

**Numerical Modelling of a Geosynthetically Reinforced Sand mass  
Undermined by a Subgrade Void**

**by**

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## PREFACE

The research contained in this dissertation was completed by the candidate while based in the Discipline of Civil Engineering, of the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Howard College, South Africa. Contributions towards the purchase of software and laboratory equipment used by the candidate were received by the Discipline of Civil Engineering from Kaytech (a subsidiary of Kaymac (Pty) Ltd and the Geotechnical Interest Group of South Africa).

The contents of this work have not been submitted in any form to another university and, except where the work of others is acknowledged in the text, the results reported are due to investigations by the candidate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Jaros', written over a horizontal line.

Signed: Malcom Jaros

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> July 2016

## DECLARATION 1: PLAGIARISM

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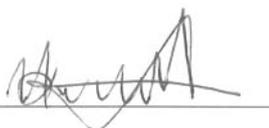
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## ABSTRACT

The South African railway network is highly developed and the vast span of existing rail lines require maintenance and upkeep to ensure smooth running of locomotives. One of the problems faced by the rail industry is instability in the formation level due to the development of sinkholes. Sinkholes and voids commonly form in karstic topography as a result of dolomite related subsidence but may also result from man-made processes such as mining. Roads and railway lines extend for hundreds of kilometres, occasionally over terrain prone to sinkhole formation, making construction over such terrain unavoidable. In order to prevent catastrophic failure in a railway line, the formation must be reinforced over sinkhole prone areas. Geosynthetic reinforcement is identified as a potential means of spanning developing subgrade voids by providing a temporary means of support in the event of a sinkhole. A laboratory model using single and multiple layers of geosynthetic reinforcement was thus developed at the UKZN geotechnical laboratory. Building physical models however is often expensive and time consuming. The research contained in this dissertation explored the use of numerical modelling in simulating the behaviour of a geosynthetically reinforced sand mass when undermined by a subgrade void. Finite element analysis software was used to provide a numerical representation of the physical laboratory model. Exploration into how best FEM can be used in predicting the behaviour of a reinforced fill layer undermined by a subgrade void is thus required. The FEM simulation should provide results within a reasonable degree of accuracy when compared to the experimental model. Through the course of the investigation the parameters governing the behaviour of the finite element model were identified and modified/varied in order to improve the accuracy of the numerical results. In addition to the numerical model, an analytical investigation in which design methods for reinforcement are used to predict the behaviour of a reinforced fill layer took place.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b><u>Symbol</u></b>	<b><u>Definition</u></b>
FEM	Finite element method
FEA	Finite element analysis
FDM	Finite difference method
DEM	Discrete element method
RAFAEL	Renforcement des Assises Ferroviaires et Autoroutières contre les Effondrements Localisés
LVDT's	Linear variable differential transformers
ICFEP	Imperial college finite element program
TFR	Transnet freight rail
AXI	Axisymmetric
PS	Plane strain

## LIST OF SYMBOLS

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Definition</u>
$E$	Young's modulus
$\varepsilon$	Strain
$\sigma$	Stress
$K_0$	Coefficient of earth pressure at rest
$c$	Cohesion
$\varphi$	Angle of internal friction
$\tau$	Shear strength
$V$	Volume
$\gamma$	Unit weight of soil
$H$	Height
$D$	Void diameter
$D_s$	Diameter of settlement trough/cone
$d_s$	Soil surface settlement
$d$	Geosynthetic reinforcement deflection
$\theta_d$	Angle of void propagation
$w_s$	Surcharge on soil surface
$T_{max}$	Maximum tension in geosynthetic
$\varepsilon_{max}$	Maximum strain in geosynthetic
$C_e$	Coefficient of expansion
$\mu$	Poisson's ratio
$g$	Gravitational acceleration
$T$	Tensile modulus of geosynthetic reinforcement
$T_{ult}$	Ultimate tensile force in geosynthetic reinforcement
$e$	Void ratio
$L_b$	Geosynthetic anchorage length

# 1. CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Research rationale

A good transportation system is a vital and basic requirement for a functional society. The railway industry in particular, allows for transport of large quantities of goods as well as providing commuters with a means of transport. In areas underlain by karst dolomite rock landforms, sinkholes are an unpredictable and serious threat to the stability of surface structures including roads and railway lines (Bakhshipour, et al., 2013). For the railway industry specifically it poses a larger threat in that relatively minor subsidence can result in movement of the railway line sufficient to cause train derailment.

To safeguard individual buildings/structures over subsidence-prone formations deep pile foundations and ground improvement techniques such as grout infilling are employed. However when roads and railway lines that can extend for thousands of kilometres are considered such measures are too costly. A more cost effective means of reinforcing long stretches of subgrade is thus required.

Studies have identified various means of protection against sinkhole development that have been used in past designs, including deep compaction, cementitious stabilisation, steel cable and mesh reinforcement in formation layers/subgrade or use of a concrete grade-beam. The research undertaken focusses on the use of geosynthetic reinforcement in the subgrade to span over subterranean voids. Further research in this technique is required in terms of improvements in the strength, durability and cost effectiveness of modern geosynthetics and there is a need to develop new concepts and analytical techniques to optimise the utilisation of such materials in the design of subgrade reinforcement. Field trials where sinkholes are simulated are expensive and time consuming. The development of an analytical procedure for predicting the behaviour of a reinforced fill layer when undermined by a subgrade void would assist in saving time and experimental costs.

Past studies employing the use of Finite element methods (FEM) of geosynthetic reinforcement in soil have identified limitations in the type of elements used to model the geosynthetic reinforcement when the large strains associated with sinkhole development occur.

The objective of the investigation was to assess the results produced by a finite element analysis in terms of the deformations that take place in a reinforced fill layer over a developing sub grade void. The finite element analysis results produced in terms of the soil and geosynthetic deformations must match the experimental data from the laboratory model.

## **1.2 Justification**

Numerical methods in general will help optimise the field of engineering in that expensive, time consuming experiments can be simulated using FEM instead of being physically built. The process of numerical modelling requires an in-depth understanding of the model characteristics and the engineering principles governing the design.

This investigation sought to explore the usefulness of FEM in modelling the behaviour of a reinforced fill layer to a sufficient degree of accuracy. This was done by comparing the FEM results to a laboratory experiment that was previously performed. In addition to the experimental and numerical model, an analytical assessment of the current geosynthetic design methods used in practice took place. After the validity of the numerical model had been established, a parametric investigation into the key design parameters governing the behaviour of the fill layer was undertaken.

## **1.3 Aims**

The aim of the research was to investigate the application of finite element analysis as a means of predicting the behaviour of a reinforced soil fill layer undermined by a subgrade void.

## **1.4 Objectives**

- The research will provide an enhanced understanding of the behaviour of a reinforced fill layer when undermined by a subgrade void.
- Provide a better understanding of numerical modelling and how this application can be used in geotechnical applications
- Identify the key parameters that influence geosynthetic reinforcement design bridging subgrade voids

## 1.5 Summary Table

The table below shows a summary of the type of models considered in the investigation

**Table 1.1: Summary of models developed and investigated through the course of research**

References	Type of Model	Model Name	Model Description
University of Kwa-Zulu Natal Geotechnical laboratory: Physical laboratory testing	Experimental	Unreinforced	600, 300mm Height
			300mm Void diameter
		Reinforced	300mm Height
			150, 200, 300mm Void diameter
			1 - 6 Layers reinforcement
Analytical calculations based on both the South African national standards and methods developed by the RAFAEL research team	Analytical	SANS 207: 2006	300 mm Height
			150, 200, 300mm Void diameter
			Basal reinforcement
			Reinforcement design for rail on embankment
		RAFAEL	300mm Height
			150, 200, 300mm Void diameter
			Basal reinforcement
Strand 7 Finite Element Analysis Program	Numerical	Reinforced experimental model	300mm Height
			150, 200, 300mm Void diameter
			1 - 6 Layers reinforcement
			3 D Model
			1- 2 Layers Reinforcement
			Plane strain model
		Potts (2007) Case study	80, 240mm Height
			80, 160mm Void diameter
		Parametric investigation	Standard Heavy haul line
			1- 4 Layers Reinforcement

## **1.6 Outline of dissertation structure**

Chapter 2 is the literature review in which past experimental models performed using geosynthetically reinforced fill layers were considered. This chapter investigated the factors governing numerical modelling and past research performed in this field. The literature review also covered a theoretical assessment of the current analytical design methods used in practice. The chapter concluded with an overview of related research projects performed in the past in the form of case studies.

Chapter 3 presents the experimental model development and the model results. The experimental model was used as a basis for the development of the FEM model.

Chapter 4 is a review of the geosynthetic design techniques used in current practice in which the deflections/geometry of the soil surface and the geosynthetic reinforcement predicted from these techniques have been assessed and compared to the experimental model.

Chapter 5 focussed on the method employed in the development of the numerical model.

Chapter 6 is a presentation of the numerical FEM results for the selected experimental models.

Chapter 7 focused on a parametric FEM investigation in which a numerical model of a rail substructure and superstructure were developed. The parametric study helped to identify the key design parameters that affect the performance of a reinforced fill layer undermined by a subgrade void, in a railway specific environment.

Chapter 8 is the conclusions and recommendations section. In this chapter the results of the numerical, experimental, analytical and parametric study have been summarised and conclusions were drawn from these sections. Recommendations indicate the scope of future work yet to be covered and improvements to the current experimental/numerical procedure have been suggested.

## 2. CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Introduction

Through the course of the literature review past experimental studies and analytical methods related to reinforcing soil against sinkholes were considered. Investigation into reinforcement methods that were historically used took place. These methods were assessed with regard to how applicable they were to a railway specific environment.

Historically engineering concepts such as movement of soil and soil arching have been applied in sinkhole reinforcement design. These engineering principles were used to formulate theoretical conclusions and observe whether the FEA model behaved in accordance to theory.

There has been past research into the use of basal (single layer) geosynthetic reinforcement to span subgrade voids (Potts, 2007). The research covered through the course of the investigation considered basal geosynthetic reinforcement as well as multi-layered reinforcement.

In FEA modelling the manner in which the geosynthetic fabric was represented has been a subject of scrutiny. Different geosynthetic modelling techniques used were investigated and these findings were taken into account when performing the actual FEM model.

The software selected for the numerical modelling process was the Strand 7 FEM program, used in Transnet Freight Rail offices for a variety of applications. Previous investigations into the use of Strand 7 in modelling geosynthetic fabric has taken place and was documented in the case study Kae (2003) and Grabe (2003). In Kae (2003), the geosynthetic modelling process was in the developmental phase and no exact method was proposed. The modelling process was further refined in Grabe (2003), where 1d truss elements were used to represent the geosynthetic layer. The findings of the literature review will allow refinement of the FEM design and provide guidance to the future research that must take place.

## **2.2 The formation of sub grade voids:**

Sinkholes may result from natural conditions or manmade processes, e.g. tunnelling or mining. Substrata of predominantly calcium carbonate, magnesium carbonate or other soluble minerals are prone to sinkhole formation. Voids may form in the mineral structure due to downward percolation of rainwater which tends to be acidic in nature, this can result in dissolution of the calcium/magnesium carbonate minerals.

Water seepage results in development and expansion of a cavity, until a point is reached where collapse of the overlying soil occurs (Augarde, et al., 2003). Such conditions are typified as Karstic conditions which are complex land forms that resulted from the dissolution of soluble rocks (Oosthuizen & Richardson, 2011). On a section of the Gautrain line, running from Pretoria to Johannesburg, the formation of sinkholes was attributed to “the collapse of solution cavities in the underlying dolomite rock” Jaros et al. (2009). Collapse of old mine works can also result in sinkhole formation.

Sinkholes are generally bowl-like in shape but fissure-like cracks are not uncommon (e.g. slope cracks). Through the course of research sinkholes with a crater-like geometry were considered.

## 2.3 Numerical methods

Physically modelling the occurrence of a large scale sinkhole is a time consuming and expensive process. In especially complex applications, it may be difficult, inaccurate and sometimes impossible to physically perform the procedure. In such cases, it may be more suitable to use alternate methods to get the required results, e.g. analytical methods, numerical models. Engineering research and investigations require the use of laboratory tests and analytical models in order to validate theoretical numerical results, to ensure that the assumptions of the numerical model are representative of real life conditions.

Numerical methods provide algebraic expressions of real world situations and scientific concepts (Strand 7 verification manual, 2013). Research in the undergraduate dissertation “Numerical modelling of the strains in a sand mass when undermined by a developing sub grade void” (Munian, 2010) focused solely on the use of finite element analysis in order to model the formation of a sinkhole. Literature indicated that alternative methods to FEA can be considered, e.g. discrete element methods, finite difference method.

### 2.3.1 Finite Element Analysis

“Finite element analysis is a numerical method that is used in complex engineering applications where the solution would otherwise have been difficult to obtain” Lee et al. (2006). According to Potts & Zdravkovic (1999) most engineering solutions are based on the solution of the following equations.

#### 1) Equilibrium equations

The equilibrium equations describes the transfer of forces throughout the soil body, this is done by analysing the variation of stress throughout the soil in the x, y and z plane.

$$\frac{\partial \sigma_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \tau_{yx}}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial \tau_{zx}}{\partial z} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \tau_{xy}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \sigma_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial \tau_{zy}}{\partial z} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \tau_{xz}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \tau_{yz}}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial \sigma_z}{\partial z} + \gamma = 0$$

Where  $\sigma_x$ ,  $\sigma_y$ ,  $\sigma_z$ ,  $\tau_{xy}$ ,  $\tau_{xz}$ ,  $\tau_{zy}$  are the vector components of stress and  $\gamma$  is the unit weight of soil in the z-direction (Potts, 2007).

## 2) Compatibility equations

This is the strain - displacement relationship, the strain is considered to be the differential of the displacement. The compatibility equations accounted for the relationship between the strains in the soil mass and the displacement that the particles undergo (Potts & Zdravkovic, 1999).

$$\varepsilon_x = \frac{-\partial u}{\partial x}, \varepsilon_y = \frac{-\partial v}{\partial y}, \varepsilon_z = \frac{-\partial w}{\partial z}$$
$$\gamma_{xy} = -\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}, \gamma_{xz} = -\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial z}, \gamma_{yz} = -\frac{\partial w}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial v}{\partial z}$$

Where  $u, v, w$  represent the displacement components in the  $x, y, z$  direction and  $\varepsilon_x, \varepsilon_y, \varepsilon_z, \gamma_{xy}, \gamma_{xz}, \gamma_{yz}$  are the vector components of strain (Potts, 2007).

## 3) Constitutive behaviour

The material behaviour of a structural body is mathematically characterised by its constitutive equations or material laws (University of Colorado, 2012).

The relationship between the stress and strain effectively describes the Young's Modulus of the soil, i.e.

$$E = \frac{\sigma}{\varepsilon}$$

Young's Modulus = Stress/ Strain (for 1 D cases)

And Poisson's ratio ( $\nu$ ) = lateral strain/axial strain

For 2D applications the Young's Modulus takes Poisson's ratio into account and is modified to

$$E_{mod} = \frac{E}{1 - \nu^2}$$

For 3D applications, the Young's modulus is dictated by Poisson's ratio and is modified to:

$$E_{mod} = \frac{E}{(1 - 2\nu)(1 + \nu)}$$

The 1D expression for Young's modulus was then modified to take into account material behaviour of the system:

$$\{\Delta\sigma\} = [D]\{\Delta\varepsilon\}$$

Where D represents the matrix that describes the material properties of the soil, or in finite element analysis terms, the stiffness matrix.

#### 4) Boundary conditions

The boundary conditions in terms of the force and the displacement must be defined. The Neumann boundary in the model is where normal stresses are given a value, and the Dirichlet boundary is where the displacement are given data (Sayas, 2008).

### 2.3.1.1 Finite element analysis process

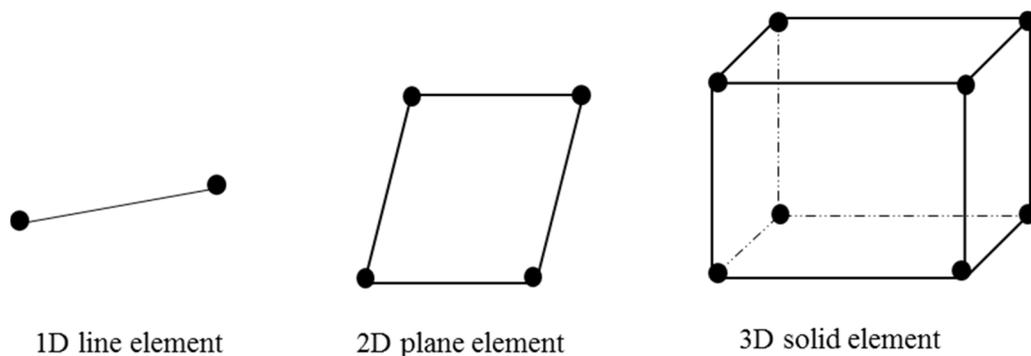
The process of finite element analysis follows 3 general steps:

#### A) Pre-processing

The input of the models geometry, generation of the mesh and discretization of the boundary and specification of boundary conditions.

- Discretization:

FEA is based on the principle of reducing complex problems by dividing them into smaller problems and solving each one separately (Strand 7 verification manual, 2013). During element discretization, the problem domain is divided into small regions called finite elements. Elements are defined by nodes. Elements with nodes at the corners are straight, while the presence of mid-side nodes allows the elements to be curved. The various types of elements and their nodal positions are shown in Figure 2.1 below:



**Figure 2.1: FEA element types**

Looking at the example of a simple beam, a beam can bend in an infinite number of ways, by discretizing the boundary, it is assumed that the beam can only deform into a particular shape, limiting the variables and thus simplifying the problem.

The FEA pre-processing steps are as follows:

- Define the geometry of the model
- Define the type of elements being used
- Define the connectivity of the elements (define the mesh)
- Define the restraints/boundary conditions of the nodes

#### B) Analysis

Specifications of material properties and loading conditions.

- Define the material properties of the elements, e.g. Tensile strength, Young's modulus
- Define the loading conditions (gravity etc.)

The analysis process involves the selection of the primary variable. Potts (2007) states that most FEA programs select the displacement for this. Secondary quantities, like stress and strain are expressed in terms of the primary displacement quantity (Hutton, 2004). A set of algebraic equations to solve for the displacement are then developed. The deformation behaviour of the elements can be derived from the principle of minimum potential energy where “the static equilibrium position of a loaded linear elastic body is the one that minimises the total potential energy” Potts (2007). These leads to the following expression for the stiffness of the specific element:

$$[K_E]\{\Delta d_E\}_n = \{\Delta R_E\}$$

Where  $[K_E]$  is the element stiffness matrix,  $\{\Delta d_E\}_n$  is the vector of incremental element nodal displacements, and  $\{\Delta R_E\}$  is the vector of incremental element nodal forces (Potts, 2007). The stiffness matrix represents the resistance of the element to change when subjected to external influences (Hutton, 2004).

In linear materials the element equations are then combined to form global equations:

$$[K_G]\{\Delta d_G\}_n = \{\Delta R_G\}$$

Where  $[K_G]$  is the global stiffness matrix,  $\{\Delta d_G\}_n$  is the vector of all incremental nodal displacements, and  $\{\Delta R_G\}$  is the vector of all incremental nodal forces (Potts, 2007). The global equations are solved using Gaussian elimination and matrix decomposition (Potts, 2007).

### C) Post processing

#### Analysis of results

FEA provides approximate solutions for the system, the accuracy of which depends on the convergence of the equations and the simplification assumptions made. The exact solution to the problem is solved by the program using the partial differential equations stated earlier. FEA will then produce an approximation of the exact solution. When the approximation converges on the exact solution, the computational process is complete. The actual convergence process is brought about by either altering the size of the elements or the order (magnitude) of the matrix. By changing the size of the element, the mesh is being constantly redefined and a more accurate solution can be obtained.

#### 2.3.1.2 Limitations of the finite element analysis method

The process of flow of granular materials is difficult to model using the finite element method, due to the disfiguring of the mesh because of large soil deformations (Wieckowski, 2003). One of the main problems associated with modelling of flow conditions in finite element analysis is modelling the surface from which the soil is flowing. An entirely free surface, with a wide opening will cause free flow conditions in the soil mass, under these conditions the iterations do not converge and the points in the sand mass are in failure. In order to overcome this problem Sanad et al. (2001) initially modelled the discharge boundary as restrained in both the x and y direction. By releasing the restraint on the boundary and providing a downward displacement to the row of nodes in direct contact with the aperture boundary, initial flow conditions could be modelled.

### 2.3.2 *Discrete element analysis*

This numerical method is used for dynamic applications and accounts for motion of soil particles. The discrete element method can be used in order to model the motion of granular material as separate particles (Coetzee, et al., 2006). The program functions using Newton's second law and has the advantage of allowing for simulation of flow in a silo, when the boundary conditions are free. The discrete element code is a medium by which the "inter-particle contact parameters" in the soil structure can be investigated (Gallego, et al., 2010). When the void is formed, the soil particles are mobilized and hence undergo changes in displacement, shear strength and strength of contact bonds. According to Caudron et al. (2006) the soil properties that govern the particle interactions are:

- The frictional angle of the soil
- The degree of stiffness between contact particles
- The strength of the bond between contact particles

Some of the benefits of using a computer program to predict soil movement as opposed to practical laboratory methods is that in the modelling process all grain displacements and contact forces are known. Also, a specific sample can be tested multiple times and no heavy equipment is required (Van Baars, 1995).

The computational times for this method were however found to be excessive, due to the number of particles. Each particle undergoes a specific displacement and bonds that form between particles can change throughout the interactions. In order to limit computational time, a restriction on the number of soil particles was proposed by Van Baars (1995) where the number of particles would be limited to "no more than a few tens of thousands". By using discrete element analysis where the actual grain structure is simulated, it was anticipated that results would be more accurate.

In DEM when the particles undergo deformations, grains can break and new contacts will be formed. One of the main considerations in the modelling process is whether to use 2-D or 3-D modelling. 3-D models were found to be time consuming and required very powerful computer software; 2-D methods were more simplistic and yielded similar results. The physical modelling of the granular nature of the particles depends on the creation of particles and the formation of boundary conditions.

After performing the investigations, Van Baars (1995) concluded that models using equilibrium equations (FEM) yielded the same results as models based on equations of motion (DEM) but only when soil is in a quasi-static state and motion is minimal. FEM provides quicker convergence but for completely dynamic applications, DEM must be used. The main limitation in modelling using DEM is the restriction on the number of particles; hence any models performed will only illustrate laboratory models of a small scale.

## 2.4 Soil Properties

One of the objectives of the study was to investigate the behaviour of a soil fill layer when undermined by a subgrade void. Before the investigation was performed an understanding of the various parameters that govern soil behaviour must be obtained.

### 2.4.1 Coefficient of earth pressure

To describe the coefficient of earth pressure at rest consider a mass of soil confined by a frictionless wall. When the wall is in a state of static equilibrium, i.e. does not move left or right, the coefficient of earth pressure at rest is said to be the ratio of effective horizontal stress to effective vertical stress.

$$K_0 = \sigma'_h / \sigma'_v \quad (\text{Das, 2006})$$

For granular non-consolidated soils, the coefficient of earth pressure at rest is described by Jakys formulae:

$$K_0 = 1 - \sin(\varphi), \text{ where } \varphi = \text{Angle of internal friction}$$

Sherif's 1984 study (cited in El Emam 2011) states that Jakys formulae is the accepted horizontal-to-vertical stress ratio in loose sand and normally consolidated soil. In the laboratory investigation, the soil fill retained in the concrete ring structure is in a state of equilibrium until a loss of support was induced. The soil used was loose sand hence the coefficient of earth pressure at rest was calculated using Jakys formulae.

CP Worth's 1972 (cited in El Emam 2011) proposed the following modification to Jakys formulae when soil is over consolidated:

$$K_0 = (1 - \sin\varphi')OCR - \left\{ \frac{\mu}{1 - \mu} \right\} (OCR - 1)$$

Where the Poisson's ratio is 0.1 – 0.3 for loose sand and 0.3 – 0.4 for dense sand.

#### **2.4.2 Young's Modulus**

The Young's modulus provides as indication of the soils stiffness and the degree of settlement that a soil fill will undergo when subjected to static load. The elastic behaviour of the soil is governed by the Young's Modulus and the Poisson's ratio. At the onset of plastic deformation the soils behaviour is described by Mohr-Coulombs failure envelope. In previous studies performed by Mifsud (2005) and Potts (2007) the soils Young's modulus was varied in a parametric investigation to determine the influence it had on the FEM results.

