classification

- Provinces
- Domains
- Landsystems
- Ground Models

McMillan, A.A. et al (2000) Hydrogeological characterisation of the onshore Quaternary sediments at Sellafield using the concept of domains Foster et al (1999) Quaternary geology – towards meeting user requirements. BGS.









Booth, S., Merritt, J., & Rose, J. (2015). Quaternary Provinces and Domains–a quantitative and qualitative description of British landscape types. Proceedings of the Geologists' Association, 126(2), 163-187.



Ground Models

• Landsystem v Process Form Models

Landsystem

Area of common terrain attributes, different from those of adjacent areas, in which recurring patterns of topography, soils & vegetation reflect the underlying geology, past erosional & depositional processes, & climate

Process-Form Model

Conceptual model that emphasizes the genetic interrelationships of specific landform– sediment associations at both local & regional scales in terms of known process & form linkages





Types of Ground Model

- Conceptual
 - Essentially qualitative in nature & illustrate the key features of a geological situation & the processes active in that environment
- Observational.
 - Scaled down versions of actual ground conditions at specific sites
- Analytical
 - Representations of reality using mathematical formulae, different media or schematics

Engineering Geological Models - an introduction: IAEG Commission 25 S. Parry, F. J. Baynes, M. G. Culshaw, M. Eggers, J. F. Keaton, K. Lentfer, J. Novotny & D. Paul.





Informing the Ground Model

Quaternary History "the present is the key to the Jast" Charles Lyell Principles of Geology (1830) Glacial & Periglacial Genesis Engineering & Geohazard

Significance



Engineering & Geohazard Significance

Sediment genesis & composition

- Glaciogenic, glaciofluvial, glaciolacustrine, glaciomarine
- Periglacial
- Material strength
 - Anisotropic
- Material permeability
 - Anisotropic
- Presence of geohazards
 - Shear surfaces, high permeability layers, Reactivation
- Appreciation of the significant lateral & vertical variability
 - Scale



Reduction of Uncertainty Reduction of Risk



Informing the Ground Model

 Building blocks required to develop ground models for glaciated & periglaciated terrains

Catalogue of

- Sediments
- Structures
 - Macro
 - Micro
- Landforms
- Field experience & recognition

Schematic representation of the Late Devensian periglacial features of the Scottish Highlands that were probably active during the Loch Lomond Stadial (Ballantyne, 1984)





Classic Geology Geosites: Siccar Point





Classic Engineering Geology Geosites: Sevenoaks











Case Study: A21 Sevenoaks Bypass



Case Study: A21 Sevenoaks Bypass

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Hill-shaded NEXTmap Digital Terrain Model of Sevenoaks region.



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Map of solifluction deposits and river terraces in the Weald Clay Vale and Eden-Medway catchment (modified from Skempton and Weeks 1976).

Murton & Giles, 2016



Periglacial Solifluction





Slurry Flow Or Land slide

Detachment slide/mudflow in Longyeardalen, Svalbard 14th Oct. Department of Arctic Geology @UNISvalbard

1 att att











Sevenoaks Trial Pits



 Matrix (reworked, soft clay)

Lithorelict (lump of intact clay)

Vertical cross section through trial pit 317 H and adjacent borehole, 100 m south of solifluction lobe E. Brecciated Weald Clay, 3.5 m depth in borehole 317H. Angular to subangular lithorelicts of clay are set within a matrix of soft, reworked clay. Core diameter is 10 cm (modified from Skempton and Weeks 1976).

Murton & Giles, 2016





Murton & Giles, 2016



Failing Slope at Lobe G (or C ?)



Keith Gabriel





Excavating Lobe G (or C ?)





Toe of Embankment Failure, Lobe B





Lobe F





TP F2 Failure Surface





TP F2 Failure Surface







Davies, J. P., Loveridge, F. A., Perry, J., Patterson, D., & Carder, D. (2003). Stabilisation of a landslide on the M25 highway London's main artery.









