

# Ground improvement vs. pile foundations?

**S. Varaksin, B. Hamidi, N. Huybrechts and N. Denies**

*ISSMGE TC211 contribution to the ETC-3 conference*

**Leuven, May 29, 2016**



# Topics

1. GI vs. PF - the wrong debate
2. Foundation concepts - back to the roots
3. Ground improvement by rigid inclusions

Failure mechanisms – ULS and stress domain

Load transfer platform (LTP) concept

GEO and STR design considerations

Execution methods & numerical modeling

4. Hybrid concept without load transfer platform

Soil mix as bearing elements - case history

5. Conclusions and perspectives

# 1. GI vs PF – the wrong debate

## Soil mix elements as bearing elements

**= current trend on the foundation market**

When we compare this solution with the classical piling one, it is generally the beginning of an irrelevant debate:

***"How to conform the soil mix elements to the severe requirements imposed to concrete piles on the market?"***

***"Are the soil mix elements in agreement with the EC7-requirements for piles?" ...***

In this way of thinking, the soil mix element is at best

- = a lower quality pile**
- = a cheaper pile**
- = a "second-hand" pile**

# 1. GI vs PF – the wrong debate

## Soil mix elements as bearing elements

### How to compare soil mix elements with pile foundations?

Pile foundations	Soil mix elements
Well-established <b>design rules</b> ( <u>Eurocodes + National Annexes</u> ) with severe requirements	Lack of practical design guidelines – unclear situation
Well-known <b>material properties</b> (concrete, steel...)	Heterogeneous material with sometimes unmixed soft soil inclusions in the soil mix matrix
With European (CE) and local <b>markings</b> (e.g. Benor in Belgium) for the materials	Without marking or certification
With <b>QA/QC requirements</b> with regard to the material and concerning the execution	Lack of QA/QC requirements adapted to the functions of the soil mix elements

# 1. GI vs PF – the wrong debate

## Soil mix elements as bearing elements

**If the soil mix solution is selected...**

**the concrete industry highlights**

- **the unbalanced requirements between both techniques**
- **the unfair competition between them**

***"Why do we have to conform to severe and costly QA/QC rules for well-known and recognized technique and material while, when we work with an innovative technique such as the deep mixing, the requirements are more flexible or sometimes do not exist?"***

**There is thus a feeling of double standard politics on the market of foundation contractors...**

# 1. GI vs PF – the wrong debate

## Soil mix elements as bearing elements

**But this is a wrong debate!**

caused by the idea that a bearing soil mix element is a soil mix pile

→ Importance of the **terminology**

Please, use the terms soil-cement columns or soil mix panels

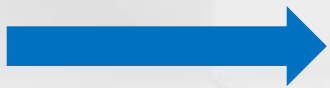
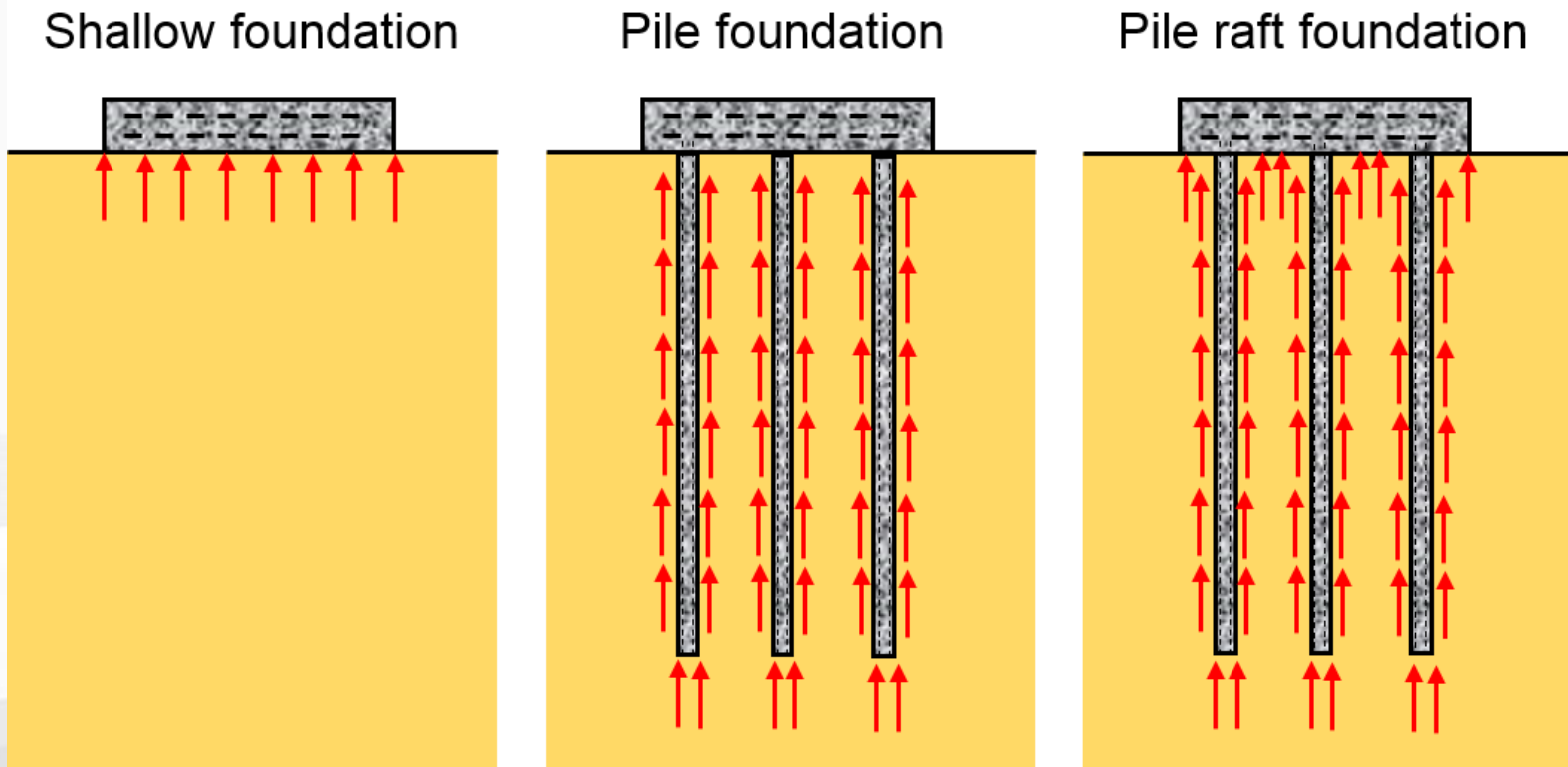
→ Importance of the definition of the **foundation concept**



**Back to the roots...**

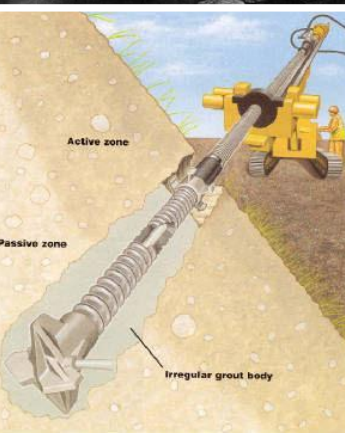
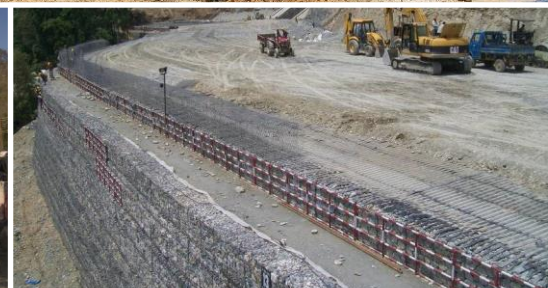
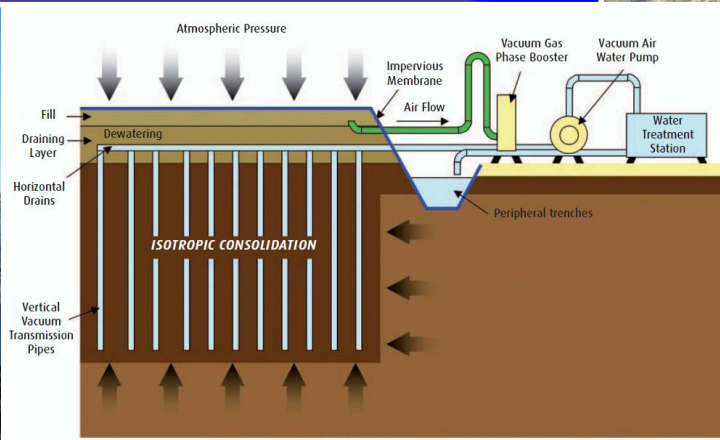
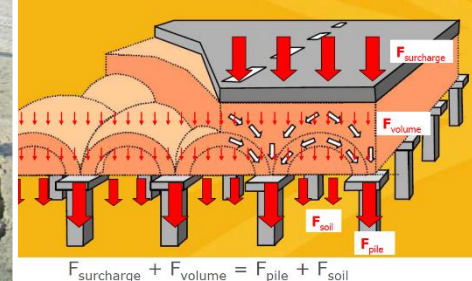
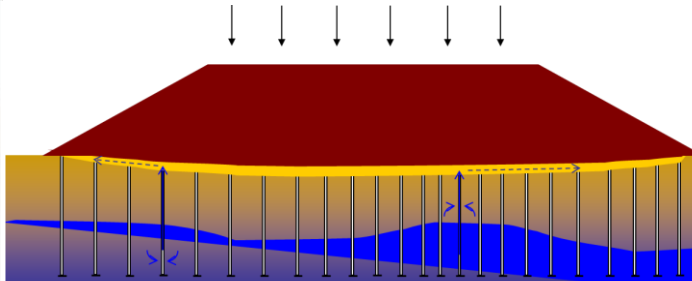
## 2. Behind the foundation concepts - back to the roots

### Difference between the classical foundation concepts




**It is also possible to convert deep loose or soft soils to adequately competent soil by ground improvement**







## 2. Behind the foundation concepts - back to the roots



**ICSMGE Alexandria 2009**

**17<sup>TH</sup> International Conference on  
Soil Mechanics & Geotechnical Engineering**

**State of the Art Report**

**Construction Processes  
Procédés de Construction**

**Jian Chu**  
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore


**Serge Varaksin**  
Menard, France

**Ulrich Klotz**  
Zublin International GmbH, Germany

**Patrick Mengé**  
Dredging International n.v., DEME, Belgium

Alexandria, Egypt  
5-9 October 2009

**www.tc211.be**  
**nde@bbri.be**



**NOTA : TC 17 meeting ground improvement – 07/10/2009**  
**Website : www.bbri.be/go/tc17**

Table 1. Classification of ground improvement methods adopted by TC17

Category	Method	Principle
A. Ground improvement without admixtures in non-cohesive soils or fill materials	A1. Dynamic compaction	Densification of granular soil by dropping a heavy weight from air onto ground.
	A2. Vibrocompaction	Densification of granular soil using a vibratory probe inserted into ground.
	A3. Explosive compaction	Shock waves and vibrations are generated by blasting to cause granular soil ground to settle through liquefaction or compaction.
	A4. Electric pulse compaction	Densification of granular soil using the shock waves and energy generated by electric pulse under ultra-high voltage.
	A5. Surface compaction (including rapid impact compaction).	Compaction of fill or ground at the surface or shallow depth using a variety of compaction machines.
B. Ground improvement without admixtures in cohesive soils (also see Table 4)	B1. Replacement/displacement (including load reduction using light weight materials)	Remove bad soil by excavation or displacement and replace it by good soil or rocks. Some light weight materials may be used as backfill to reduce the load or earth pressure.
	B2. Preloading using fill (including the use of vertical drains)	Fill is applied and removed to pre-consolidate compressible soil so that its compressibility will be much reduced when future loads are applied.
	B3. Preloading using vacuum (including combined fill and vacuum)	Vacuum pressure of up to 90 kPa is used to pre-consolidate compressible soil so that its compressibility will be much reduced when future loads are applied.
	B4. Dynamic consolidation with enhanced drainage (including the use of vacuum)	Similar to dynamic compaction except vertical or horizontal drains (or together with vacuum) are used to dissipate pore pressures generated in soil during compaction.
	B5. Electro-osmosis or electro-kinetic consolidation	DC current causes water in soil or solutions to flow from anodes to cathodes which are installed in soil.
	B6. Thermal stabilisation using heating or freezing	Change the physical or mechanical properties of soil permanently or temporarily by heating or freezing the soil.
	B7. Hydrofracturing compaction	Collapse of soil (loess) is compacted, or a controlled wetting and deep explosion (blow) in a hole.
C. Ground improvement with admixtures or inclusions	C1. Vibro replacement or stone columns	Hole jetted into soil, fine-grained soil and back filled with densely compacted gravel or sand to form columns.
	C2. Dynamic replacement	Soil is removed and replaced by compacted soil to form columns.
	C3. Sand compaction piles	Sand is fed into ground through a casing pipe and compacted by either vibration, dynamic impact, or static excitation to form columns.
	C4. Geotextile confined columns	Sand is fed into a closed bottom geotextile lined cylindrical hole to form a column.
	C5. Rigid inclusions (or composite foundation, also see Table 5)	Use of piles, rigid or semi-rigid bodies or columns which are either premade or formed in-situ to strengthen soft ground.
	C6. Geosynthetic reinforced column or pile supported embankment	Use of piles, rigid or semi-rigid columns/inclusions and geosynthetic girds to enhance the stability and reduce the settlement of embankments.
	C7. Microbial methods	Use of microbial materials to modify soil to increase its strength or reduce its permeability.
	C8 Other methods	Unconventional methods, such as formation of sand piles using blasting and the use of bamboo, timber and other natural products.
D. Ground improvement with grouting type admixtures	D1. Particulate grouting	Grout granular soil or cavities or fissures in soil or rock by injecting cement or other particulate grouts to either increase the strength or reduce the permeability of soil or ground.
	D2. Chemical grouting	Solutions of two or more chemicals react in soil pores to form a gel or a solid precipitate to either increase the strength or reduce the permeability of soil or ground.
	D3. Mixing methods (including premixing or deep mixing)	Treat the weak soil by mixing it with cement, lime, or other binders in-situ using a mixing machine or before placement.
	D4. Jet grouting	High speed jets at depth erode the soil and inject grout to form columns or panels.
	D5. Compaction grouting	Very stiff, mortar-like grout is injected into discrete soil zones and remains in a homogenous mass so as to densify loose soil or lift settled ground.
	D6. Compensation grouting	Medium to high viscosity particulate suspensions is injected into the ground between a subsurface excavation and a structure in order to negate or reduce settlement of the structure due to ongoing excavation.
E. Earth reinforcement	E1. Geosynthetics or mechanically stabilised earth (MSE)	Use of the tensile strength of various steel or geosynthetic materials to enhance the shear strength of soil and stability of roads, foundations, embankments, slopes, or retaining walls.
	E2. Ground anchors or soil nails	Use of the tensile strength of embedded nails or anchors to enhance the stability of slopes or retaining walls.
	E3. Biological methods using vegetation	Use of the roots of vegetation for stability of slopes.

