



Andrew Bond
Honorary Editor



Editorial

Andrew Bond, *Honorary Editor*

When I became Honorary Editor of *Geotechnical Engineering*, I wanted to achieve three main things:

1. A faster review procedure, leading to shorter times from submission of manuscripts to their publication as papers.
2. A mixture of short and long articles, focused on practical engineering topics.
3. More invited papers from leading engineers, especially those on our panel of corresponding members.

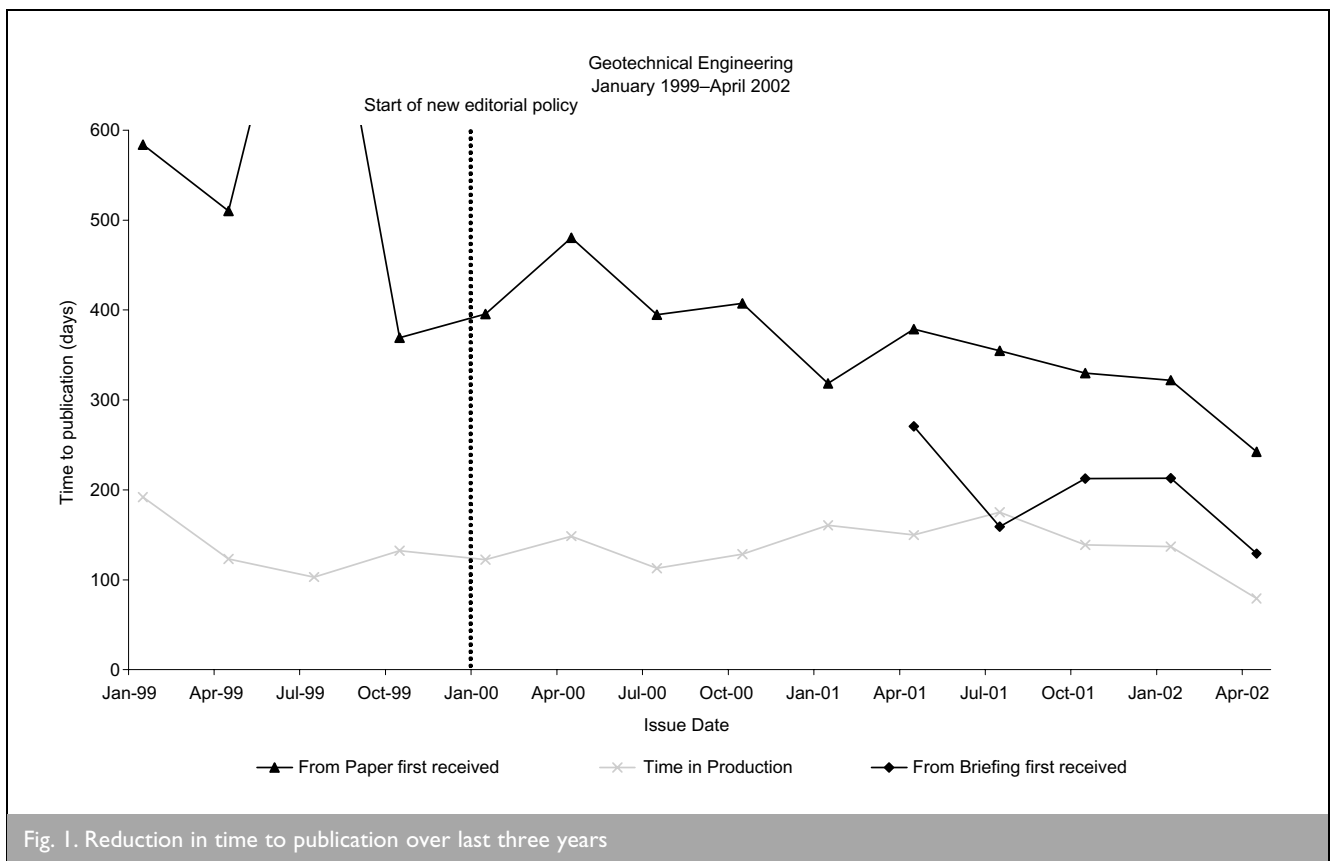
Figure 1 shows the progress we have made in speeding up the review process. The average time taken for a paper to get published in this journal, from when it was first submitted, has halved over the past three years, to around 250 days. This includes the initial review/assessment by the Panel, revision by the authors, review of the amended paper, and production.