After Spink (1991)



Periglacial Shears



After Hutchinson (1991)



60.0

M25 Periglacial Shears



YEAR OF



Davies, J. P., Loveridge, F. A., Perry, J., Patterson, D., & Carder, D. (2003). Stabilisation of a landslide on the M25 highway London's main artery.



A21 Sevenoaks Bypass











Reduction of Risk

- Education
 - Quaternary as critical as the solid part!
- Field experience
 - With a reducing undergraduate field programme
- Case study write-up
 - With pressure on REF publications





 'Engineering Geology and Geomorphology of Glaciated and Periglaciated Terrains – Engineering Group Working Party Report'



Reduction of Risk

 Quaternary Knowledge & Field Experience

Prof Denys Brunsden (2002) Glossop Lecture

> Geomorphological roulette for engineers and planners: some insights into an old game

Quarterly Journal of Engineering Geology and Hydrogeology, v. 35:101-142



Scope of the Report

 British Isles focus, but global application & examples

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- Relict materials & landforms, but cognisant of formative processes
- Cold 'stadials', not warm 'interstadials'. Quaternary only
- Link between modern geomorphological terminologies & long-standing engineering geological nomenclature (Eurocode 7 & BS 5930)
- Extensive visual glossary
- Landsystems approach with ground models advocated

Geological Society Engineering Geology Special Publication 28

The Engineering Geology and Geomorphology of Glaciated and Periglaciated Terrains

Engineering Group Working Party Report

Edited by J. S. Griffiths & C. J. Martin





Key Themes

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- Inherent complexity in glaciated and periglaciated terrains
 - Superposition of processes
 - Lateral & vertical variability of ground and groundwater conditions
- Lends itself to landsystems approach
 - Ground model & risk register updated as project understanding develops
- Multi-disciplinary approach advocated
 - Quaternary science, geography, geomorphology, geology, hydrogeology, geophysics, archaeology, geotechnical engineering
 - Breadth of available information and resources
 - Caution when interpreting differing references and case studies
- Latest scientific approaches incorporated into engineering practice
 - Eurocode 7 / BS5930 description of materials combined with new classification for materials and landforms
 - Reclassification of 'Glacial Till'
 - Importance of segregated ice during periglacial conditions





• Limestone plateau-clay vale ground model







• Limestone plateau-clay vale (Chalk dry valley) ground model





Lowland Ground Models

Caprock plateau-mudstone valley ground model



LANDSYSTEMS:



Thank You

Geological Society Engineering Geology Special Publication 28

The Engineering Geology and Geomorphology of Glaciated and Periglaciated Terrains

Engineering Group Working Party Report

Edited by J. S. Griffiths & C. J. Martin

Wm SMITH 1769-1839







EGGS Working Party

- Prof. James Griffiths (Editor)
- Mr Christopher Martin (Chair)
- Mrs Anna Morley (Secretary)
- Prof. Martin Culshaw
- Dr Michael de Freitas
- Prof. David Evans
- Dr David Giles
- Dr Sven Lukas
- Prof. Julian Murton
- Prof. David Norbury
- Prof. Mike Winter







Structure of the Book

- Introduction to Engineering Geology and Geomorphology of Glaciated and Periglaciated Terrains (Martin et al.)
- The Quaternary (Lukas et al.)
- Geomorphological Framework Glacial and Periglacial Sediments, Structures and Landforms (Giles et al.)
- Conceptual Glacial Ground Models: British and Irish Case Studies (Evans)
- Periglacial and Permafrost Ground Models for Great Britain (Murton & Ballantyne)
- Material Properties and Geohazards (Culshaw et al.)
- Engineering Investigation and Assessment (De Freitas et al.)
- Design and Construction Considerations (Winter et al.)
- Conclusions and Illustrative Case Studies (Griffiths & Giles)



The Periglacial Landsystem

- Lowland Periglacial Terrain Landsystems
 - Plateau
 - Sediment-mantled hillslope
 - Rock slope
 - Slope-foot
 - Valley
 - Buried
 - Submerged

Upland Periglacial Terrain Landsystems

- Plateau
- Sediment-mantled hillslope
- Rock slope
- Slope-foot

Booth, S., Merritt, J., & Rose, J. (2015). Quaternary Provinces and Domains–a quantitative and qualitative description of British landscape types. Proceedings of the Geologists' Association, 126(2), 163-187.





