

Announcement: Award-winning papers in 2009

Papers published in *Geotechnical Engineering* are eligible for awards from the Institution of Civil Engineers. Papers from any of the ICE journals can be nominated for several awards. In addition, each journal has awards dedicated to their specific subject area.

On Friday 8 October 2010, ICE president Paul Jowitt presented awards to the following papers published in *Geotechnical Engineering* in 2009. The editorial panel nominated their best papers and an awards committee chaired by Barry Clarke allocated the awards.

The John Mitchell Medal, presented for the best paper on geotechnical practice, site-based innovation or geotechnical safety, was awarded to: Mundell C, McCombie P, Bailey C, Heath

A and Walker P (2009) Limit-equilibrium assessment of drystone retaining structures. *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers – Geotechnical Engineering* **162**(4): 203–212.

ABSTRACT

A limit-equilibrium analysis program has been developed as part of an investigation into the stability of drystone retaining structures. Initial verification of the program's function was in relation to field trials conducted in 1834 by Lieutenant-General Burgoyne, which have been the main reference to date for checking numerical modelling of drystone retaining walls. Parametric studies and investigations of bulging mechanisms are reported and analysed. Program predictions have been compared with the initial results from new small-scale and full-scale drystone retaining wall tests.



ICE President Paul Jowitt presents the John Mitchell Medal to Andrew Heath, Claire Bailey, Paul McCombie and Chris Mundell



Derek Egan and Bryan McCabe receive the Crampton Prize from ICE President Paul Jowitt

The Crampton Prize, presented for the best paper on practical geotechnical engineering, was awarded to: McCabe BA, Nimmons GJ and Egan D (2009) A review of field performance of stone columns in soft soils. *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers – Geotechnical Engineering* **162(6)**: 323–334.

ABSTRACT

The behaviour of stone columns has yet to be captured fully by analytical and numerical techniques, and predicting column behaviour in soft cohesive soils brings specific challenges. This paper provides a comprehensive review and assessment of some aspects of field performance of stone columns in soft clays and

silts, from both published and unpublished data and for loading over both wide areas (i.e. embankments) and small areas (i.e. footings). In particular, a new database of settlement improvement factors is developed, which gives an indication of the reliability of a traditional analytical approach, as well as distinguishing clearly between the performance of the preferred dry bottom feed system and other column construction systems. The paper gives evidence highlighting the key construction issues central to the successful performance of treated ground. Some data are also presented on pore pressure and total stress changes as a result of column installation and loading, and interpretation of these data benefits from a direct comparison with driven piles.