Briefings, which are reviewed under a fast-track process, take about 150 days to get published.

We are now running more briefings, in recognition of the fact that engineers today have less time to assimilate information than ever before. As Fig. 2 shows, the introduction of briefings and the new Monitor section (reviewing geotechnical papers outside the journal) has not been at the expense of traditional 'full-fat' papers.

Finally, we have published a wide range of invited papers from leading UK and international authors including Clayton, O'Rourke, Peck, Penman, Rowe, and others.

I hope these changes meet with your approval. If not, please let the new Honorary Editor (see later) know!



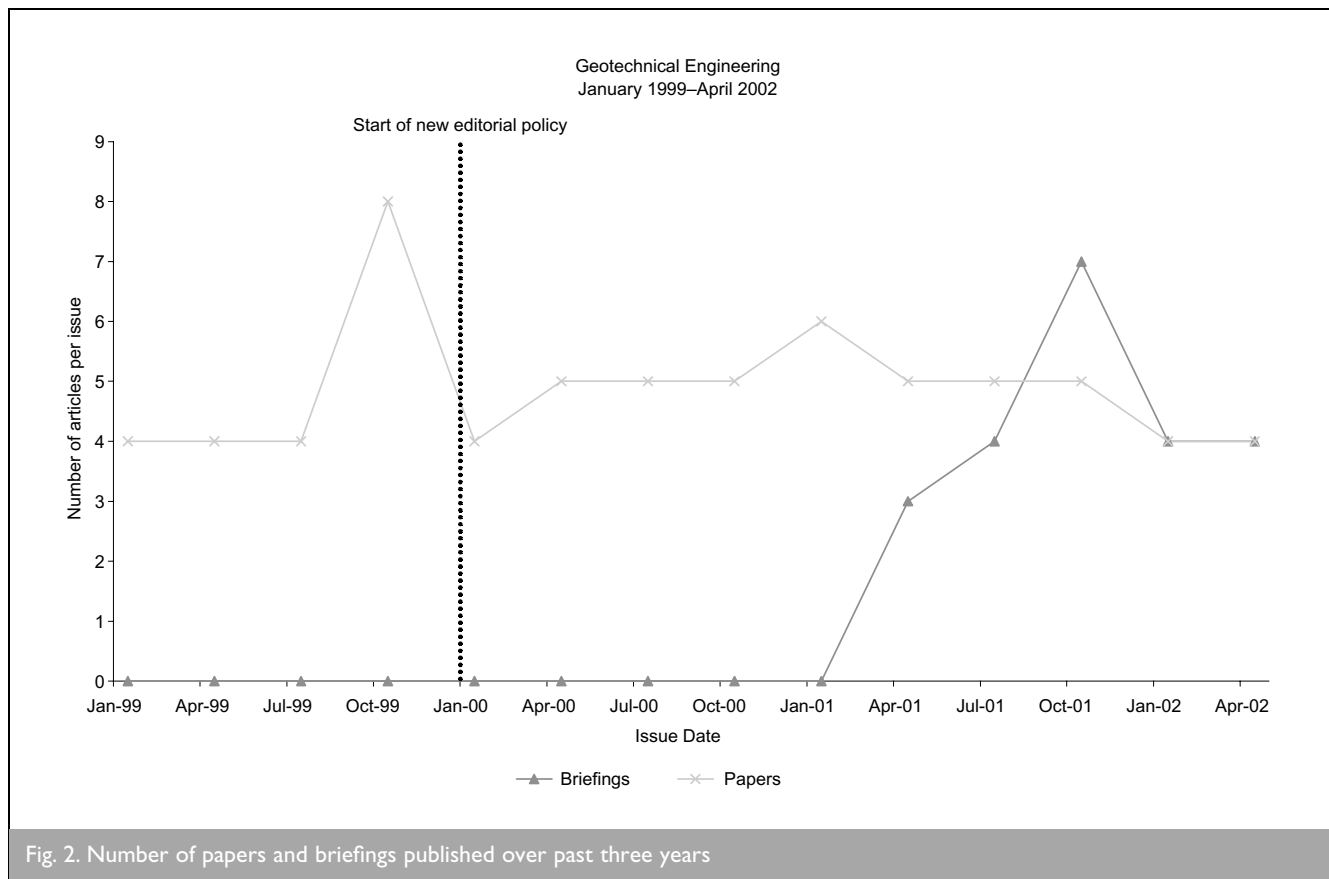


Fig. 2. Number of papers and briefings published over past three years

1. BRIEFINGS

In our briefing this issue, Sayao *et al.* present a novel use of scrap tyres to stabilise natural slopes in Brazil. The tyres are tied together with rope or wire and filled with soil available locally. The low cost of the raw building materials—together with the high mechanical strength of the tyres—makes this an attractive solution to a common problem.

2. PAPERS

Preene and Roberts discuss suitable measures for reducing pore water pressures in the permeable, water-bearing layers of the Lambeth Group. They argue that the aim of groundwater control systems should be to de-pressurise rather than to de-water these deposits. Localised but modest inflows of water can still occur in sand and silt layers, even after de-pressurisation.

The façades of old masonry buildings are often preserved during urban redevelopment by means of temporary steel support structures. In his paper, Long presents the results of extensive monitoring of a masonry facade in Dublin, using electro-level technology. This revealed cyclic movements of the facade that were thermally-induced and partially irrecoverable. Other measurements at the site suggest that the stiffness of the glacial deposits was significantly underestimated during design.

Indraratna and Salim describe a series of large-scale triaxial tests on latite basalt, designed to investigate the extent of particle breakage during shearing. They develop an analytical model which explains the effects of dilatancy and particle