## 2. Behind the foundation concepts - back to the roots

### Categories of GI methods

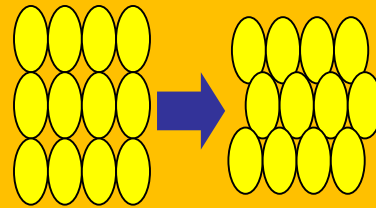
Without  
admixture

With  
admixture

Soil reinforcement  
– in fill and in cut

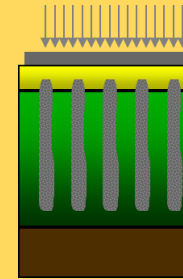
**Cohesionless soil –  
Non-cohesive soil –  
Granular soil –  
(sand, fill material)**

**Dynamic consolidation  
Vibrocompaction...**



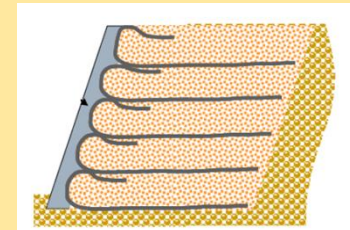
**A**

**Rigid inclusions  
Stone columns**



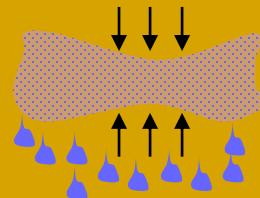
**C**

**Geosynthetics  
MSE walls  
Anchors  
and nails**



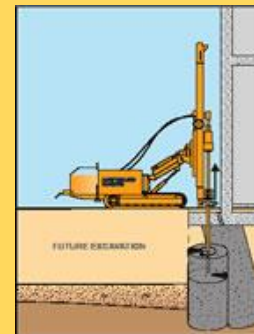
**Cohesive soil  
(peat, clay...)**

**Preloading  
Vertical drains  
Vacuum consolidation...**

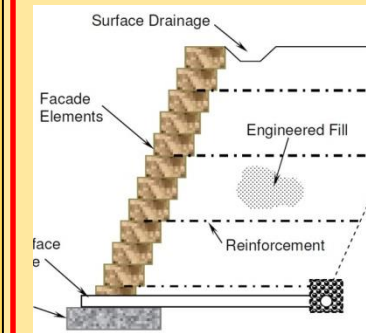


**B**

**Jet grouting  
Deep soil mixing...**



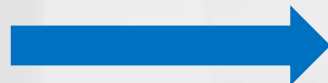
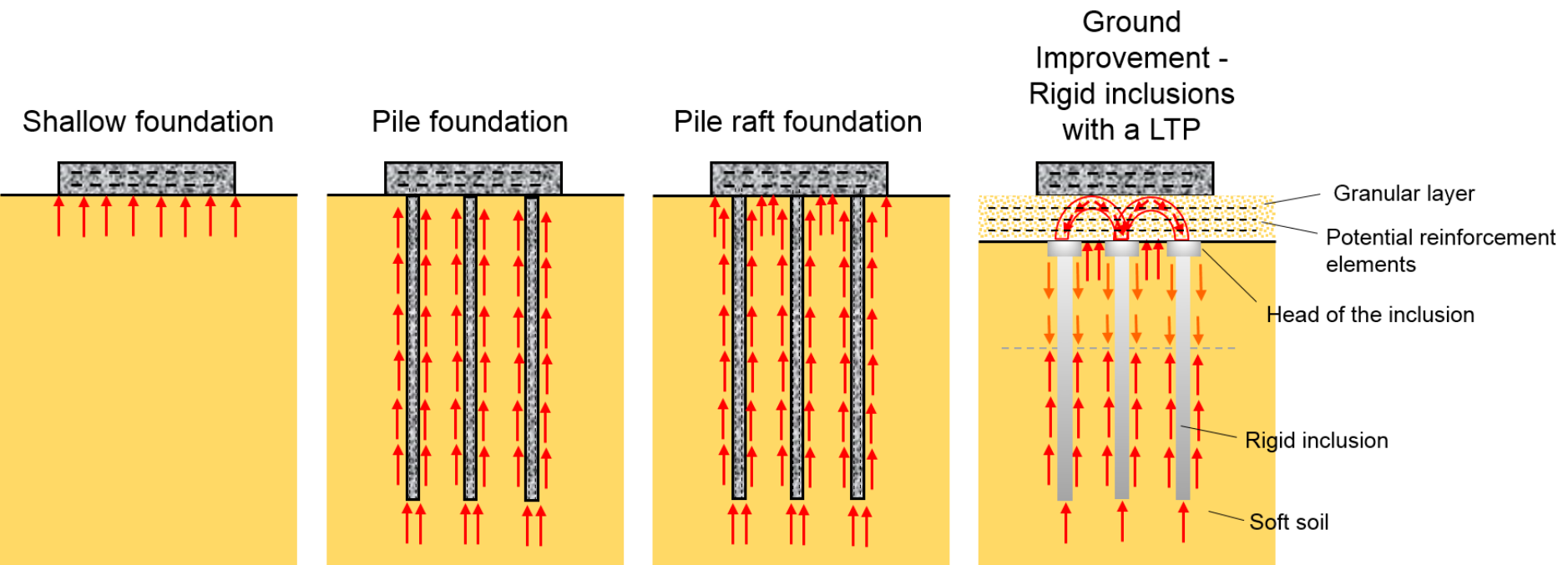
**D**



**E**

## 2. Behind the foundation concepts - back to the roots

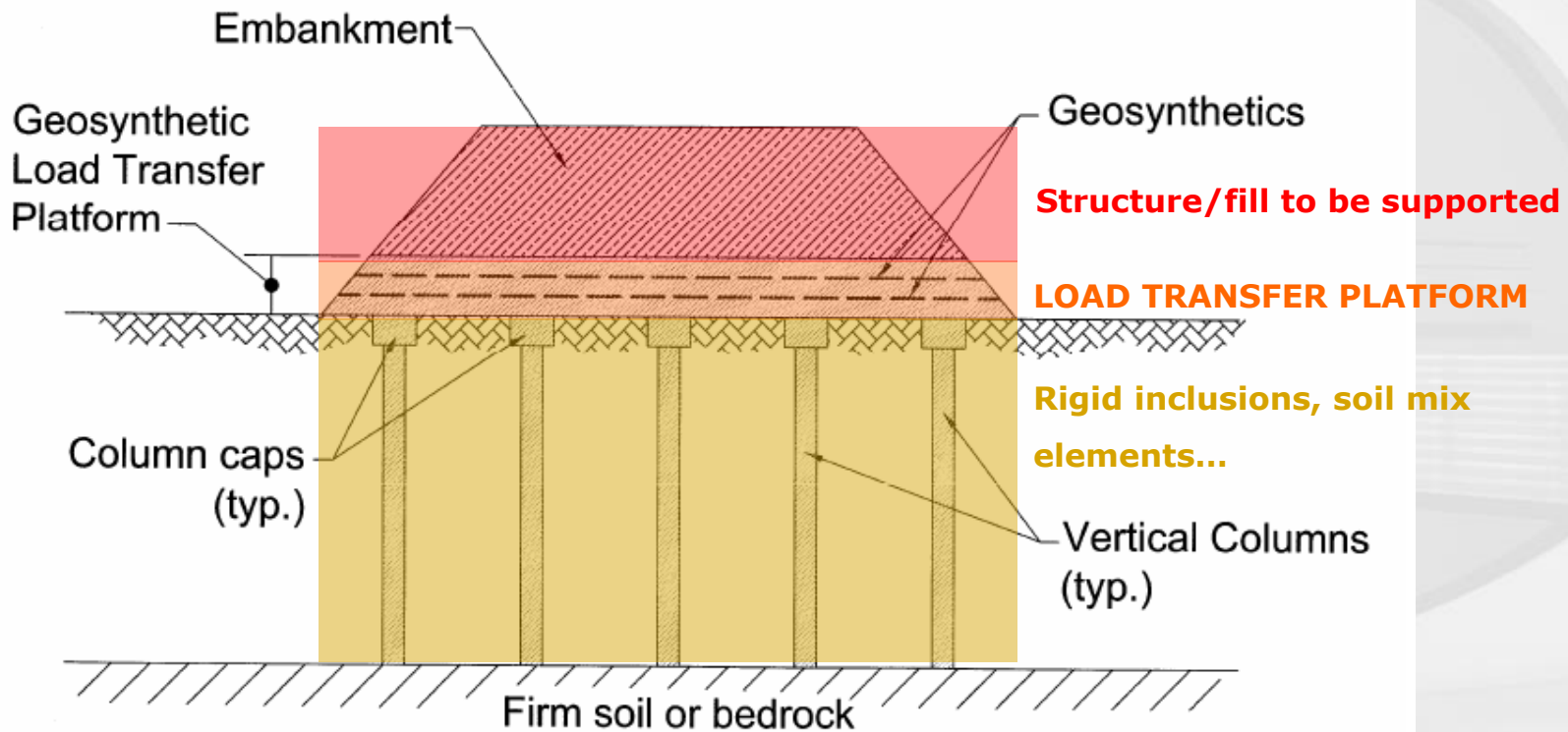
**Concept of rigid inclusions** *"It looks like a pile...  
but it's not a pile!"*



**The rigid inclusions combined with a load transfer platform cannot be designed (or considered) as piles**

### 3. Ground improvement by rigid inclusions

#### Principles of the rigid inclusions and the load transfer platform (LTP) - principles





### 3. Ground improvement by rigid inclusions

#### Principles of the rigid inclusions and the load transfer platform (LTP) – main reference

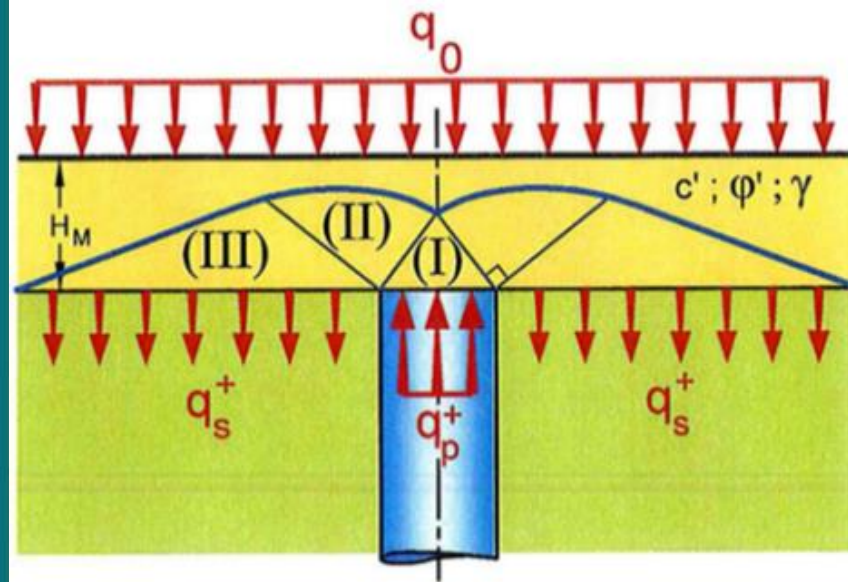


***ASIRI guidelines - IREX (2012)  
in line with the Eurocodes***

### 3. Ground improvement by rigid inclusions

#### Failure mechanisms developing in the LTP

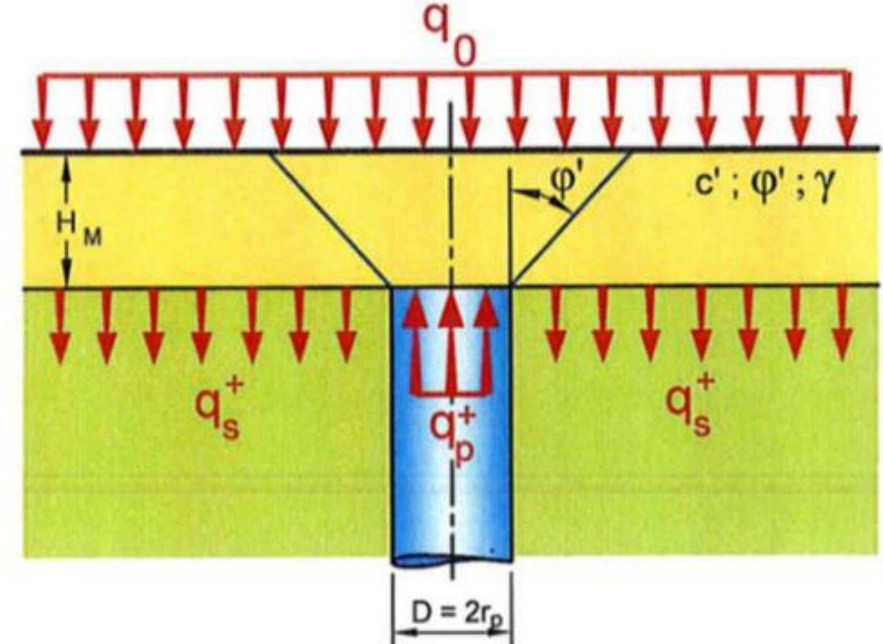
##### Prandtl's failure mechanism



##### Thick embankment

$q_0$  = Uniformly distributed external load applied LTP  
 $q_p^+$  = stress on the inclusion head  
 $q_s^+$  = stress on the *in-situ* soil

##### Punching shear failure mechanism



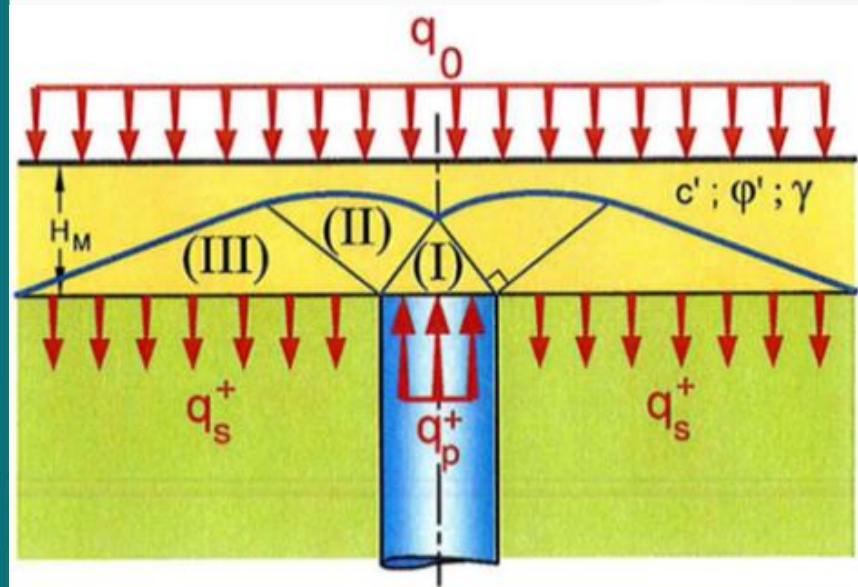
##### Thin embankment

$H_M < 0.7(s - D)$   
 $s$  = center to center spacing of the square grid

### 3. Ground improvement by rigid inclusions

#### Failure mechanisms developing in the LTP

##### Prandtl's failure mechanism



##### Determination of $q_p^+$ and $q_s^+$

Prandtl's equation:

$$q_p^+ = N_q q_s^+ \quad (\text{equation 1a})$$

Load conservation equation:

$$\alpha q_p^+ + (1 - \alpha) q_s^+ = q_o \quad (\text{equation 4})$$

→  $\alpha$  is the replacement ratio

$$q_p^+ = \frac{N_q}{1 + \alpha(N_q - 1)} q_o$$

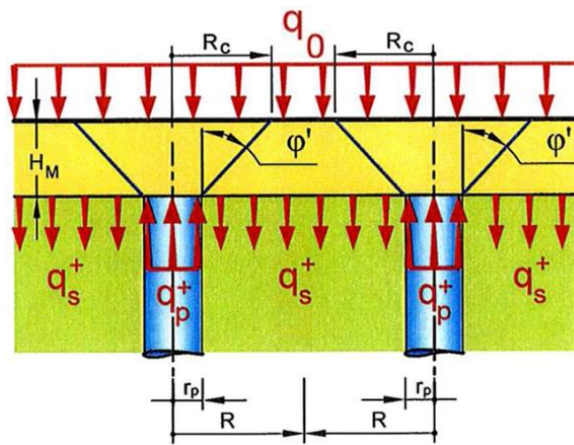
$$q_s^+ = \frac{1}{1 + \alpha(N_q - 1)} q_o$$



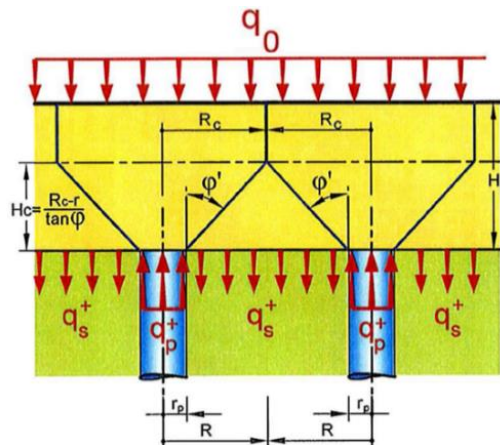
### 3. Ground improvement by rigid inclusions

#### Failure mechanisms developing in the LTP

**Punching shear failure mechanisms (thin embankment)**  $H_M < 0.7(s - D)$



Non-overlapping failure cones ( $H_M < H_c$ )



Overlapping failure cones ( $H_M > H_c$ )

$$H_c = \frac{R - r_p}{\tan \phi'}$$

$$R = \frac{s}{\sqrt{\pi}}$$

$$R_c = r_p + H_M \tan \left( \frac{\phi'}{\gamma_{\phi'}} \right)$$

$$q_p^+ = \frac{H_M}{3} \left( \frac{R_c^2}{r_p^2} + 1 + \frac{R_c}{r_p} \right) \frac{\gamma}{\gamma_{\gamma}} + \frac{R_c^2}{r_p^2} q_0 + \frac{1}{\tan \phi'} \left( \frac{R_c^2}{r_p^2} - 1 \right) \frac{c'}{\gamma_{c'}}$$

No overlap  
eq. (1b blue)

$$q_p^+ = \left[ \frac{H_c}{3} \left( \frac{R^2}{r_p^2} + 1 + \frac{R}{r_p} \right) + (H_M - H_c) \frac{R^2}{r_p^2} \right] \frac{\gamma}{\gamma_{\gamma}} + \frac{R^2}{r_p^2} q_0 + \left[ \frac{1}{\tan \phi'} \left( \frac{R^2}{r_p^2} - 1 \right) \right] \frac{c'}{\gamma_{c'}}$$

