M SYSTA Balfour Beatty VINCI P Working on HS2

Use of Glaciogenic Sediment Origin for Ground Water Management During Earthworks Construction on the HS2 Project

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Mott Macdonald SYSTRA Design Joint Venture for lots N1 and N2

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Use of Glaciogenic Sediment Origin for Ground Water Management During Earthworks Construction on the HS2

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Location and Topography (Park Lane Cutting)
- 3. Geology
 - a. Bedrock
 - b. Glacial Environments
 - c. Mid Pleistocene
 - d. Geohazards
- 4. Ground Model Park Lane Cutting
- 5. Summary

What do you think of the shape of the gravel?



1-Introduction



Introduction

Issues to be managed:

- Laterally discontinuous fine-grained soils within glacial fluvial deposits
- Refinement of geotechnical design model to support earthworks construction (within cuttings)
- 3. How does the origin of the glacial sediments affect their permeability and how do we take advantage of it?



2-Location and Topography



Location of the case study area

The case study area is located midway between Birmingham and Coventry and is part of the HS2 Lot N1/N2 earthworks.

Park Lane cutting is approximately 2km long and ranges in depth from 2m to 12m

The cutting starts near Balsall Common and ends adjacent to Bradnock's Marsh



General location



Park Lane Cutting

Location - Park Lane Cutting – Birmingham Plateau



Extract from BBV Ispatial platform showing general location of study site



Figure 4. Map of the superficial deposits of the Birmingham plateau and Warwickshire Avon areas of the English West Midlands. The dashed line marks the boundary of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Avon areas discussed here. Modified from Digimap [74]. Light grey indicates an absence of superficial deposits.

Extract from Gibson et al 2022

Location

Slide illustrating the position of the A452 (Green line) Kenilworth Roads and HS2 alignment within the river system. Park Lane cutting is the red line

Extract from BBV Ispatial platform showing general location of study site



Location

Horn Brook and bedrock Faults

A452 Road -Green line Park Lane cutting - red line

Extract from BBV Ispatial platform showing general location of study site





Extract from BBV digital terrain model prior to the start of the works. Balsall Common is on the high ground to the left





3 – Geology 3a - Bedrock



Triassic Bedrock Origins



Extracts from BGS Research Report RR/01/02 Engineering Geology of the Mercia Mudstone Group

How far have l travelled

Chester formation (Chester Pebble Beds – Bunter Pebbles)

Photographs taken by G McArdle as part of DJV construction phase support activities



Brown or purple quartzite, with quartz conglomerate and vein quartz. Origin Armorican Massif in France



Chester Formation



Armorican Massif Le Massif armoricain (vinsvignesvignerons.com)



Pile Arisings

3 – Geology 3b – Glacial Environments



Glacial limits and Glacial Ground Models – Which Quaternary Domain is Applicable to Park Lane Cutting



Extracts from the BGS Onshore Index





Glacial limits and Glacial Ground Models – Glacial lakes – Vale of York





Fig. 4.72. Continued.



Extracts from BGS Vale of York

Extracts from Booth et al 2015 - Booth S., Merritt J. & Rose J. 2015. Quaternary Provinces and Domains

Glacial limits and Glacial Ground Models



Extracts from Booth et al 2015 - Booth S., Merritt J. & Rose J. 2015. Quaternary Provinces and Domains

485

Glacial limits and Glacial Ground Models



Extracts from Booth et al 2015 - Booth S., Merritt J. & Rose J. 2015. Quaternary Provinces and Domains

485

Park Lane Cutting - Glacial limits and Glacial Ground Models





Weathered metasediments and igneous rocks (mostly chemical disintegration)

As can be seen from the map on the left the glacial domain between the Devensian and Anglian limit is different to most of the UK. This domain is more applicable to the site that the dissected Till Domain that is indicated in the literature.