#### **2.4.3 Mohr-Coulomb failure criterion**

Mohr theory states that when failure takes place in a soil mass it is due to a combination of the shear stress and the normal stress at a critical state. The shear strength is approximated by the following equation:

$$\tau_f = c + \sigma \tan(\varphi) \quad \text{(Mohr-Coulomb equation)}$$

$c$  = cohesion

$\varphi$  = Angle of internal friction

$\sigma$  = Normal stress on the failure plane

$\tau_f$  = Shear strength

In the laboratory model, when the soil undergoes a loss of support it is expected that the soil behaves in a plastic manner as it will be suddenly forced into failure. The failure envelope that occurs is governed by the Mohr-Coulomb yield criterion. In the FEM program the soil elements were modelled as elastic-perfectly plastic materials with the Mohr-coulomb failure criterion.

#### **2.4.4 Angle of internal friction**

The angle of internal friction provides an indication of a soils ability to withstand shear force. The angle of internal friction as well as the angle of dilation should have an effect on the geometry of the surface trough and the deflected shape of the geosynthetic.

#### **2.4.5 Density of soil**

Compaction increases the shear strength of the soil. In previous studies performed by Potts (2007), the behaviour of dense and loose geosynthetically reinforced soil when subjected to a subgrade void was considered. Potts (2007) concluded that denser soil tended to dilate more due to the increased angle of shearing resistance and provided an overall decrease in soil settlements. Potts (2007) also concluded that in looser fill, adding reinforcement had a greater effect on the surface settlement than adding reinforcement to a compacted soil fill layer.

#### **2.4.6 Soil arching**

Soil arching is defined as “The transfer of forces between a yielded mass of soil and adjoining stationary members” Terzaghi (1943). Classical arching theory states that when the vertical support at some part of a soil mass is lost, the soil mass will want to move downward due to self-weight. The mass that moves downward will shear along a boundary between itself and the soil that remains stationary. The shearing resistance along this boundary opposes the downward motion and results in a redistribution in some of the stresses. This has an effect in reducing the pressure on the yielding area (vertical stresses) and increases the pressure in the stationary soil (horizontal stresses) (Potts, 2007). The occurrence of soil arching is indicated by the shear strength of the soil being larger than expected, due to the soil supporting itself over a certain area.

Various factors have been identified to effect the occurrence and degree of soil arching. Giroud et al. (1990) theorises that the H/D ratio has a significant influence on whether soil arching takes place. Other factors identified were the properties of the fill material, density of the fill and the number of reinforcement layers used.

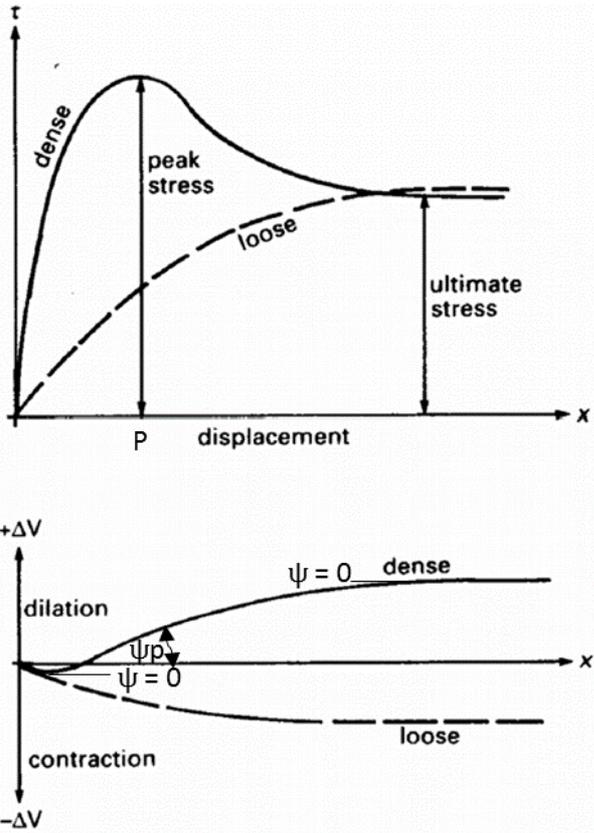
The earliest recorded occurrence of soil arching was discovered in the 1800’s (Smith, 2014). After the construction of a silo, it was found that the forces being applied to the base of the silo was less than the anticipated weight of fill within the silo. This was due to the fact that the sidewalls of the silo carried some of the fill weight due to the transfer of forces to the sidewalls of the silo structure. The soil tends to “arch over the yielded part of the support” Terzaghi (1943).

Arching theory also plays a role in the initial formation of the sinkhole. Sinkholes are generally formed due to voids in the soil-rock interface, as the void gets larger; the soil above the void is

unsupported. The soil will arch until a point where the arch across the cavity is incapable of handling the overburden, after which collapse will occur. Potts (2007) concluded that there is a correlation between soil arching and the ratio of the overburden height to the depth of soil deflection. The larger the H/D ratio, the greater the chance of soil arching taking place.

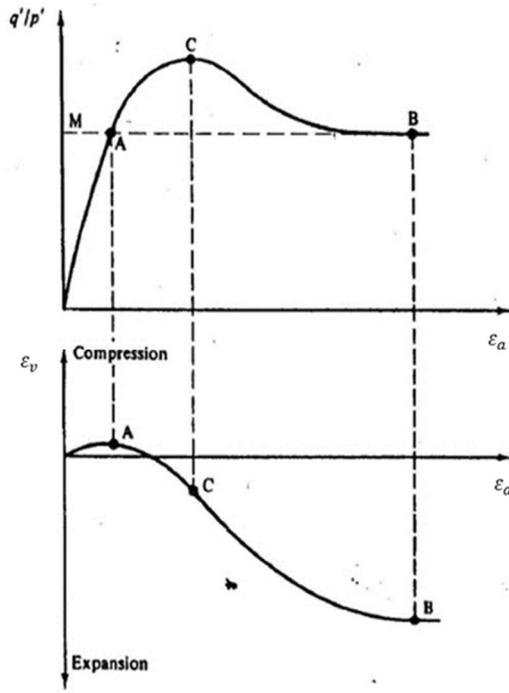
**2.4.7 Soil dilation**

The angle of dilation “controls an amount of plastic volumetric strain developed during plastic shearing and is assumed constant during plastic yielding” (Bartlett, 2012). When a soil



undergoes deformation while in shear, and the volume of the material is preserved, the angle of dilation of the soil is said to be zero. The dilation of the soil depends on the soil type, degree of compaction and the movement of the soil. Figure 2.2 shows the relationship between stress, strain and rate of volumetric change. The peak stress corresponds to the development of dilation in dense soil. Beyond this point the soil will continue to dilate until a critical state is reached. At the critical state the soils volume will remain constant as it shears (Bolton, 1986).

**Figure 2.2 Diagrammatic representation of widely adopted concepts of the relationship between shearing and dilation as expressed in Schofield & Wroth (1986)**



When constant volume deformation takes place and there's no dilation ( $\frac{\delta \varepsilon_v}{\delta \varepsilon_a} = 0$ ),  $\frac{q'}{p'} = M$ . When strain < A the soil sample will contract and  $\frac{\delta \varepsilon_v}{\delta \varepsilon_a}$  is a positive value. The sample undergoes expansion from  $\frac{q'}{p'} = A$  to  $\frac{q'}{p'} = B$ , and point C represents the point where the maximum rate of dilation occurs at some point C. Atkinson (1981) thus concluded that there is a

**Figure 2.3: Typical  $\frac{q'}{p'}$  vs  $\varepsilon_a$  and  $\varepsilon_v$  vs  $\varepsilon_a$  relationships for a drained triaxial test on dense**

**sand where  $\frac{q'}{p'}$  = stress ratio and  $\frac{\delta \varepsilon_v}{\delta \varepsilon_a}$  = rate of dilation Atkinson (1981).**

direct link between the shape of the  $\varepsilon_v$ :  $\varepsilon_a$  and  $\frac{q'}{p'}$ :  $\varepsilon_a$  curve.

According to Bartlett (2012) the angle of dilation for sands depends on the angle of shearing resistance. In non-cohesive soils like sand and gravel, when the angle of shearing resistance is greater than  $30^\circ$ , the angle of dilation can be estimated as equal to  $30^\circ$  (Bartlett, 2012). Bartlett (2012) further states that soil contraction (negative dilation) is more likely to take place in loose sands. When performing an FEA involving soil in motion, the possible dilation of the soil must be accounted for. The Strand 7 program used for the FEA analysis regarded the angle of dilation as equal to the angle of shearing resistance. The angle of soil dilation cannot be altered independently from the shearing resistance hence the Strand 7 system may overestimate the predicted angle of dilation, especially in cases where the soil is in a loose state and is more likely to contract.

## **2.5 Current reinforcement techniques**

The formation of voids in a soil substrate can result in collapse of the overlying soil, massive deflections and damage to any surface structures. In order to stabilise the soil above the sub grade void, different reinforcement techniques were considered historically:

- a) Cement stabilisation
- b) Grouting
- c) Geosynthetic reinforcement

Previously pressure grouting and cement stabilization were used as a means of reinforcement against sinkhole formation. Generally speaking grouting is an expensive exercise and will be justified depending on the scale of the project (filling the void with grout may be an expensive application depending on how large the void is). An alternative would be to minimize the surface deflections by using geosynthetic reinforcement. Jaros et al. (2009) states that geosynthetic reinforcement provided technical advantages and was a more cost effective option for this particular problem.

For the purpose of this investigation, geosynthetic reinforcement will be used to span the sub grade void and provide temporary support to the soil mass. Within the subsection of geosynthetic reinforcement, various factors must be considered before the actual reinforcement takes place. Basal reinforcement is a commonly used option; this involves using a single layer of geosynthetic fabric of sufficient strength to minimise soil surface deflections.

### ***2.5.1 Cement stabilisation***

Studies performed by Alexiew et al. (2002) and Gooding's & Abdulla (2002) used a combination of soil stabilisation and geosynthetic reinforcement for a cost effect means of reinforcing large areas against subgrade voids. Cement stabilization is performed by combining the soil fill/aggregate with cement and water and compacting the material until the required strength parameters are met.

For rail and roadway conditions specifically, the Transnet Freight Rail S413 specification provides a design guide. Materials such as unslaked lime, Portland cement and slag are used as cementitious material. Stabilisation of sub-ballast layers is a common practice and is performed onsite during construction or for maintenance purposes during the tamping process. Cement

stabilisation is seen as a relatively cost effective means of reinforcing long stretches of sub-ballast layers when the support provided by the formation is insufficient.

## 2.6 Geosynthetics

The general definition of geosynthetic reinforcement is “A planar, polymeric (synthetic or natural) material used in contact with soil/rock and/or any geotechnical material in civil engineering applications” (Muller & Saathoff, 2015). Geosynthetics are basically sheets of woven materials used for reinforcement, separation, drainage etc. Geosynthetics also provide added stiffness if sufficient interlocking of soil particles takes place when support is lost. Geosynthetics are manufactured from polymeric materials (the synthetic) used with soil, rock, or other geotechnical- related material (the geo) as part of a civil engineering project or system (Kae, 2003). Geosynthetics are made from synthetic polymers such as polypropylene, polyester, polyethylene, polyamide, PVC (Kae, 2003) . Geosynthetics are generally categorized into two main sections: Natural and synthetic. It can be permeable or impermeable, depending on the application (Rajagopal, n.d.).

Geosynthetic products can be geocells, geotextiles, geomembranes or geogrids (Kae, 2003).

- Geocells: Are 3D honeycomb structures generally used for support and erosion control. Are also used to provide tensile reinforcement and shear resistance to increase the effective bearing capacity of the subgrade.
- Geotextiles: Used for reinforcement and are used for separation and filtration to prevent contamination of the ballast and provide quick relief of pore water pressures in rail applications.
- Geogrids: are used to provide tensile reinforcement and shear resistance to increase the effective bearing capacity of the subgrade. They are also used to interlock with and confine the ballast, increasing its resistance to both vertical and lateral movement in rail applications.
- Geomembranes: Are used as fluid barriers due to their low permeability.

The investigation will consider the application of geosynthetics as soil reinforcement. Geogrids and geotextiles are generally used for these applications and provide interlocking of soil fill.

The interactions between the soil and the geotextile interface results in the transfer of shear stress from the soil to the geotextile (Pinto, 2003). Using geosynthetic fabric as soil support over the cavity requires investigation into the load transfer ability of the material.

### ***2.6.1 General principles:***

The inclusion of geosynthetic reinforcement in the soil mass increases the bearing capacity of the fill layer. Geosynthetic reinforcement is based on the transfer of stresses between the soil and the reinforcement under tension. The stress is transferred to the geosynthetic by friction, the interlocking between the soil and the reinforcement causes this friction to occur.

Some of the key geosynthetic design factors are the required tensile strength, the depth at which the reinforcement must be installed and the number of layers that must be used. Geosynthetics are traditionally installed as basal reinforcement, where one layer of high tensile strength is placed at the required depth in the soil fill. A more comprehensive overview of the use of basal geosynthetic reinforcement is recorded in section 2.6.4.

### ***2.6.2 Use of geosynthetics as reinforcement:***

Geosynthetics are mainly used for the following purposes according to Han (n.d):

- Drainage
- Separation
- Reinforcement
- Erosion protection

#### ***2.6.2.1 Drainage***

- Facilitate the flow of liquids or moisture
- Increased porosity to facilitate liquid movement

#### ***2.6.2.2 Separation***

- Provide retention and prevent stones from punching through into soil
- Prevent soil fines from travelling into upper ballast or track (in rail applications)

### 2.6.2.3 Reinforcement

- Increase the interlocking between the soil and the reinforcement to increase the shearing resistance of the soil
- Increase the stiffness in the formation and minimise the formation settlements and deformations

### 2.6.2.4 Erosion protection

- Protect soil surfaces from erosion by rainfall/wind
- Retain the soil surface and minimise surface erosion

## 2.6.3 *Geosynthetic characteristics:*

The geosynthetic fabric characteristics vary in terms of the tensile strength, durability, and hydraulic properties (Han, n.d.).

### 2.6.3.1 Physical properties

Mainly for quality control and assurance

- Type of material (Polymer, polyester etc)
- Roll length, width, diameter (mm)
- Thickness (mm)
- Mass per unit area ( $\text{g/m}^2$ )

### 2.6.3.2 Hydraulic properties

The ability to provide drainage, containment, protection from fluid ingress, separation and containment.

- Opening characteristic, size of opening.
- Permeability
- Porosity
- In-plane flow capacity

### 2.6.3.3 Mechanical properties

This covers the strength requirements for geosynthetic reinforcement

- Tensile strength
- Creep resistance
- Penetration resistance

### 2.6.3.4 Durability properties

Long term quality assurance

- UV resistance
- Chemical resistance

Geosynthetic properties were selected based on the function required of the geosynthetic. Since the application considers geosynthetic design to span subgrade voids, the mechanical properties of the geosynthetic formed the main design criteria. The basal reinforcement design properties were further considered in section 2.6.4 below.

## **2.6.4 Basal reinforcement**

In the British Standard BS 8006:1995 the use of basal reinforcement is extensively covered. The purpose of basal reinforcement is to prevent upward propagation of the sinkhole. Basal reinforcement was used in an investigation by Villard et al. (2009) as a safety measure to limit the deflections in the event of a sinkhole until the void material can be properly repaired.

Jaros et al. (2009) found that it is impractical to use basal reinforcement for applications where the diameter of the sinkhole is greater than 5m. This is because the strength and stiffness requirements for the geosynthetic in this application would be far too large hence a more economical option would be the use of multiple layers of geosynthetic reinforcement. In the case that basal reinforcement is used for this application, a supporting U-beam would still be required hence the less expensive multi-layered geosynthetic reinforcement must be considered.

## **2.6.5 Geosynthetic applications**

In the case studies considered in chapter 2, geosynthetic reinforcement was used for various design situations, e.g. reinforcement for an embankment over soft clay (Bangkok), used in combination with cement stabilization (Germany, Kuwait, and U.S.A) to prevent collapse due

to void formation. The primary applications of geosynthetics in soil reinforcement considered in this investigation were for reinforcing embankments on soft soils and as a bridging system over sub grade voids.

#### 2.6.5.1 Embankments on soft soil

Embankments constructed over soft soil face the threat of excessive settlement, due to the consolidation that the base layer undergoes. The basal reinforcement technique is generally used to prevent excessive settlements. Reinforcing it in this manner does not prevent settlement from taking place; instead it minimises the settlement and makes it more uniform.

#### 2.6.5.2 Bridging of sub-grade voids

The German design guide EBGEO: 2011 regards two forms of geosynthetic stabilization:

##### a) Complete stabilization

The stability of the fill is guaranteed for the entire design working life, this is usually a geosynthetic used in combination with another type of reinforcement (e.g. cemented soils).

##### b) Partial stabilization

This is when local subsidence is allowed but it must not exceed the design limit. This is a temporary reinforcement technique used to prevent catastrophic collapse and maintain serviceability until a more permanent means of soil reinforcement can be installed.

### ***2.6.6 Modelling of geosynthetic reinforcement***

In order to model the geosynthetically reinforced fill an investigation into the current FEM geosynthetic design techniques was performed. In both Potts (2007) and Mifsud (2005) the geosynthetic layer is modelled as “special” membrane elements, specific to the ICFEP FEA program that was used. These were infinitesimally thin elements that allow stress to develop in their plane but not perpendicular to it (Mifsud, 2005). The reinforcement-soil interface was modelled as six-noded isoperimetric interface elements. The interface elements were put in place to prevent the reinforcement pulling-out from the soil fill.

In the laboratory model, the friction that occurs between the soil particles and the geotextile surface can result in variation of results and interlocking of soil grains. Messafer (1996) used a

combination of boundary element methods and discrete element analysis. The actual modelling of the geotextile was performed using a combination of a fabric surface and interface elements. Importing the surface as a fabric represents the fabric strength of the geotextile. The interface elements account for the bonding and shear between the membrane and the soil.

In Ling & Lui (2003) a 2D model of a geosynthetically reinforced roadway was developed. The geosynthetic reinforcement was modelled as 3-node non-compression bar elements with linear elastic properties. In Bohagr (2013) the geosynthetic layer was modelled as an 8-noded axisymmetric element. In Perkins (2001) the interaction between the soil and the geosynthetic layer was modelled as nonlinear spring elements.

In this investigation the FEM modelling was performed using Strand7 FEM software, for the 2D analysis, the geosynthetic reinforcement is modelled as a 2-noded beam element and the 3D analysis, the geosynthetic is modelled as a 3D membrane element.

## 2.7 Previous experimental models

The objective of the investigation is to prove that numerical FEM modelling can be used to predict the behaviour of a reinforced fill layer when undermined by a subgrade void to a sufficient degree of accuracy. In order to validate the FEM modelling results, experimental laboratory models are developed. This stage of the literature review covers an investigation into the different laboratory models developed.

Villard et al. (2009) used a laboratory model with balloons placed as support in the area of void formation and progressively deflated them to model the void condition (overburden height = 0.5m). The experiment took place over a 5 month timeframe. In the laboratory model used at The University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, a piston and hydraulic jack system was developed to perform the same function as the balloons.

Coetzee et al. (2006) used a laboratory silo model, similar to the one used in the UKZN laboratory. The model was 310mm wide and 600mm high. An opening is created at the base of the silo to cause a loss of support. The length of the opening was varied in order to investigate the soil discharge patterns under different flow conditions. Materials of different colour but the same consistency were used in order to determine the soil flow patterns.

In a laboratory model undertaken by Craig (2001) two model scenarios were developed to determine the failure pattern of the soil. Both tests involved the use of a soil sample containing two layers of clay, with a cylindrical cavity opened underneath it. For the first test, failure was induced by gradually increasing the overburden height of the soil. The second test involved extraction of sand below in order to form a void underneath the clay layers. The height to depth ratio (height of fill/depth of surface deflection), was found to correlate between the two experiments.

In laboratory testing undertaken by RAFAEL (a French research program that investigated the use of geosynthetic reinforcement as a support for embankment fills) (Blivet, et al., 2002). A localized sinkhole of diameter 2 - 4m was simulated by filling a void with clay beads. A circular void is created beneath an embankment and filled with circular clay beads. The clay beads are pumped from the cavity in order to model sinkhole conditions, and the strains, deformations and settlements of the fill layer above the sinkhole are recorded. The test was performed with

the inclusion of geosynthetic reinforcement, in order to determine whether multiple layers of geosynthetic effect the resulting sinkhole dimensions.

### ***2.7.1 Conclusions of experimental models:***

Caudron et al. (2006) concludes that numerical methods provide a better description of the volume of the settlement trough when compared to the semi-empirical estimation. The numerical method and experimental procedure did not yield the same results, due to the difference in collapse mechanisms between the two methods. In the experimental model only part of the sand collapsed into the cavity, due to cohesion in the soil.

Analysis of the results from both Villard et al. (2009) and Caudron et al. (2008) indicated that numerical methods produced the most accurate model of the soil structure interactions (when compared to the analytical model) because the membrane effect, friction, and sliding of the geosynthetic was accounted for.

Jaros et al. (2009) concluded that the difference in soil strain values and deflections calculated using plane strain and axisymmetric conditions were very similar. The results obtained from the laboratory model were acceptable but it “yielded little quantitative information.”

Sanad et al. (2001) found a large discrepancy between FEM and DEM results. The discrete element analysis provided results that gave a satisfactory representation of the flow of particles through the aperture. The finite element analysis yielded results that were accurate with regards to the pressure formation within the silo but there was difficulty modelling the flow of the soil through the orifice.

The RAFAEL team performed experiments using basal and multi-layered geosynthetic reinforcement (Blivet, et al., 2002). RAFAEL concluded that the multi-layered reinforcement subsystem produced the same results as the basal layer model and that there was no obvious benefit to the multi-layered model (Blivet, et al., 2002). Results presented by Villard et al. (2009) indicated that for an H/D ratio of 0.75, stabilised arches tend to form. The lower the H/D ratio, the greater the chance of sudden collapse taking place.

## 2.8 Current design procedures

In addition to the experimental and numerical model, an analytical investigation into the current geosynthetic design techniques was performed. An analytical model where the theoretical soil surface settlements and geosynthetic deformation are calculated was developed. A theoretical investigation into the current design techniques was recorded below:

The following design procedures were investigated:

- a) SANS 207/ BS8006: 1995
- b) RAFAEL Design method
- c) Girouds layer thickness analysis
- d) Multi-layer method

### 2.8.1 SANS 207/BS8006:1995

SANS 207:2006 covers the design of a reinforced layer at the base of an embankment situated over a subgrade void. The design process in SANS 207 is the same as the British code BS 8006:1995. The role of the basal layer of reinforcement design in SANS 207 is to limit vertical settlement and maintain serviceability until a time when permanent reinforcement measures can be put in place. This is a temporary reinforcement measure to prevent ULS (collapse) from taking place.

When designing foundations over poor soil conditions the following factors are considered in SANS 207:

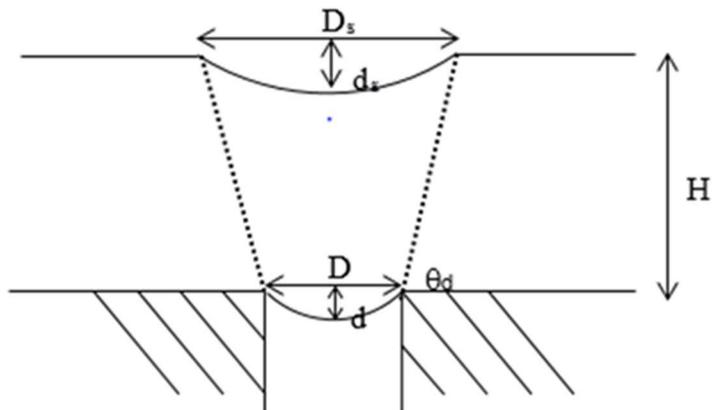
- i. The maximum acceptable soil surface deformations for the structures requirements i.e. road, railway line, embankment

$\frac{d_s}{D_s} = [1 - 2\%]$ . Depending on the expected traffic flow in the design area, 1% = high traffic flow, 2% = low traffic flow.

- ii. Choosing a suitable soil void diameter

Survey of the ground conditions in the area and the geological history will help determine the diameter of the void that will be used. SANS 207 states that it is preferable to select a conservative value due to “uncertainties of future subsidence, and the consequent risks involved”.