The Glacial Landsystem

Ice sheet related landsystems

- Subglacial footprint
- Ice-marginal complexes
- Supraglacial debris complexes
- Upland glacial landsystems
 - Subglacial footprint
 - Ice-marginal complexes
 - Supraglacial debris complexes
- Glaciofluvial landsystems
 - Ice-contact settings
 - Proglacial settings
- Subaqueous glacial landsystem
 - Ice-proximal depo-centres
 - Distal sediment piles



Booth, S., Merritt, J., & Rose, J. (2015)





- Building blocks for the Conceptual Ground Model
- Sediments
- Glacial Environment
 - Glacial Depositional Processes
 - Glaciolacustrine & Glaciomarine Processes
 - Glaciofluvial Processes
- Periglacial Environment
 - Periglacial Slope Processes
 - Periglacial Fluvial Processes
 - Fluvio-Aeolian Processes
 - Cold-Climate Periglacial Aeolian Processes
 - Periglacial Weathering Processes



Dinas Dinlle thrust block moraine North Wales (P. Brabham)



- Building blocks for the Conceptual Ground Model
- Macro Structural, Erosional & Sediment Architectural Elements
 - Glaciogenic Sediment Macrostructures
 - Glaciotectonic Macrostructures
 - Macroscale Erosional Forms
 - Glaciofluvial Macrostructures & Architectural Elements
 - Glaciofluvial Macrostructures & Architectural Elements
 - Periglacial Macrostructures

Ice-wedge pseudomorph within periglacial fluvial sand & gravel, Whisby quarry, Lincoln, England. (J.B. Murton).



- Building blocks for the Conceptual Ground Model
- Microstructures

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- Periglacial Microstructures in Engineering Soils
- Periglacial Microstructures Superimposed on Glaciogenic Sediments
- Glaciogenic Sediment Microstructures





- Building blocks for the Conceptual Ground Model
- Landforms
 - Glacial Landforms
 - Glaciotectonic Landforms
 - Glaciofluvial Landforms
 - Subaqueous Landforms
 - Plateau Landsystem
 - Sediment Mantled Hillslope Landforms
 - Rock Slope Landforms
 - Valley Landforms
 - Buried Landforms

Ice rafted chalk megablocks, Overstrand, Norfolk, England. (D. Giles)





Engineering Significance

- Principal Engineering Significance of Glacial & Periglacial Landsystems – Deposits, Structures & Landforms
 - Aggregate resource
 - Variable particle sizes, Coarse horizons
 - Anisotropic permeability, Anisotropic strength, stiffness
 - Compressible soils, Swell / Shrink potential
 - Ground movement, Low shear strength
 - Groundwater, High permeability zones
 - Oversteepened zones
 - Overstressed zones
 - Perched water tables
 - Prone to liquefaction
 - Shattered bedrock
 - Shear surfaces, Sheared bedrock
 - Voids, Collapsible soils





GL/

Developed Nomenclature

- Geological Origin Name and Qualifiers with Examples in accordance with BS5930
- For example:
- Glacial Depositional Processes
 - Subglacial Traction Till
 - Glaciotectonite
 - Supraglacial mass flow diamicton/ glaciogenic debris flow deposit

Table 3.5 Geological Origin Name and Qualifiers with Examples in accordance with BS5930 (Anon, 2015)