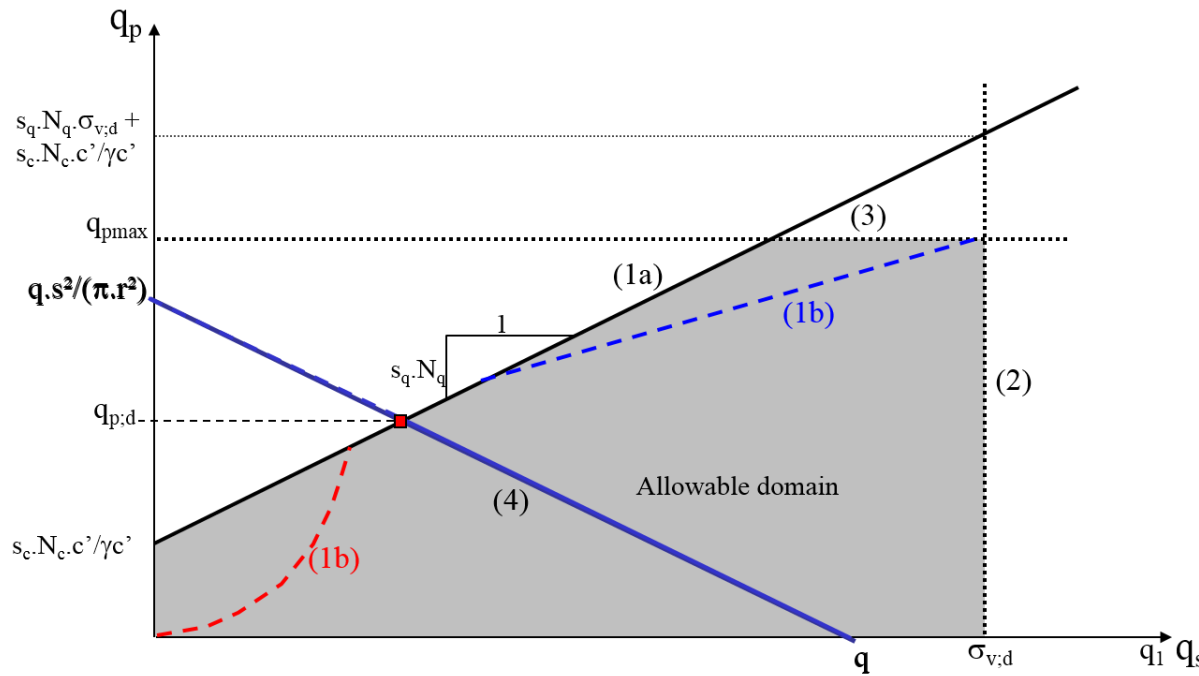
Overlap  
eq. (1b red)



### 3. Ground improvement by rigid inclusions

#### ULS stress domain of the concept

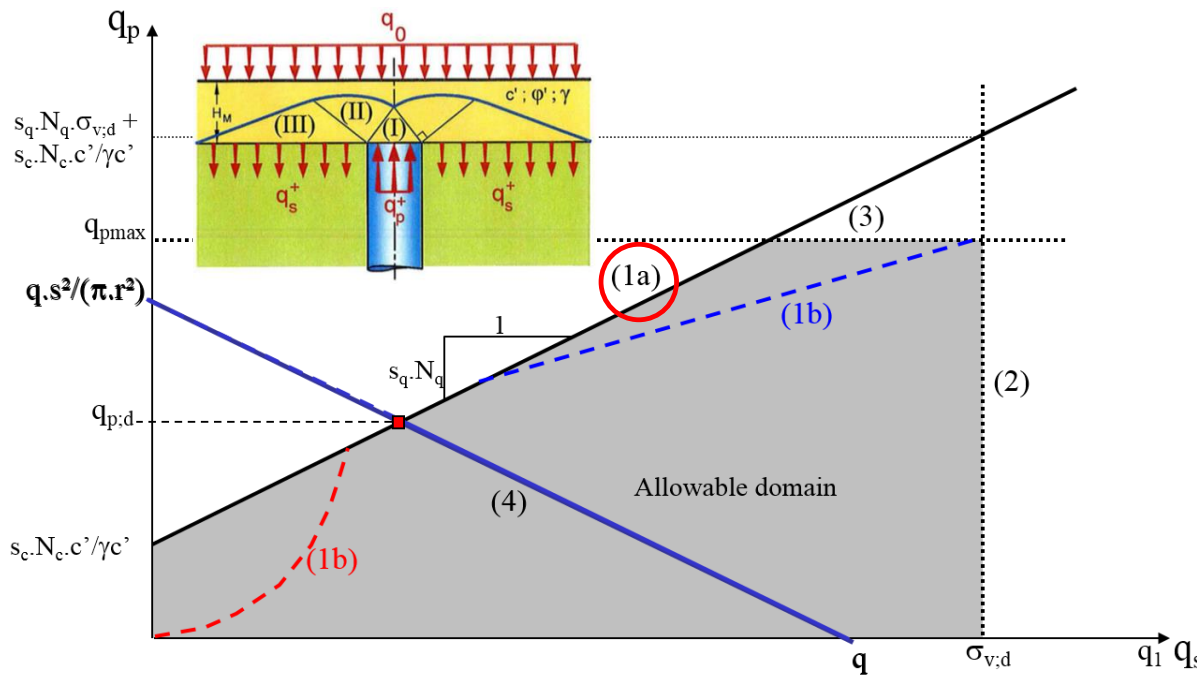
Domain of admissible stresses (ULS) at the base of the LTP



### 3. Ground improvement by rigid inclusions

#### ULS stress domain of the concept

#### Domain of admissible stresses (ULS) at the base of the LTP



Prandtl's equation:

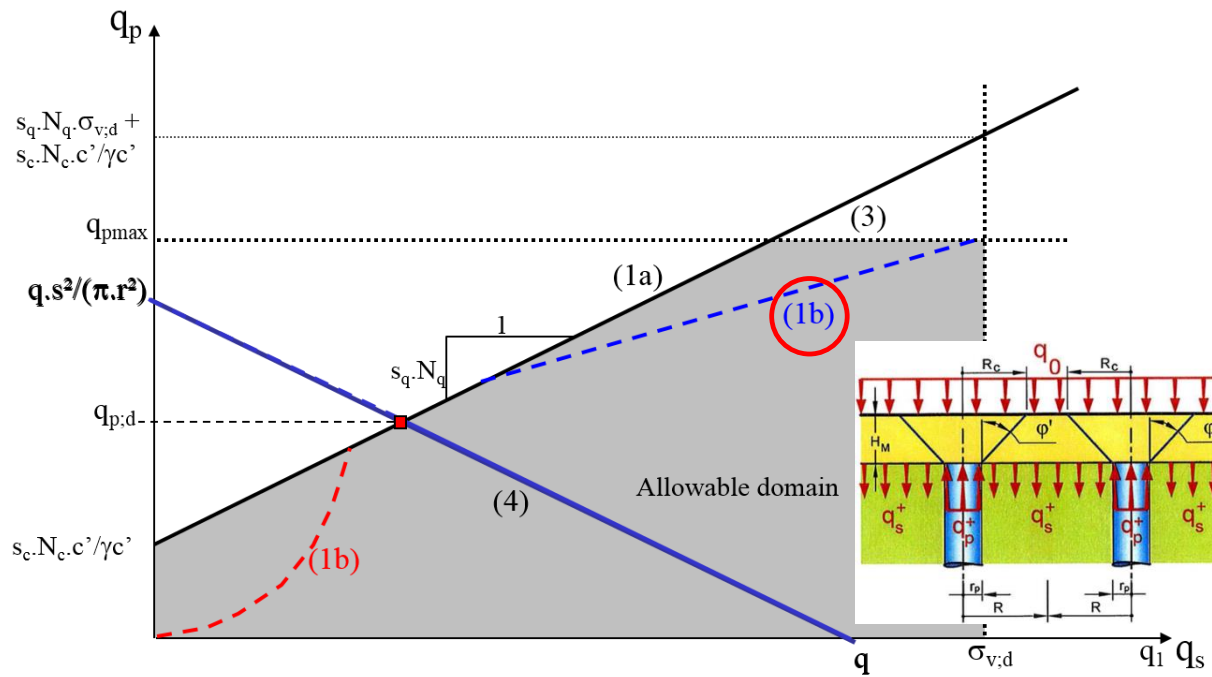
$$q_p^+ = N_q q_s^+ \quad (\text{equation 1a})$$



### 3. Ground improvement by rigid inclusions

#### ULS stress domain of the concept

#### Domain of admissible stresses (ULS) at the base of the LTP



Punching shear failure mechanism:

$$q_p^+ = \frac{H_M}{3} \left( \frac{R_c^2}{r_p^2} + 1 + \frac{R_c}{r_p} \right) \frac{\gamma}{\gamma_\gamma} + \frac{R_c^2}{r_p^2} q_0 + \frac{1}{\tan \varphi'} \left( \frac{R_c^2}{r_p^2} - 1 \right) \frac{c'}{\gamma c'}$$

No overlap  
eq. (1b blue)

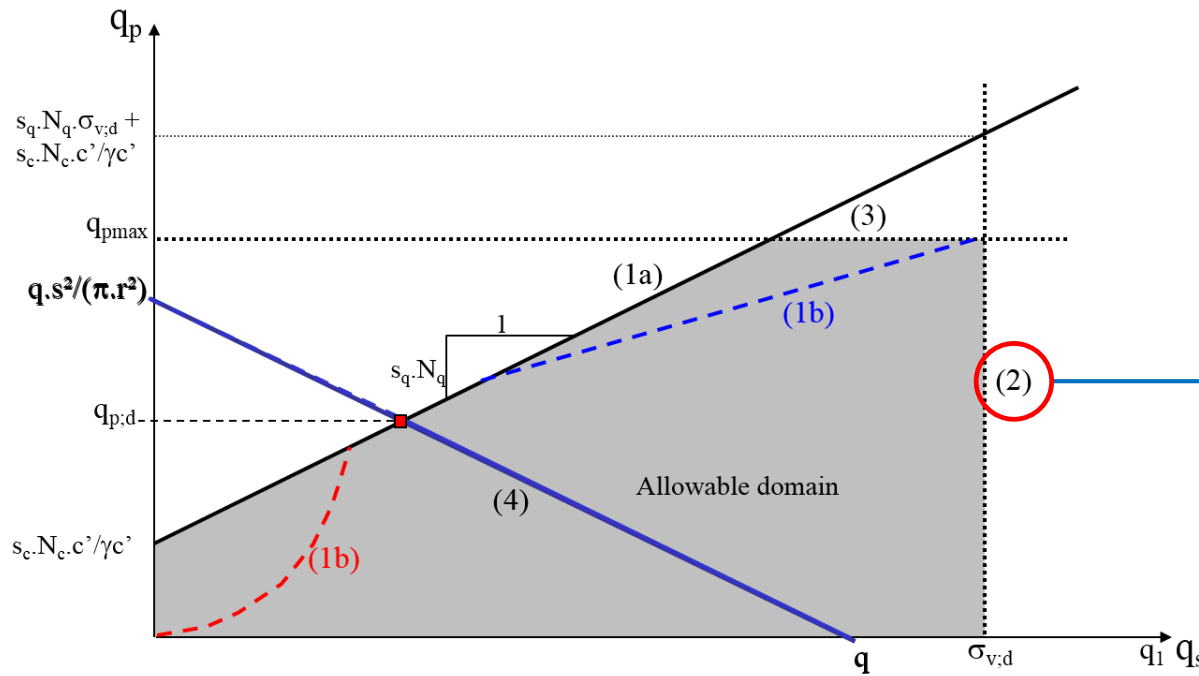




### 3. Ground improvement by rigid inclusions

#### ULS stress domain of the concept

Domain of admissible stresses (ULS) at the base of the LTP



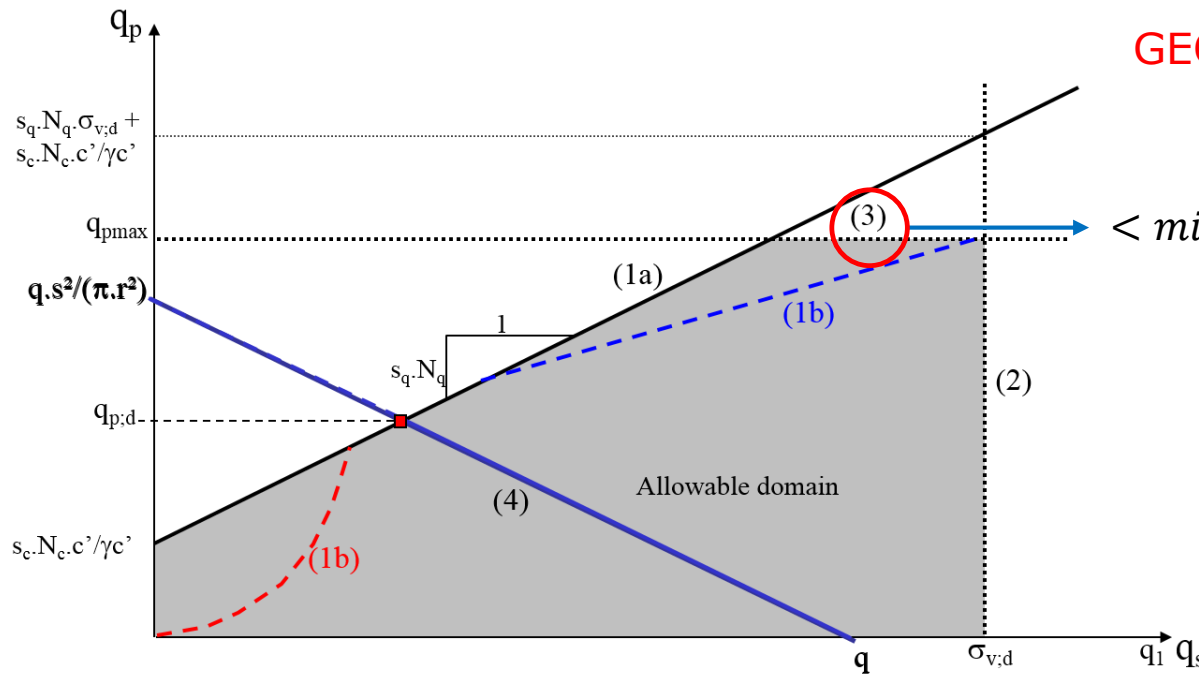
$\sigma_{v;d} \rightarrow$  soil study  
(pressuremeter,  
penetrometer...)

$$\sigma_{v;d} = \frac{k_p P_{LM}}{\gamma_{R;v} \cdot \gamma_{R,d}}$$

### 3. Ground improvement by rigid inclusions

#### ULS stress domain of the concept

#### Domain of admissible stresses (ULS) at the base of the LTP



GEO design

$$< \min \left( \frac{R_b / \gamma_b \cdot \gamma_{R,d} + R_s / \gamma_s \cdot \gamma_{R,d}}{\pi r_p^2} ; f_{c,d} \right)$$

STR design

### 3. Ground improvement by rigid inclusions

#### ULS stress domain of the concept

GEO design of the rigid inclusion **in line with Eurocode 7**



**Axial compression behavior of the inclusion computed according to the principles of Eurocode 7 + NA**





EEN UITGAVE VAN HET WETENSCHAPPELIJK EN TECHNISCH CENTRUM VOOR HET BOUWBEDRIJF



# RAPPORT      **R**ICHTLIJNEN VOOR DE TOEPASSING VAN DE EUROCODE 7 IN BELGIË

DEEL 1 : HET GRONDMECHANISCH ONTWERP IN DE UITERSTE  
GRENSTOESTAND VAN AXIAAL OP DRUK BELASTE FUNDERINGSPALEN

WTCB-Rapport nr. 12 – 2009



NF P94-262 (juillet 2012) : Justification des ouvrages  
géotechniques - Normes d'application nationale de  
l'Eurocode 7 - Fondations profondes (Indice de  
classement : P94-262)

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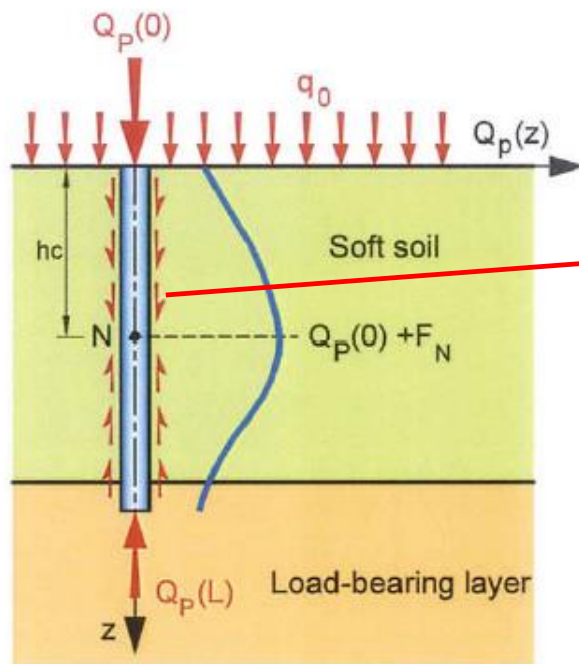
**CSTB**  
ÉDITIONS

### 3. Ground improvement by rigid inclusions

#### ULS stress domain of the concept

GEO design of the rigid inclusion **in line with Eurocode 7**

**➡ Consideration of the negative skin friction**



$$\tau < \sigma'_v K \tan \delta$$

The negative skin friction is caused by the **differential settlement** (between the top of the inclusions and the granular layer of the LTP) also responsible for the **arching effect** in the LTP

$$F_N = 2 \pi r_p \int_0^{hc} K \tan \delta \sigma'_v(z, r_p) dz$$

### 3. Ground improvement by rigid inclusions

#### ULS stress domain of the concept

#### STR design of the rigid inclusion

 **Computation of  $f_{c,d} = UCS_{\text{design value}}$**

**Methodologies available in the literature (detailed in the Keynote)**

UCS= Uniaxial Compressive Strength

**Detailed  
methodologies  
in line with the  
Eurocodes!**

3.