- iii. Determine the maximum strain allowable in the reinforcement



**Figure 2.4: Upward propagation of void as assumed by SANS 207**

As shown in Figure 2.4 above, SANS 207 assumes a void of diameter  $D$  forming beneath a fill layer, resulting in a deflection bowl developing at the surface of the fill. The symbols are defined as follows:

$D_s$  = Diameter of surface settlement trough (mm)

$d_s$  = Vertical settlement at surface of fill layer (mm)

$H$  = Height of fill layer (mm)

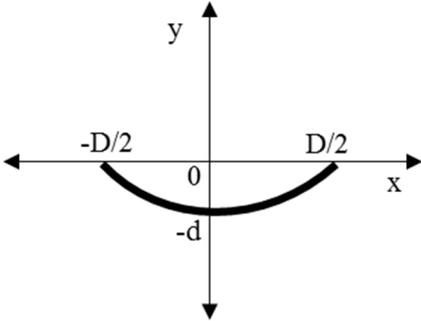
$D$  = Design diameter of void (mm)

$d$  = deflection of geosynthetic reinforcement (mm)

$\theta_d$  = Angle of draw/angle of void propagation

The shape of the deflected geosynthetic layer is assumed to be parabolic by SANS 207. The vertical forces the geosynthetic are due to weight of the soil and any addition surcharge loading. All loading is regarded as vertical and uniformly distributed.

The parabolic shape of the deflected geosynthetic is shown in Figure 2.5 below:



**Figure 2.5: Shape of deflected geosynthetic fabric as per SANS 207 specifications**

The parabolic equation describing the vertical deflection of the geosynthetic then becomes:

$$y = \frac{4dx^2}{D^2} - d$$

Using the extended length of the geosynthetic, the reinforcement strain is derived in Steinman (1957):

$$\epsilon_{max} = \frac{8d^2}{3D^2} \quad \text{(Steinman, 1957)}$$

SANS 207 assumes that no volumetric change takes place in the soil mass, hence the soil volume displaced at geosynthetic level = the volume of the surface settlement trough. The volume of the settlement trough subsequently depends on the shape of the void that forms. Two void shapes are considered, an axisymmetric void (circular in shape) and a longitudinal void (in the shape of a long trench).

The volume of soil displaced due to these void shapes is as follows:

1) Longitudinal void:  $V =$

$$\frac{2 dD}{3} = \frac{2d_s D_s}{3}$$

2) Circular void:  $V =$

$$\frac{dD^2}{3} = \frac{d_s D_s^2}{3}$$

The mass of soil effected by the formation of the void is in a funnel-like shape which is governed by the angle of void propagation  $\theta_d$ .

Given this information, an expression can be written for the settlement trough diameter:

$$D_s = D + \frac{2H}{\tan\theta_d}$$

Substituting the expressions for d and D in the  $\varepsilon_{max}$  equation the following is obtained for circular voids:

This is done using the formulae  $\varepsilon_{max}$ :

$$\varepsilon_{max} = \frac{8\left(\frac{d_s^2}{D_s^2}\right)\left(D + \frac{2H}{\tan\theta_d}\right)^6}{3D^6}$$

iv. Determine the tensile properties of the reinforcement needed for design

$T_{rs}$  is the tensile load in extensible geosynthetic fabric. This is calculated by apply safety factors to the maximum stress in a cable as per Steinman (1957):

$$T_{rs} = 0.5\lambda (f_{fs}\gamma H + f_q w_s) D \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{6\varepsilon}}$$

$T_{rs}$  = Tensile load in the reinforcement per m run

$\lambda$  = Load distribution coefficient. (Axisymmetric = 0.67; plane strain longitudinal voids = 1)

$f_{fs}$  = Partial load factor for soil unit weight, ffs = fq = 1.3 (ULS), ffs = fq = 1.0 (SLS).

$\gamma$  = Soil unit weight

H = Embankment height

$f_q$  = Partial load factor for embankment loading

$w_s$  = Embankment surcharge

D = Selected void diameter

$\varepsilon$  = Reinforcement strain (<  $\varepsilon_{max}$ )

For inextensible reinforcement SANS 207 states that alternate measures should be considered.

- v. Determine the reinforcement bond length

The reinforcement bond length is the length of geogrid required for anchorage to take place, ensuring that no slippage takes place at the base of the embankment. This is based on activating soil friction and requires interlocking between the soil particles and the geogrid mesh. The minimum bond length required to carry the load of  $T_{rs}$  is:

$$L_b \geq \frac{f_n f_p T_{rs}}{\gamma H \left( \frac{\alpha_1 \tan \phi'_{cv1}}{f_{ms}} + \frac{\alpha_2 \tan \phi'_{cv2}}{f_{ms}} \right)}$$

$f_n$  = Partial factor governing the economic ramifications of failure ( $f_n = 1$  for embankments and soil,  $f_n = 2$  for structures of larger monetary value)

$f_p$  = Partial factor applied to the pull-out resistance of the reinforcement.

H = Average height of fill over the bond length of the reinforcement;

$\gamma$  = Unit weight of the embankment fill;

$\alpha_1$  = Interaction coefficient relating the soil/reinforcement bond angle to  $\tan \phi'_{cv}$  on one side of the reinforcement;

$\alpha_2$  = Interaction coefficient relating the soil/reinforcement bond angle to  $\tan \phi'_{cv}$  on the opposite side of the reinforcement;  $f_{ms}$

$f_{ms}$  = Partial material factor applied to  $\tan \phi'$  ( $f_{ms} = 1$  for both ULS and SLS)

vi. SANS 207 design assumptions

SANS 207 calculates the expected soil surface deflections and geotextile strain by using volumetric change calculations. It assumes that the volume of soil contained in the basal layer when a loss of support takes place is the same as the volume of soil in the surface displacement trough. No volumetric change is accounted for, hence SANS 207 does not account for any soil dilation due to shearing. The soil is also assumed to be cohesion less. When tensile forces are activated in the geosynthetic layer after soil collapse has taken place, SANS 207 assumes that the geogrid layers deflected shape is parabolic.

The second analytical method considered was developed by the RAFAEL team (Renforcement des Assises Ferroviaires et Autoroutières contre les Effondrements Localisés – reinforcement of railway and motorway foundations against localised subsidence) (Blivet, et al., 2002).

### ***2.8.2 RAFAEL design method***

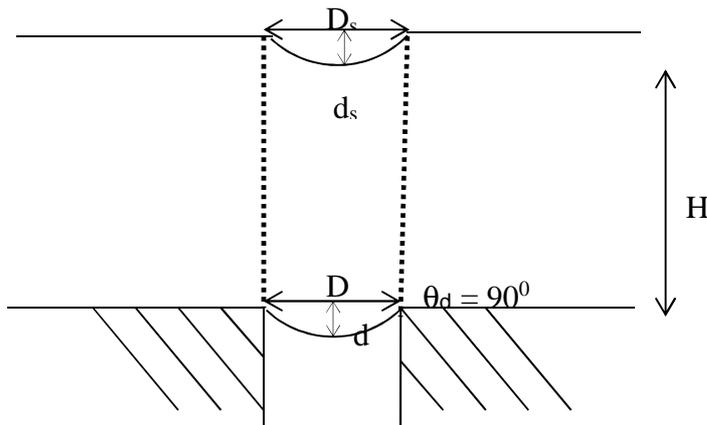
The RAFAEL team consisting of Gourc, Blivet, and Villard conducted investigations on the use of geosynthetic reinforcement as a means of sinkhole prevention beneath an embankment. Several tests were performed, using embankments beneath roadways and railway lines, single basal reinforcement and a two layered geogrid system was considered. The development of the sinkhole was simulated by pumping clay beads out of a dug out void in the formation level. The results measured were the geogrid strain and deformation, the soil movement and surface settlement.

It was found that soil arching took place when the ratio of embankment height (H) to void size was sufficiently high. The RAFAEL method of analysis assumes that the area affected by subsidence is limited to the soil directly above the void, in a cylindrical shape (Blivet, et al., 2002). The design method suggested in both SANS 207 and the RAFAEL method assumes that the load on the geogrid is uniformly distributed and that the shape of the geotextile is parabolic for design simplification.

The analytical methods developed based on the experimental results take into account soil arching and soil dilation. This differs from the method suggested in SANS 207, both analytical methods will be considered and differences in the results will be noted with respect to:

- Soil surface settlements
- Soil collapse zone geometry
- Deformed geogrid geometry

Using the analytical model developed by RAFAEL the load in the geogrid layer can be calculated, as well as the maximum strain that the reinforcement layer can handle and the soil surface deflections.



**Figure 2.6: Soil movement in the event of a subgrade void as assumed by RAFAEL**

- Load (P) in geogrid layer:

The RAFAEL methodology assumes that the area of movement is limited to the cylinder of soil directly above the void alone. The soil is assumed to be cohesionless. The load acting on the geosynthetic reinforcement was derived by the RAFAEL team and was assumed to be vertical and uniformly distributed and is shown in the equation below (derived from Steinman's equation for stress in the geotextile:

$$\rho = \frac{\gamma D}{4K \tan \varphi} \left[ 1 - e^{\frac{-4KH \tan \varphi}{D}} \right] + w_s e^{\frac{-4KH \tan \varphi}{D}}$$

$\gamma$  = unit weight of the fill

$K$  = coefficient of lateral earth pressure

$\varphi$  = angle of internal shearing resistance of the fill

$w_s$  = surcharge intensity on top of the fill layer

ii. Maximum strain in geogrid:

The shape of the geosynthetic is assumed to be parabolic, as it is in the SANS 207. The expression for maximum strain from Steinman (1957) is used:

$$\varepsilon_{max} = \frac{8d^2}{3D^2}$$

$\varepsilon_{max}$  = Maximum strain that can developed in the geogrid before ULS

iii. Tensile force

The maximum tensile force that can be sustained by the geosynthetic was derived by RAFAEL and is shown in the equation below:

$$T_{max} = \frac{\rho D}{2} \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{6\varepsilon_{max}}}$$

$T_{max}$  = The maximum tension the geogrid can develop before ULS

iv. Soil surface settlement:

RAFAEL assumes that as the soil is undergoing de-compaction when the void forms, it dilates. RAFAEL then assumes that “the volume of the settlement trough and the displaced volume at geosynthetic level are paraboloids of revolution.” Potts (2007). This leads to the derivation of the following relationship:

$$d_s = d - 2H(C_e - 1)$$

Where  $d$  is the deflection in the geogrid layer.

$C_e$  is the ratio of the dilated soil volume to the initial soil volume before de-compaction.

Villard et al. (2000) provided the following equation for  $C_e$ :

$$C_e = \frac{V_{se}}{V_s}$$

Where  $V_{se}$  = the de-compacted soil volume ( $m^3$ )

$V_s$  = soil volume prior to de-compaction ( $m^3$ )

Analytical calculations will be performed using both the SANS 207 and the RAFAEL design method and will be compared to the laboratory and FEM model.

### 2.8.3 *Girouds layer thickness analysis*

Giroud's method is a limiting equilibrium method where the deflected shape of the geosynthetic is approximated as a circular arch (Giroud, et al., 1990). This method takes into account the tension membrane action of the geotextile and the effect of soil arching on the shear strength of the soil.

This method however does not take into account the shear stresses at the soil-geotextile interface. Apart from assuming a circular shape for the geotextile, the strain within the geotextile is regarded as uniform.

This particular method of analysis is only applicable for basal reinforcement systems. Wang et al (1996) proposes a modification to Giroud's design that will allow for the design of multi-layered geosynthetic reinforcement. As with Giroud's method, this modification does not take into account the soil- geosynthetic interface shear stresses and it neglects the presence of interlayer soil.

In Giroud's method the strain within the geotextile is calculated using the following equation:

$$\varepsilon = 2\Omega \sin^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{2}\Omega \right\} - 1$$

$$\Omega = \frac{1}{4} \left[ \frac{2d}{D} + \frac{D}{2d} \right]$$

Where  $D/d \leq 0.5$

Where  $D$  = diameter of sub grade void

$d$  = the deflection of the geosynthetic

This is an adaptation of the tensioned membrane theory (the loading force was regarded as perpendicular to the geotextile, the geotextile deforms in a circular arch).

In order to calculate the tension value that the geosynthetic is required to support the following equation is used:

$$T = \sigma'_v D \Omega$$

Where  $\sigma'_v$  can be represented as the weight/m<sup>2</sup> of the soil fill and the surface loads (if any), or  $\sigma'_v$  takes into account soil arching and uses the following equation:

$$\sigma'_v = \frac{\gamma D}{K \tan \phi'} \left[ 1 - e^{K \tan \phi' \frac{-z}{a}} \right] + q e^{K \tan \phi' \frac{-z}{a}} \quad \text{Terzaghi (1943)}$$

More accurate results will be obtained by using the equation above because the decrease in tension on the geosynthetic due to soil arching is taken into account. The soil arching equation depends mainly on the computation of the earth pressure coefficient  $K$ .

$$K = 1.06(\cos^2 \theta + K_a \sin^2 \theta)$$

Where:

$$K_a = \tan^2 \left( 45^\circ - \frac{\phi'}{2} \right)$$

$$\theta = 45^\circ + \frac{\phi'}{2}$$

Giroud et al. (1990) proposes that Jakys equation for the coefficient of earth pressure at rest is also applicable.

$$K = 1 - \sin \phi'$$

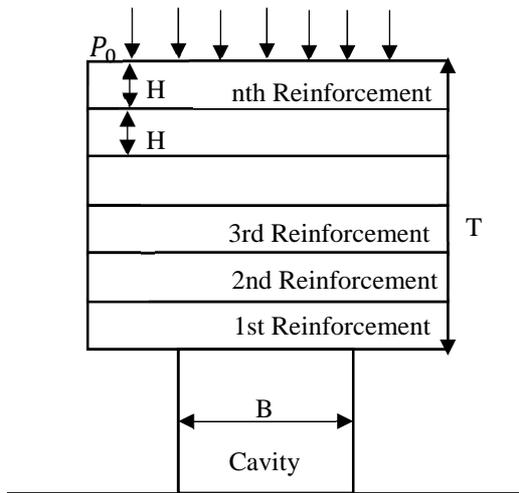
When  $z$  = the overburden height, then the vertical stress equation can be modified to:

$$\sigma'_v = 2\gamma D \left[ 1 - e^{\frac{-z}{2D}} \right] + q e^{\frac{z}{2D}}$$

Where  $K$  and  $\theta$  are not taken into account.

#### **2.8.4 Multi-layer method:**

In this method the decrease in net downward vertical pressure is taken into account in each preceding layer due to the occurrence of soil arching. Soil arching results in a redistribution of forces, resulting in an increase in horizontal stress in the soil mass and a subsequent decrease in vertical stress.

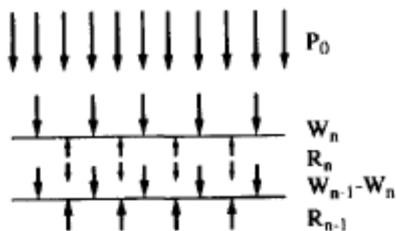


**Figure 2.7 Multi-layered geosynthetic reinforcement (Wang, et al., 1996).**

Figure 2.7 above illustrates the use of multi-layered geosynthetic reinforcement when subjected to pressure loading. The proposed multi-layered method shows the change in tension in the geotextile with depth, i.e. the forces will decrease lower down in the fill, the equilibrium equations account for this. (Wang, et al., 1996)

The multilayer method takes into account the pressure force  $P$  (loading force), the upward reaction force ( $R$ ) and the self-weight.

The force interactions in the system are illustrated as follows:



**Figure 2.8: Multi-layered reinforcement distribution of forces (Wang, et al., 1996)**

For the uppermost layer, the tension in the geotextile can be analytically calculated using the following equation:

$$p_0 + W_n - R_n = \frac{t_n}{[B_n f_n(y)]}$$

The tension in the preceding layers is described using the following equation:

$$R_n + (W_{n-1} - W_n) - R_{n-1} = \frac{t_{n-1}}{[B_{n-1}f_{n-1}(y)]}$$

(Wang, et al., 1996)

$p_o$  = Uniform surface pressure

$W_{n-1} - W_n$  = downward pressure due to weight at the 1st-nth geosynthetic layer with a consideration of soil arching effect

$R_n$  = The upward reaction force on the geotextile (From the 1st layer to the nth layer)

$T_n$  = The tensile force per unit width of the geotextile

$B_n$  = Horizontal distance of deflected geotextile (From the 1st layer to the nth layer)

$f_n$  = Dimensionless vertical displacement function

The British design guide has little information on the use of multi-layered geosynthetic reinforcement, stating that “The analysis of this technique is complex and is not covered further in this code”, (British Code BS 8006, 1995).

## 2.9 Case Studies

### 2.9.1 Case Study: Geosynthetic reinforced railway embankments: Design concepts and experimental tests results. (Montanelli & Recalcati, n.d.).

In this case study the use of geosynthetic reinforcement in minimizing the vertical deflections and the horizontal strains was investigated. Design guides cover the use of basal geosynthetic reinforcement to some detail, the optimal positioning of the reinforcement however is still to be determined. The aim of the study was thus to analyse the performance of geosynthetic reinforcement installed at different locations in a track structure specifically.

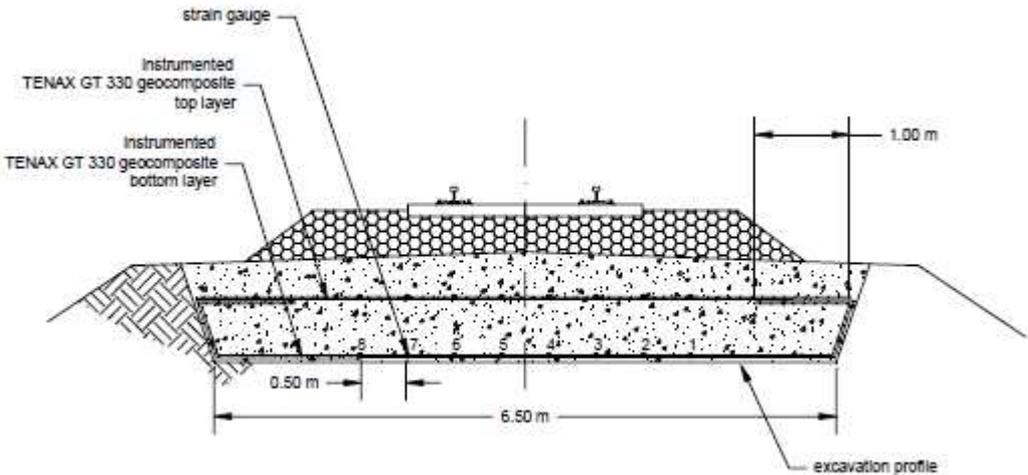
The track components function was to convert the wheel load into a relatively even load on the subgrade. Previous investigations performed by Montanelli & Recalcati (n.d) had yielded a positive result when geosynthetic layers are placed at the base of railway embankments, within the fill layers and at the sub ballast level.

Geotextiles provided the following benefits in the railway embankment:

- The geotextile creates a stiff platform where horizontal strains and the settlements are controlled and minimized in the overlying materials and the geotextile undergoes deformation.
- Increase the bearing capacity of the formation, thus minimizing formation stresses
- Increasing the soil fill stiffness and apparent long term cohesion under dynamic loading.
- Provides reinforcement, separation and a soil filter.

Due to uneven formation deflection, the wear on the rail itself will be increased and non-uniform, resulting in the design life of the rail being compromised. In order to prevent the uneven wear and subsequent track problems, the upper formation layers must be reinforced. In normal track applications, measures like increasing the depth of the sub ballast/ballast layer can be employed in order to improve subgrade strength. This is an expensive technique in that reconstructing the sub-ballast layer is time consuming and may result in closure of the rail line during construction. These delays may result in loss of tonnages and inefficiency of the line. The case study investigated the use of geosynthetic fabrics in strengthening the upper SSB formation layers. The use of the reinforcement allows a decrease in the depth of the excavated soil without compromising the strength of the upper layers.

The case study presents a rehabilitation technique for the Foligno-Terontola line in Italy, the embankment that the line was founded on is almost a century old, and was undergoing settlement due to the repeated loading and the silty sub-grade. The design solution involved the use of a TENAX geosynthetic-geotextile composite within the sub-ballast layer at a depth of 0.3m and the replacement of the first 0.7m of silty subgrade with free-draining granular fill. The geosynthetic-geogrid composite had a tensile modulus of 30kN/m. The rehabilitation took place at night to ensure the traffic on the line would not be disturbed, the upper and lower geotextile surfaces were instrumented with strain gauges for data capturing. The deflection settlement of the line showed an improvement with the inclusion of the geosynthetic reinforcement and the strains measured at geosynthetic level were deemed to be sufficiently low by the authors. The figure below illustrates the reinforcement placed in the rail lines subgrade.



**Figure 2.9: Railway earthworks cross section (Montanelli & Recalcati, n.d.)**

The case study then considered a comparison between a single and multi-layered geosynthetically reinforced embankment. A full scale laboratory model was developed in which the vertical train load was applied by means of a dynamic actuator. A single and multi-layered instrumented geosynthetic system was constructed under the 13m section railway line. The TENAX geosynthetic range was again used, with a tensile strength of 30kN/m. Comparison between the unreinforced model, the single geosynthetic layer and 2 reinforcement layers showed a 20 - 40% and a 30 – 60% reduction in dynamic load respectively at a depth of 0.9m.

The study concluded that the following factors affected the efficiency of the geosynthetic design:

- Type of reinforcement used
- Number of layers of reinforcement
- Spacing between reinforcement
- Distance between the ballast and first layer of reinforcement
- Type and placement of the fill layer

From the investigation it was concluded that the use of geosynthetic reinforcement improves the bearing capacity of the soil and decreases the settlements. Geosynthetics also decrease the formation/excavation depth required in railway lines, studies performed by Kae (2003) similar conclusions were drawn that geosynthetics decrease the required depth of formation excavation.

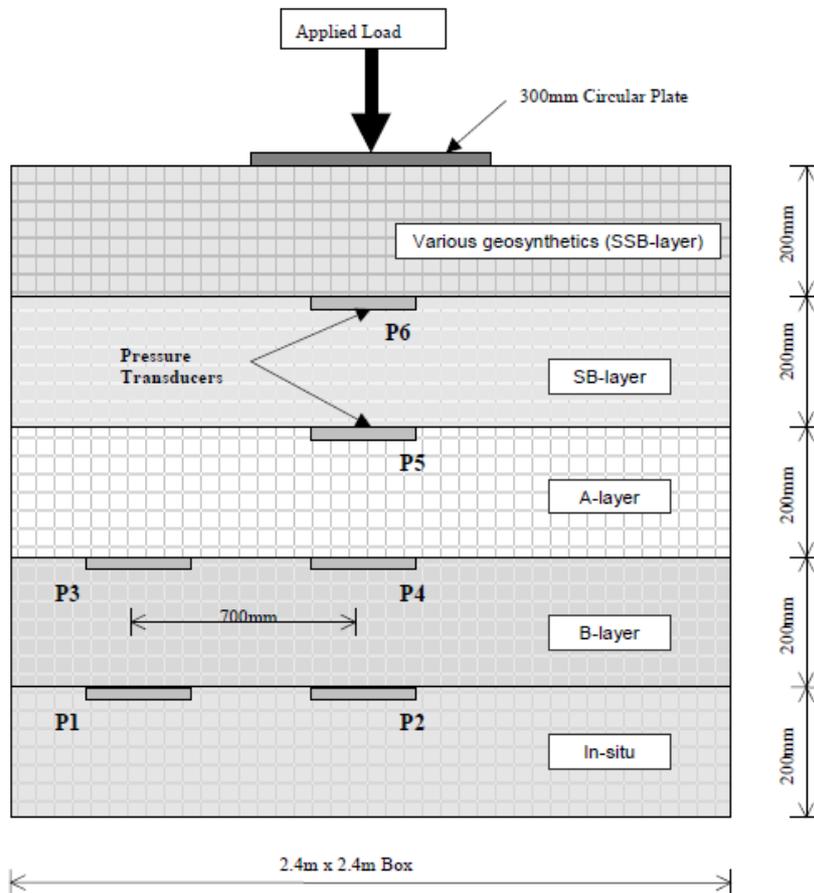
### ***2.9.2 Case Study: The use of geosynthetics as reinforcement in formation layers (Kae, 2003)***

#### **2.9.2.1 Investigation overview:**

Investigations into the quality of geocells, geotextiles and geogrid products took place at Transnet's track testing centre. The aim of the investigation was to determine the influence that difference geosynthetic products had on the stress state of a track formation. The reinforcement was placed at a depth of 200mm below the pavement/ballast layer. The investigation will determine whether the stiffening effect that the reinforcement provided to the upper formation would allow a reduction in the number of formation layers required as well as a reduction in the formation layer depth.