Extracts from BGS Research Report RR/10/03

3 – Geology 3c – Mid-Pleistocene



Park Lane Cutting – Engineering Geology/Ground Water Risk Mid-Pleistocene – Glacial limits and Glaciogenic Groups





Extracts from BGS Research Report RR/10/03

Park Lane Cutting – Engineering Geology/Ground Water Risk Mid-Pleistocene

Table 16. Summary of Quaternary and Neogene (Totiary) (Hitestinatgraphical Innerwork for Groat Britain and the bile of Mine with relationship of proxys to Quaternary stages and suggested corrolation with marine isotope stages.



British Gamicgical Survey Research Report RV 10/20

IPSWICHIAN EEMIAN 0.126Ma 5e 'WOLSTONIAN' SAALIAN 10-6SUPERGROUP IONIAN HOLSTEINIAN HOXNIAN 11 PLEISTOCENE MIDDLE ELSTERIAN 12 ANGLIAN 'CROMERIAN COMPLEX' **'CROMERIAN** 21 - 13COMPLEX' STISOG 0.781 Ma BEESTONIAN BAVELIAN 64-22

Mid-Pleistocene - 0.781Ma to 0.126Ma

Why does the addition of Mid-Pleistocene to Glacial Fluvial Deposits matter?

One answer is that there were several glaciations that resulted in a superficial soil group being categorised as **Undifferentiated Glacial Fluvial Deposits**

Extracts from BGS Research Report RR/10/03

214

Park Lane Cutting SL2N– Engineering Geology/Ground Water Risk Mid-Pleistocene

Table 16 Seminary of Quaternary and Neugene (Testiary) lithestratigraphical feasework for Groat Britain and the bile of Mue with relationship of groups to Quaternary stages and suggested correlation with marine hotope stages.



Park Lane Cutting – Engineering Geology/Ground Water Risk

Extract from BGS Onshore Index

Park Lane cutting HS2

Glacial Limits

- Devensian/Anglian glaciation boundary
- Glaciated/Non-Glaciated boundary

Superficial deposits 1:50,000 scale

<u>GLACIOFLUVIAL DEPOSITS, MID PLEISTOCENE - SAND AND GRAVEL</u> <u>GLACIOFLUVIAL TERRACE DEPOSITS, MID PLEISTOCENE - SAND AND</u> <u>GRAVEL</u>

BAGINTON SAND AND GRAVEL FORMATION - SAND AND GRAVEL

TILL, MID PLEISTOCENE - DIAMICTON

THRUSSINGTON MEMBER - DIAMICTON

OADBY MEMBER - DIAMICTON

GLACIOLACUSTRINE DEPOSITS, MID PLEISTOCENE - CLAY AND SILT

ALLUVIUM - CLAY, SILT, SAND AND GRAVEL

HEAD - CLAY, SILT, SAND AND GRAVEL

RIVER TERRACE DEPOSITS, 1 - SAND AND GRAVEL

RIVER TERRACE DEPOSITS, 2 - SAND AND GRAVEL



Park Lane Cutting – Engineering Geology/Ground Water Risk

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Extract from Ispatial with 1 to 10,000 Superficial geology

Park Lane Cutting – Engineering Geology/Ground Water Risk



Extract from Ispatial with 1 to 10,000 Superficial geology

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Park Lane Cutting SL2N– Engineering Geology/Ground Water Risk Mid-Pleistocene – Glacial Fluvial - Undifferentiated (?)

BGS cross section illustrates that the Glacial Sand and Gravel may contain Interglacial Deposits – Undifferentiated; and Glacial Till.

Interglacial deposits may include Head deposits. Both the Glacial Till and Head deposits may have been subject to cryoturbation.





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Extracts from BGS Onshore Index, Lexicon and Geology of the Birmingham area: Memoir for 1:50 000 Geological Sheet 168 (England and Wales)

Park Lane Cutting SL2N– Engineering Geology/Ground Water Risk Mid-Pleistocene – Glacial Fluvial - Undifferentiated (?)



Statistic frainer fink Status 1070, Satura Tegint Digit (Sedage and Dimensi Barray

3 – Geology 3d - Geohazards



Periglacial regions of the UK and Ireland superimposed on a digital elevation model

Region 4 (yellow and olive green) experienced periglaciation during Anglian deglaciation and during the Wolstonian and Devensian

MURTON, J.B. & BALLANTYNE, C.K. 2017



Periglacial Geo Hazards

Aerial photographs can highlight the origin of glacial soils.

