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Lessons from the Galligu – The Land Contamination Legacy of the UK's Soap Industry

Professor Nigel Cassidy

(Professor of Geotechnical Infrastructure Engineering, University of Birmingham)

14th February 2023 | Zoom Video Conference | 6:30pm start

Abstract:

The legacy of over 200 years of industrial soap manufacture in the UK has resulted in significant contaminated land issues associated with the “Galligu”, a by-product of the LeBlanc alkali chemical (soda-ash) process. Millions of tonnes of Calcium Sulphate ‘muddy’ wastes were indiscriminately dumped in the regions surrounding soda-ash plants in Glasgow, Manchester, Gateshead and the Widnes-Runcorn district of Cheshire.

The Galligu is an odd material with unique physical properties that make it difficult to assess from a long-term geotechnical perspective. With housing/retail developments and major new infrastructure planned in these Galligu affected regions, this presentation will investigate the nature and extent of Galligu deposits, their geotechnical behaviour and discuss ways in which they can be mapped, monitored and stabilised over time.



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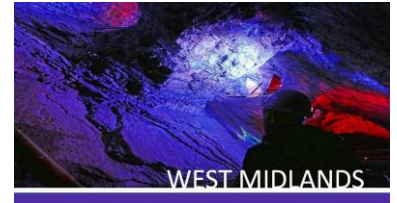
Tel: +44 (0)20 7434 9944 Fax: +44 (0)20 7439 8975 Email: enquiries@geolsoc.org.uk Web: www.geolsoc.org.uk

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About the Speaker:

Nigel Cassidy is Emeritus Professor of Geotechnical Infrastructure Engineering at the University of Birmingham and has over 40 years' academic and industrial experience in near-surface geophysics, environmental & geotechnical engineering and numerical modelling. Nigel is a Chartered Geologist and has been a Council member of the Geological Society and an Industrial Fellow of the Royal Society. With a passion for technical innovation and the development of data-driven science, Nigel's current work is focused on the development of new sensing technologies for buried infrastructure and environmental monitoring applications, including energy capture/storage.

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