### 2.9.2.2 Laboratory testing:

A 2.4 x 2.4m steel box was filled with earthworks, the earthwork layers were constructed to Transets S410 specification (Specification for railway earthworks) and compacted. Pressure transducers P1 – P6 were placed at various depths in the soil.



**Figure 2.10: Experimental model cross section (Kae, 2003)**

Figure 2.10 above shows the various layer work depths as well as the placement of the pressure transducers and loading conditions.

Table 2.1 shows the properties of the layer works as well as the degree of compaction. All layers complied with the limits as set out in Transnet’s S410.

**Table 2.1 Earthwork properties (Transnet Limited S410, 1990)**

Layer	Minimum Grading Modulus	PI	%<0.075	CBR	Minimum Compaction % Modified AASHTO Density
SSB	2.18	SP	14	98	96
SB	2.12	10	18	30.8	95
A	2.12	10	18	30.8	95
B	1.73	11	16	-	93
In-situ	1.73	11	16	-	90

The various geosynthetic products are placed at a depth of 200mm, a 14kN load was applied to the formation using a 300mm diameter actuator plate as shown in Figure 2.11 below:



**Figure 2.11 Actuator with steel plate for the application of loading**

The geosynthetic products used during the investigation and their properties are shown in Table 2.2 below:

**Table 2.2 Range of geosynthetic products and properties considered during investigation by Kae (2003).**

GEOSYNTHETIC PRODUCT NAME							
<i>Property</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Multicell</i>	<i>Ecocell</i>	<i>Geoweb (textured)</i>	<i>Geoweb (perforated)</i>	<i>Greencell</i>	<i>Test Method</i>
<b>DIMENSIONS</b>							
Weld Spacing	mm	-	330	-	-	-	-
Cell Dimensions	mm	-	245 * 205 (max.)	244 * 203 (max.)	244 * 203 (max.)	244 * 203 (max.)	-
Cell Depth	mm	150	150	152	152	150	-
<b>POLYMER PROPERTIES</b>							
Polymer Type	-	Polypropylene, PVC lamine coating	HDPE	Polyethylene (1.5% C. black)	Polypropylene polyethylene coated	Polypropylene, polyethylene coated	-
Density	g/cm <sup>3</sup>	-	0.945 – 0.96	0.935 – 0.96	0.935 – 0.96	0.935 – 0.96	ASTM D 792
Sheet Thickness	mm	-	1.2	1.25	1.25	-	ASTM D 3767
<b>STRENGTH</b>							
Seam Strength	N/100 mm	-	1600	1420	1420	1420	AS 3706.2
<b>GEOSYNTHETIC PRODUCT NAME</b>							
<i>Property</i>	<i>Units</i>		<i>Polytex (PT715)</i>	<i>Polyforce (PE4530/200)</i>	<i>Geomesh (BSP262)</i>	<i>Tensar (SS30)</i>	<i>Test Method</i>
<b>DIMENSIONS</b>							
Mass	g/m <sup>2</sup>		310	400	190	300	-
Roll Length	m		200	Av. on request	100	30	-
Roll Width	m		5	Av. on request	1.6	4	-
<b>POLYMER PROPERTIES</b>							
Polymer Type	-		Polypropylene	100% Polyester	Polyester PVC Coated	Polypropylene	-
Sheet Thickness	mm		1.3	2.5	0.45	2.2	ASTM D 3767
<b>STRENGTH</b>							
Tensile Strength	KN/m	Warp	50	45	35	30	SABS 0221-88
	KN/m	Weft	55	30	35	30	

The pressure at various depths was measured and recorded using the pressure transducers. The theoretical pressure at each depth is calculated using Boussinesq’s equation:

$$\delta_z = q(A + B)$$

Where,  $\delta_z$  = Pressure at a depth z

q = Surcharge loading

A&B = Partial influence factors

The results obtained after all geosynthetic products were tested showed the soil pressure decreased from the reference value of 77kPa to a minimum of 35kPa at a depth of 200mm.

**Table 2.3: Soil pressure at various depths in the fill layer**

Products	Depth (mm)			
	200	400	600	800
<i>Boussinesq equation</i>	73	32	13	8
<i>G4 (reference product)</i>	77	31	12	6
<b>Geotextiles</b>				
<i>Geotextile_1</i>	99	31	6	2
<i>Geotextile_2</i>	38	12	2	0
<i>Geotextile_3</i>	60	15	2	0
<b>Geogrids</b>				
<i>Geogrid</i>	35	20	4	0
<b>Geocells</b>				
<i>Geocell_1</i>	76	26	0	0
<i>Geocell_2</i>	83	42	13	3
<i>Geocell_3</i>	120	47	8	5
<i>Geocell_4</i>	85	30	0	0
<i>Geocell_5</i>	58	29	9	3
<i>Geocell_6</i>	58	29	2	0
<i>Geocell_7</i>	51	14	1	0

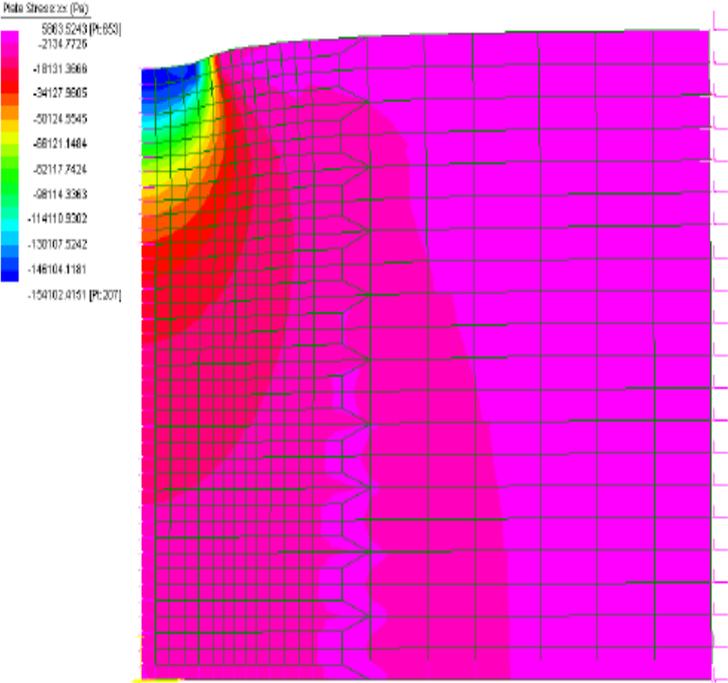
From the laboratory experiment it was concluded that geosynthetic products have the ability to reduce pressure in the formation level at different depths. Certain products reduce the pressure better at a higher level (200mm depth) while other products successfully reduce the pressure with depth.

2.9.2.3 Finite element analysis:

A formation model was developed using the Strand 7 finite element analysis program in order to model the stiffening effect that geosynthetic products have on the formation layers. A linear axisymmetric analysis was used, the Young’s modulus in the initial 200mm layer was varied in

the program to simulate the increased stiffness in the soil due to the inclusion of the geosynthetic product.

The Young’s modulus was varied until the pressure measurement in the subsequent soil layers matched the pressure measurement in the laboratory experiment in order to give an indication of the increase in stiffness that the geosynthetic product has on the formation layer.



**Figure 2.12: Strand 7 plate stress contours**

The soil characteristics used in the formation layers were in accordance to Transnet’s S410 specification. The soil was modelled as 2D plate elements, symmetrical about the y-axis, with an increased mesh density in the vicinity of the load application.

The soil stress and deformation were observed at various depths and compared with the laboratory results.

The soil pressure generated by the FEM program at various depths were compared to the laboratory model and the results were accurate and within the range of the experimental model.

**Table 2.4: Strand 7 FEA predictions vs measured data**

Depth	FEA (kPa)	Measured Pressure (kPa)
200	57.2	58.2
400	22.5	29.4
600	12.8	9.08
800	9.7	2.9

#### 2.9.2.4 Case study conclusions:

From the laboratory experiment it was observed that geosynthetic products are capable of decreasing the applied pressure along the entire depth of the formation layers. Certain geosynthetic products provided better pressure reduction in the upper formation layers while other products provided a more significant pressure decrease at a depth in the fill.

The Tensar (SS30) and Polytex (PT715) range exhibited the largest overall reduction in pressure in the soil layers of approximately 50%. The geotextile, Polyforce (PE4530), geocells, Geoweb and Greencell produced a 22- 34 % reduction in pressure in the upper 200mm. The Geomesh (BSP 262) and multicell product did not produce a large reduction in pressure within the upper 200mm, but rather decreased the pressure more significantly at a depth of 400mm. The Ecocell products however did not provide a significant pressure decrease at any level in the fill.

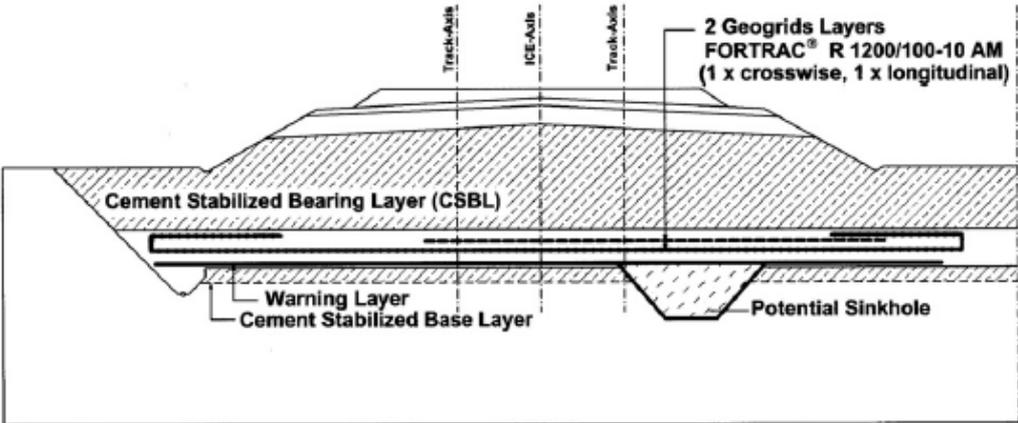
It was thus concluded that use of geosynthetic products in the formation layers increased the bearing resistance of the formation and helped reduce the required formation depth and subsequently decreased excavation costs. The FEM analysis proved that the Strand 7 Finite element analysis software can be used to model a geosynthetically reinforced fill layer.

The pressure values obtained from the FEM and laboratory model were within the same range when the stiffness in the upper 200mm was increased by 30%. This indicates that the geosynthetic product increases the formation stiffness by up to 30%.

#### **2.9.3 Case Study: FEM analysis and dimensioning of a sinkhole overbridging system for high speed trains at Groebers in Germany: (Alexiew, et al., 2002).**

The case study identified that the design guides and analytical procedures currently present were inaccurate and only applicable under certain circumstances. Due to this numerical procedures were employed in order to investigate the behaviour of a cement stabilised railway bed with a layer of geosynthetic reinforcement present on the LeipZig-Halle line. The high-speed rail link LeipZig-Halle travels at up to 300km/h, facilitating the transport of both passengers and heavy cargo. The 800m long and 120m wide railway section was constructed over a post-mining area in the Groebers region of Germany. The whole area was prone to subsidence with sinkhole diameters of less than 4m occurring. The collapse in the area was

attributed to “sub-ground excavations” in karstic regions. In order to reinforce the soil embankment against collapse various methods were considered (e.g. deep foundation on piles, stiff reinforced concrete plate, and dynamic compaction after deep excavation). The methods generally employed in this region are spanning the void with concrete slabs or backfilling. These methods of reinforcement were not sufficiently cost-effective, due to the vast area that the rail-line covers. Geosynthetic reinforcement was a more economical method and was used for the project. High strength basal reinforcement was used extensively in Great Britain for the similar purpose of bridging voids. The design was based on two fundamental concepts, ensuring serviceability for a given period of time after a void forms and a sinkhole detection warning system. In the event of a sinkhole taking place, the speed of the trains of the line were limited until the void can be filled and the fill rehabilitated so that the stability of the line will not be compromised.



**Figure 2.13 Cross section of the embankment including the stabilized layer, the placement of the geosynthetic reinforcement and sinkhole detection system.**

Figure 2.13 above shows the embankment considered, with the basal reinforcement placed above the potential sinkhole

**2.9.3.1 Soil reinforcement:**

The investigation used a combination of cemented soils, high strength geosynthetic reinforcement and a warning system. A cement stabilized bearing layer made from cohesive soil, a mixture of cement and soil and a thin layer of gravel was used above the geosynthetic

reinforcement layer. An electronic warning system was integrated into the geosynthetic reinforcement; this consisted of insulated and embedded wires. Rupture of the geosynthetic results in a change in the electrical resistance of the wires. The systems design life spans 60 years, with a serviceability limit of a month to rehabilitate the fill after the void forms.

The specialized method developed within the project is the use of the CSBL (Cement stabilized bearing layer). When collapse occurs, a stable arch must form in the CSBL layer to ensure serviceability until permanent reinforcement can be placed. In order to ensure serviceability, the train speed was decreased from 300km/h to 100km/h (and the sinkhole must then be backfilled).

The design limitations identified were as follows:

- Due to the high speed of the trains on the line, the specified serviceability life of 30 days was too high
- Analytical methods provide a guide for design when non-cohesive soils are present, even then the guides are not sufficiently accurate. No guidance at all exists for a bridging system designed in cohesive soils
- The position of the sinkhole cannot be predefined in this 120m wide track (spans about 8 tracks)

Subsequent to these limitations, the design cannot be performed without a numerical analysis, the FEM technique.

#### 2.9.3.2 Experimental procedure:

The two design conditions considered were:

- a) Low coverage, where the overburden height of soil was small hence the geosynthetic deflection was equal to the soil surface deflection.
- b) In the second case the maximum allowable tension of the geotextile was reached.

The analysis of the design factors, stress, strain, deflections, arching in the cement stabilised layer and the diameter of the resulting surface depression were all estimated by a combination of the finite element method and analytical methods. The design calculations for the ultimate

and serviceability deflection level of the geotextile was performed using the German codes for geotechnical structures.

#### 2.9.3.3 Finite element method:

FEM was performed on the PLAXIS software, the FEM process was found to be inefficient in the post-failure analysis. In order to gain a better understanding of post-failure stress and strains, analytical procedures were used. The model used was a linear elastic perfect-plastic Mohr-Coulomb model.

The finite element method was performed successfully but it was found that the FEM-calculations would be insufficient for the complexity of the problem. This problem was also experienced in Jaros et al. (2009) and Munian (2010) where soil collapse caused convergence problems within the finite element model.

#### 2.9.3.4 Geosynthetic:

The analysis of the geosynthetic reinforcement was simplified in that it took into account the membrane effect of the reinforcement alone (any occurrence of soil arching was localized to the cement stabilised layer). The membrane effect is generally used when considering geotextiles and only takes into account the vertical loading/surcharge forces and not the upward reaction of the soil. A sufficient cover distance was required in the geotextile so that the pull-out resistance of the soil can be calculated. The geogrid was modelled as a linear elastic liner. The ultimate tensile strength of the geosynthetic was between 1200 – 1400 kN/m with low creep capacity. One of the limitations in the geosynthetic modelling procedure was the post failure analysis of the geosynthetic. The tensile modulus  $J$  was measured in kN/m ( $J = \text{force, kN/m} / \text{strain}$ ). Alexiew et al. 2002 stated that “theoretically the reinforcement can strain infinitely mobilizing a never ending force and can never fail, which is not correct”. According to Alexiew et al. 2002 this makes it difficult to test the reinforcement to failure, because the tensile force within the reinforcement must be monitored after each simulation to determine whether it exceeds the ultimate tensile strength of the reinforcement.

#### 2.9.3.5 Case study conclusions:

The propagation of the sub-grade void can be successfully modelled using finite element analysis PLAXIS software, until the point where collapse occurs. In order to obtain more

accurate results for the post failure analysis, analytical methods were used. The analytical solution solved for the critical tension in the geotextile. The analysis of the cement stabilised layer is a relatively new concept and arching was expected in the highly cohesive soil block.

#### ***2.9.4 Case Study: Stability charts for predicting sinkholes in weakly cemented sand over Karst limestone (Goodings & Abdulla, 2002)***

This study was motivated due to the formation of sinkholes in a housing development in Kuwait City. The diameters of the sinkholes were found to vary from 4-8m with a maximum diameter of 15m and a corresponding depth of 3m.

Similarities can be drawn between the soil profiles in the Kuwait area to the South African case. The bedrock consists of karst limestone, overlain with weakly cemented sand and completely uncemented sand. If the ground water (with the dissolved minerals) is pumped above the water table level and then evaporation takes place, the mineral residue is left behind. This sticks together resulting in the partial cementation of the soil.

##### **2.9.4.1 Experimental Procedure:**

The experimental models considered in this case study cover the effect of void formation on a weakly cemented fill layer. Two types of experiments were performed, in the first the weakly cemented fill was placed above the void alone. In the second set of testing a weakly cemented fill layer was overlain with uncemented material (Ottawa sand was used for both the cemented and uncemented soil), and a void was formed beneath the cemented layer. The degree of cementation was varied in the weakly cemented layer between 2 – 4% Portland cement. All models were tested in a centrifuge and brought to failure under self-weight.

#### 2.9.4.2 Case study conclusions:

The various failure shapes the cemented material underwent is shown in Figure 2.14 below:

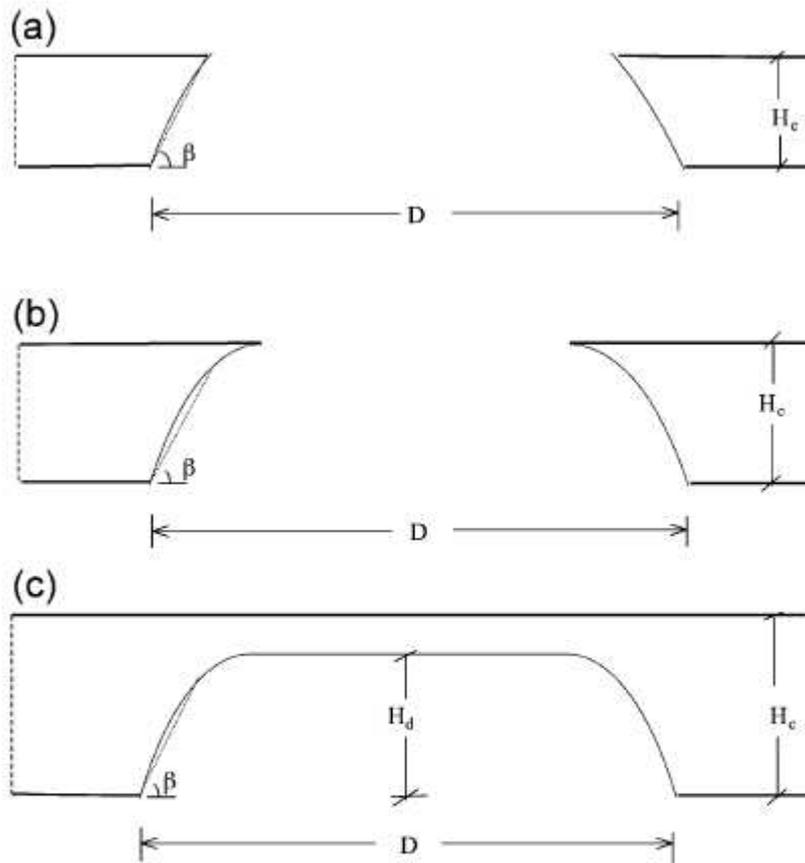


Fig. 1. (a) Shape of failure in the cemented sand layer for  $H_c/D < 0.25$ . (b) Shape of failure in the cemented sand layer for  $H_c/D = 0.25$ . (c) Shape of failure in the cemented sand layer for  $H_c/D > 0.31$ .

**Figure 2.14 a) Shape of failure in the cemented sand layer for  $H_c/D < 0.25$**

**b) Shape of failure in the cemented sand layer for  $H_c/D = 0.25$**

**c) Shape of failure in the cemented sand layer for  $H_c/D > 0.31$**

**(Goodings & Abdulla, 2002)**

It was found that for lower  $H_c/D < 0.25$  ratios, the soil “plug” that falls out from the cemented layer during sinkhole formation tended to propagate to the top of the layer.

When  $H_c/D = 0.25$ , a similar result was obtained, with a smaller plug collapsing.

When  $H_c/D > 0.31$  however, the collapsing soil plug does not propagate to the surface of the cement layer. The layer forms an arch where the surface of the model is not affected by the void. A similar condition was found in the case study 1, for the

German link rail LeipZig-Halle, where some of the load transfer was taken up by the formation

of a stable arch within the cemented sand. The ratio of the overburden height to the diameter of the sinkhole are similar to those found in Terzaghi's experiment in 1943.

The following factors were found to affect the critical failure of the soil mass:

- a) The unit weight of the cemented sand
- b) The overburden height of the soil
- c) The diameter of the void in the underlying karstic rock

By combining the method of cement stabilization and geosynthetic reinforcement, a more economic and equally stable solution was obtained.

### **2.9.5 Case study: Potts (2007)**

The Potts (2007) investigation considered a vast range of geosynthetic design scenarios and applications. For the purpose of the case study, only Potts laboratory model and the FEM validation of it was considered. The experimental model consisted of a basally reinforced soil layer, which was undermined by a subgrade void of varying dimensions. Potts (2007) thus developed an FEM model describing the experimental test and compared both sets of results.

Potts (2007) case study considered the use of basal geosynthetic reinforcement alone with variations in the H/D ratio (H = fill height, D = void diameter). The de Lange (2016) laboratory model (covered in Chapter 3) differed from the Potts (2007) model in that it considered multi-layered reinforcement in addition to basal reinforcement as well as a variation in the H/D ratio.

The case study provided both experimental and numerical data which was used for comparative purposes. The sets of data and design scenarios considered are shown in Table 2.5 below.

**Table 2.5: Summary of results from Potts (2007) case study**

<b>Potts (2007) Case study data</b>	
<b>Experimental results</b>	<b>Numerical results (ICFEP)</b>
Unreinforced model	Reinforced model
Reinforced model	H/D = 1
	H/D = 0.5
	H/D = 3

H\* = Soil height (mm)

D\* = Void diameter (mm)

2.9.5.1 Model overview

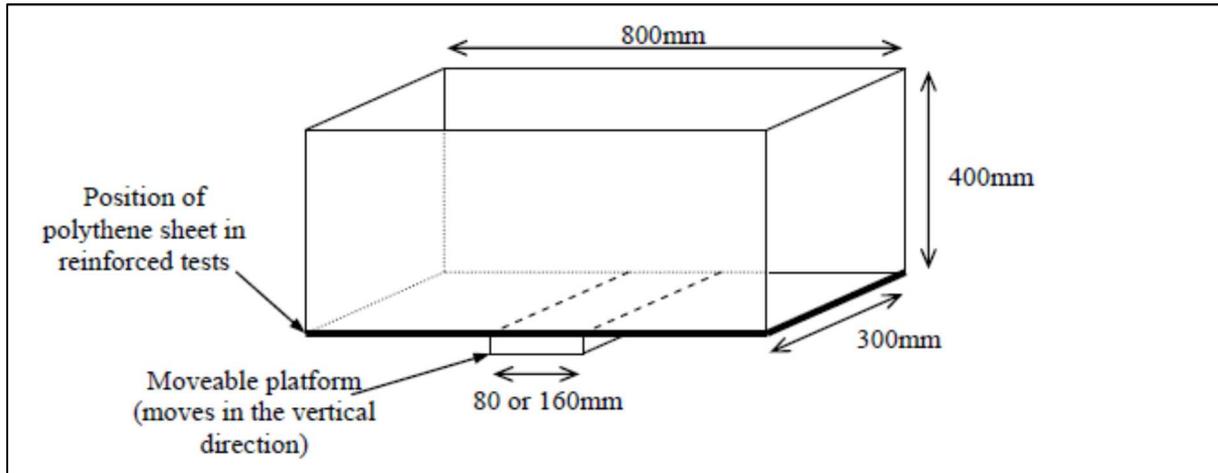
The model was developed using a strongbox with a moveable platform that allowed the void to form at the base of the box. The soil was loosely poured into the strongbox using a hose and a funnel. LVDT’s were placed along the soil surface in order to measure the soil surface deflections resulting from the void formation.