It's important to consider whether the soil deposition is from

- Ice deposition
- Melt water
- Periglacial action

Image from Giles and Griffiths Geological Hazards of the UK, 2020



.6. Active-layer detachment slides (previously described as solifluction lobes) in Cretaceous Lower Greensand Formation, adjacent to the Sevenoaks Bypass, Kent. © Google Earth Pro, Getmapping PLC 2012.

Periglacial geo hazards – Solifluction lobes are absent from DTM, but gullies are present



Solifluction lobes are absent from DTM, but gullies are present - Potential for active layer slip deposits in the gullies (Head deposits?)



Periglacial geo hazards – Patterned ground absent from DTM and aerial photographs



Google Earth image (A452 in bottom left of image)

Polygonal patterned ground reflecting the presence of fossil ice wedge casts beneath the field

Engineering problems caused by fossil permafrost features in the English Midlands – Morgan 1971

Periglacial geo hazards Excavation in Park Lane cutting - Periglacial discontinuities observed, but no fossilised ice wedges

Type - Considered to be sub-vertical thermal contraction cracks in the coarse soil with a high content. Spink TW 1991 reference) High angle Discontinuity persistence Vertical - full thickness of the strata approximately 4m) thaw shear Horizontal - unable to confirm, but 2m to 3m was visible

Excavation in Park Lane cutting – Periglacial discontinuities observed, but no fossilised ice wedges



Extract from above from: Spink TW (1991) Periglacial discontinuities in Eocene clays near Denham, Buckinghamshire. Engineering Geology Special Publications, v. 7, p. 389-396.

Excavation in Park Lane cutting – Periglacial discontinuities observed, but no fossilised ice wedges

AS AFFECTING ENGINEERING STRUCTURES Inside and outside the Arctic, active, present-day frost heave is probably the process most troublesome to Russian. northern European and North American engineers, producing differential heave and differential settlement of road and airfield pavements, railway tracks, pipelines and other shallow-founded structures. The pioneer work on these problems was carried out by Beskow (1935), who established both their nature and suitable counter-measures. These, and other engineering problems in frozen ground, were comprehensively reviewed by Corte (1969). In general, silts are particularly prone to frost heaving, as they have the optimum balance between suction potential at the freezing front (related inversely to grain size) and permeability (related directly to grain size), but many other soil types are affected. Considerable efforts have been directed towards the definition of criteria for susceptibility to frost heaving, generally based on particle size (Jones 1980, Johnston 1981), but completely satisfactory criteria have yet to

Extract (left) from:

Hutchinson JN (1991) Periglacial and Slope Processes Quaternary Engineering Geology, Geological Society Engineering Geology Special Publication No 7, lap 283-331

This paper highlights how soils with a high silt content are susceptible to heave in periglacial time periods.

High angle

thaw shear



Discontinuity persistence Vertical - full thickness of the strata approximately 4m) Horizontal - unable to confirm, but 2m to 3m was visible

Extract from above from: Spink TW (1991) Periglacial discontinuities in Eocene clays near Denham, Buckinghamshire. Engineering Geology Special Publications, v. 7, p. 389-396.

Excavation in Park Lane cutting – Periglacial discontinuities observed, but no fossilised ice wedges



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4- Ground Model - Park Lane Cutting



Park Lane Cutting SL2N– Engineering Geology/Ground Water Risk Mid-Pleistocene – Glacial Fluvial



Extracts from BGS Onshore Index Glacial Cross Section

Park Lane Cutting Mid-Pleistocene Glacial Formation Correlations

The age and glacial strata correlations in the following slides has been inferred from the 2022 paper by Gibson et al Timing and dynamics of Late Wolstonian Substage 'Moreton Stadial' (MIS 6) glaciation in the English West Midlands

The elevation and descriptions of the strata from the Meriden site (discussed in the Gibson paper)