EOLOGICAL ORIGIN	Geological Qualifier for	Extended Terms	Terminology	Geological Origin
	Origin	Used in Text	Replaced	Example
CIAL DEPOSITS	Undifferentiated			(GLACIAL DEPOSITS Undifferentiated)
	Subglacial traction till		Boulder Clay	(GLACIAL DEPOSITS
			Lodgement Till	Subgracial traction (III)
			Deformation Till	
			Subglacial Melt- Out Till	
			Sublimation Till	
			Comminution Till	
			Lee-side cavity fills/ice-bed separation deposits	
			Endiamict Glaciotectonite	
			Tectomict	
			Soft bed till	
			Deforming bed till	
	Glaciotectonite		Comminution Till	(GLACIAL DEPOSITS
			Deformation Till	Glaciotectonite)
			Exodiamict Glaciotectonite	
			Tectomict	
	Mass flow debris	Supraglacial mass flow diamicton/ glaciogenic, debris flow deposits	Supraglacial Melt-Out (Moraine) Till Flow till	(GLACIAL DEPOSITS Mass flow debris)

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Developed Nomenclature

- Geological Origin Name and Qualifiers with Examples in accordance with BS5930
- For example:
- Periglacial Slope Processes
 - Granular head deposits
 - Clay-rich head deposits
 - Slopewash deposits
 - Fluvio-colluvial deposits
 - Talus deposits
 - Avalanche deposits
 - Blockslope deposits
 - Debris-flow deposits

XVI ECSMGE 2015 Edinburgh 2015. Poster P-281

The Geological Society of London Engineering Group Working Party on Periglacial and Glacial Engineering Geology Corresponding Author: Dravid Giles, Principal Lacturer in Engineering Geology School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Portamoth, UK

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Notract: The Engineering Group of the Geological Society of London established a Working Parly to undertake a state-of-thear interiev on the ground conditions associated wil mere Qualemary septidasia and glacial environments and their naterials, from an engineering geological wayouth. The final report is not interiode to define the geographic extent ormer perigracial and glacial environments around the work, but to concentrate on ground models that would be applicable to support the engineering geological praditioner.

The Viorking Farty considered the tolowing lopics with negred to engineering geology. Qualenary Setting, Geomorphologia Franework, Gascia Conceptual Ground Modes, Periginatia and Permittol Conceptual Ground Modes, Engineering Mineteriatian and Azaksesimer, Catacia and Periginatia Soli and Root Logging along with Design and Construction Considerations. The timal report also included a substantial set of Case sludies highlighting the Investigation and Assessmer. (Casadia and Periginatia Soli and Root Logging along with Design and Construction Considerations. The timal report also included a substantial set of Case sludies highlighting the Investigation and design challenges presented by these terrains.





Sediment Name

3.5.1.3

Previous terms

Diagnostic characteristics

Environment of formation

> Common **Structures** present

Principal Engineering significance

Typical images

Proposed sediment name

Supraglacial mass flow diamicton/glaciogenic debris flow deposit

Previous Terms	Supraglacial morainic till, flow till, melt-out till, ablation till		
Diagnostic Characteristics	Predominantly clast-supported, massive to crudely stratified or graded diamictons but the sedimentology supraglacial depo-centres is complex due to multiple cycles of redeposition during formation. Typical faci- associations comprise interbedded diamictons and discontinuous bodies of laminated lacustrine sediments, ar glaciofluvial sands and gravels. Internal disturbance is common and characterized by normal faulting, flow foldir and soft sediment deformation.		
Environment of Formation	Glacier surfaces or on ice-cored moraines		
Common Structures Present	Although they appear largely massive, individual debris flows can form tabular or lens-shaped units, often wit erosional, channelized bases and flat tops. Successive flows can therefore be distinguished by their upper and/ lower boundaries, which are commonly marked by basal concentrations of clasts, upper washed horizons/ interface of silt, sand or gravel, or very subtle partings. Each of these characteristics, as well as any internal structures, refle the nature of the mass flow type, specifically related to the moisture content and coherence of the matri Supraglacial mass flow type, specifically related to the moisture content and coherence of the matri Supraglacial mass flow toposits are most confidently well developed at the basal boundaries of individual flow Here the substrate can be characterized small folds, thrusts and shears, associated with rotated to slightly attenuate diamicton pebbles derived from the overlying debris flow. The debris flow substrate interface can be marked by elongate 'flames' of the substrate material separating lobate or pendant structures of the debris flow diamictor which are progressively titled <i>downlow</i> . The base of the debris flow can contain detached' flames' or ribbons i the substrate material as well as indicators of rotational deformation, such as circular, arcuate and galaxy-like gra arrangements. Importantly, none of these features is singularly diagnostic of debris flow deposits and can be four		
Principal Engineering Significance	Variable particle sizes, Anisotropic permeability, Anisotropic strength, Anisotropic stiffness, Perched water tables, Coarse horizons, Shear surfaces, Sheared bedrock		