It should be noted that the experimental model employed by Potts (2007) did not take place in a geotechnical centrifuge. Potts (2007) states that when future laboratory experiments are performed, the use of a centrifuge will be considered.

2.9.5.2 Model geometry

The height of soil considered in the laboratory tests varied from 40, 80, 160, 240, 320, 400mm. The void diameter values were 80, 160mm. The moveable platform was positioned at the base of the structure and moved downward a distance of 25mm. This allowed the polythene layer to support the soil resulting in subsequent soil surface deflections.

### 2.9.5.3 Material characteristics:



**Figure 2.15: Experimental model geometry (Potts, 2007)**

The soil fill layer used in Potts (2007) was fine gravel with some medium coarse sand. The soil density and angle of shearing resistance were tested and are shown in Table 2.6 below. A continuous polythene sheet was used as a geotextile layer.

**Table 2.6: Material properties used in Potts (2007) experimental model**

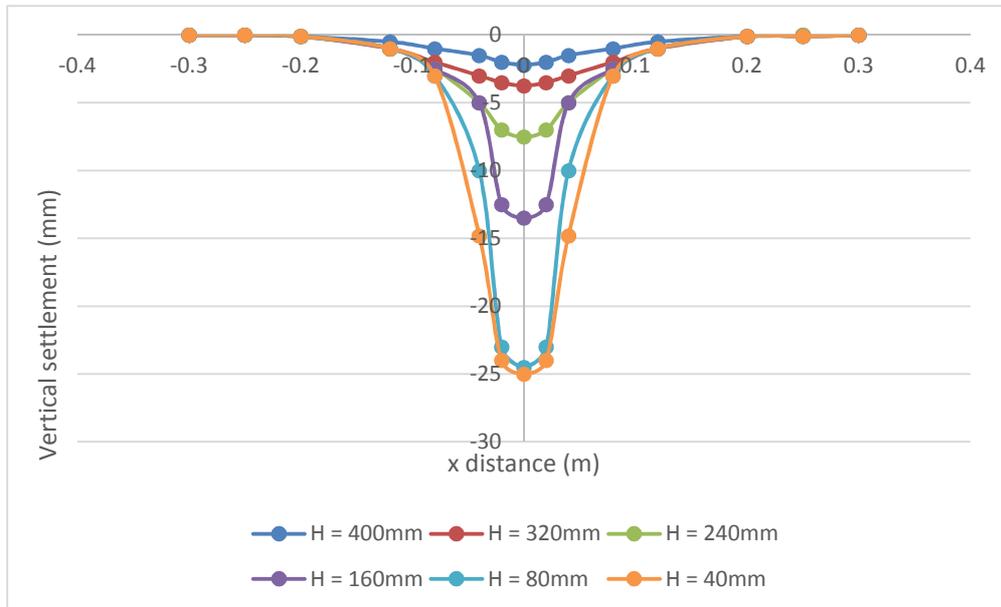
Material	Parameter	Recommended value
Fill	$\gamma_{\text{loose}}$	15.5 kN/m <sup>3</sup>
	$\phi'_{\text{fill loose}}$	35 <sup>0</sup>
	E	20 MPa
	$\mu$	0.3
	K	0.4285
	e	0.2
Polythene sheet	J	11 kN/m/m
	T <sub>ult</sub>	0.11 kN
	$\mu$	0.2

#### 2.9.5.4 Results:

Section 2.9.5.5 covers the results obtained by Potts (2007) when the soil mass was unreinforced. In section 2.9.5.7 a comparison between the unreinforced and reinforced results took place. The subsection concludes with 2.9.5.8 in which Potts (2007) FEA results are compared to experimental data.

#### 2.9.5.5 Soil surface deflections: Unreinforced model

Figure 2.16 below shows the soil surface deflections for varying soil heights when the void diameter = 80mm in an unreinforced soil mass. The graph shows the soil surface deflections decrease with increasing soil height, the results for the maximum soil surface deflections for the varying soil heights are shown in Table 2.7.



**Figure 2.16: Vertical soil surface deflections obtained from the unreinforced laboratory experiment performed in Potts (2007), soil fill height (H) is varied while void width (D) is constant at 80mm**

A summary of the maximum surface deflections are shown in Table 2.7 below.

**Table 2.7: Maximum soil surface deflection from Potts (2007) unreinforced experimental model**

Height of fill, H (mm)	Void width, D (mm)	H/D	Maximum surface deflection, $d_s$ (mm)
400	80	5	2.241
320	80	4	4.043
240	80	3	7.501
160	80	2	13.504
80	80	1	24.501
40	80	0.5	25.012

The soil surface deflection increased as the H/D ratio decreased, as expected due to a smaller volume of soil undergoing a larger displacement. The results presented in Figure 2.16 are for an unreinforced model, the platform was lowered a full 25mm.

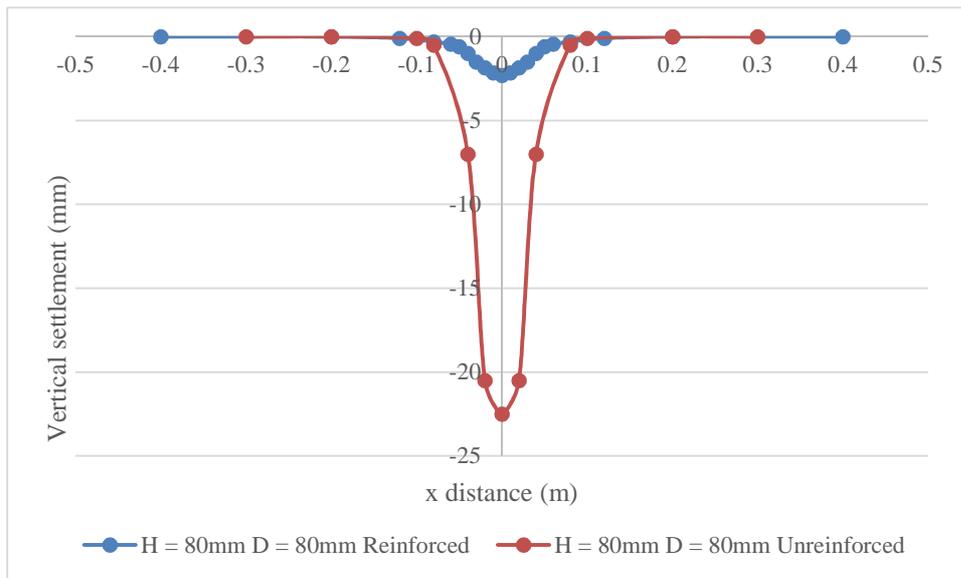
2.9.5.6 Diameter of soil settlement trough

Some inaccuracies were observed in measuring the surface settlement trough diameter, the LVDTs were not necessarily placed at the exact position where the trough began.

From Figure 2.16 a slight increase in the trough diameter with an increase in soil fill height was observed. The conclusion made at this stage was that a larger H/D ratio resulted in a shallower wider soil settlement trough.

2.9.5.7 Comparison: Unreinforced vs reinforced

The previous section illustrated the increase in soil surface deflection in an unreinforced soil layer with an increase in the H/D ratio. This also provided an initial reference point for the deflections that took place when no reinforcement was present. In this part of Potts (2007) experimental study, the polythene sheet representing the geosynthetic reinforcement was placed at the base of the model. When the void was created at the base of the model, the polythene sheet retained the soil and subsequently minimised the soil surface deflections.



**Figure 2.17 Comparison between vertical soil surface deflections obtained from the laboratory experiment performed in Potts (2007) between reinforced and unreinforced fill layers.**

The inclusion of the basal polythene layer resulted in a decrease in the soil surface settlement as expected. There was no discernible change in the diameter of the soil settlement trough. This validated the conclusion that

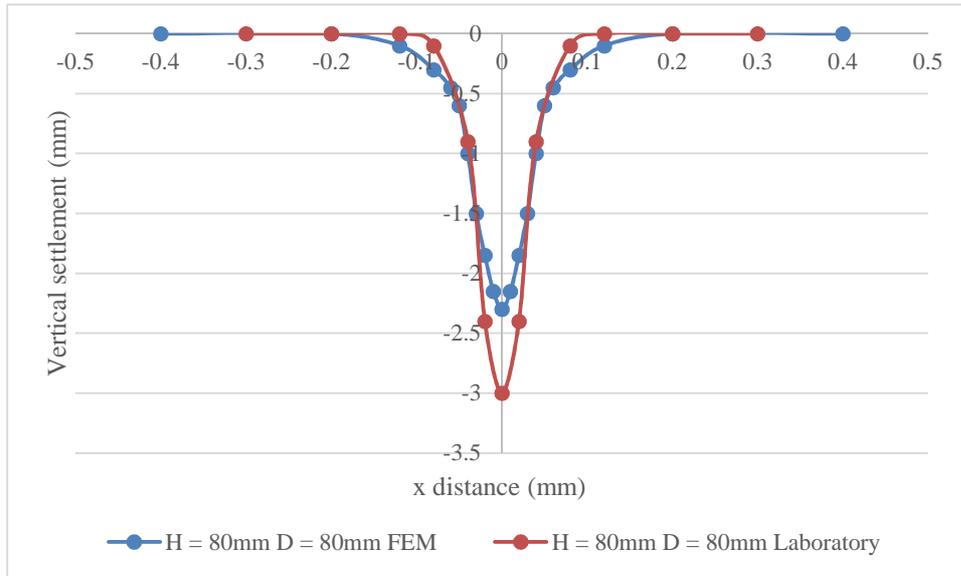
the inclusion of geogrid reinforcement does indeed decrease the soil surface settlement.

#### 2.9.5.8 Soil surface deflection: FEM Reinforced

Once it was concluded that the inclusion of the geogrid layer effectively decreased the expected soil surface settlement values, an investigation into the accuracy of FEA as a means of analysis was carried out. The following soil fill heights and diameters were considered:

- A) H = 80 mm, D = 80 mm
- B) H = 80 mm, D = 160 mm
- C) H = 240 mm, D = 80 mm

Conclusions were drawn from a comparison between A & B and A & C as only one parameter was altered, the D and H respectively.



**Figure 2.18: Comparison between vertical soil surface deflection values generated by Potts (2007) ICFEP FEA program and the experimental laboratory data**

Figure 2.18 above compares experimental data to the FEM model generated by Potts (2007). The FEA deflections are smaller than the actual results obtained for an  $H/D = 1$ . Similar results were obtained for  $H/D = 0.5$ . Table 2.8 below provides a summary of the maximum soil surface deflections for the various  $H/D$  ratios.

**Table 2.8: Laboratory vs FEM comparison**

<b>H/D</b>	<b>Soil surface deflection laboratory (mm)</b>	<b>Soil surface deflection FEM (mm)</b>
0.5	14.014	10.022
1	2.981	2.314
3	0.651	1.201

In Figure 2.18 the settlement trough predicted by the FEM program was smaller for cases where the  $H/D$  was 1 and 1.5; and where  $H/D = 3$  the FEM program over predicts the surface settlement. Potts (2007) concluded that the soil surface settlement predicted using the FEM program ICFEP was not highly accurate but the values were at least in the same order of magnitude as the laboratory results. Potts (2007) also concluded that the FEM model results can be improved by adjusting the material properties of the model.

The loading in the model was from gravity and self-weight of the soil alone. Due to the size of the model, the load applied to the geosynthetic would be too small to generate significant stresses. To get a more accurate representation of the stress-strain behaviour of the soil fill, Potts suggests that further investigation takes place using a centrifuge.

In order to further investigate the effect of a loss of support on a reinforced soil mass, a laboratory experiment was performed by de Lange (2016). In later chapters an FEM model describing the laboratory experiment is developed.

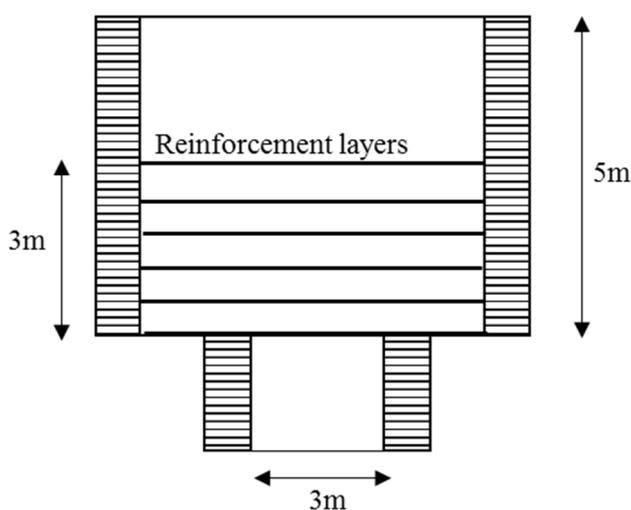
### 3. CHAPTER 3: PREVIOUS STUDIES

#### 3.1 Rationale

The FEA models have been related to data obtained from laboratory model tests conducted at UKZN by H de Lange (2016) (MSc thesis currently in draft). This chapter describes the development of said physical laboratory models.

#### 3.2 Experimental model: de Lange (2016).

The experimental laboratory work performed by de Lange involved the monitoring of a cohesion less sand fill undermined by a developing void. The model comprised a stack, height  $H$ , of sand filled concrete manhole ring standing on horizontal base-board with a concentric circular trapdoor of diameter  $D$ . Controlled lowering of the trapdoor simulated the development of a void at the base of the sand. The tests were performed with and without horizontal sheets of mosquito netting embedded in the sand to assess the benefits of reinforcement in controlling subsidence and soil settlements. A series of tests were conducted varying the  $H/D$  ratio, and the number of geosynthetic layers. The models used by de Lange were a 1:10 scaled axisymmetric development of the 2-dimensional “proof of concept” field experiment performed by Jaros et al. (2009).



Jaros' model was a  $9\text{m}^2$ , 5m high embankment with a 3m longitudinal void formed beneath its base. The bottom three meters of the embankment were reinforced with horizontal layers of geosynthetic fabric.

**Figure 3.1: Schematic of field test performed by Jaros et al. (2009)**

### 3.3 Experimental model setup:

In the initial model tests conducted by de Lange the sand was unreinforced and vertical deflections at the upper surface of the sand were read visually from an array of mechanical dial gauges. For subsequent tests on sand with multiple layers of reinforcement, vertical deflections at the upper surface and at the reinforcement levels within the sand were logged using LVDT transducers.

#### 3.3.1 *Unreinforced Model*

A sand mass was placed inside the concrete rings over the base board with concentric trapdoor section. The lowering of the trapdoor was controlled by the use of a piston and jack; this allowed a simulation of the loss of support in a controlled manner. The vertical deflections of the sand at the surface as the trapdoor was lowered were then observed using the dial gauges. The laboratory model provided a platform to observe the soil movement patterns and soil surface deflections when support was lost.

##### 3.3.1.1 Test methodology: Unreinforced model

###### **Test apparatus:**

- Stacked concrete rings with a 100mm height and 900mm diameter
- Dry uncompacted sand, filled loosely to a 600mm height within the concrete rings
- Dial gauges set at various distances along the sand surface to measure sand deflection
- Piston and jack to represent the trapdoor by which the loss of soil support will be simulated.

###### **Test setup**

- The circular rings were stacked on top of one another and used to build a hollow cylindrical concrete structure (See Figure 3.3 below)
- The structure was filled with sand
- Dial gauges were set up at varying distances along the soil surface to measure vertical soil surface displacement.
- A 300mm void was cut into the board at the base of the model, the piston was aligned with the void. The jack was setup such that it lowers the 300mm trapdoor section.

- The soil within the concrete section was allowed to settle by lowering a piston at the base of the concrete structure in increments of 10mm ranging from 10 – 50mm.

In later experiments when reinforcement was present, the laboratory model was refined further. The trapdoor system by which the void was simulated was altered so that the diameter of the void could be changed. This allowed a variation in the H/D ratio of soil height to void diameter.



**Figure 3.3: 600mm height unreinforced model de Lange (2016)**



**Figure 3.2: Placement of dial gauges at soil surface in de Lange (2016) experimental model**

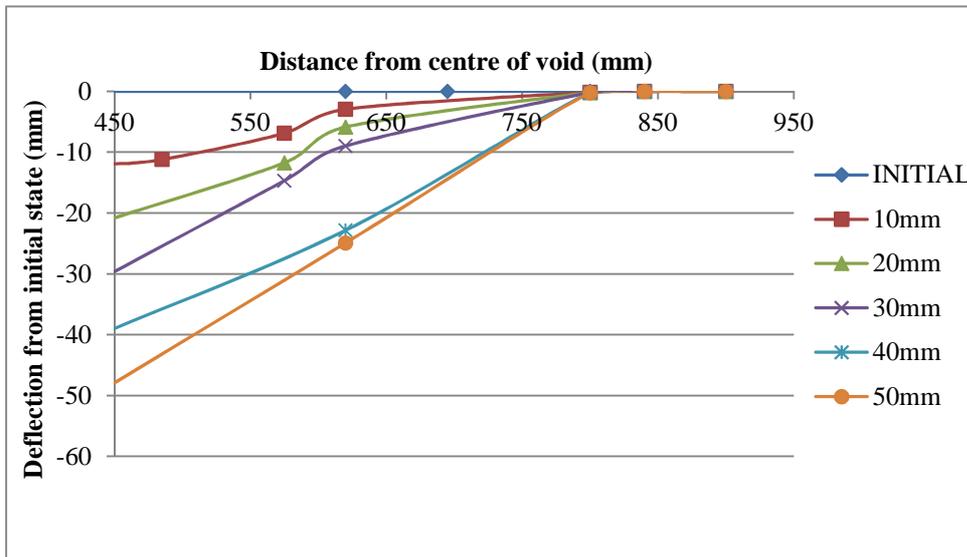
Figure 3.3 shows the model setup, the unreinforced model an overburden soil height of 600mm. Dial gauges were positioned as indicated above. The unreinforced model considered a range of overburden heights, 200, 300, 400, 600mm. The results presented below were for an overburden height of 300mm, the void diameter was kept constant at 300mm.



A hydraulic jack was used to lower the piston in increments of 10mm from 10mm – 50mm, in order to observe the soil surface deflections resulting from the loss of support. The soil remained in the 300mm diameter circular piston sheath as the piston was lowered.

**Figure 3.4 Hydraulic jack and piston system**

The unreinforced model formed a platform to observe the soil movement patterns when support was lost.



The 10mm increment stated in the legend represented the distance the piston was dropped. The overburden height

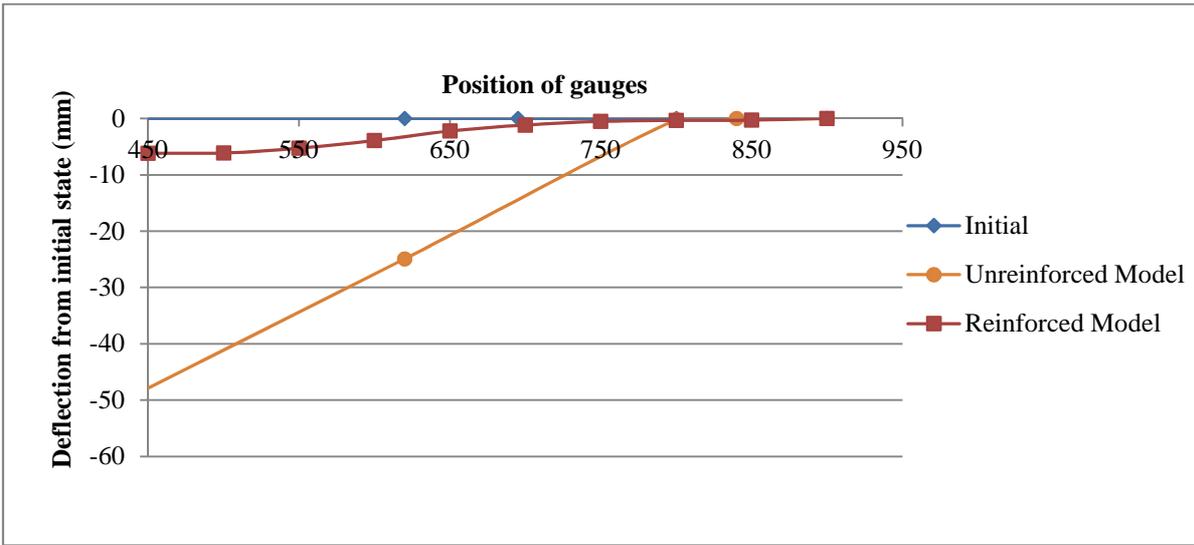
**Figure 3.5: Surface deflection obtained during the laboratory experiment on an unreinforced soil fill with a fill height of 300mm and a void diameter of 300mm.**

considered was 300mm and the void diameter is 300mm, hence  $H/D = 1$ . The results from the unreinforced model in terms of the soil surface deflection are presented in Figure 3.5 and are summarised in Table 3.1.

**Table 3.1: Summary of soil surface deflection results for an unreinforced soil fill**

H/D	Piston drop (mm)	Maximum surface deflection (mm)
1	0	0
	10	11.951
	20	20.904
	30	29.851
	40	39.152
	50	47.951

As the distance the piston drops increased the soil surface deflection increased. To establish that geosynthetic reinforcement had a positive effect in minimising soil surface deflections, a reinforced model with the same overburden height and void diameter was tested. The results obtained from the reinforced and unreinforced model were compared in Figure 3.6 below.



**Figure 3.6 Comparison between soil surface deflection results for an unreinforced soil fill mass and a basal reinforced soil mass with a 300mm height and 300mm diameter.**

As shown in Figure 3.6, the soil surface deflection decreased when reinforcement was present, indicating that the reinforcement had a positive effect in minimising the soil surface deflections.

### 3.3.2 Reinforced model

Now that it's been established that geosynthetic reinforcement helps minimise soil surface deflections, tests using basal and multiple layers of geosynthetic reinforcement were undertaken.

#### 3.3.2.1 Rationale

The British code BS8006:1995 and subsequently SANS 207:2006 provided a design approach on the use of basal geosynthetic reinforcement as a means of sinkhole and mining subsidence protection. Investigations into the use of multilayer geogrid reinforcement however have been less frequent and there are no existing design guides on it. The British code states that “The analysis of this technique (Multi-layered geogrid reinforcement) is complex and is not covered further in this code”, (British Code BS 8006, 1995). The gap in knowledge identified lead to de Lange (2016) developing the multi-layered model. The objective of the laboratory tests was to relate the soil surface deflection to the height of the soil, the number of geogrid layers used as well as the diameter of the void.