degradation on the variation of friction angle with confining pressures.

The preparation of samples for routine index testing has significant effect on the magnitude of the liquid and plastic limits obtained. Navaneethan and Sivakumar investigate the influence of different drying, crushing, and sieving processes and of ionised and de-ionised water on samples of Belfast Upper Boulder Clay.

3. DISCUSSION

Dale discusses the paper by Soubra and Macou dealing with earth pressure coefficients.

4. MONITOR

Our section reviewing publications which are relevant to geotechnical engineers covers *Ground Improvement* and a round-up of papers that have appeared recently in *Géotechnique*.

5. NEXT ISSUE

This is my last editorial for *Geotechnical Engineering*. In January, I hand over the role of Honorary Editor to Richard Driscoll, who will, I am sure, continue to grow and strengthen the journal. I have found it very rewarding to serve as Honorary Editor and as a Panel member before that, and will miss the pleasure of penning this missive once every three months.

My personal thanks and those of our readership go to David Beadman, Geoff Card, Vicky Hope, Lara Potter, and David

Richards, who also come to the end of their tenure on the *Geotechnical Engineering* Advisory Panel. I am grateful to them—and to the other Panel members who have served with me over the past three years—for helping to streamline the Panel's operational procedures and to introduce several new features to the journal.

I would like to thank our Corresponding Members for their contributions to the journal (often unseen) over many years; and Leon Heward-Mills and Helen Hilton at Thomas Telford for fielding my naïve questions about publishing.

Finally, special mention should go to Mary Henderson, the Panel secretary, without whose efforts nothing would appear

on these pages! Mary is the 'glue' who sticks everything together and it has been a real pleasure working with her.

I am sure I will read *Geotechnical Engineering* with admiration in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Bond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrew" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Bond".

Andrew Bond