U

S

EUROPEAN STANDARD  
NORME EUROPÉENNE  
EUROPÄISCHE NORM

EN 1992-1-1

December 2004

ICS 91.010.30; 91.080.40

Supersedes ENV 1992-1-1:1991, ENV 1992-1-3:1994,  
ENV 1992-1-4:1994, ENV 1992-1-5:1994, ENV 1992-1-  
6:1994, ENV 1992-3:1998

English version

Eurocode 2: Design of concrete structures - Part 1-1: General  
rules and rules for buildings

Eurocode 2: Calcul des structures en béton - Partie 1-1 :  
Règles générales et règles pour les bâtiments

Eurocode 2: Bemessung und konstruktion von Stahlbeton-  
und Spannbetontragwerken - Teil 1-1: Allgemeine  
Bemessungsregeln und Regeln für den Hochbau

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Ref. No. EN 1992-1-1:2004; E

igid inclusions

cept

$c,d = UCS_{design value}$

ature (detailed in the Keynote)

**Detailed  
methodologies  
in line with the  
Eurocodes!**



### 3. U S

EUROPEAN STANDARD

EN 1992-1-1

NORME

EUROPA

ICS 91.010.30

Eurocode 2: C  
Règles g

This European

CEN members  
Standard the st  
standards may

This European  
under the respo  
versions.

CEN members  
Germany, Gree  
Slovenia, Spain

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inclusions

= **UCS**<sub>design value</sub>

e (detailed in the Keynote)

**Detailed methodologies in line with the Eurocodes!**



# 3. U S

EUROPEAN STANDARD

EN 1992-1-1

NORME

ASIRI NATIONAL PROJECT

EUROPA

DEUTSCHE NORM

August 2012

ICS 91.010.30

DIN 4093

DIN

ICS 93.020

Mit DIN EN 12715:2000-10  
Ersatz für  
DIN 4093:1987-09

## Bemessung von verfestigten Bodenkörpern – Hergestellt mit Düsenstrahl-, Deep-Mixing- oder Injektions-Verfahren

Design of ground improvement –  
Jet grouting, deep mixing or grouting

Dimensionnement des renforcements de sol –  
Colonnes de sol-ciment réalisées par jet, colonnes de sol traité ou injection

Eurocode 2: C  
Règles g

This European

CEN members  
Standard the st  
standards may

This European  
under the respo  
versions.

CEN members  
Germany, Gree  
Slovenia, Spain

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Gesamtumfang 18 Seiten

Normenausschuss Bauwesen (NABau) im DIN

clusions

CS<sub>design value</sub>

etailed in the Keynote)

Detailed  
methodologies  
in line with the  
Eurocodes!

# 3. U S

EUROPEAN STANDARD

EN 1992-1-1

NORME

EUROPA

ICS 91.010.30

Eurocode 2: C  
Règles g

This European

CEN members  
Standard the st  
standards may

This European  
under the respo  
versions.

CEN members  
Germany, Gree  
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ASIRI NATIONAL PROJECT

DEUTSCHE NORM

August 2012

DIN 4093

DIN

ICS 93.020

Bemessur  
Hergestell

Design of gr  
Jet grouting,

Dimensionne  
Colonnes de

Handboek soilmix-wanden Ontwerp en uitvoering

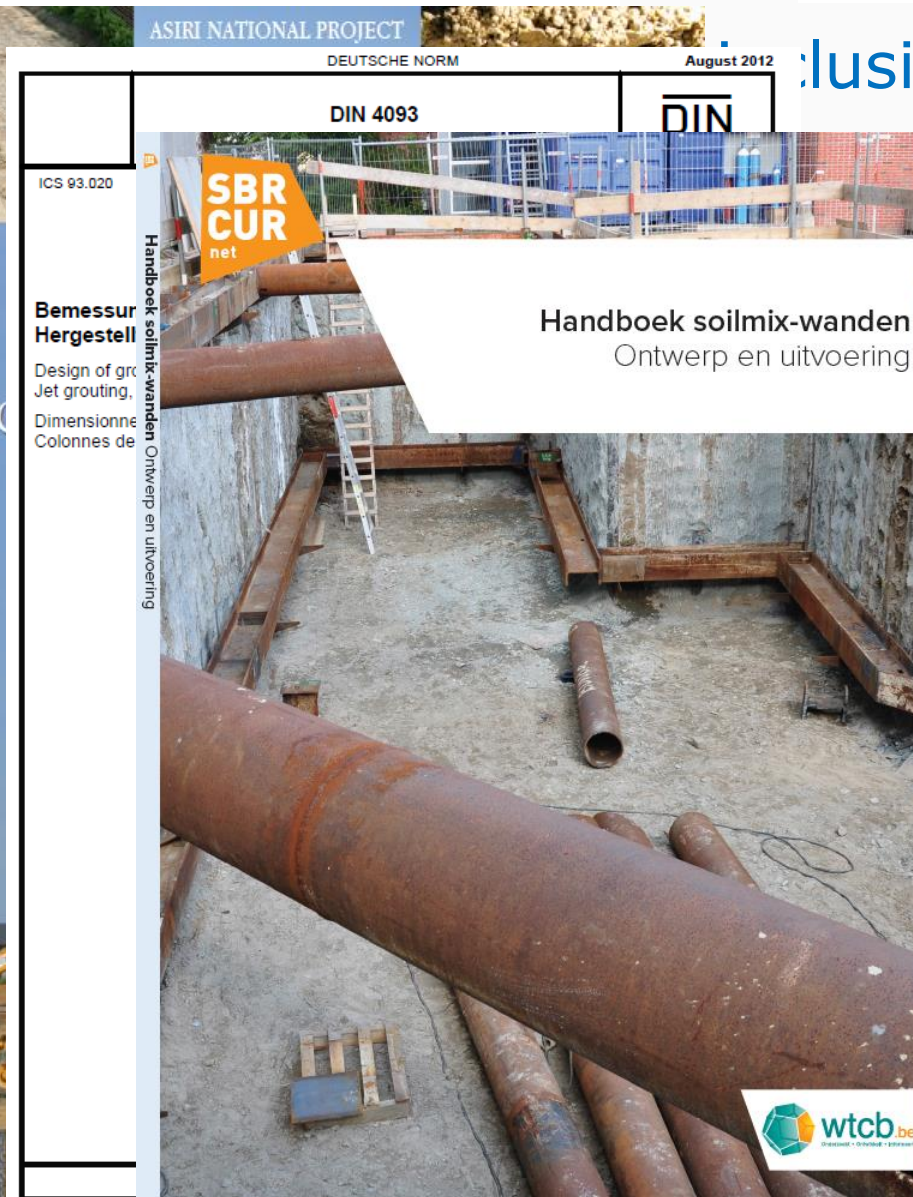
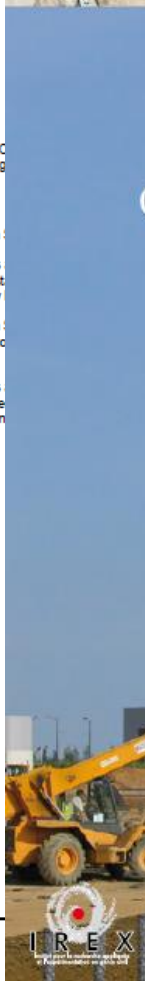
SBR  
CUR  
net

Handboek soilmix-wanden  
Ontwerp en uitvoering

sign value

ed in the Keynote)

**Detailed  
methodologies  
in line with the  
Eurocodes!**



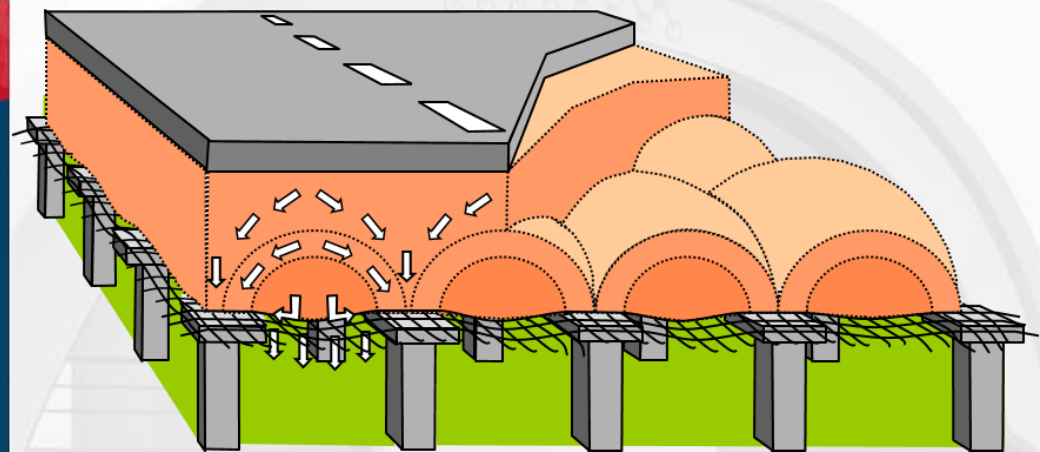
### 3. Ground improvement by rigid inclusions

#### Other design aspects in ASIRI (IREX, 2012)

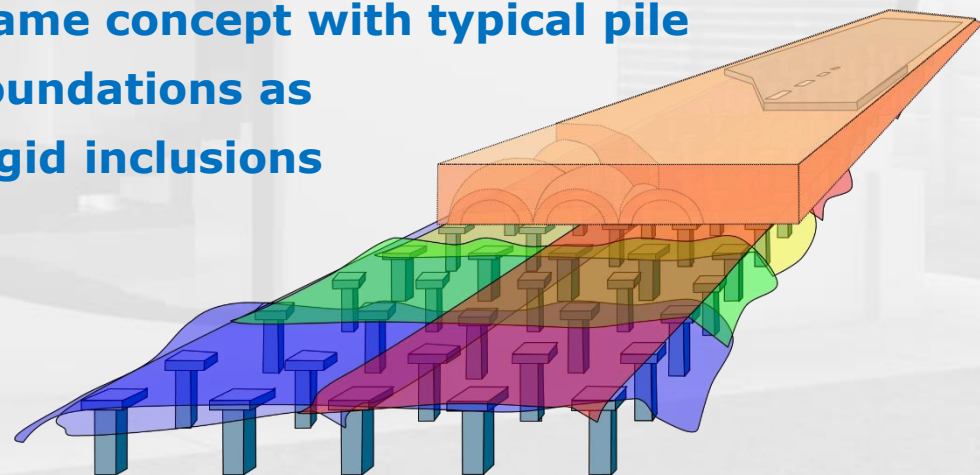
- **Stress distribution at the edge of the LTP**
- **SLS design approach**
- **Lateral loading**
  - + lateral and flexural behavior of the rigid inclusions
- **Seismic loading**
- **Design of the foundation slabs on the LTP**
- **Design of the potential geosynthetics**
- **Numerical modeling**
- **Execution and QA/QC procedures**
- **Soil investigation and testing**
- **...**

### 3. Ground improvement by rigid inclusions

#### Piled embankment – Dutch approach (CUR Rapport 226)



Same concept with typical pile foundations as rigid inclusions

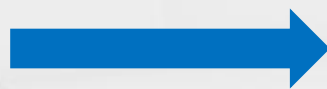
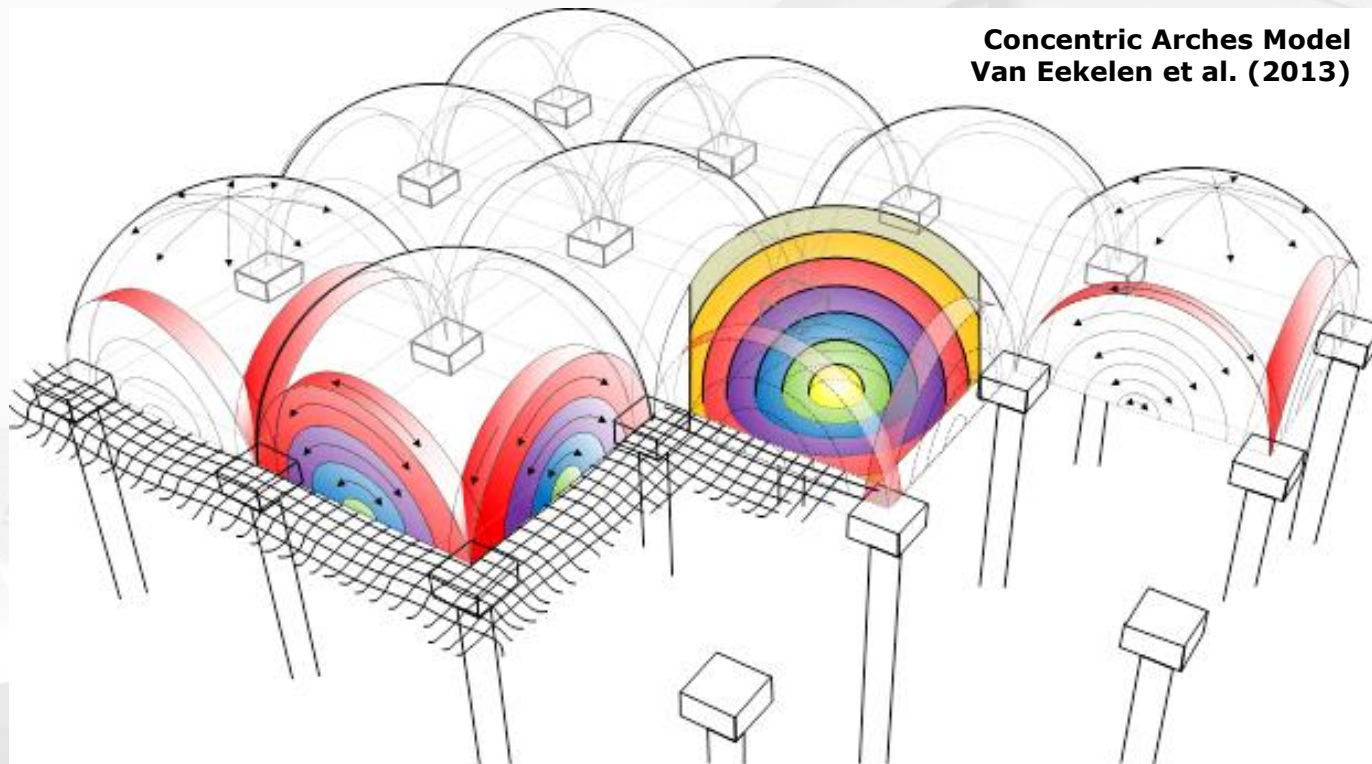