Fig 3.5.1.3a Crudely stratified gravelly mass flow deposits comprising a stacked sequence of discontinuous layers of predominantly clast-supported but locally matrix-supported diamictons separated in places by gravelly lags, Kyiárjökull, Iceland. (D.J.A. Evans)

Sediments

Sedimentological description

Engineering description



Fig 3.5.1.3c Very crudely stratified boulder-rich and predominantly clast-supported diamictons with contorted bedding structures and localized pockets of stratified sand and gravel. Gillespie's Beach, New Zealand. (D.J.A. Evans) Engineering Description

Sedimentological Description Crudely stratified diamictons with a range of clast contents and matrix properties. Often interbedded with or separated by discontinuous layers of silt, sand and gravel. Can display crude grading, often with basal concentrations of clasts. Flow structures or soft sediment deformation features are visible wherever the deposits possess any stratification

Often indistinctly bedded gravelly sandy CLAYS with low to medium cobble and low boulder content. Occasionally fine upwards. Bedding affected by flow and soft structure deformation features.

Principal References

Lawson (1979), Exles. (1979), Johnson & Rodine (1984), Owen (1994), Johnson & Gillam (1995), Phillips (2006), Evans et al. (2010) **Engineering Geology Case Studies**

Bell (2000), Culshaw et al. (1991), McMillan et al. (2000), Reeves et al. (2006a, 2006b)

Principal references **Engineering geology** case studies



Structure Name	Relict periglacial shears		
3.7.14			
Diagnostic Characteristics	Underlie gently sloping ground underlain by weathered clay bedrocks. Shear surfaces may be polished and striated. Shallow, low-angle basal shears are the most extensive form, at depths of c. 1.53.0m, at or near the base of the reworked clay or the top of destructured clay, and subparallel to the ground surface. Deeper, subhorizontal continuous shears occur near the base of weathered clay at depths of c. 48m. Smaller, discontinuous shears produced by internal deformation during mass movement are commonly associated with both the shallow and the deeper shears. High-angle shears sometimes present in reworked and destructured clay, and occur to depths of c. 3m beneath hillslopes of 5° or less. Shears are often difficult to see in freshly dug sections when the soil is at its natural water content, and time is needed for drying to cause shrinkage so that the clays pull apart along the shear surfaces.		
Principal Engineering Significance	Ground movement, Shear surfaces, Low shear strength, Anisotropic permeability		

Macro Structures

Diagnostic characteristics

Principal Engineering significance

Typical images

Typical Image



Fig 3.7.14 Basal shear surface with striations and polish in clay-rich head deposits, Sevenoaks, Kent, England. Scale in inches. (J.N. Hutchinson)

Principal references

Engineering geology case studies

Principal References

Harris (2013);

Hutchinson (1991), Spink (1991), Skempton & Weeks (1976), Chandler (1970, 1972), Harris (1977), Skempton et al. (1991)



3.8.2.4 Calcitans Microstructures

Calcitans are discontinuous coatings of secondary calcium carbonate that form by precipitation beneath particles. In this example, they are not found on the same side of the aggregates but in different orientations, which indicates that the aggregates have rotated after the calcitans started to form. Rotation probably accompanied gelifluction.



