



The
Geological
Society

-serving science and profession



NORTHERN IRELAND
GEOTECHNICAL GROUP

‘Standards and quality in Ground Investigation – squaring the circle’

(2016 Glossop Lecture repeat)

Speaker: David Norbury, BSc MSc DIC CGeol CSi CEng

Date: Monday 25th September 2017

Time: 6.00pm (Tea & Coffee from 5.30pm in Student Hub)

**Venue: Lecture Theatre OG/012, Queen’s University,
David Keir Building, Stranmillis Road, Belfast, BT9 5AG
Campus Map available [here](#).**

The Glossop Lecture is the most prestigious lecture of the Engineering Group of the Geological Society, and is given annually by an invited eminent engineering geologist. The 17th Glossop Award medal was presented to David Norbury and his lecture was first given at the Royal Institution in London in Nov 2016.

Synopsis: Practitioners all aspire to obtain and deliver good quality investigations of the ground and also all understand that these investigations are to be carried out in accordance with current standards of best practice. However, there are many definitions of ‘standards’ and ‘quality’ which has implications in practice.

Investigators are required to work to published Standards, various forms of specification and to professional practice requirements. A structure for what has to be followed will be proposed with the intention of guiding the investigator who is following these requirements to achieving an efficient and safe result from his geotechnical investigation and design. There is an ongoing argument as to whether the achievement of quality is constrained or enhanced by following the Standards, and whether standards are necessary to achieve the required quality level. The author will try to draw all these strands together and navigate a route to achieving a best practice outcome, drawing on some historic case histories from the author’s experience and discuss the question of what effect following the standards has on innovation in design

David Norbury is director of David Norbury Ltd and Professor at Sussex University. Following a degree in geology from Bristol and an MSc in Engineering Geology from Imperial College, David worked for over 30 years for Soil Mechanics Limited on projects across the world. Since setting up his own practice 10 years ago, David has written his seminal book on Soil and Rock Description in Engineering Practice. Amongst David’s many other achievements he has been lead author of BS5930. ‘Code of Practice for Ground investigations’

