



Advances in understanding of Mercia Mudstone

Half Day Seminar

Afternoon of **Wednesday 8th July 2026**

To be held at the University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT

Seminar Programme

Time	Activity	Speaker(s)
12:00 - 12:45	Registration, networking and buffet lunch	
12:45 - 13:00	Welcome	
13:00 - 14:15	Session 1 – Geology Chair: Ursula Lawrence, WSP	
13:00-13:20	The Mercia Mudstone Group: Familiar, Complicated, Essential	Oliver Wakefield, BGS
13:20-13:40	Durability and Aggressivity of the Mercia Mudstone and Penarth Groups	Mourice Czerewko, AECOM
13:40-14:00	Mercia Mudstone - Investigation and Testing	Paul Bradley, Jacobs
14:00-14:15	Q&A	
14:15 - 14:40	Tea/coffee break & poster competition judging	
14:40 - 15:55	Session 2 – Characterisation Chair: Prof. Ian Jefferson, University of Birmingham	
14:40-15:00	A Data-Driven Approach to Characterising the Mercia Mudstone Group for Reuse.	Paul Beetham & Johnny Neville, Nottingham Trent University & Mott MacDonald
15:00-15:20	Pile testing in the Mercia Mudstone	Imran Farooq Mott MacDonald
15:20-15:40	Recent advances in driveability assessment of Mercia Mudstone for offshore wind applications	Tommaso Bizzotto, Arup
15:45-15:55	Q&A	
15:55 - 16:20	Tea/coffee break & poster competition judging	
16:20 - 17:35	Session 3 – Practical application Chair: Laura Westoby, Binnies	
16:20-16:40	Client perspective of Mercia Mudstone	Sarah Trinder, HS2
16:40-17:00	Tunnelling through Mercia Mudstone – Insights from the HS2 Bromford Tunnel Project	Ioannis Papadatos, BBV
17:00-17:20	Earthworks (including stabilisation, testing)	Peter Coombes, BBV
17:20-17:35	Q&A	
17:35-17:45	CIRIA Guidance	Andy Moores, CIRIA
17:45 - 18:00	Closing remarks & poster competition award	

Registration

If you would like to attend, please register by following this link:

[Midland Geotechnical Society Advances in Understanding the Mercia Mudstone – Fill in form](#)

If you have any questions relating to the seminar or registration, please email **Lindsay.Burt@arup.com** with 'MGS MMG Seminar' in the email subject.

Poster Competition

In addition to the presentations and networking opportunity, attendees are also invited to participate in a poster competition on the topic of the “Advances in understanding of Mercia Mudstone”.

If you would like to submit a poster **please register your poster title and lead author [here](#) before Wednesday 24th June** (ideally earlier) so that we can ensure sufficient boards are available for display.

There will be two categories judged in the competition:

- Lead author has less than 10 years of ground engineering industry experience
- Lead author has more than 10 years of ground engineering industry experience

Prizes of £100 (1st place), £50 (2nd place) and £25 (3rd place) will be awarded for both categories, with judging undertaken by those chairing the three sessions.

Fees for attendance are as follows:

Option	Standard Fee
One delegate place (MGS Member)	£80
One delegate place (Non-MGS Member)	£95
One delegate place (Student or Apprentice)	£45
Sponsorship package. Industry stand to be displayed in the reception area during the seminar and company logo displayed on key information at the seminar. Includes one delegate place.	£250

The MGS committee hope you will take time to join us for what promises to be an informative afternoon discussing advances in understanding of the Mercia Mudstone Group.