### 3. Ground improvement by rigid inclusions

#### Piled embankment – Dutch approach (CUR Rapport 226)

#### Study of the load transfer distribution



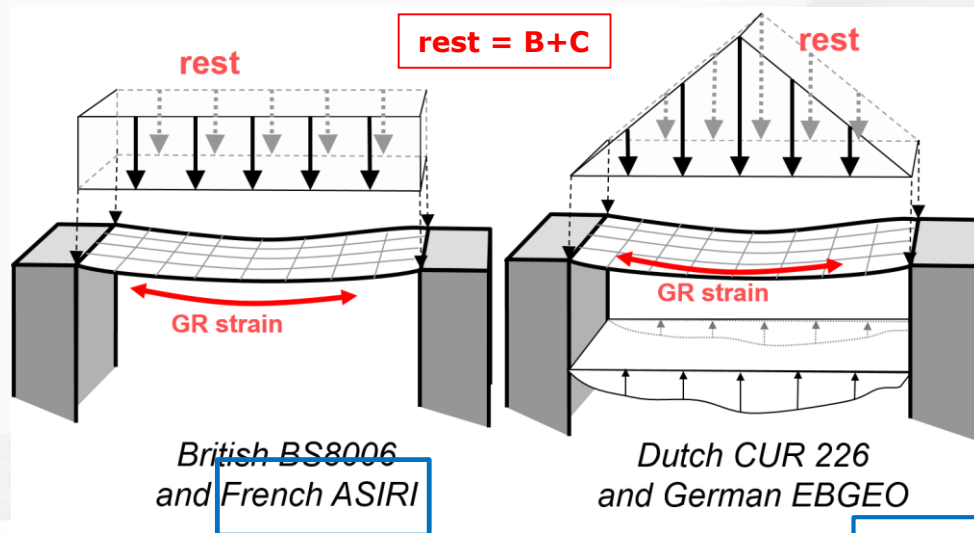
Design of the **geosynthetics**  
at the base of the LTP



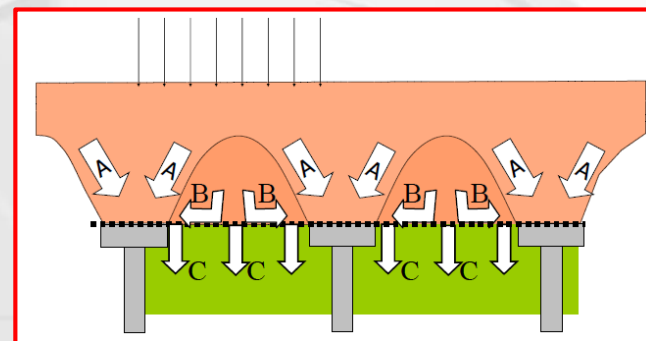
### 3. Ground improvement by rigid inclusions

#### Piled embankment – Dutch approach (CUR Rapport 226)

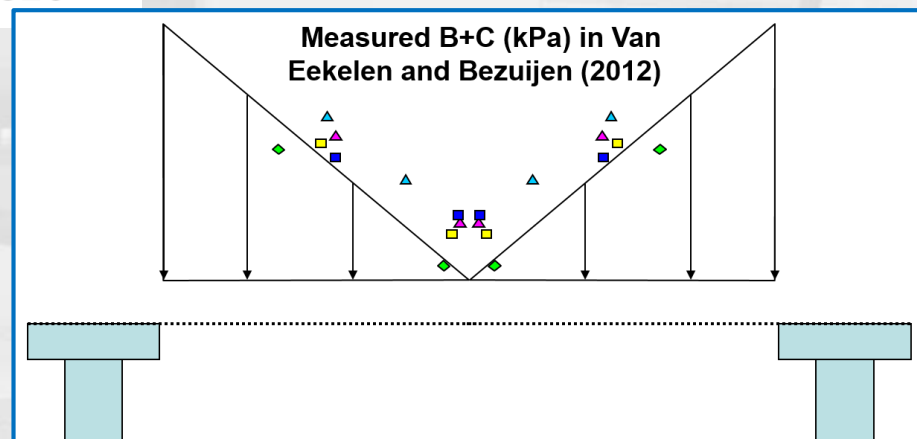
#### Study of the load transfer distribution



Uniform load transfer distribution  
used in the IREX (2012) –  
ASIRI guidelines



Load transfer distribution  
deduced from the Dutch  
in-situ and lab experiments

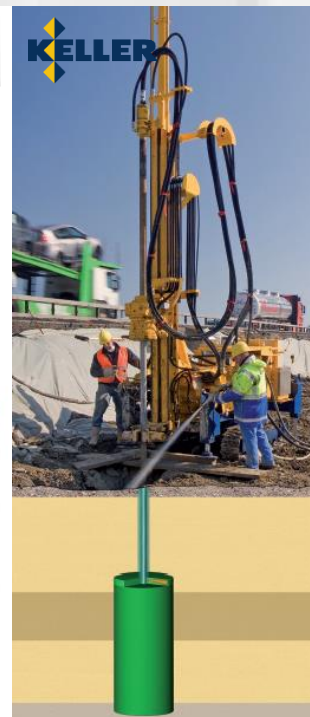
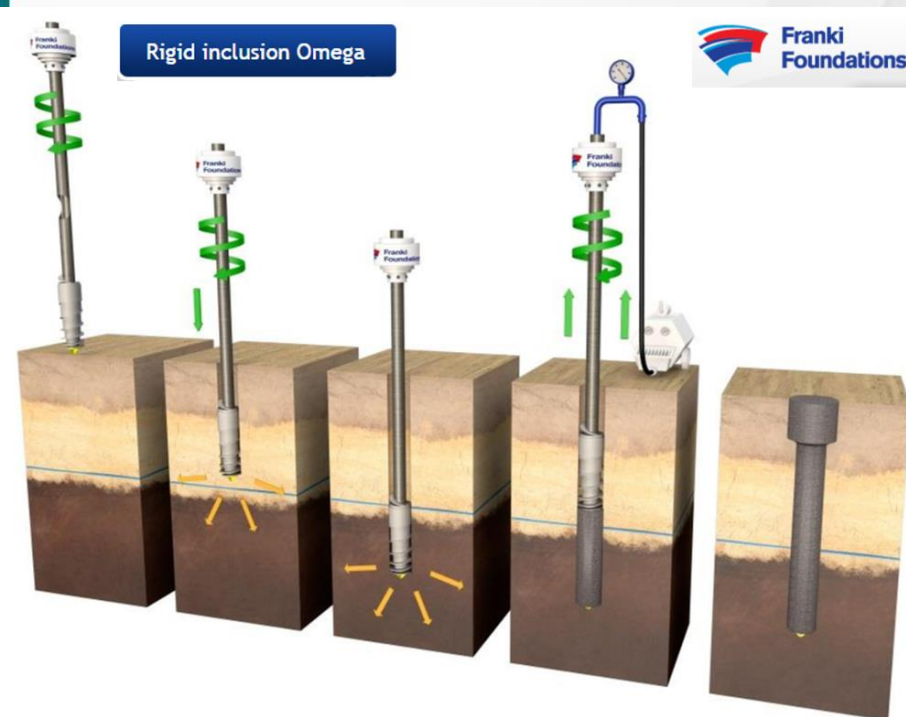


Research  
perspectives

### 3. Ground improvement by rigid inclusions

#### Execution methods - typical rigid inclusions

- Concrete columns - installed using (adapted) piling techniques
- Grout and jet grout columns
- Soil mix elements (columns, panels, trenches, blocks...)
- Controlled Modulus Columns (CMC)
- Grouted stone columns



### 3. Ground improvement by rigid inclusions

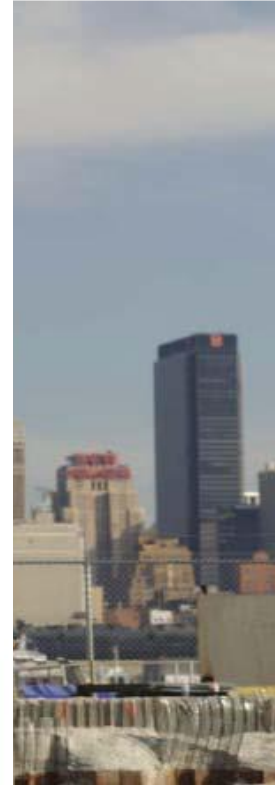
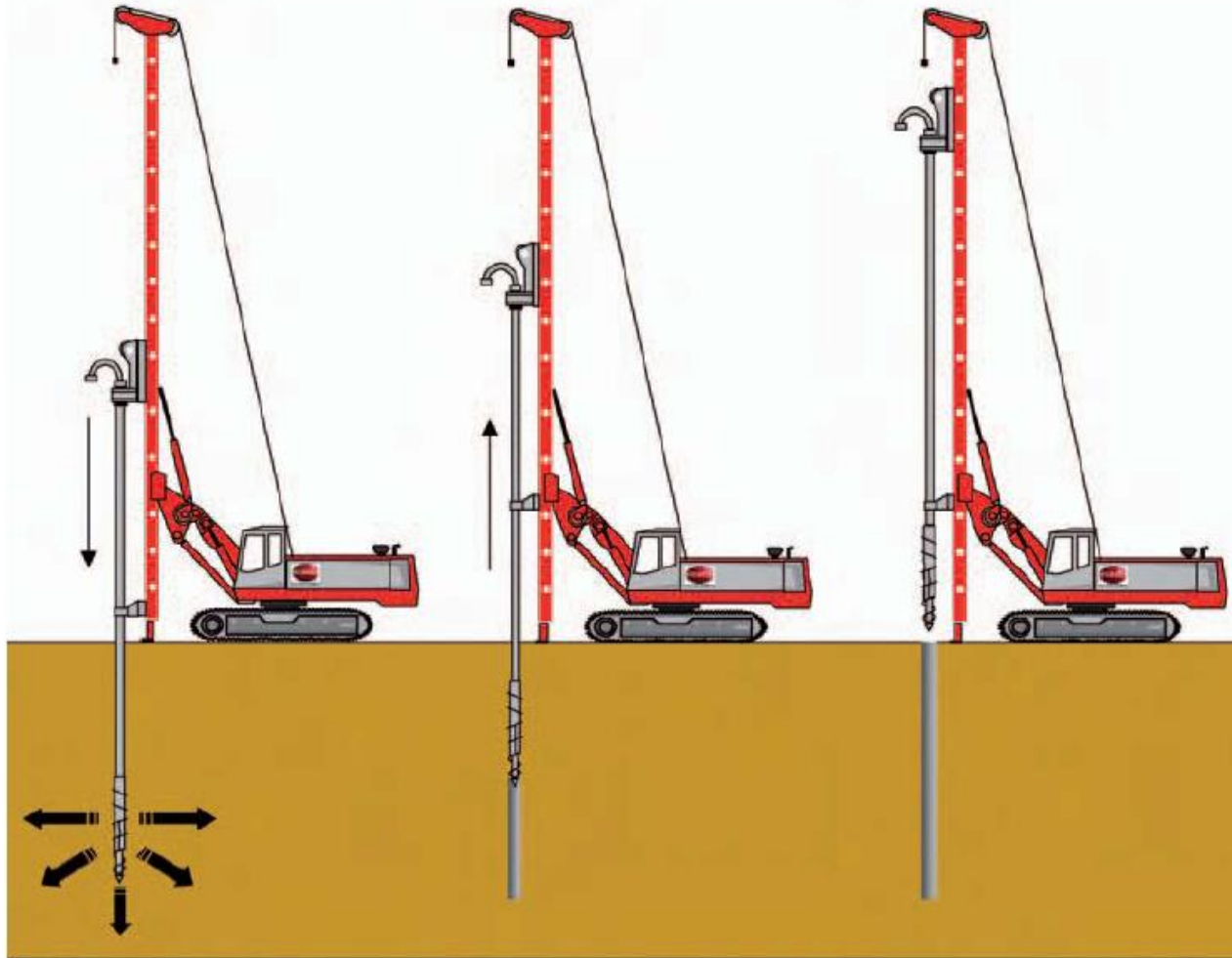
#### Execution methods – Illustration with the CMC process





### 3. Ground improvement by rigid inclusions

#### Execution methods – Illustration with the CMC process



### 3. Ground improvement by rigid inclusions

#### Execution methods – Illustration with the CMC process

- **Column strength = grout strength**
- **High settlement reduction with lower replacement ratios**
- **Independent from external parameters for lateral stability**
- **Vibration free**
- **Negligible volumes of spoil**
- **High installation rates**
- **High installation depths**
- **Case histories in the keynote**



### 3. Ground improvement

#### Execution methods

- Column strength
- High settlement
- Independent from
- Vibration free
- Negligible volume
- High installation
- High installation

→ Case histories in

Buschmeier et al. (2012)

Installation of

**34 m long CMCs**

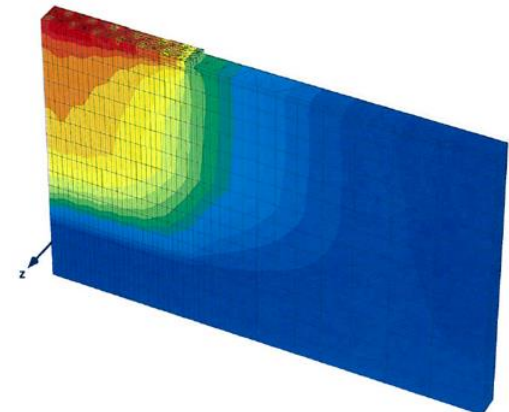
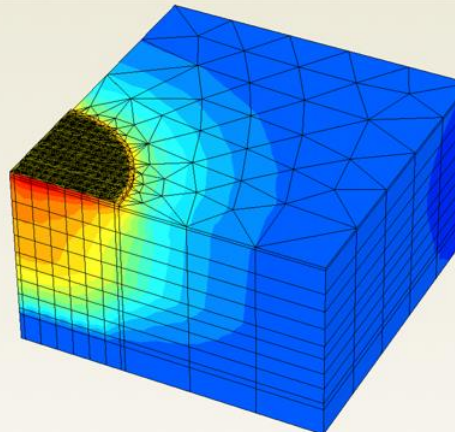
Hamidi et al. (2016)

Installation of

**42 m long CMCs**

**= world record!**

Both in Louisiana State to support oil tanks



### 3. Ground improvement by rigid inclusions

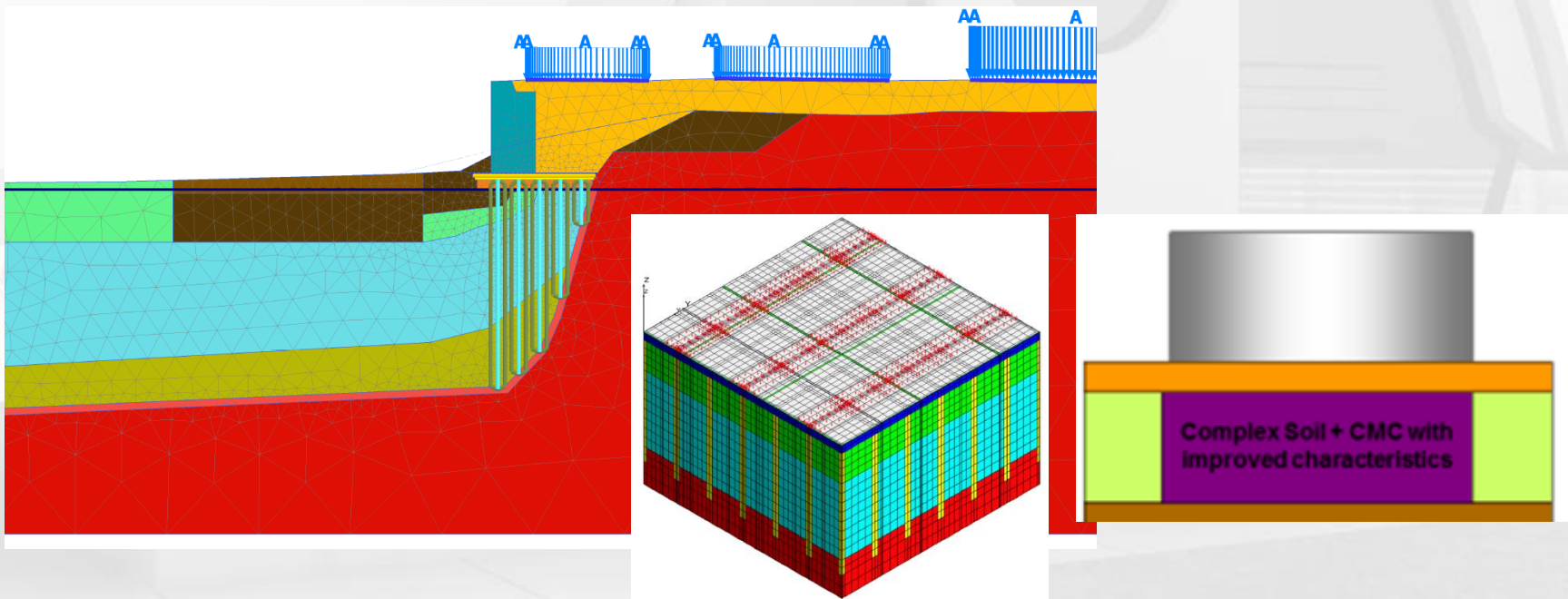
#### Numerical modeling of rigid inclusions