#### 3.3.2.2 Test methodology: Reinforced

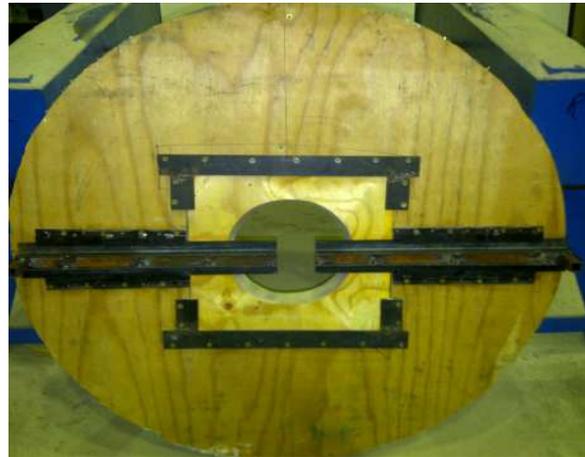
##### **Test apparatus:**

- 3 x concrete rings with a 100mm height and 900mm diameter
- Dry uncompacted sand, poured loosely to a 300mm height within the concrete rings
- LVDT's were set at various distances along the sand surface and on the reinforcement basal layer to measure displacement.
- Three trapdoor disks with a diameter of 150, 200, 300mm

##### **Test setup**

- The circular rings were stacked on top of one another and used to build a hollow cylindrical concrete structure.
- The sand was loosely filled into the rings to a height of 300mm

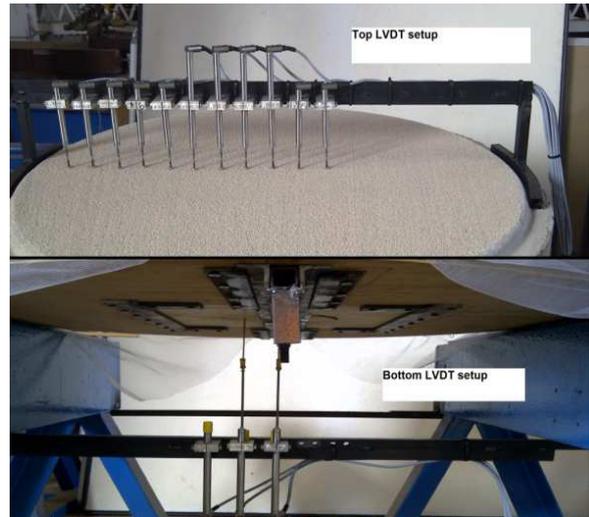
- A trapdoor disk was present at the base of the concrete ring structure. This trapdoor was gradually lowered in 10mm increments then removed completely in order to simulate a loss of support.
- The diameter of the trapdoor (representative of the sinkhole) was 150, 200, and 300mm.
- LVDT's (linear variable differential transformers) were placed at the sand surface and base in order to measure sand deflections.
- To simulate the geogrid reinforcement a layer of polyester mosquito mesh was placed at the base of the model and at 50mm intervals.
  - The polyester mesh was used instead of a geogrid layer due to the small scale of the experiment. The tensile strength provided by an actual geogrid layer would be too high and result in little to no soil surface deflections.
  - The polyester mesh was fine enough to prevent soil falling through the mesh apertures but coarse enough to allow particle interlock between the soil and the mesh.
  - The anchorage of the mesh layer to the concrete rings is explained further below



**Figure 3.7: Reinforced model with LVDTs    Figure 3.8: Trapdoor disk**

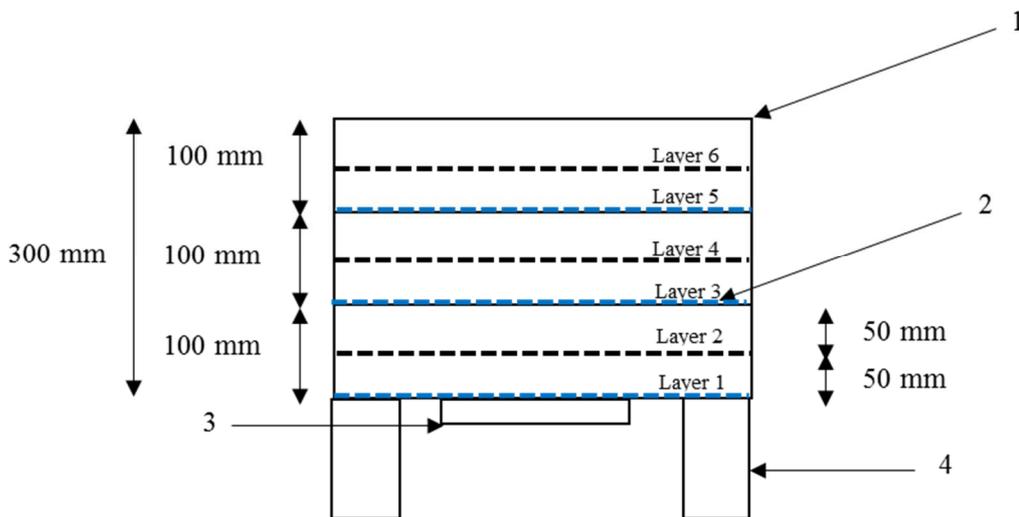


**Figure 3.9: Placement of reinforcement mesh layer**



**Figure 3.10: Placement of LVDT's at 50mm spacing**

Figure 3.8 shows the adjustable trapdoor disk used to simulate the 150, 200 and 300mm void. Figure 3.10 and Figure 3.9 show the placement of the reinforcement in the circular concrete rings as well as the position of the LVDT's (de Lange, 2016). The position of the geosynthetic reinforcement and the general layout of the model is shown in Figure 3.11.



**Figure 3.11: Sketch of test setup (de Lange, 2016)**

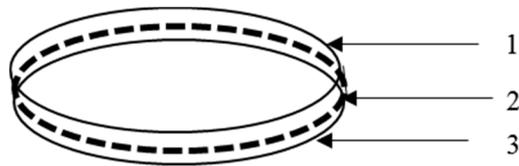
1 = Concrete rings

2 = Geogrid layers anchored every 50mm\*

3 = Trapdoor section

4 = Concrete ring stand

\* The geogrid layers displayed in blue are anchored between the concrete rings layers, the layers displayed in black are anchored as shown in Figure 3.12 below.



**Figure 3.12: Timber ring used for geogrid anchorage**

1 = Upper timber ring

2 = Geogrid layer

3 = Lower timber ring

The geogrid was glued between two timber rings and placed within the concrete rings at 50mm increments. The anchorage conditions prevented the fabric from slipping into the void when it formed. de Lange (2016) postulated that in field conditions interlocking between the geosynthetic and the soil as well as the overlap and anchorage lengths used onsite, would prevent the geosynthetic layer from slipping into the void. The anchorage conditions imposed on the geosynthetic were to prevent the said slippage of the geosynthetic occurring, and to model the anchorage effects provided onsite by frictional interlocking to a smaller scale.

Material tests undertaken to determine the properties of the fill layer and geosynthetic reinforcement are presented in Appendix B. The sand was poured in loosely, and uncompacted.

Madabhushi (2011) stated that soil behaves in a nonlinear and plastic manner. Due to soil being nonlinear, it cannot simply be modelled at a small scale. In a centrifuge, a gravitational acceleration is applied to the soil sample, to increase the stress/strain within the soil mass and provide more accurate results. de Lange (2016) states that “To generate significant stresses in the reinforcing fabric and it is planned to repeat these tests in a centrifuge in order to increase the stress levels. However, displacements under normal gravity were measured to an accuracy sufficient to provide useful information.” At this stage, testing using a centrifuge is still to be performed and is planned as future research.

### 3.3.2.3 Results: soil surface deflection

The experimental model results from (de Lange, 2016) are presented in section 3.3.2.3 below. Three different design geometries are considered, the sand height remained constant at 300mm while the diameter of the void increases from 150, 200, 300mm. The number of layers of geosynthetic reinforcement used was increased from 1 – 6 layers.

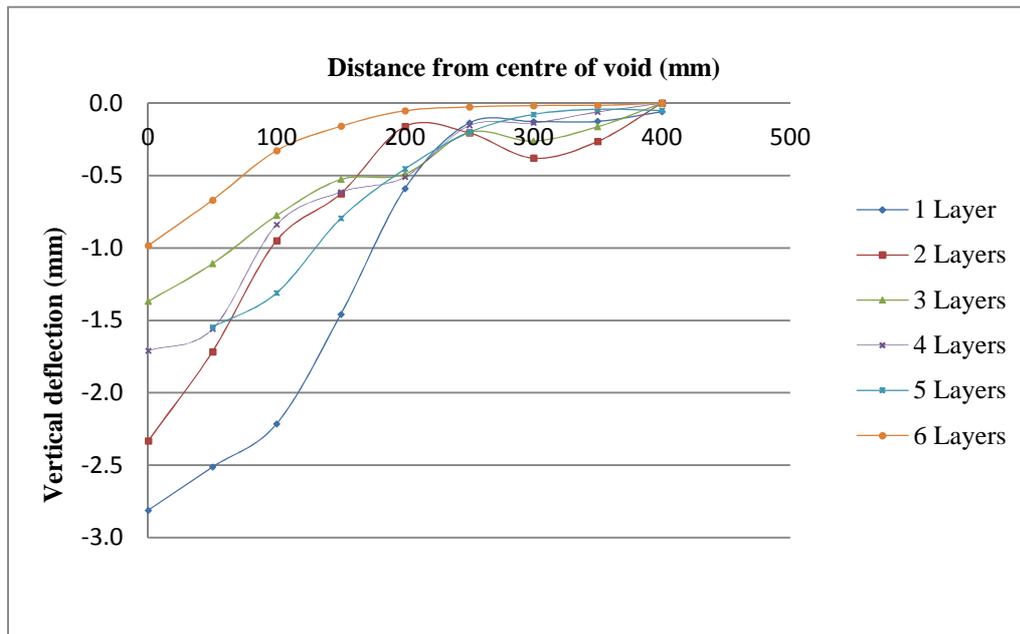
- i.  $D = 150\text{mm}$ ,  $H/D = 2$

**Table 3.2: Experimental model soil surface deflections  $H/D = 2$**

<b>D = 150mm</b>						
<b>Distance from centre of void (mm)</b>	<b>Vertical deflection (mm)</b>					
	<b>1 Layer</b>	<b>2 Layers</b>	<b>3 Layers</b>	<b>4 Layers</b>	<b>5 Layers</b>	<b>6 Layers</b>
0	-2.023	-1.754	-1.205	-1.153	-1.205	-1.103
50	-1.851	-1.652	-1.153	-1.011	-1.153	-1.072
100	-1.68	-1.512	-1.021	-0.753	-0.755	-0.751
150	-0.914	-0.902	-0.654	-0.451	-0.404	-0.405
200	-0.521	-0.431	-0.422	-0.283	-0.272	-0.253
250	-0.133	-0.121	-0.126	-0.112	-0.113	-0.112
300	-0.124	-0.103	-0.091	-0.091	-0.093	-0.081
350	-0.112	-0.091	-0.081	-0.082	-0.064	-0.052
400	0	-0.081	-0.06	-0.05	-0.05	-0.04
450	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 3.2 above shows the soil deflection measured using dial gauges at various positions along the soil surface (x).

From Figure 3.13 a slight decrease in soil deflection with the addition of the second layer of reinforcement was observed.



**Figure 3.13: Vertical soil surface deflection obtained from experimental model for an H/D = 2**

The addition of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> layer created a considerable decrease in soil deflection. There was a slight increase in deflection with the addition of the 5<sup>th</sup> layer

of reinforcement and again an expected reduction with the inclusion of the 6<sup>th</sup> layer. The general trend observed is a decrease in settlement with an increase in the number of reinforcement layers used.

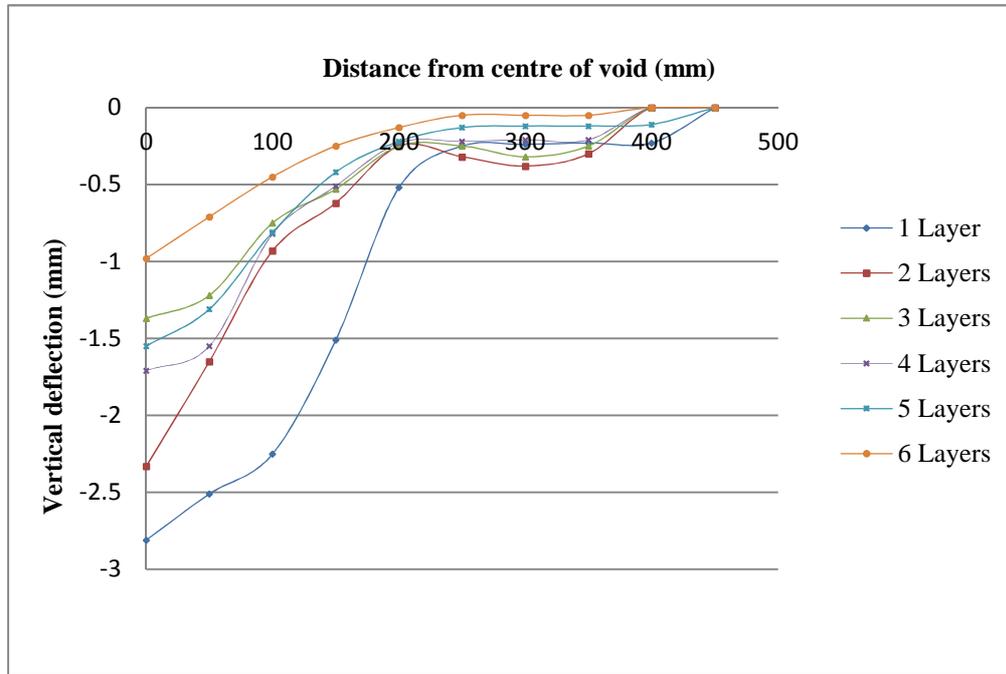
ii. D = 200mm, H/D = 1.5

The void diameter is increased to 200mm and the results of which are tabulated in Table 3.3

**Table 3.3: Experimental model soil surface deflections H/D = 1.5**

Distance from centre of void (mm)	D = 200mm					
	Vertical deflection (mm)					
	1 layer	2 layers	3 layers	4 layers	5 layers	6 layers
0	-2.812	-2.333	-1.370	-1.711	-1.547	-0.983
50	-2.513	-1.717	-1.109	-1.560	-1.311	-0.670
100	-2.215	-0.950	-0.777	-0.839	-0.796	-0.328
150	-1.459	-0.625	-0.527	-0.614	-0.454	-0.159
200	-0.590	-0.161	-0.489	-0.511	-0.201	-0.052
250	-0.137	-0.205	-0.201	-0.155	-0.078	-0.026
300	-0.126	-0.380	-0.261	-0.136	-0.041	-0.016
350	-0.126	-0.265	-0.163	-0.061	-0.051	-0.014

400	-0.059	0	0	0	0	0
450	0	0	0	0	0	0



In Figure 3.14 a gradual reduction in the soil surface deflection with the addition of the 2nd and 3rd layers was observed. The inclusion of the 4th layer of reinforcement showed an unexpected

**Figure 3.14: Vertical soil surface deflection obtained from experimental model for an  $H/D = 1.5$**

increase in surface deflection. There was once again a gradual decrease in deflection with the addition of the 5th and 6th layer. In previous studies performed by Blivet et al. (2002) similar variances in the soil surface deflection were observed with the inclusion of multi-layered reinforcement. This unexpected result was attributed to the occurrence of soil arching. When support of some part of the soil mass is lost, the soil will want to move downward due to self-weight. The shearing between the soil in motion and the unaffected stationary soil opposes the downward motion. This results in a redistribution of some of the vertical stresses to horizontal stress, creating the soil arching effect.

If the redistribution of stress takes place at a particular soil height and the soil at this level is disturbed (in this case by the inclusion of a geogrid layer) at the critical height, the arching mechanism will break down. de Lange (2016) attributed the sudden increase in deflection when

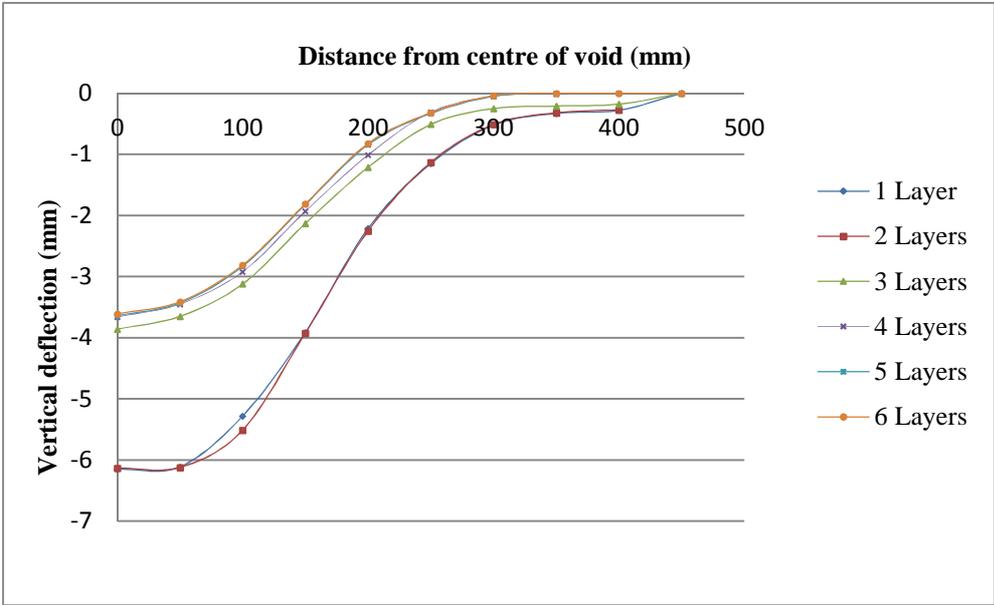
the 4th layer was placed to a breakdown of the soil arching as the geogrid added a horizontal plane of weakness and negated the effect of soil arching as a load transfer mechanism.

iii. D = 300mm, H/D = 1

The void diameter was increased to 300mm and tabulated in Table 3.4.

**Table 3.4: Experimental model soil surface deflections H/D = 1**

D = 300mm						
Distance from centre of void (mm)	Vertical deflection (mm)					
	1 Layer	2 Layers	3 Layers	4 Layers	5 Layers	6 Layers
0	-6.151	-6.133	-3.864	-3.661	-3.642	-3.612
50	-6.112	-6.124	-3.654	-3.452	-3.431	-3.411
100	-5.284	-5.513	-3.125	-2.922	-2.837	-2.811
150	-3.912	-3.922	-2.131	-1.933	-1.823	-1.812
200	-2.213	-2.254	-1.213	-1.011	-0.841	-0.821
250	-1.153	-1.134	-0.512	-0.314	-0.333	-0.322
300	-0.521	-0.514	-0.252	-0.051	-0.052	-0.041
350	-0.331	-0.323	-0.213	-0.011	0	0
400	-0.284	-0.272	-0.181	0.023	0	0
450	0	0	0	0	0	0



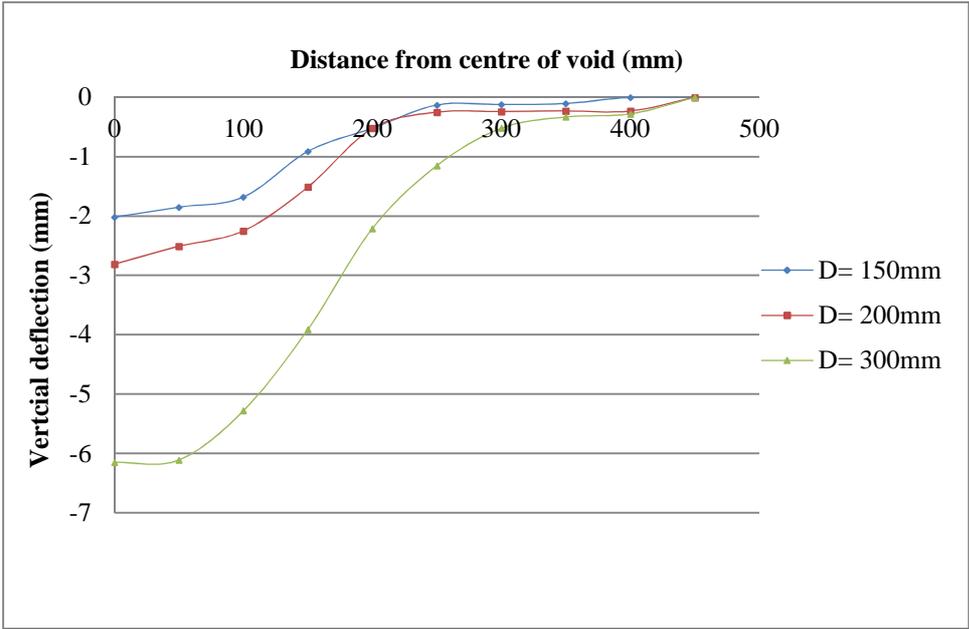
The addition of the second layer of reinforcement 50mm above the basal layer showed no significant difference in the surface deflection.

**Figure 3.15 Vertical soil surface deflection obtained from experimental model for an H/D = 1**

This was similar to the results obtained in Figure 3.13 (D=150mm). As the 3rd and 4th layers were added there was a marked difference in the surface deflection. Layers 5 and 6 did not cause any noticeable effect in decreasing the soil deflection further.

3.3.2.4 Experimental model results with increasing void diameter:

The results presented below are a comparison between the soil surface deflections obtained when the void diameter was increased.

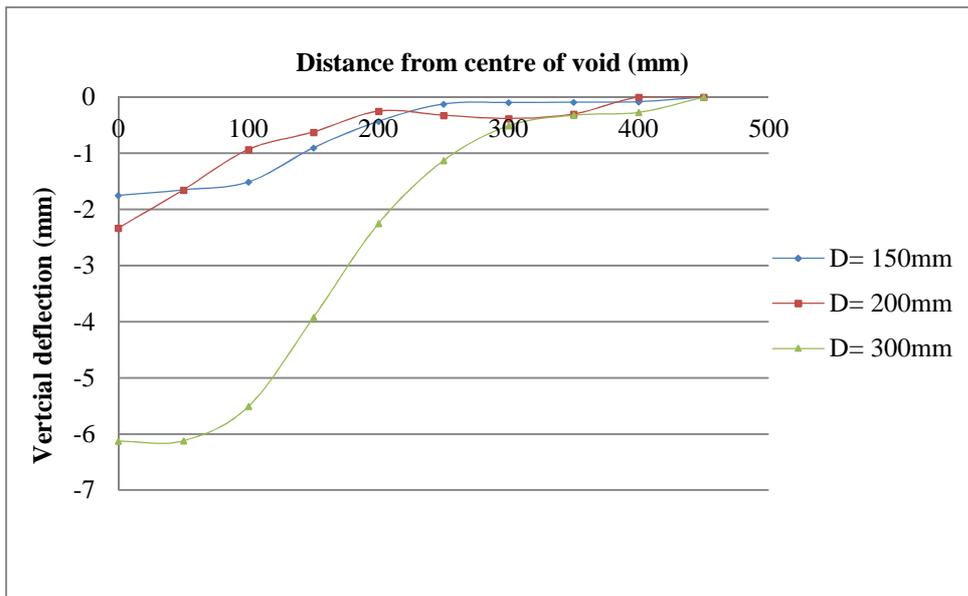


**Figure 3.16: Effect of increasing void diameter on vertical soil deflection with a single layer of geosynthetic reinforcement present.**

The soil surface deflection shows an increase with increasing void diameter. The diameter of the settlement cone was the same when the void diameter was 150 and 200mm. The settlement cone diameter increases when the void diameter was increased to 300mm.

diameter was increased to 300mm.

Similar results were observed when multi-layered geosynthetic reinforcement was used as shown in Figure 3.17 below.

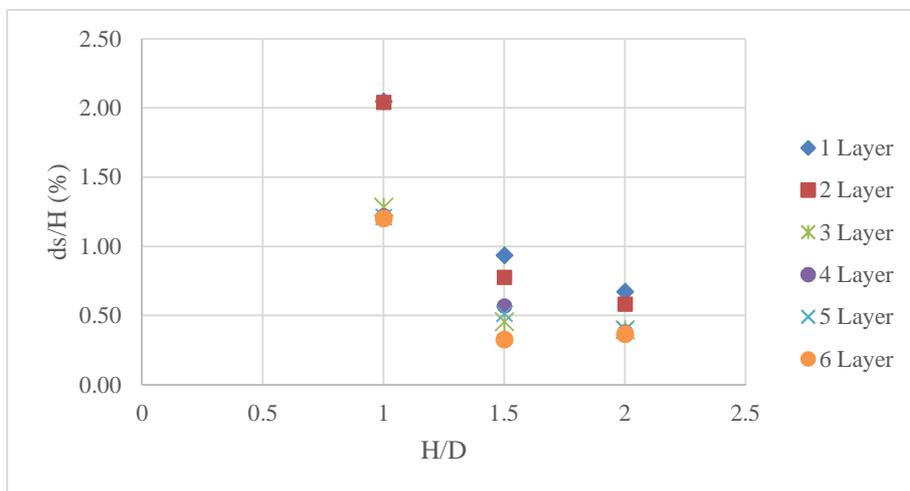


The general trend was an increase in soil surface deflections with increasing void diameter as would be expected

**Figure 3.17: Effect of increasing void diameter on vertical soil deflection with 2 layers of geosynthetic reinforcement present**

### 3.3.2.5 Summary of results

Figure 3.18 below is the ratio of surface deflection to embankment height for the 3 H/D ratios.



The ratio of surface settlement to embankment height halves when H/D is increased from 1 to 1.5. Beyond H/D = 1.5, the settlement decrease is less apparent.

**Figure 3.18: Maximum vertical deflections along the centreline at the 3 H/D ratios**

### 3.3.2.6 Summary of findings:

From the laboratory model it was evident that the presence of geosynthetic reinforcement in a soil mass helped minimise soil surface deflections. The degree to which the deflections are minimised however depended on various factors, e.g. soil arching, H/D ratio, number of reinforcement layers used. Theoretically increasing the number of geosynthetic layers should decrease the soil surface deflections. In most cases of the laboratory experiment this theoretical assumption holds true. However, in some cases the results were unpredictable when multiple reinforcement layers are introduced. The propensity of the soil towards arching affected the outcome of the test results, causing variations.