Gibson dated the glacial sediments using a luminescence technique

The image is an extract form the Gibson et al 2022 paper





- 1. Sherwood Sandstone deposited in a fluvial environment
- Depositional environment changes and the Merica Mudstone strata are deposited in flood sheet deposits
- 3. Faulting occurs



- 1. Sherwood Sandstone deposited in a fluvial environment
- 2. Depositional environment changes and the Merica Mudstone strata are deposited in flood sheet deposits
- 3. Faulting occurs
- Surface of MMG is eroded including fluvial channels in the Anglian glaciation



Glaciofluvial sands and gravels deposited (Possibly Baginton Sands - Mid Wolstonian					
	y Daginton	oando - Mila V	roistonian		
Bag'Sa'					
		1			
MMG	1				
	1				
Helsby Sandstone (Sherwood Sandstone - Triassic)					



Bag'Sa'				
MMG		1		
Helsby Sandstone (Sherv	vood Sandstone - Trias	sic)	1	
Glaciolacustrine Reddis Wolstonian	h Brown CLAY(Possit	bly Lower Wolsto	on Clay) - Mid/Late	
Bag'Sa'				

Photograph to the right captures the boundary between the Wolston Clay (?) and the Baginton Sand (?). Perched water above the MMG within the Baginton Sand (?) is present in the photograph.

Photograph was taken at a distance during a trial excavation. It was not possible to get closer due to active plan movements

Glaciolacustrine Reddish Brown CLAY(Possibly Lo Wolstonian	ower Wols	ton Clay) - Mid/Late	
Bag'Sa'			
MMG	1		
Helsby Sandstone (Sherwood Sandstone - Triassic)	1	1	



Glaciolacustrine Reddish Brown CLAY(Possibly Lower Wolston Clay) - Mid/Late Wolstonian	4
Bag'Sa'	
MMG	
Helsby Sandstone (Sherwood Sandstone - Triassic)	
Glaciolacustrine Red SAND 4m thick (Possibly Wolston Sand) - Late Wolstonian - Lake Harrison	5
Bag'Sa'	
MMG	
Helsby Sandstone (Sherwood Sandstone - Triassic)	



Glaciolacustrine Reddish Brown CLAY(Possibly Lo Wolstonian	wer Wolste	on Clay) - Mid/I	Late
Bag'Sa'			
MMG			
Helsby Sandstone (Sherwood Sandstone - Triassic)	1	1	
Glaciolacustrine Red SAND 4m thick (Possibly Wo Harrison	lston Sand	l) - Late Wolsto	nian - Lake 5
Bag'Sa'			
MMG			
Helsby Sandstone (Sherwood Sandstone - Triassic)	1	/	



Image - Trial pit in Park Lane Cutting

Glaciolacustrine Red SAND 4m thick (Possibly Wolston Sand) - Late Wolstonian - Lake Harrison

Bag'Sa'				
MMG		/		
Helsby Sandstone (Sherwood Sandsto	ne - Triassic)	(\		
Glaciofluvial Yellowish Brown SANE	0 10m thick - Late	Wolstonian		6
GLAC silty fine SAND		Glacial Ti	I	
Baginton Sand (GFD)	— GLAC Firm CLA	NY		Glaciofluvial channel
MMG		7 \		
Helsby Sandstone (Sherwood Sandsto	one - Triassic)	/	L.	

There is a high probability that the Mercia Mudstone Group is the origin of the Lower Wolston Clay; and the Sherwood Sandstone is the origin of the Wolston Sand.