#### ECSMGE 2015 - TC211 Workshop – J. Racinais

#### CALIBRATION OF RIGID INCLUSION PARAMETERS BASED ON PRESSUMETER TEST RESULTS

##### ➤ Global behavior of the reinforced soil



### 3. Ground improvement by rigid inclusions

#### Numerical modeling of rigid inclusions

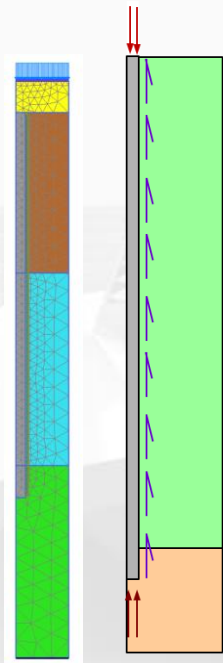


#### ECSMGE 2015 - TC211 Workshop – J. Racinais

#### CALIBRATION OF RIGID INCLUSION PARAMETERS BASED ON PRESSUMETER TEST RESULTS

#### ➤ Behavior of the rigid inclusions

#### Calibration of FEM input parameters on Frank & Zhao's laws and on pressuremeter



$$E_Y = E_m / \alpha$$

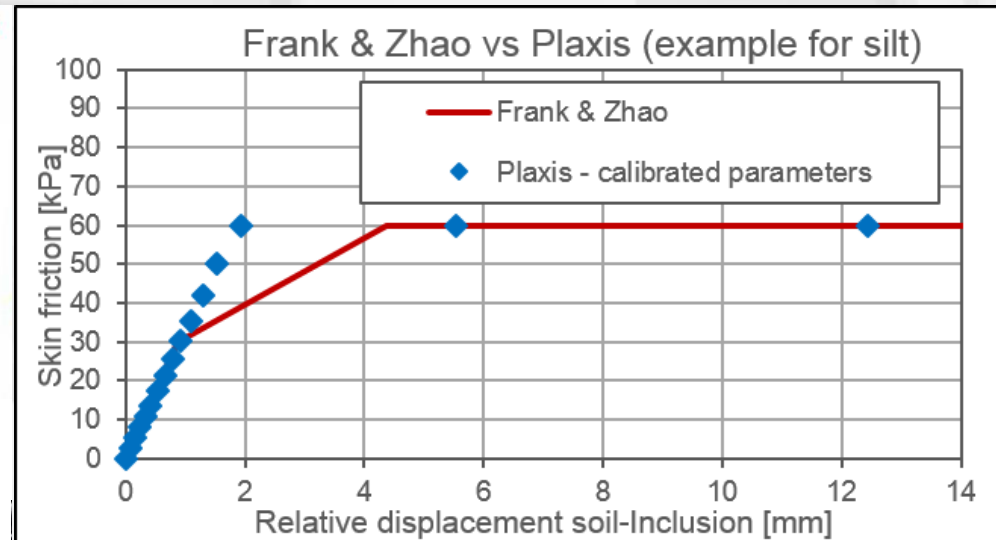
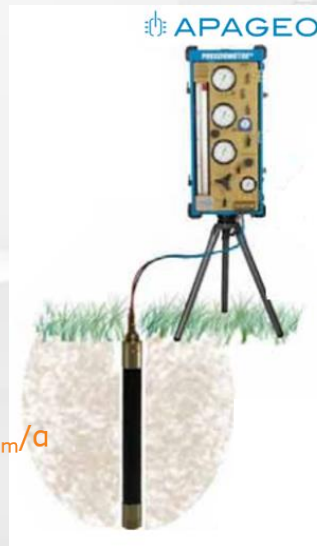
$$c' = q_s \text{ (based on pressuremeter method)}$$

$$\varphi' \approx 0^\circ$$

$$E_Y = 1.5 \text{ to } 6 \times E_m / \alpha$$

$$c' = q_b / 9 \text{ (pressuremeter method), API (1991)}$$

$$\varphi' \approx 0^\circ$$



Along interface soil/inclusion

### 3. Ground improvement by rigid inclusions

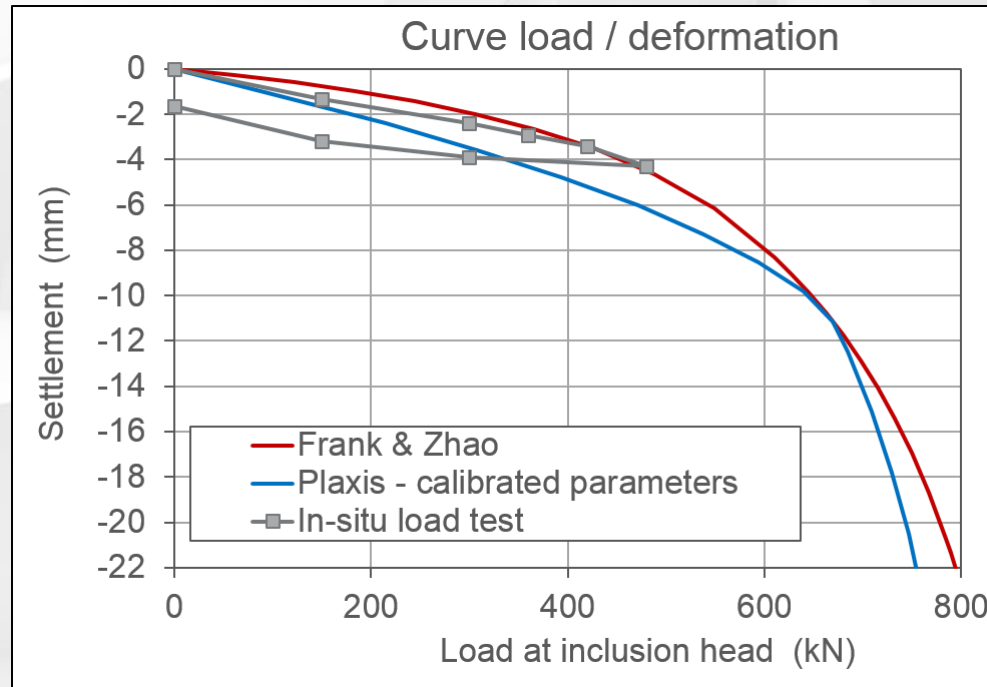
#### Numerical modeling of rigid inclusions



#### ECSMGE 2015 - TC211 Workshop – J. Racinais

#### CALIBRATION OF RIGID INCLUSION PARAMETERS BASED ON PRESSUMETER TEST RESULTS

##### ➤ Validation with an in-situ load test





## 4. Hybrid concept without load transfer platform

**Soil mix elements used as bearing elements**

**Construction of an eleven-story building in Leuven (Belgium)**



**KU LEUVEN**

**REGA-Instituut (KU Leuven)**  
*with the courtesy of SVR-Architects*

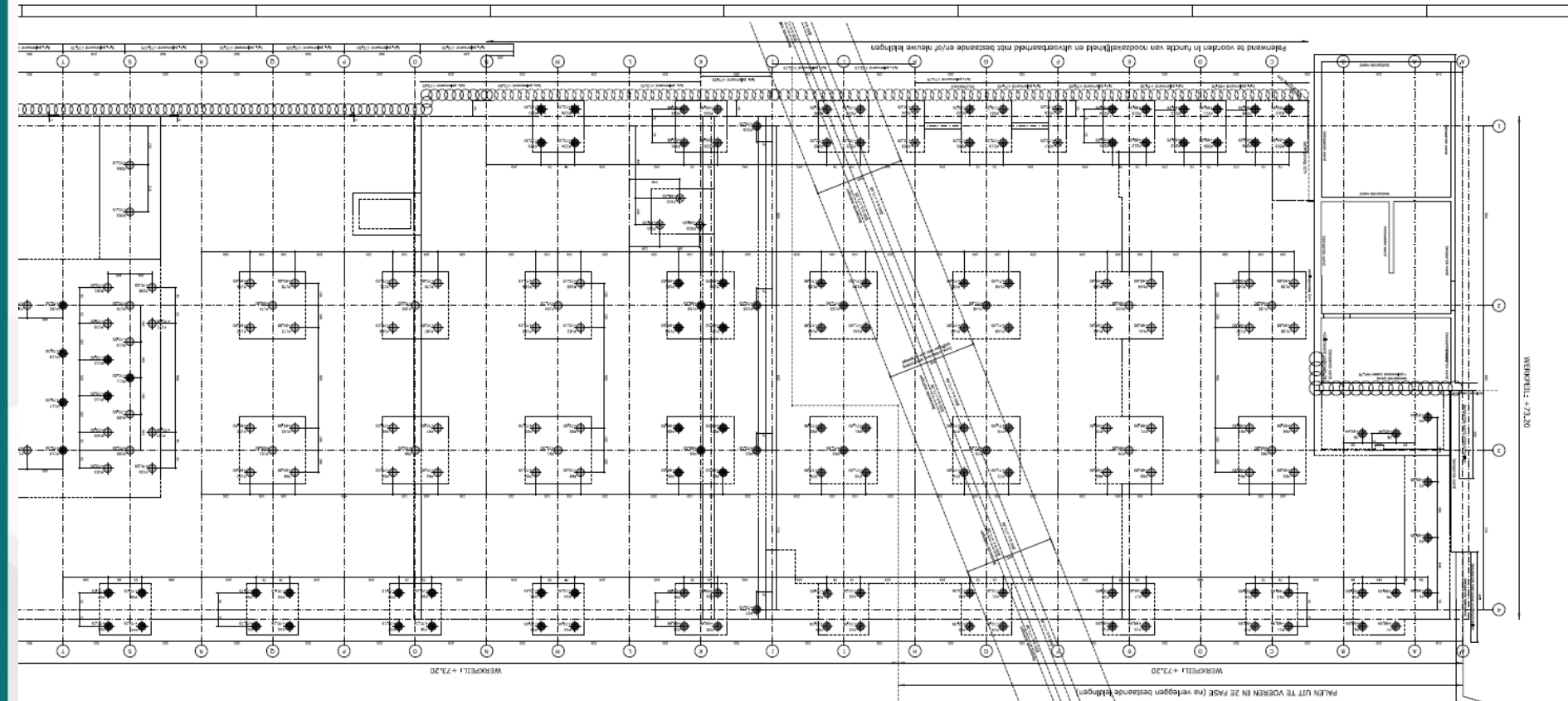




## 4. Hybrid concept without load transfer platform

**Soil mix elements used as bearing elements**

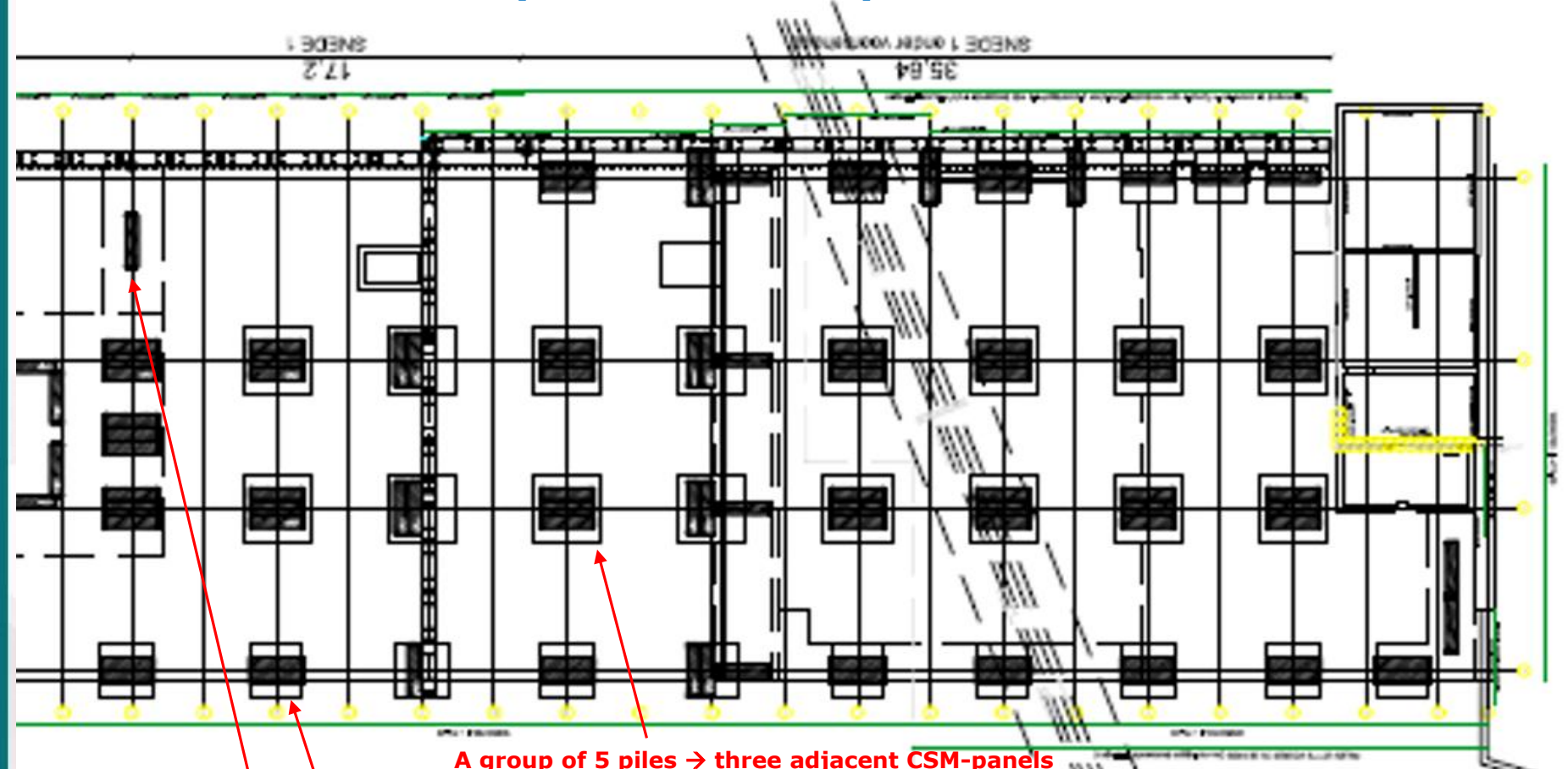
**Original foundation plan with pile groups**



## 4. Hybrid concept without load transfer platform

**Soil mix elements used as bearing elements**

**New foundation plan with CSM-panels**



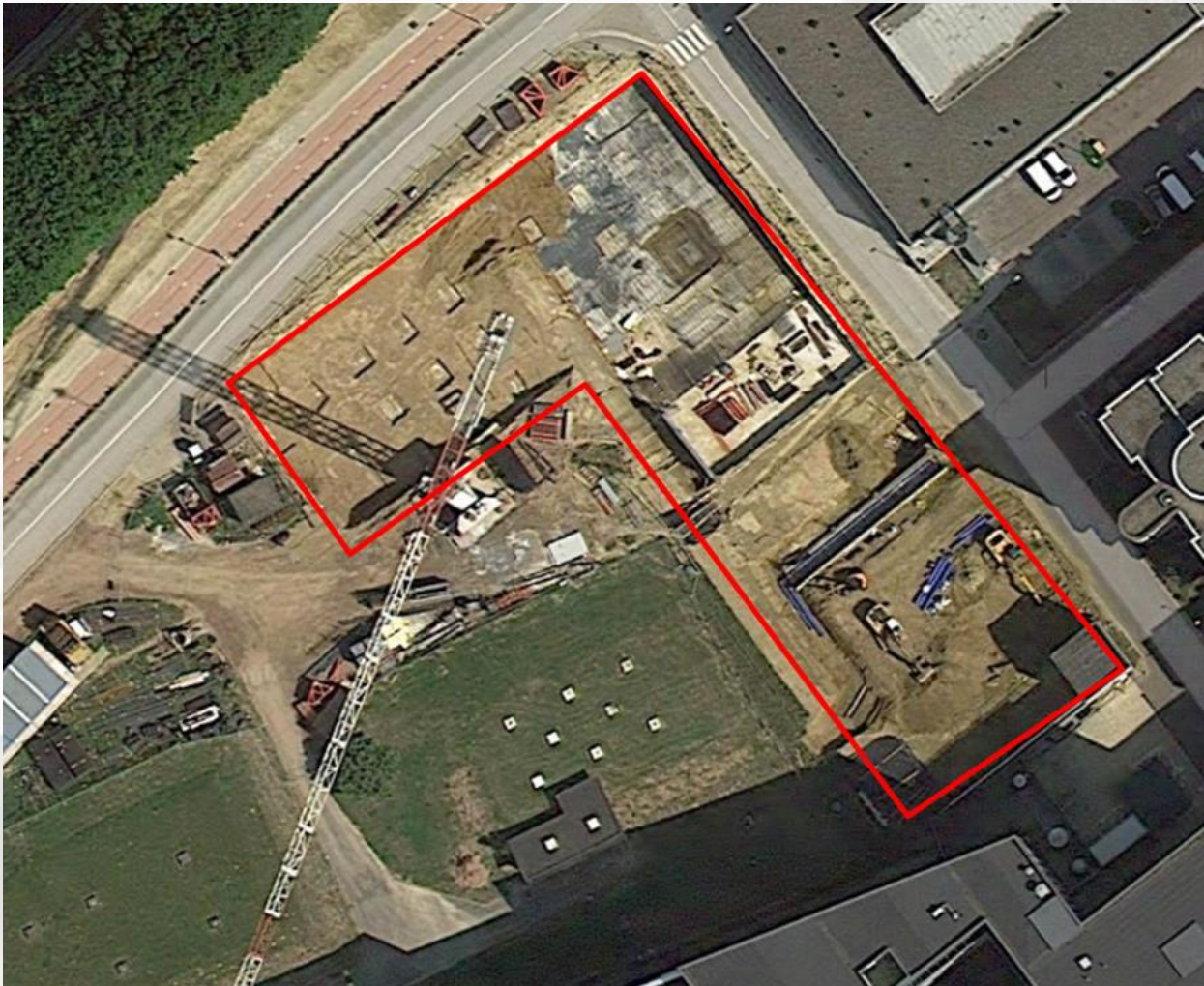
A group of 5 piles → three adjacent CSM-panels