When  $H/D = 1$ , reinforcing the model above mid-height did not result in any further improvement in relative settlement, and no soil arching was observed at the lower H/D ratio. When  $H/D \geq 1.5$ , the soil fill exhibited arching behaviour, that tended to be disrupted when multiple layers of reinforcement were present. de Lange (2016) postulates that when multiple reinforcement layers are present, the occurrence of soil arching was minimised as the reinforcement layers caused discontinuities in the soil mass.

The diameter of the settlement cone tended to increase with an increase in void diameter, as expected. The angle of draw that dictated the diameter of the soil surface cone is approximately  $60^\circ$ . SANS 207 assumes that the angle of void propagation is equal to the angle of shearing resistance of the soil ( $41^\circ$ , refer to Table 5.1 in Chapter 5) while the RAFAEL method assumes the angle to be perpendicular. From the results obtained it was observed that neither of these assumptions hold true, the analytical calculations are further investigated in Chapter 4. The laboratory results were used to validate the numerical model in the ensuing chapters.

## 4. CHAPTER 4: COMPARISON OF MODEL DATA WITH CURRENT DESIGN METHODS FOR BASAL REINFORCEMENT

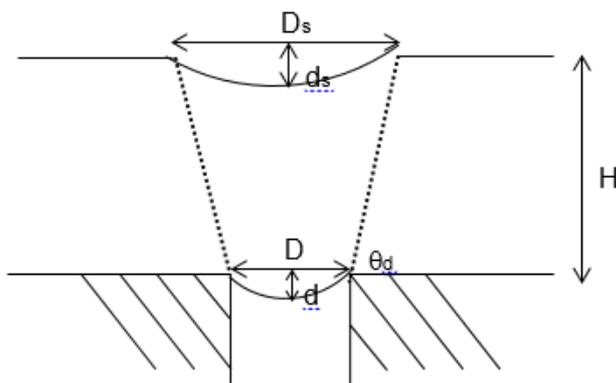
The existing guide for designing geosynthetic reinforcement as basal geosynthetic reinforcement in the South African environment is SANS 207: 2006. The preceding chapters have covered actual laboratory simulations, given this real life data, the SANS 207 calculations were performed and compared to the laboratory data. This serves to test the validity of the SANS 207 assumptions. Section 2.8.1 provided an overview of the design techniques employed in SANS 207. In addition to SANS 207, the design approach developed by the RAFAEL team was also considered.

### 4.1 Analytical investigation: Reinforced model

In the reinforced experimental model developed in de Lange (2016) the soil surface deflections and geogrid deflections were calculated using the analytical design method stated in SANS 207 as well as the RAFAEL method. This could only be performed for the basal layer, as multiple layers of reinforcement are not considered in either design methodology.

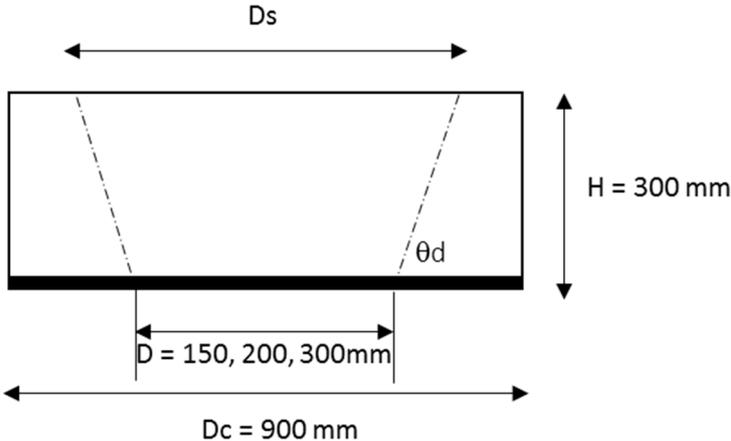
#### 4.1.1 SANS 207:2006

Figure 4.1 shows the manner in which the void is assumed to propagate when determining the tensile strength required for a basal layer of reinforcement according to SANS 207: 2006.



**Figure 4.1: Propagation of subgrade void assumed geometry in a basally reinforced soil fill layer (South African National Standard SANS 207, 2006)**

de Lange (2016) used a laboratory scale model of cohesion less sand to assess geometrical influences on the “angle of draw”.



**Figure 4.2 Schematic representation of the experimental model performed by de Lange (2016) with a variation in void diameter.**

H = 300mm

D = 150, 200, 300mm

\* $\theta_d$  = Angle of draw = soil friction angle ( $41^\circ$ )

Dc = Inside diameter of concrete rings = 900mm

d = Unknown

$d_s$  = Unknown

$D_s$  = Unknown

A void diameter of 300mm was used in the calculations presented below. The same calculations were performed for 150, 200mm voids and tabulated.

\*SANS 207 assumed that the angle of draw was equal to the soils angle of shearing resistance (Refer to section 2.8.1). In triaxle tests performed by Sparks (2012), the sand used in de Lange (2016) experimental model was tested and yielded an average angle of shearing resistance of  $41^\circ$  (See appendix B).

i. Calculating  $D_s$ :



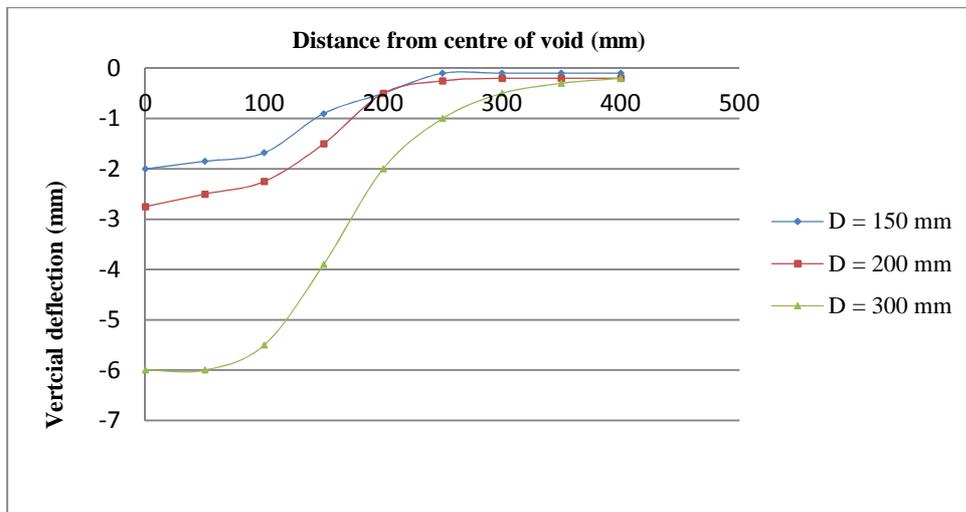
If it is assumed that the angle of draw = the angle of shearing resistance then:

$$D_s = 2 * \frac{H}{\tan \theta_d} + D$$

$D_s = 986\text{mm}$

The diameter of the concrete rings containing the sand was 900mm, the settlement cone diameter is thus too large as it surpassed the 900mm limit. This in turn indicated that the selected angle of draw according to the design method set out in SANS 207 was incorrect.

de Lange (2016) used his model data to assess the value of the angle of draw which he found to be larger than the angle of shearing resistance and within the small range investigated, relatively insensitive to H/D.



**Figure 4.3 Laboratory results: Vertical soil surface deflection with basal reinforcement present for a varying void diameter de Lange (2016).**

The results from Figure 4.3 in terms of the settlement cone diameter were summarised and presented in Table 4.1 below.

**Table 4.1: Diameter of settlement cone according to laboratory data and the subsequent angle of draw**

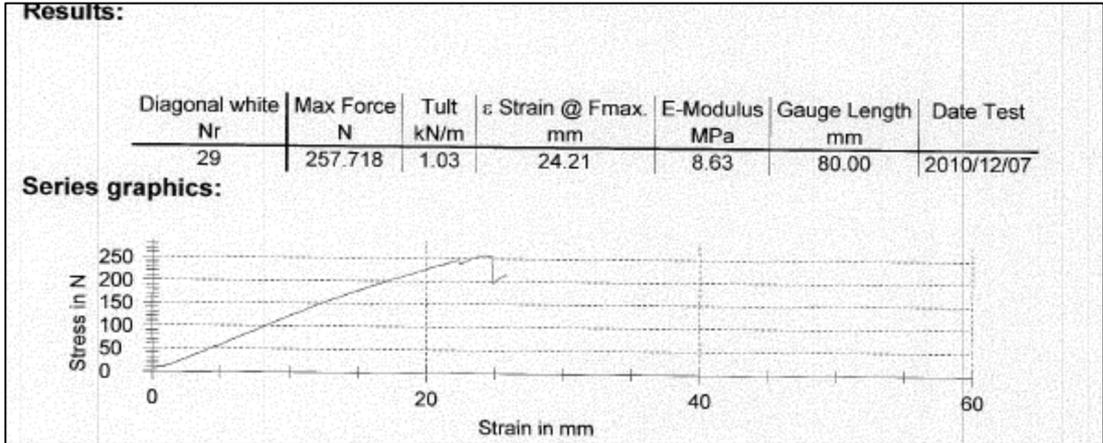
D (mm)	Ds (mm)	$\theta_d$
150	500	59.74
200	500	63.43
300	700	56.31

ii. Calculating ds:

The equation describing the maximum geosynthetic strain in SANS: 207 is shown below:

$$\epsilon_{max} = \frac{8\left(\frac{d_s^2}{D_s^2}\right)\left(D + \frac{2H}{\tan\theta_d}\right)^6}{3D^6}$$

The geosynthetic fabric used in de Lange (2016) underwent testing in Kaytech’s geosynthetic laboratory facility (An ISO 17025 accredited laboratory). The strain at the maximum force in the geogrid layer was tested in Geosynthetics Laboratory and yielded the following results:



**Figure 4.4: Geosynthetic testing results obtained from Geosynthetic Laboratory**

(See Appendix A for full results page)

Using the results for the maximum strain before rupture, the surface settlement of the deflection cone was calculated:

$\epsilon_{max} = \text{Elongation} / \text{Gauge length}$

$$\begin{aligned}\epsilon_{max} &= 24.21/80 \\ &= 0.3026\end{aligned}$$

Substituting into equation:

$$0.3026 = [8 * (\frac{d_s^2}{700^2}) * (700.15)^6] / 3 * 300^6$$

$$6.617 * 10^{14} = 1.923 * 10^{12} * d_s^2$$

$$d_s = 18.551 \text{ mm}$$

iii. Calculating d:

$$\epsilon_{max} = \frac{8d^2}{3D^2}$$

$$0.3026 = (8 * d^2) / (3 * 300^2)$$

$$d = 101.062 \text{ mm}$$

The complete results including the range of void diameters was drawn up in Table 4.2

**Table 4.2: Expected vertical surface settlements using SANS 207 design method**

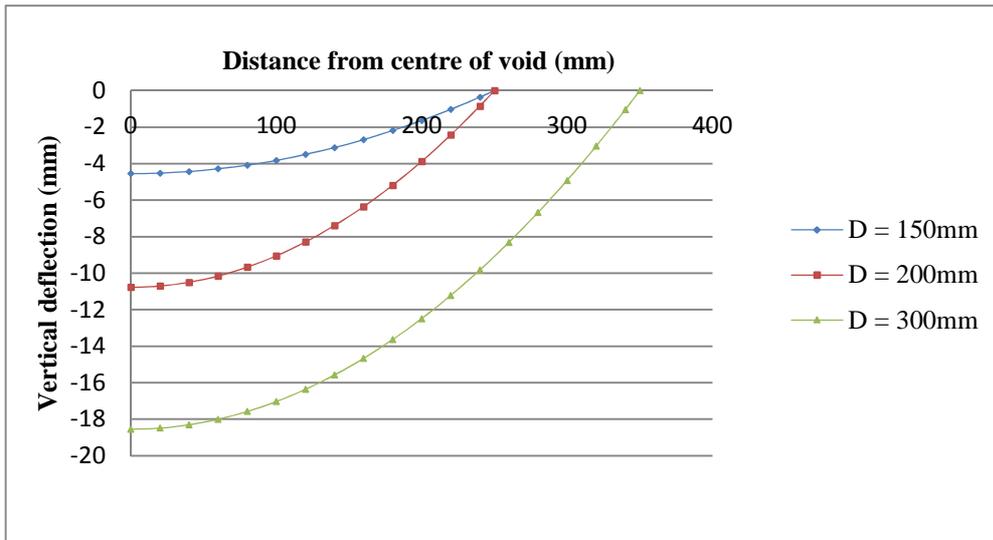
SANS207	D (mm)		
	150	200	300
Ds (mm)	500	500	700
ds (mm)	-4.546	-10.776	-18.551
d(mm)	-50.529	-67.374	-101.062

#### 4.1.1.1 Soil surface deflection: SANS 207

Using the results obtained in Table 4.2, a graph representing the soil surface deflection patterns estimated by SANS 207 was drawn up and shown in

Figure 4.5. SANS 207 assumes that the surface deflection is parabolic, using this assumption the soil surface deflection points were estimated and plotted using the equation:

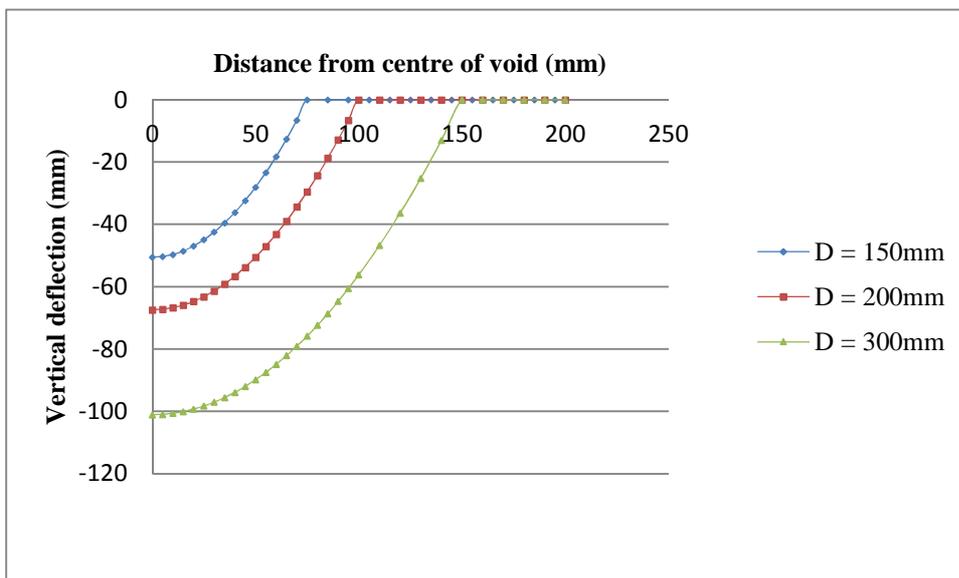
$$y = \frac{4d_s x^2}{D_s^2} - d_s$$



**Figure 4.5: Vertical soil surface deflection calculated using SANS 207**

4.1.1.2 Deflected shape of geogrid:

SANS 207 assumes the deflected shape of the geosynthetic fabric is parabolic. Table 4.2 results in terms of maximum geosynthetic deflection were used to develop Figure 4.6 below.



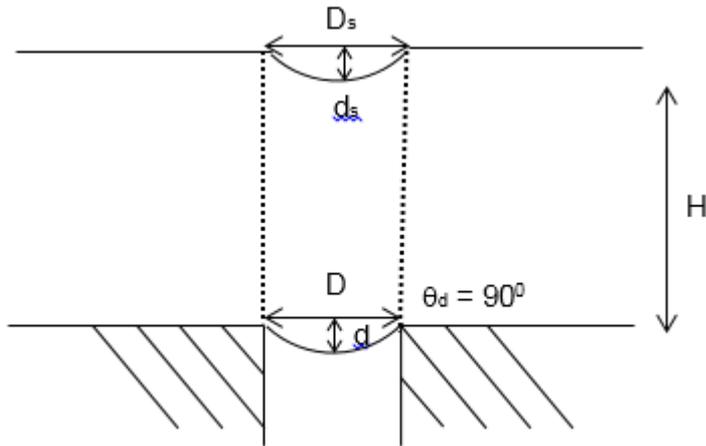
**Figure 4.6: Vertical geogrid deflection calculated using SANS 207**

The equation governing the shape of the geogrid deflection was as follows:

$$y = \frac{4dx^2}{D^2} - d$$

#### 4.1.2 RAFAEL Method:

In the RAFAEL approach, it is assumed that the diameter of the soil surface deflection cone is the same as the diameter of the void, i.e. the angle of void propagation is  $90^\circ$ .



**Figure 4.7 Propagation of subgrade void assumed by RAFAEL**

The laboratory model geometry was considered

$$H = 300\text{mm}$$

$$D = 150, 200, 300\text{mm}$$

$$d = \text{Unknown}$$

$$d_s = \text{Unknown}$$

$D_s = D$  (void diameter represents the diameter of the settlement cone due to the angle of void propagation being  $90^\circ$ )

For the calculation a void diameter of 150mm was considered, the same calculations were performed for 200, 300mm voids and tabulated.

- i. Calculating  $D_s$ :

For the RAFAEL investigation it was postulated that the failure zone in the supported soil takes the form of a cylinder directly above the void.

From this assumption  $D = D_s$

Consider the model with  $D = 300\text{mm}$

$D_s$  is subsequently equal to  $300\text{mm}$

ii. Calculating  $d$ :

Section 2.8.2 provided an overview of the RAFAEL approach. The equation for maximum geosynthetic strain assumed by RAFAEL is the same as SANS 207, hence the shape of the deflected geosynthetic was the same from both design approaches.

Using equation:

$$\varepsilon_{max} = \frac{8d^2}{3D^2}$$

$$0.302 = (8*d^2) / (3*300^2)$$

$$d = 101.062 \text{ mm}$$

iii. Calculating  $d_s$ :

Using equation:

$$d_s = d - 2H(C_e - 1)$$

Where  $C_e$  is the coefficient of soil expansion.

Villard, et al., (2000) provided the following equation for  $C_e$ :

$$C_e = \frac{V_{se}}{V_s}$$

Where  $V_{se}$  = the de-compacted soil volume ( $\text{m}^3$ )

$V_s$  = soil volume prior to de-compaction ( $\text{m}^3$ )

According to Potts (2007) the coefficient of soil expansion is 1.15 for granular fill layers

$$d_s = 50.531 - (2*300)*(1.15-1)$$

$$= -39.469 \text{ mm (Upward heave)}$$

The experimental data does not show any such heave taking place, indicating that the selected coefficient of soil expansion was too high. A revised value for  $C_e$  was selected based on recommendations from the German design guide EBGeo: 2011 which states that:

$C_e = 1.03$  for round grained material,  $C_e = 1.05$  for crushed aggregate

$$d_s = 50.531 - (2 \cdot 300) \cdot (1.03 - 1)$$

$$d_s = 32.531 \text{ mm}$$

The complete results including different void diameters was drawn up in Table 4.3

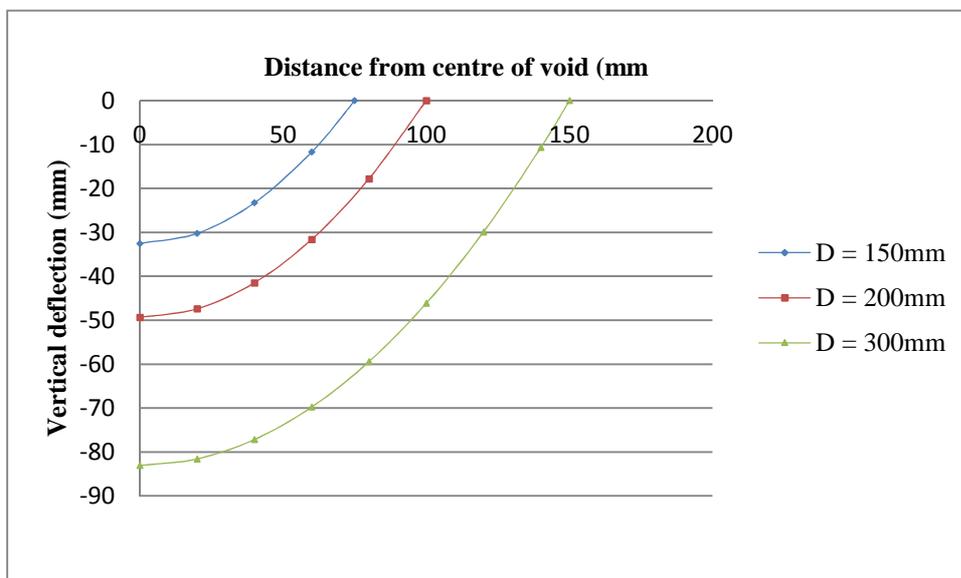
**Table 4.3: Expected vertical soil surface deflection using RAFAEL design method**

RAFAEL	D (mm)		
	150	200	300
Ds (mm)	150	200	300
ds (mm)	-32.531	-49.374	-83.062
d(mm)	-50.531	-67.374	-101.062

#### 4.1.2.1 Soil surface deflection: RAFAEL

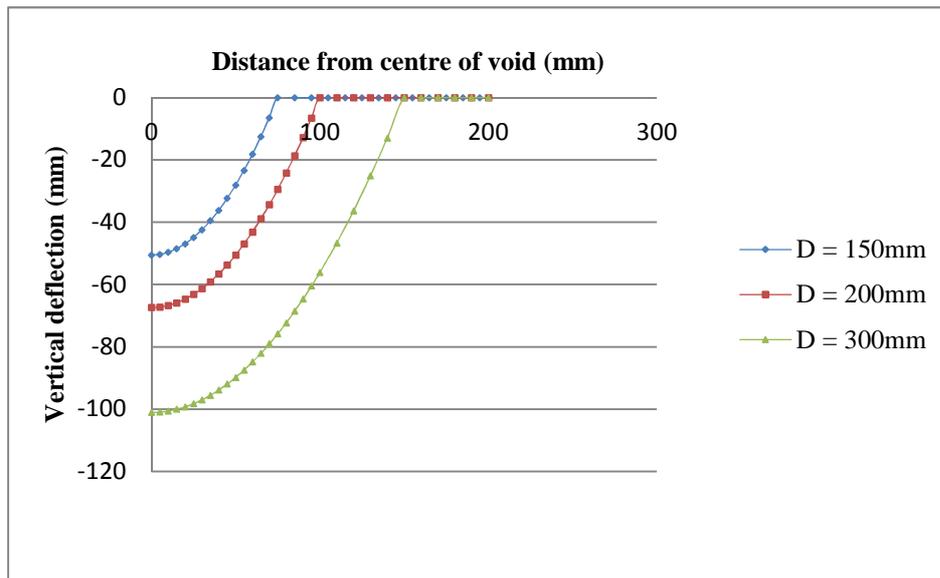
RAFAEL assumed that the surface deflection was parabolic. The equation governing the shape of the soil surface deflection was as follows:

$$y = \frac{4d_s x^2}{D_s^2} - d_s$$



**Figure 4.8: Vertical soil surface deflection representing de Lange (2016) experimental test calculated using RAFAEL assumptions.**

#### 4.1.2.2 Deflected shape of geogrid RAFAEL:



RAFAEL assumed that the geogrid deflection was parabolic or circular.