Both glacial deposits have experienced short journeys from erosion to deposit. It could also be said they have not been reworked again and cleaned like the other glacial fluvial deposits



Glaciolacustrine Red SAND 4m thick (Possibly Wolston San Harrison	nd) - Late Wolstonian - Lake	5	Glacial Till approximately 2m thi	ick - (Diamictum) Late	e Wolsto	nian	
			GLAC silty fine SAND			Glacial Till	~
Bag'Sa'			Baginton Sand (GFD)	GLAC Firm CL	AY.	T	Glaciofluvi
MMG			MMG		1		
Helsby Sandstone (Sherwood Sandstone - Triassic)			Helsby Sandstone (Sherwood Sa	ndstone - Triassic)	1		
Glaciofluvial Yellowish Brown SAND 10m thick - Late Wolst	tonian	6					
GLAC silty fine SAND	Glacial Till						
Baginton Sand (GFD) GLAC Firm CLAY	Glaciofluv channel	vial					
MMG							
Helsby Sandstone (Sherwood Sandstone - Triassic)	1						











Glaciolacustrine Reddish Brown slightly gravelly fine SILT/SAND (Wolston Sand? Source Helsby Sandstone)



Glacial Fluvial Deposit Initial melt water gully filled with yellowish brown silty fine SAND -(Source Helsby Sandstone?)

Glaciolacustrine Reddish Brown slightly gravelly fine SILT/SAND (Wolston Sand? Source Helsby Sandstone)



Glacial Fluvial Deposit Gully No1 Potentially reworked Wolston Sand

Glacial Fluvial Deposit Gully No1 – Potentially reworked Wolston Sand

Glacial Fluvial Deposit Initial melt water gully filled with yellowish brown silty fine SAND -(Source Helsby Sandstone?)

Glaciolacustrine Reddish Brown slightly gravelly fine SILT/SAND (Wolston Sand? Source Helsby Sandstone)



Periglacial Deposit Gully No2 Reworked Glacial Till from higher ground from ridge of slope. (Considered to be an active slide debris flow as opposed to solifucted soil. This is because the deposits appear to be confined to the gully areas)

Glacial Fluvial Deposit Gully No1 Potentially reworked Wolston Sand

Glacial Fluvial Deposit Gully No1 – Potentially reworked Wolston Sand

Glacial Fluvial Deposit Initial melt water gully filled with yellowish brown silty fine SAND -(Source Helsby Sandstone?)

Glaciolacustrine

Reddish Brown slightly gravelly fine SILT/SAND (Wolston Sand? Source Helsby Sandstone)



Periglacial Deposit Gully No2 Reworked Glacial Till from higher ground from ridge of slope. (Considered to be an active slide debris flow as opposed to solifucted soil. This is because the deposits appear to be confined to the gully areas)

Periglacial thaw shear Late Wolstonian or Devensian

Glacial Fluvial Deposit Gully No1 Potentially reworked Wolston Sand

Glacial Fluvial Deposit Gully No1 – Potentially reworked Wolston Sand

Glacial Fluvial Deposit Initial melt water gully filled with yellowish brown silty fine SAND -(Source Helsby Sandstone?)

Glaciolacustrine

Reddish Brown slightly gravelly fine SILT/SAND (Wolston Sand? Source Helsby Sandstone)

Park Lane Cutting – Higher permeability Glacial Fluvial Sands



Park Lane Cutting SL2N– Engineering Geology/Ground Water Risk



5- Summary



Summary

- **1) Value Engineering** Budget constraints on projects mean that you have to be flexible in your thinking and approach.
- **2) Applied Science** Engineering Geology is an applied science subject and is heavily reliant on the work of pure geologists. Therefore challenge your our knowledge level and get reading!
- **3) Observation Skills** A cornerstone to being an engineering geologist. Practice basic skills and try and get something out of all your projects and site visits. It's rewarding!
- **4) Origin of Soil and Rock** Essential to know about your site because it could bring significant financial value to the project.
- **5) Geological Maps** A starting point. Just because they are digital doesn't mean that they hold all the answers. This is especially true in areas of glacial margins.
- **6) Groundwater** Management of groundwater in construction is expensive and when you bring environmental constraints into the programme, there is always a significant impact to manage.
- **7) Engineering Geologists** Have knowledge of the above and so can apply these skills within the construction phase of a project to look for value engineering opportunities.

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6-Questions

Definition of an Engineer (Noun) – Person who solves problems that others didn't know existed!

Engineer (Verb) - To try to arrange for something to happen, usually something complicated or difficult