A group of 4 piles → two adjacent CSM-panels

A group of two piles → one unique CSM-panel

## 4. Hybrid concept without load transfer platform

### Soil mix elements used as bearing elements



**Aerial view  
during the execution  
of the works  
by Soetaert nv  
(Google view –  
July 2013)**



## 4. Hybrid concept without load transfer platform

### Soil mix elements used as bearing elements





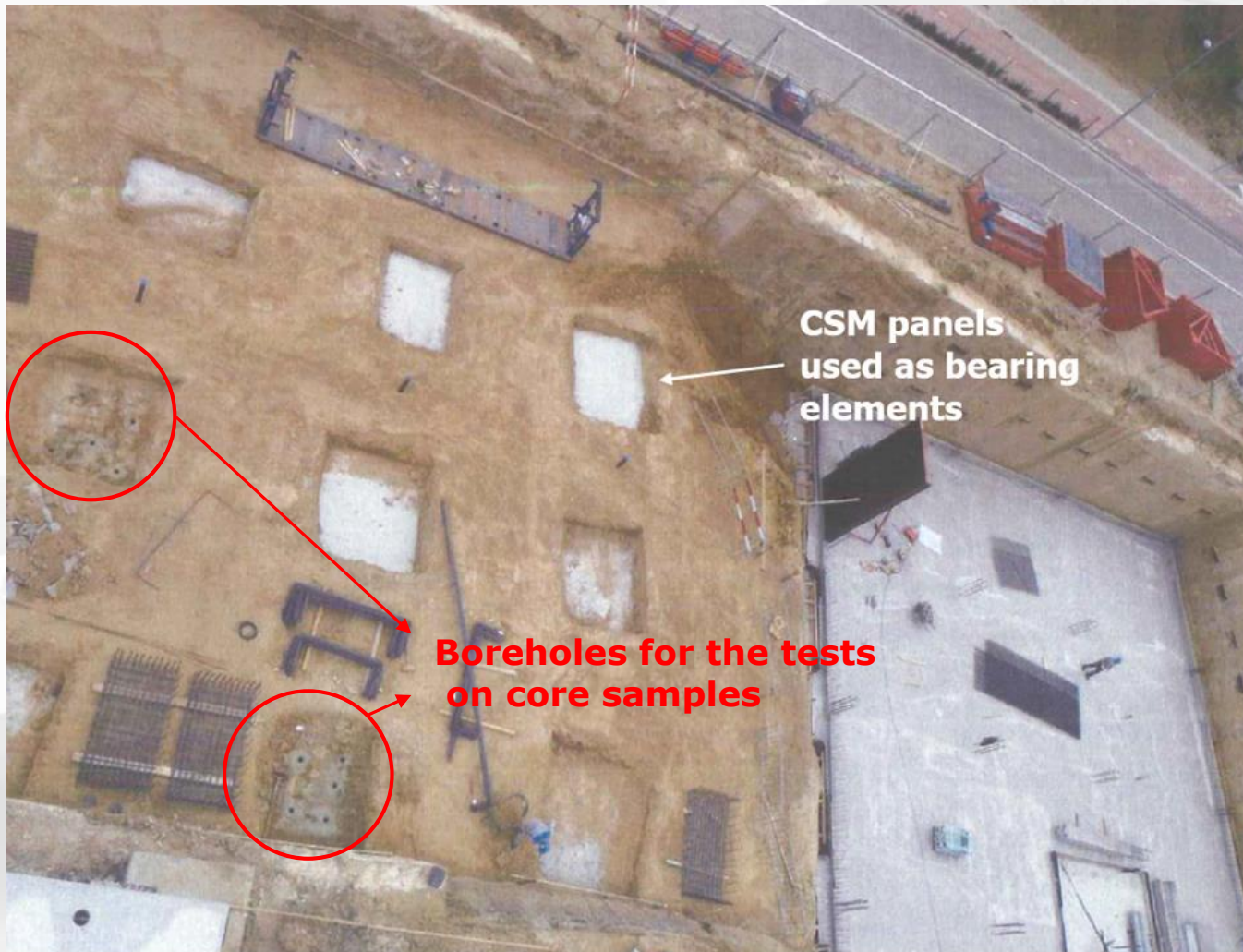
## 4. Hybrid concept without load transfer platform

### Soil mix elements used as bearing elements



## 4. Hybrid concept without load transfer platform

### Soil mix elements used as bearing elements





## 4. Hybrid concept without load transfer platform

### Soil mix elements used as bearing elements

### Design of the CSM-panels as bearing elements

- No rigid connection with the building structure
- Design for compression → no reinforcement
- $f_{cd} > q$  ( $f_{cd} \rightarrow$  Handbook soilmix-wanden and tests on core samples)

## 4. Hybrid concept without load transfer platform

**Soil mix elements used as bearing**

**Design of the CSM-panels as bearing**

- No rigid connection with the building
- Design for compression → no reinforcement
- $f_{cd} > q$  ( $f_{cd} \rightarrow$  Handbook soilmix-)





## 4. Hybrid concept without load transfer platform

### Soil mix elements used as bearing elements

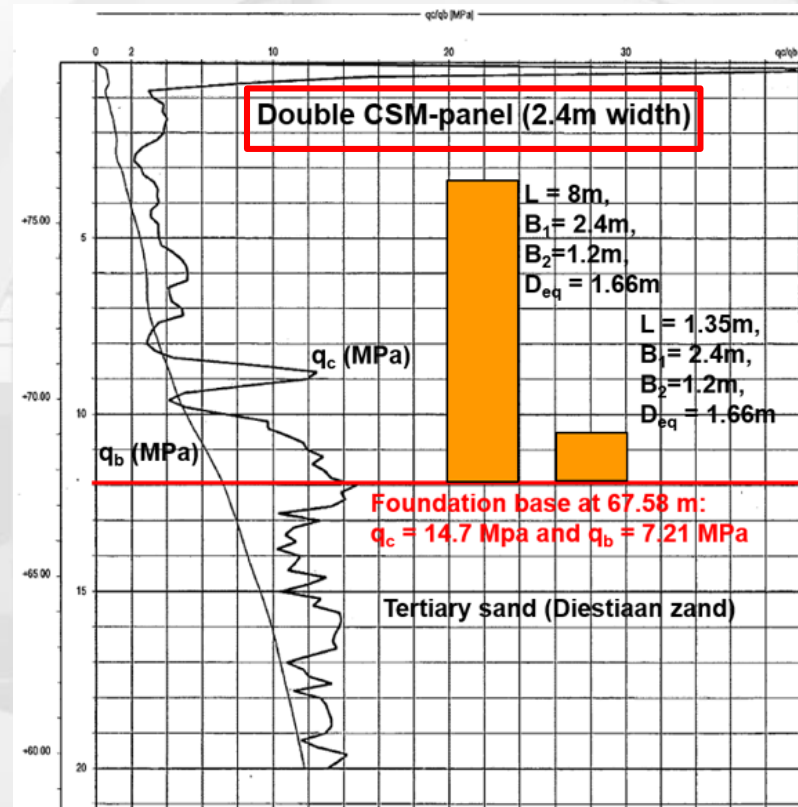
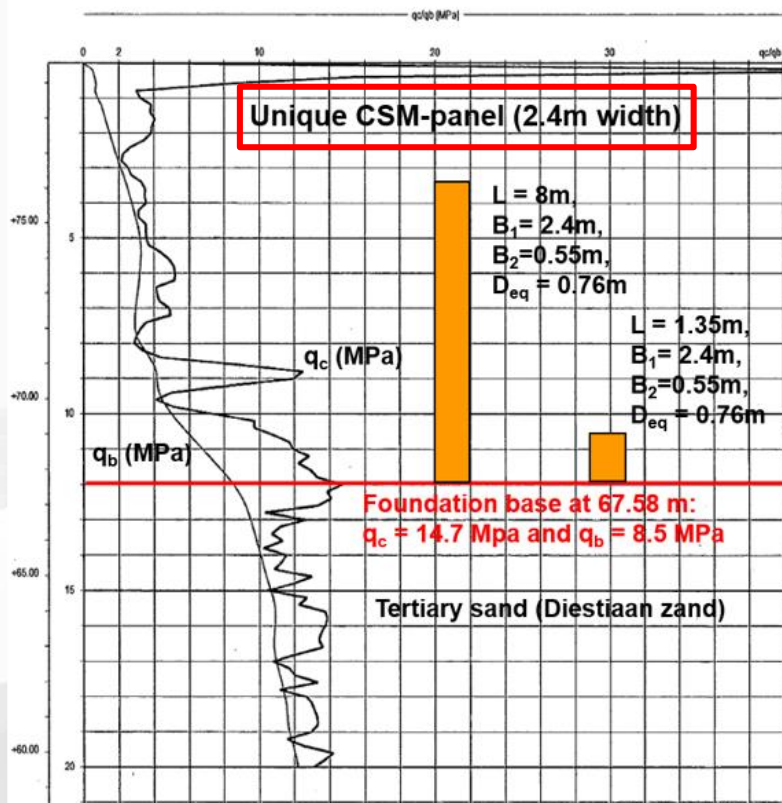
#### Design of the CSM-panels as bearing elements

- No rigid connection with the building structure
- Design for compression → no reinforcement
- $f_{cd} > q$  ( $f_{cd}$  → Handbook soilmix-wanden and tests on core samples)
- Full vertical coring of a bearing element for QA/QC
- Geotechnical design → only base resistance (De Beer method)  
→ no shaft resistance

## 4. Hybrid concept without load transfer platform

### Soil mix elements used as bearing elements

### Design of the CSM-panels as bearing elements

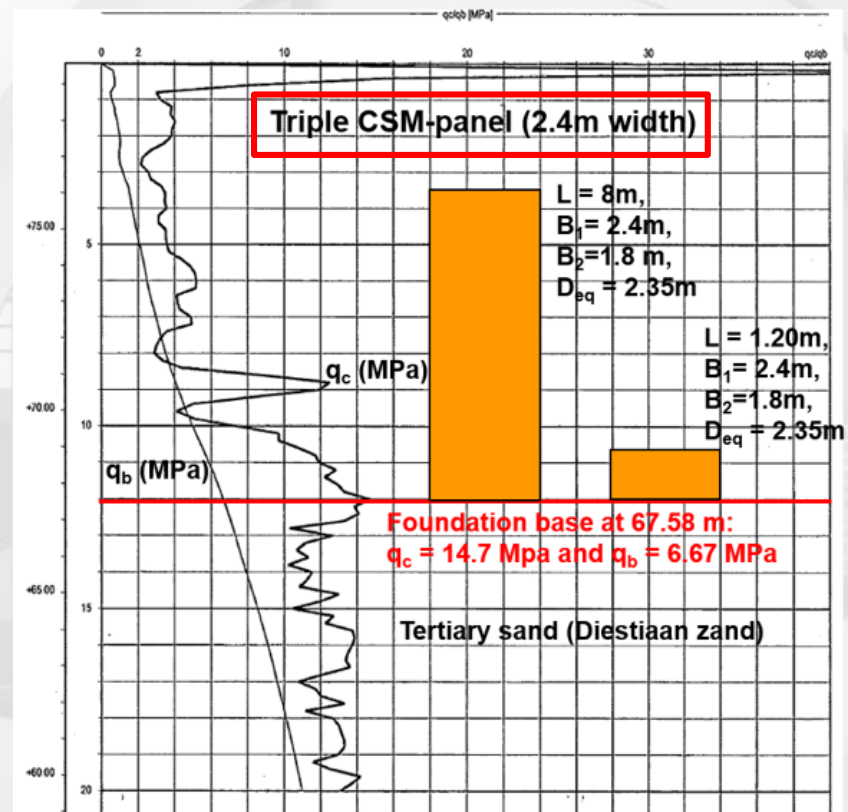
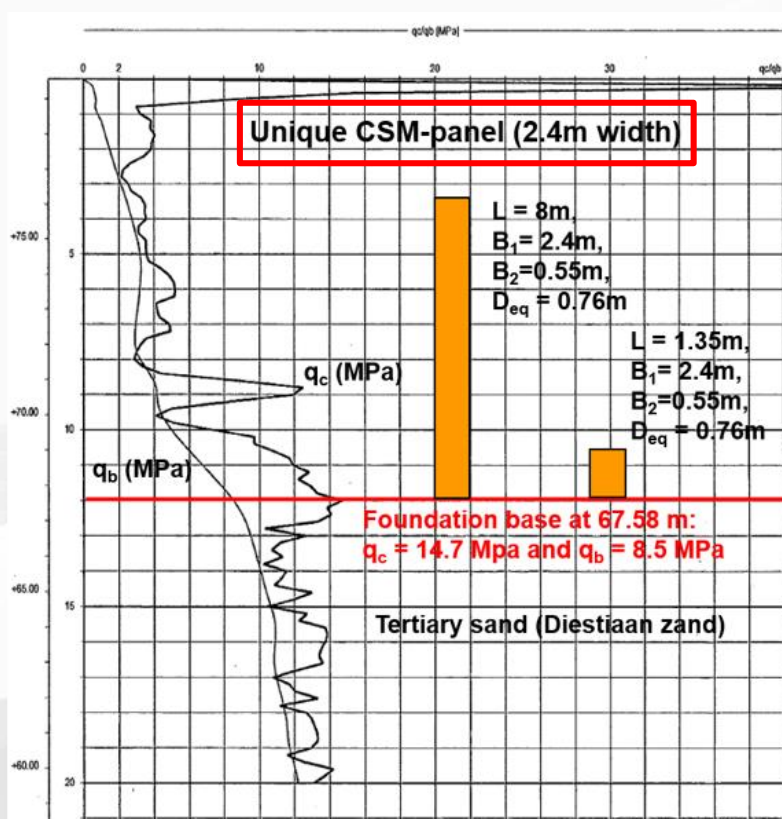


High dimensions of the base area → important base resistance!

## 4. Hybrid concept without load transfer platform

### Soil mix elements used as bearing elements

### Design of the CSM-panels as bearing elements



High dimensions of the base area → important base resistance!

## 4. Hybrid concept without load transfer platform

### Soil mix elements used as bearing elements

### Design of the CSM-panels as bearing elements

#### – discussion points

- ❖ In this concept: building slabs directly installed on the CSM-panels
  - What is the effect of the **absence of the LTP?**
  - What is the **role of the soil** in the concept?
- ❖ Quality of the **soil mix material** on the first meter
- ❖ Durability of the soil mix element (on the first meter)
  - Effect of frost/thaw or wet/dry cycli? Carbonation?