Fig 3.6.7.4a PPL Fig 3.6.7.4b XPL with gypsum wedge. Calcitans (dark brown in upper image) surrounding sediment aggregates ('pebble structure'; multi coloured in lower image) in silty-clay diamicton (till), Mount Provender, Shackleton Range, Antarctica. Field of view = 6.4 mm wide. (J. van der Meer)

Principal References van der Meer et al. (1993)

Micro Structures



Terrain Unit	3.11.2.1 Solifluction Sheets and Aprons		
Image			
	Fig 3.11.2.1a Relict solifluction sheets, Broadway, Cotswolds, Worcestershire, England. (D. Giles)		
Form / Topography	Solifluction landforms are expanses of mobile or formerly mobile sediments on gentle to moderate slopes that have moved downslope by solifluction and which often terminate downslope at a step or riser. Solifluction sheets generally have little or no surface expression. Morphologically they are smooth convexo-concave slopes that can extend from several hundred metres to 3 or 4km downslope. Shear surfaces can be found troncally at 2.3m deep in claw-rish denoits.		
Landsystem	Lowland Periglacial Terrain: Upland Periglacial Terrain: Sediment-Mantled Hillslone Landsystem		
Process of	Predominant form of periglacial mass movement in active periglacial environments and solifluction deposits and		
Formation	landforms are widespread and are common in relict form. Result from the slow downslope movement of soil due to		
	recurrent freezing and thawing of the ground. Solifluction is due to one or more of three related processes: needle-ice		
	creep, frost creep and gelifluction. Emplaced on slopes with inclinations as low as 1-2° due to excessive pore water		
	pressures generated in thaw.		
Analogue	Fig 3.11.5.2.1b2 Active solifluction sheet Beinn Bheoil, N Highlands, Scotland. (C.K. Ballantyne)		
Associated	Solifluction lobes, benches and terraces.		
Features			
Principal	Ground movement, Shear surfaces, Anisotropic strength, Low shear strength		
Engineering			
Significance			
Principal	Ballantyne & Harris (1994), Harris (1987, 2013)		
References	Hutchinson (1991, 1992), Spink (1991), Skempton & Weeks (1976), Chandler (1970, 1972), Harris (1977), Skempton et		
	al. (1991), Croot & Griffins (2001), Whitworth et al. (2005)		

Periglacial Landforms

Image of relict form

Form / Topography

Landsystem

Process of formation

Image of modern form

Associated features

Principal engineering significance

Principal references

Engineering geology case studies



Terrain Unit	3.10.1.6 Whaleback		
Image		Glacial Landforms	
		Image of relict form	
P (Fig 3.8.1.6a Whalebacks, Coire Lagan, Skye, Scotland (D.J.A Evans)	Form / Topography	
Form / Topography	A streamlined smoothed or scratched bedrock knoll with symmetrical longitudinal profiles, several metres to a rew hundred metres high resembling a whale in profile.		
Landsystem	Upland glacial landsystem (bard rock terrain): Subglacial footprint	Lau davatana	
Process of	Formed by abrasion of both stoss and lee sidesof a rock knoll. Small whalebacks can form under only a few	Landsystem	
Formation	hundred metres of ice, larger ones under deep ice streams.		
Modern Analogue	Fig 3.8.1.6b Striated whaleback, Konowbreen, Svalbard (D.J.A Evans)	Process of formation Image of modern form Associated features	
Associated	Rock drumlins	Dringing on gingering of gnificenes	
Principal	Sheated bedrock	Finicipal engineering significance	
Engineering	Sheared bedrock		
Significance		Principal Engineering geology	
Principal References	Rea (2013a), Glasser & Bennett (2004), Evans, I.S. (1996)	references case studies	

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Supporting Data

- Comprehensive reference list
 - Contemporary glacial & periglacial research
 - Engineering geology case studies
- QRA Field Guide Listings
 - Sites to observe sediments & landforms in the UK