## 4. Hybrid concept without load transfer platform

Soil mix elements used as bearing

Design of the CSM-panels as bearing

### – discussion points

- ❖ In this concept: building slabs directly on soil mix elements
  - What is the effect of the absorption of water by the soil mix elements?
  - What is the role of the soil mix elements in the design of the building slabs?
- ❖ Quality of the soil mix material
  - Effect of frost/thaw or wet/dry cycles
- ❖ Durability of the soil mix elements
  - Effect of frost/thaw or wet/dry cycles



## 4. Hybrid concept without load transfer platform

### Soil mix elements used as bearing elements

### Design of the CSM-panels as bearing elements

#### – discussion points

- ❖ In this concept: building slabs directly installed on the CSM-panels
  - What is the effect of the **absence of the LTP?**
  - What is the **role of the soil** in the concept?
- ❖ Quality of the **soil mix material** on the first meter
- ❖ Durability of the soil mix element (on the first meter)
  - Effect of frost/thaw or wet/dry cycli? Carbonation?
- ❖ **Geotechnical design** of the bearing capacity
  - Computed as a pile or as a high dimension caisson?
    - **Respect of the element dimensions!**
  - **No shaft friction? → Monitoring perspectives!**

## 4. Hybrid concept without lateral displacement

Soil mix elements used as bearing capacity

Design of the CSM-panels as bearing capacity

### – discussion points

❖ In this concept: building slabs designed as bearing capacity

➤ What is the effect of the absolute bearing capacity

➤ What is the role of the soil in the bearing capacity

❖ Quality of the soil mix material and its properties

❖ Durability of the soil mix elements

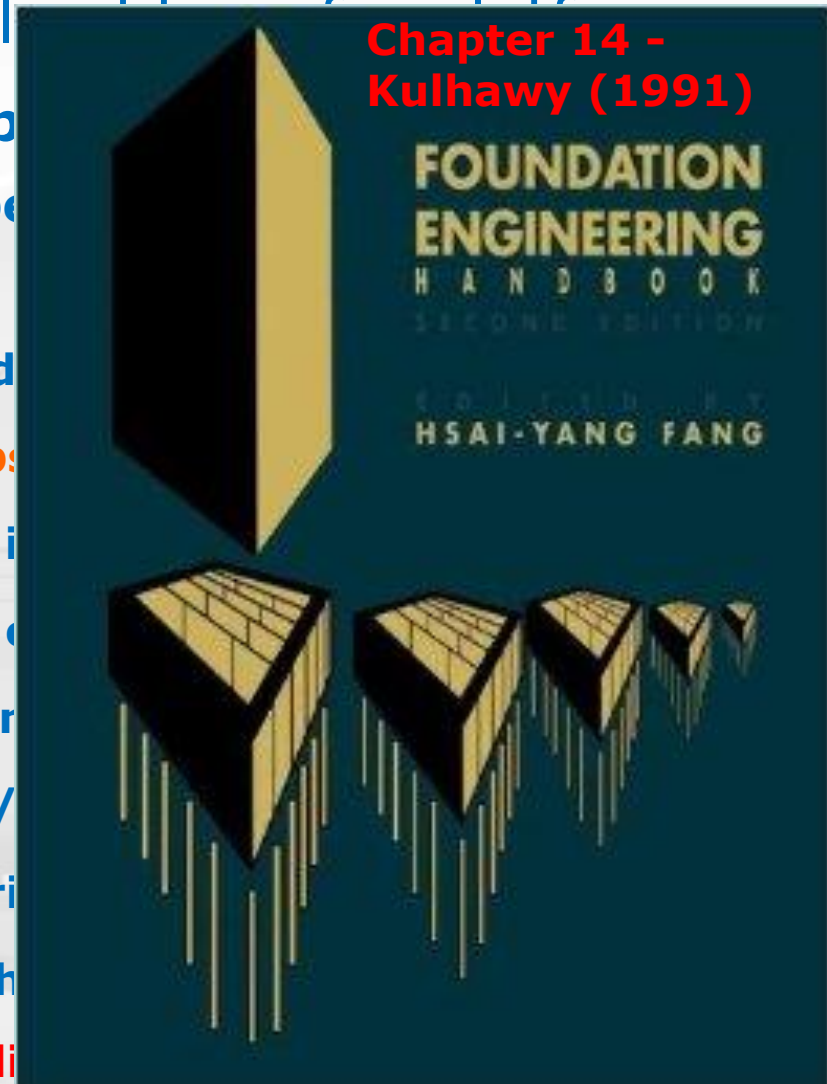
➤ Effect of frost/thaw or wet/dry cycles

❖ Geotechnical design of the bearing capacity

➤ Computed as a pile or as a horizontal element

→ Respect of the element dimensions

➤ No shaft friction? → Monitoring perspectives!



## 5. Conclusions and perspectives

### Ground improvement vs. pile foundations?

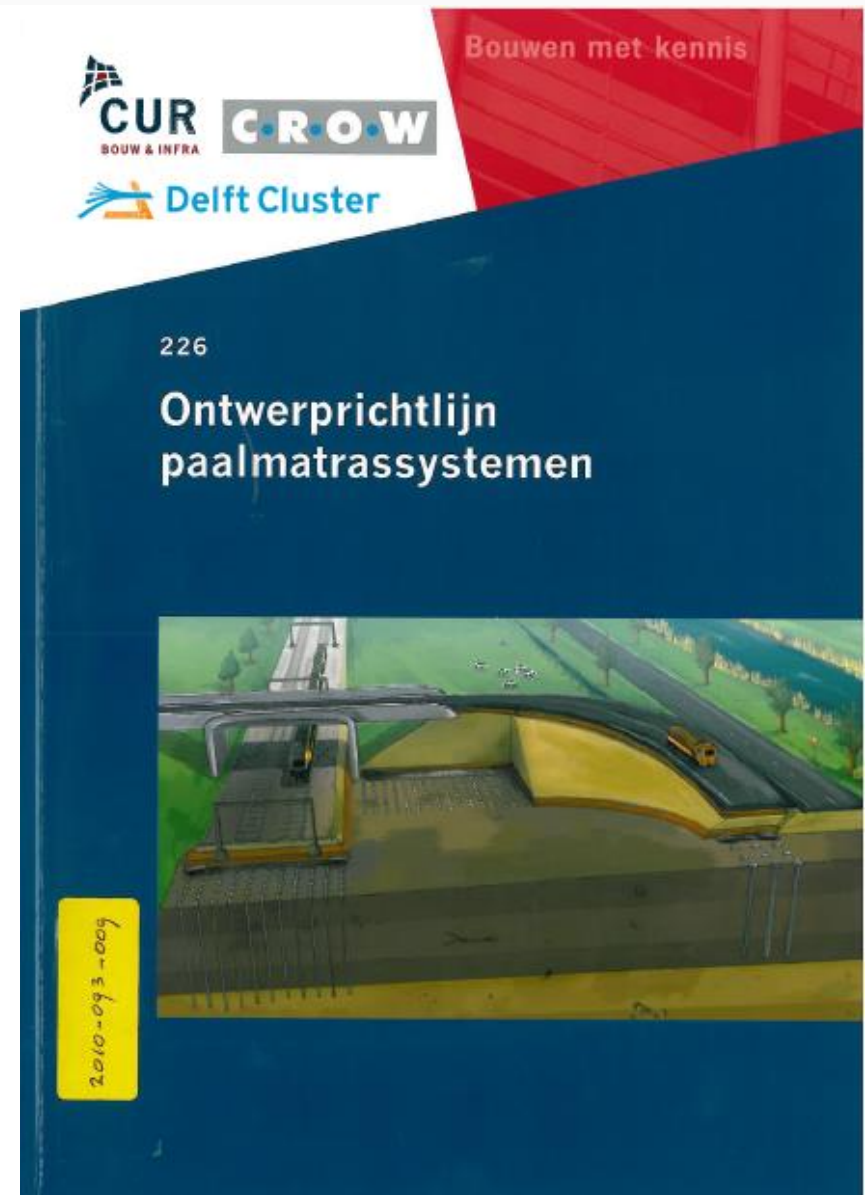
To avoid an unfair competition and unbalanced requirements

- Suited terminology and definition of the foundation concept  
Shallow, pile, pile raft foundations and ground improvement

### Rigid inclusions with a load transfer platform

- Design approaches in line with the Eurocodes





## 5. Conclusions and perspectives

### Ground improvement vs. pile foundations?

To avoid an unfair competition and unbalanced requirements

- Suited terminology and definition of the foundation concept  
Shallow, pile, pile raft foundations and ground improvement

### Rigid inclusions with a load transfer platform

- Design approaches in line with the Eurocodes

### Hybrid concepts without load transfer platform

- Trend = use of soil mix elements as alternative to piles
- Requirements in line with the Eurocodes for temporary and permanent soil mix elements with a bearing function

## 5. Conclusions and perspectives

### Ground improvement vs. pile foundations

To avoid an unfair competition

- Suited terminology and definitions
- Shallow, pile, pile raft foundations

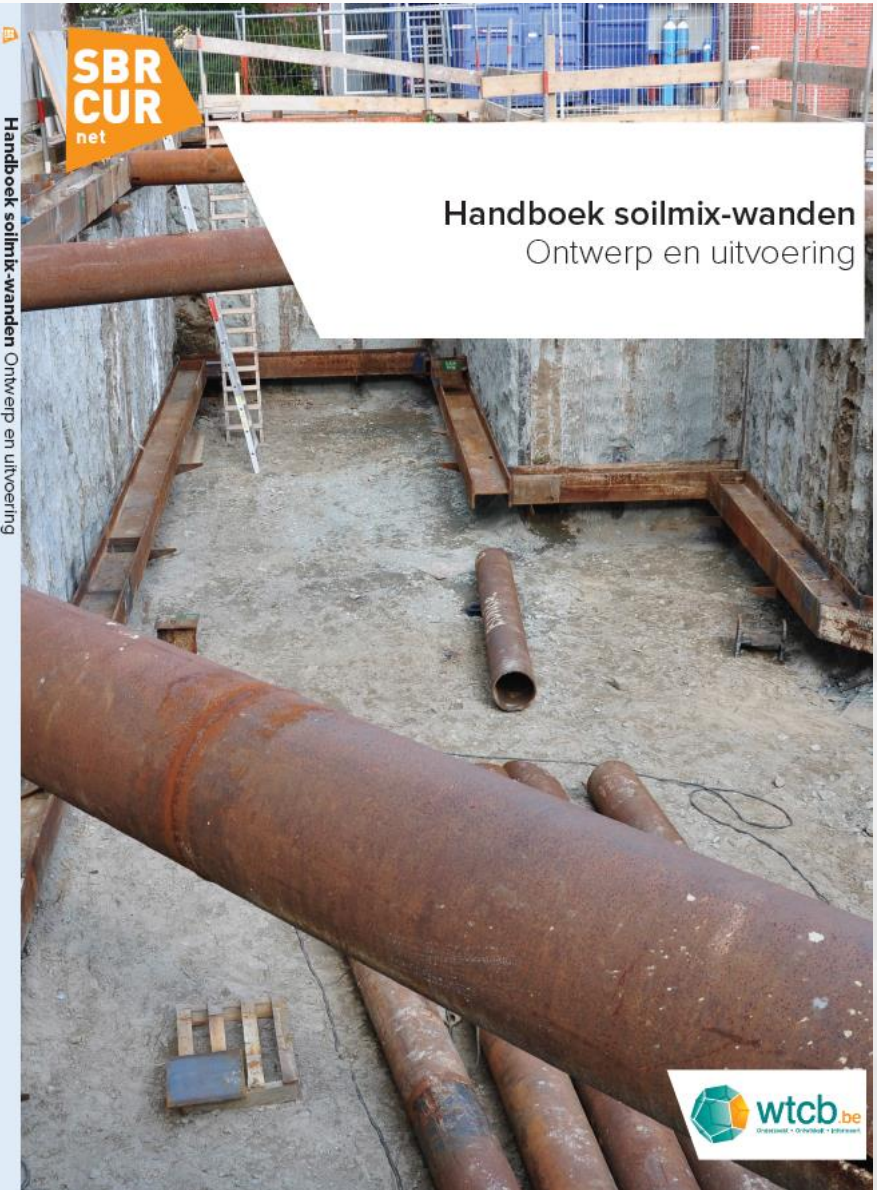
### Rigid inclusions with a load transfer

- Design approaches in line with

### Hybrid concepts without load transfer

- Trend = use of soil mix elements
- Requirements in line with the
- permanent soil mix elements

**Bearing function**  
**GEO and STR designs**  
**Durability**  
**Corrosion**  
**QA/QC**





## 5. Conclusions and perspectives

### Ground improvement vs. pile foundations?

To avoid an unfair competition and unbalanced requirements

- Suited terminology and definition of the foundation concept  
Shallow, pile, pile raft foundations and ground improvement

### Rigid inclusions with a load transfer platform

- Design approaches in line with the Eurocodes

### Hybrid concepts without load transfer platform

- Trend = use of soil mix elements as alternative to piles
- Requirements in line with the Eurocodes for temporary and permanent soil mix elements with a bearing function
- Discussion points (absence of LTP?, role of the soil?...)
  - Research perspectives and in-situ monitoring

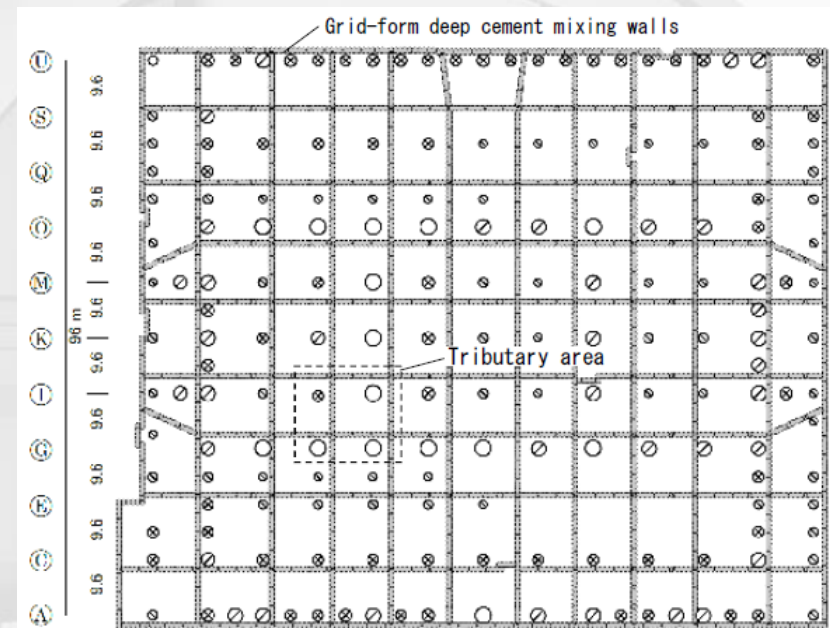
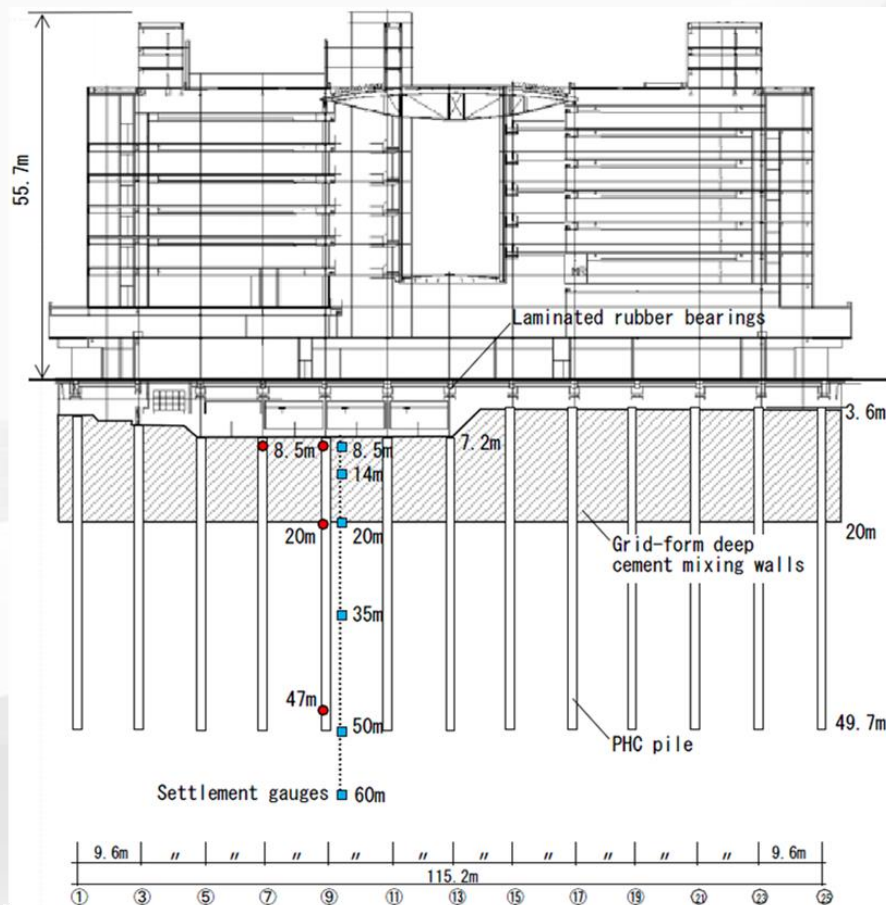
**Recent trend: not in competition but in combination !**



## 5. Conclusions and perspectives

### Ground improvement AND pile foundations

### Optimized design approach – twelve-story building in Tokyo



**Soil mix walls for liquefaction mitigation and cost reduction:**  
**70 % of the load taken by the piles**  
**14 % by the soil mix walls**  
**15 % by the soil**

6002 WeeHawken residential resort  
in New Jersey / USA  
Ensemble résidentiel de WeeHawken  
New Jersey / Etats-Unis



**Thank you for your attention**