**Figure 4.9 Geogrid deflection representing de Lange (2016) experimental test calculated using RAFAEL assumptions.**

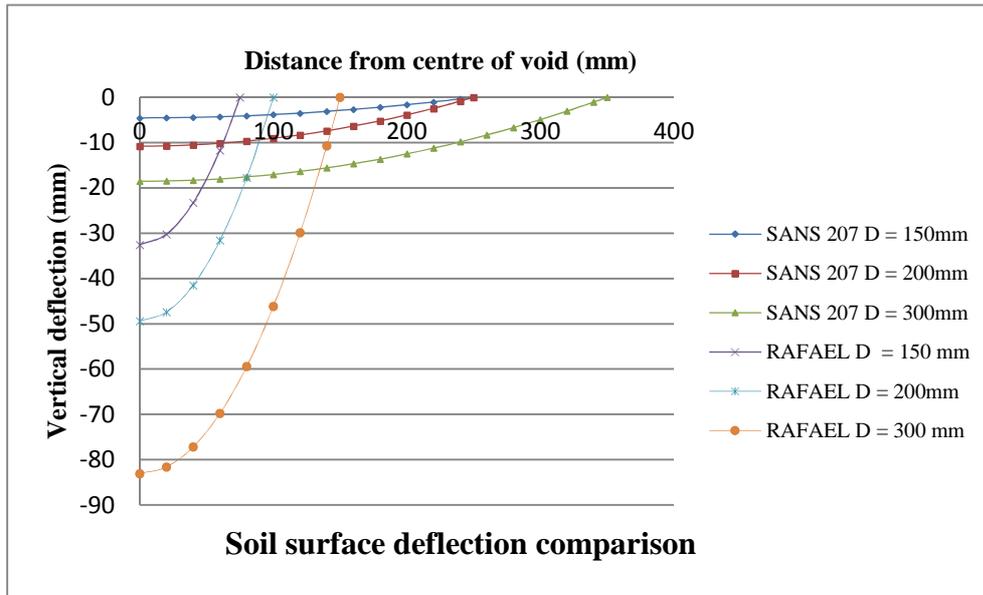
The equation governing the shape of the geogrid deflection is as follows:

$$y = \frac{4dx^2}{D^2} - d$$

#### 4.2 Comparison between analytical methods and laboratory data

The RAFAEL method of estimating soil/geogrid deflections differs from the SANS 207 methodology in that it takes soil dilation into account and the angle of draw differs. The angle of sinkhole propagation is assumed to be  $90^0$ , and only the cylinder of soil directly above the void experiences displacement. SANS 207 assumes that the void causes a deflection cone governed by an angle of propagation (Taken as the soils angle of internal friction).

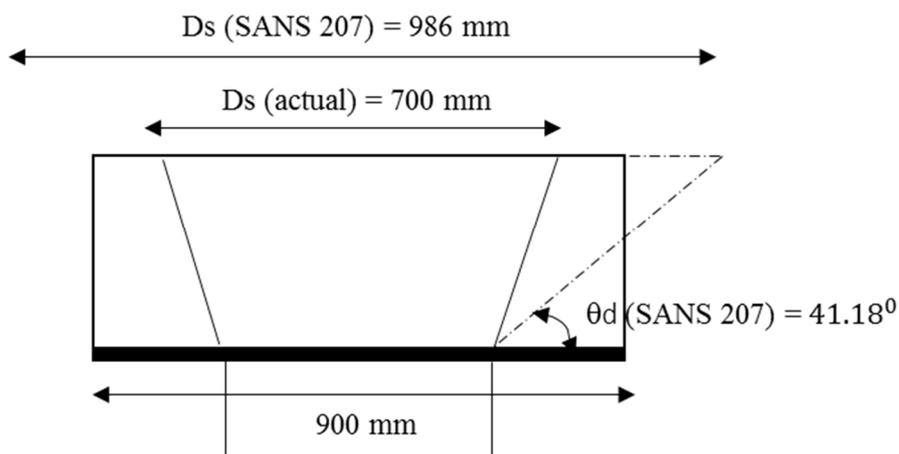
Figure 4.10 below illustrates a comparison between the soil surface deflection profiles estimated using the SANS 207 and RAFAEL methodology. The soil surface deflection estimations from both the analytical methods differ. The RAFAEL assumptions tend to be larger surface deflections concentrated over a small diameter ( $D = D_s$ ). The SANS 207 assumptions provide a shallower wider area of effect.



**Figure 4.10 Vertical soil surface deflection comparison between SANS 207 and RAFAEL design methodology**

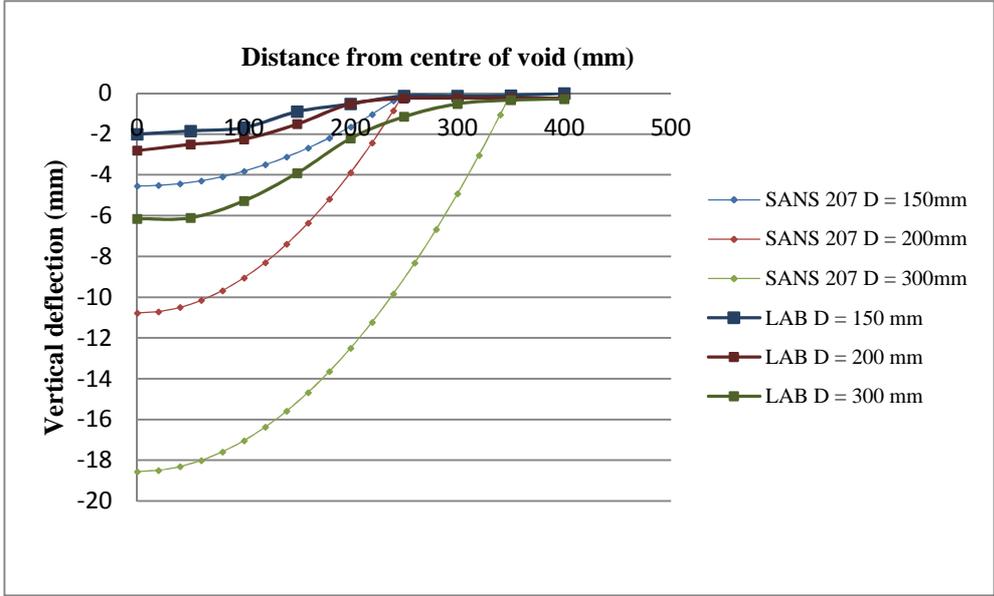
**4.2.1 Analytical results: SANS 207 vs Experimental data**

The previous calculations indicated that SANS 207 overestimated the diameter of the soil surface settlement cone. This was due to the low angle of draw ( $\theta_d$ ) assumed by SANS 207 ( $\theta_d = \text{Angle of internal friction} = 41^\circ$ ). Consider the model where  $D_s = 300$  mm. The laboratory results of de Lange (2016) suggested an angle of draw of about  $60^\circ$ .



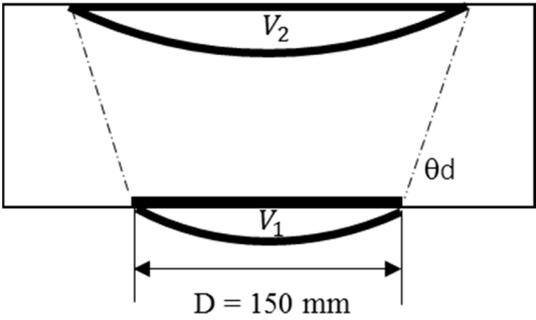
**Figure 4.11: Schematic of laboratory test set up by de Lange (2016) showing SANS 207 estimations of the settlement cone diameter**

Figure 4.11 above showed the overestimation of the soil settlement cone from the SANS 207 methodology. This indicated that SANS 207 overestimates the area of effect the sinkhole had on the soil surface. When the actual cone diameter was used, the following results were plotted against the de Lange (2016) laboratory results and shown in Figure 4.12 below.



**Figure 4.12 Vertical soil surface deflection comparison between de Lange (2016) experimental results and SANS 207 calculations.**

SANS 207 assumed that the volume of soil displaced at the level of the geosynthetic layer was equal to the volume of the soil settlement cone at the soil surface, as shown in Figure 4.13 below ( $V_1 = V_2$ )



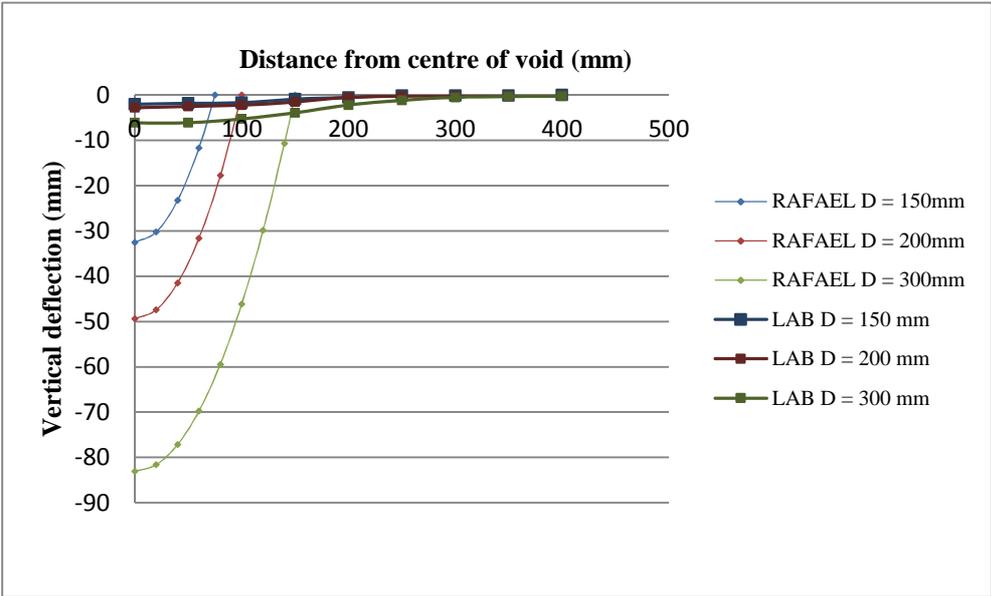
For the volumes to be the same, no soil dilation or arching must take place. In Figure 4.12 the actual laboratory data exhibits lower soil surface settlements, indicating that soil dilation and/or arching has taken place.

**Figure 4.13: Schematic of de Lange (2016) experimental model test showing the deflected shape of the geosynthetic and surface settlement cone.**

This lead to the conclusion that SANS 207 overestimates the surface area affected by a subgrade void and does not take into account soil dilation or arching, which compromised the accuracy of the results.

**4.2.2 Analytical results: RAFAEL vs Experimental data**

The RAFAEL method differed from SANS 207 in that it took soil dilation into account. It also assumed that the void did not propagate outward, but caused a tunnel like soil surface collapse i.e.  $\theta_d = 90^\circ$ . Comparison between the RAFAEL results and actual laboratory data yielded the following results:



**Figure 4.14 Vertical soil surface deflection comparison between de Lange (2016) experimental results and RAFAEL calculations.**

The cone diameter estimated by RAFAEL was too small, the method underestimates the area affected by the subgrade void. RAFAEL estimates larger soil surface settlements, due to the void affecting a smaller more concentrated area. The settlement results estimated when using the German design guides EBGEO: 2011 coefficient of expansion was still inaccurate, as the deflections were now largely over predicted. Using de Lange (2016) experimental data, the coefficient of expansion can be calculated:

$$d_s = d - 2H(C_e - 1)$$

For H/D = 1.5,  $d_s = -2.81$  mm and  $d = -7.39$  mm.

Hence  $C_e = 1.0076$ , which is lower than the expansion coefficient assumed by both Potts (2007) and the German design guide EBGEO: 2011 for granular fill layers.

$$C_e = \frac{V_{se}}{V_s}$$

Where  $V_{se}$  = the de-compacted soil volume ( $m^3$ )

$V_s$  = soil volume prior to de-compaction ( $m^3$ )

Hence soil expansion/dilation does take place in the experimental model, the degree to which expansion occurs however is over predicted by the Potts (2007) and German code design assumptions. The degree of expansion however must be further investigated as meaningful conclusions with regard to the  $C_e$  value of the soil cannot be made based on one available set of data.

#### **4.2.3 Comments:**

Both analytical design methods had limitations when estimating the diameter of the soil surface settlement cone. SANS 207 tended to overestimate while RAFAEL underestimates  $D_s$ . SANS 207 did not take soil dilation into account, this leads to a larger settlement value. Although RAFAEL accounted for soil dilation, the deflection values estimated were still too high when compared to the laboratory data. This was due to the concentration of the surface settlements to directly above the void. The degree of soil dilation depended on the coefficient of expansion  $C_e$ . A coefficient of expansion of 1.15 used in Potts (2007) for granular soil was too high and resulted in the soil heaving upward. The revised value for  $C_e$  of 1.03 used in the German design guide EBGEO: 2011 resulted in a significant increase in the soil surface deflections but the deflections calculated were far higher than the actual laboratory results. In order to determine the actual  $C_e$  further laboratory tests and investigations must take place.

## 5. CHAPTER 5: NUMERICAL MODEL DEVELOPMENT

### 5.1 Numerical model:

#### 5.1.1 Rationale:

In order to perform the numerical analysis, the Strand 7 finite element analysis program was used. In previous investigations performed by Kae (2003) and Grabe (2003), Strand 7 was used in geotechnical applications showcasing the benefits geosynthetic reinforcement provided to a railway formation in terms of stress reduction. Numerical modelling was beneficial in that various model parameters were altered with relative ease. Performing similar parameter changes to a laboratory model would be more time consuming.

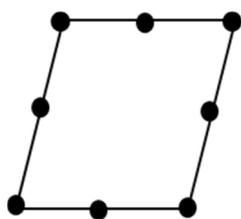
#### 5.1.2 Basal reinforcement:

The development of the FEM model required the following general steps:

- Selection of type of element
- Selection of type of model analysis
- Input of model geometry
- Selection of model mesh structure
- Input of restraint conditions
- Input of loading conditions
- Selection of material characteristics for sand fill and geosynthetic
- Setting model staging

#### 5.1.3 Type of element

The soil was modelled using 8-noded quadratic plate soil elements as shown in Figure 5.1:



The presence of the mid-side nodes allowed the elements to be curved. For the sake of simplicity and to decrease computational time, 2D analysis was used. The type of element selected should effectively represent the 3D nature of the laboratory model in 2D. The soil was modelled using 2D plate

**Figure 5.1: 8-noded quadratic elements representing the soil fill layer**

elements, which represented the solid soil elements in 3D. The geogrid was modelled as 1D

truss elements (that can only carry tensile forces), and represent membrane elements in 3D, Grabe (2003).

**5.1.4 Type of model analysis**

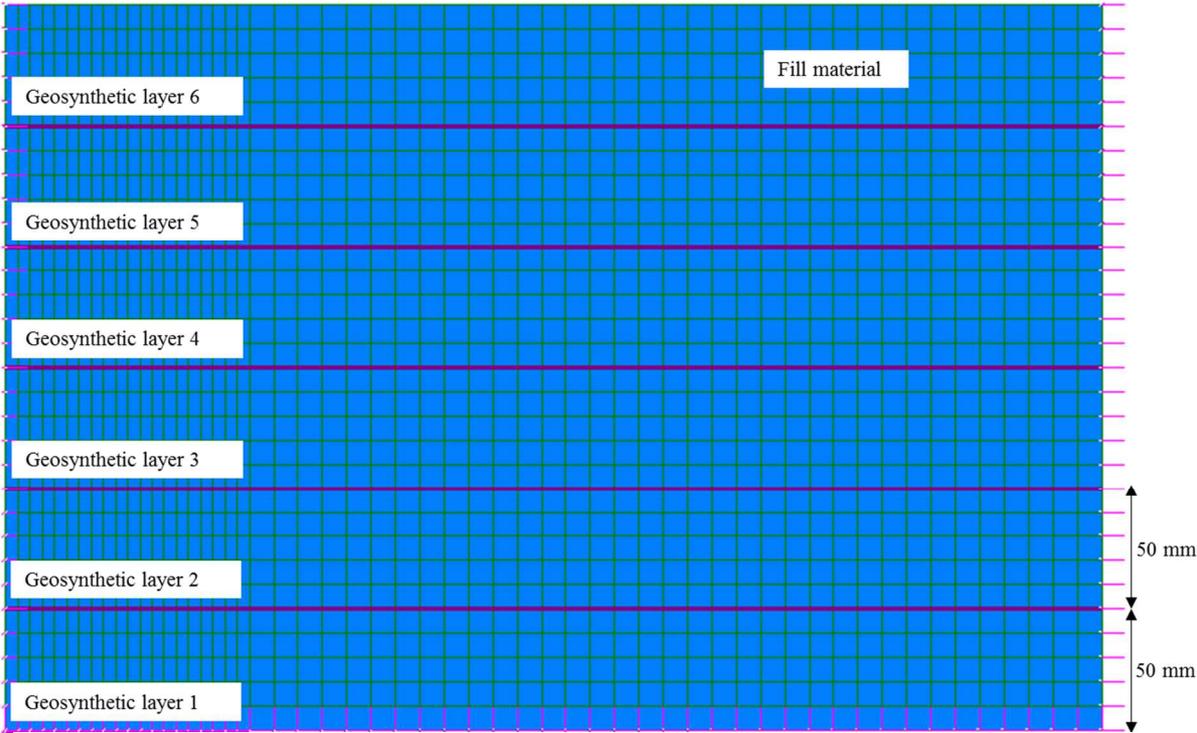
The laboratory model was rotationally symmetric about the y axis hence was regarded as axisymmetric. Axisymmetric analysis was thus selected but plane strain conditions were also modelled for comparative purposes.

**5.1.5 Model geometry**

Overburden height = 300mm, void diameter = 150, 200, 300mm  
A half model was used with symmetry along the y-axis

**5.1.6 Model mesh structure**

The soil fill was discretized as shown in Figure 5.2 below. The density of the mesh directly above the void was increased to improve the accuracy of the results in the area directly above the void.



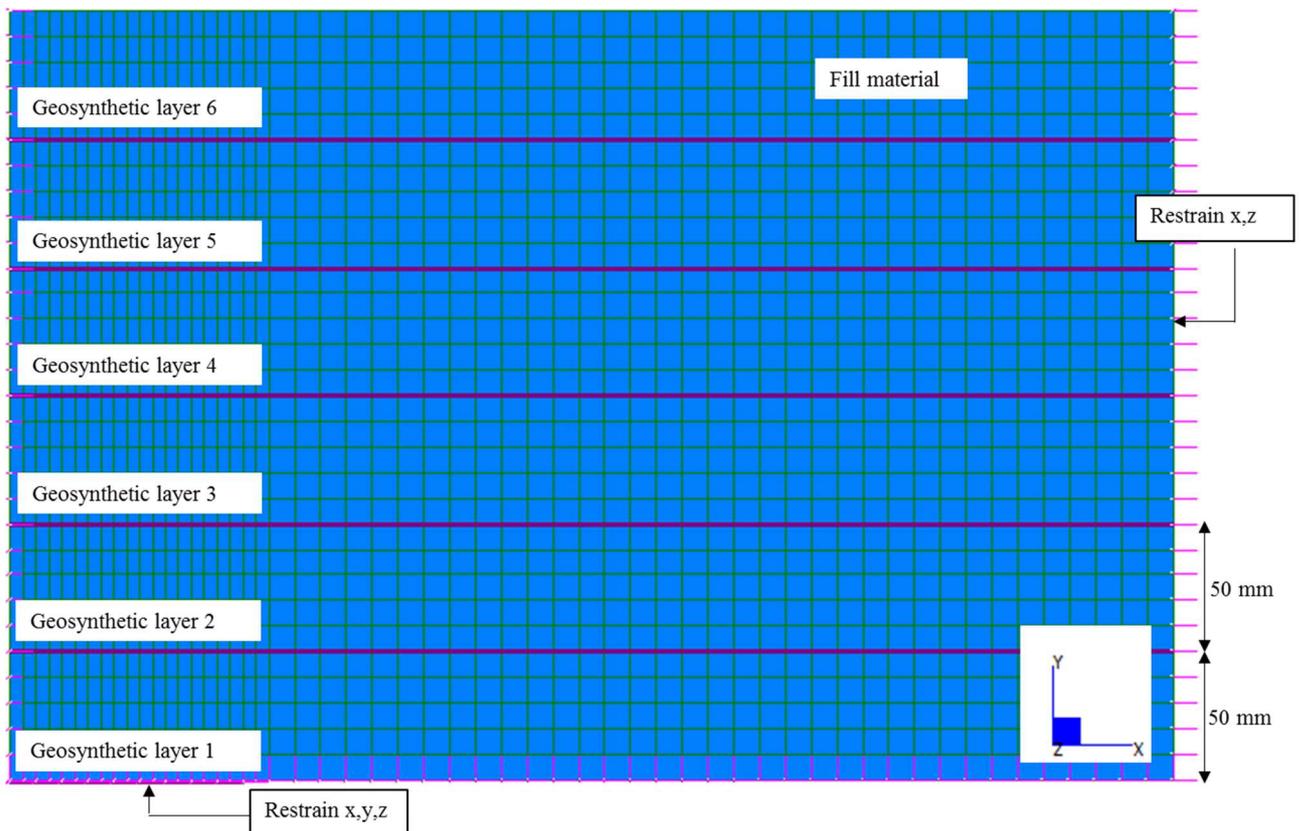
**Figure 5.2: Mesh structure used in FEM analysis of de Lange (2016) experimental model**

### 5.1.7 Restraint conditions

In order to simulate the formation of the void, the restraint conditions of the model were changed. Initially, the geosynthetic layer was fully restrained (closed), and no vertical movement was allowed. This first stage in the model represented the laboratory conditions where the void had not been formed yet. The second restraint condition (open) modelled the formation of the void itself. The restraints on the geosynthetic layer were released and the geosynthetic was allowed to deform due to the weight of the soil fill above it.

#### i. Closed

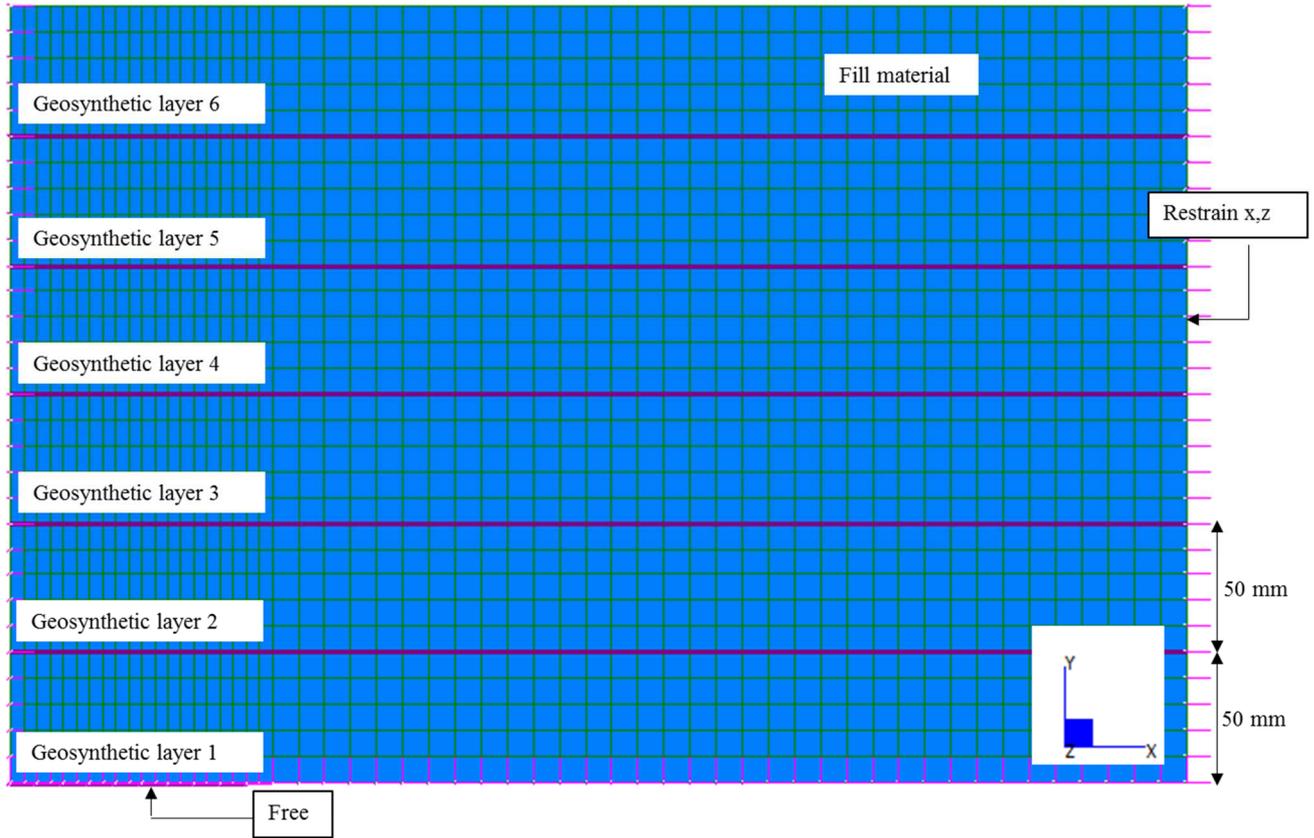
The vertical concrete ring walls were unrestrained in the y-direction for soil movement to take place. The basal geotextile layer is fully restrained. This represented the initial conditions with no subgrade void and the movable base still in place.



**Figure 5.3 Restraint conditions in the FEM model when the void has not formed**

ii. Open

In Figure 5.4 below the restraints on the geosynthetic layer were released to simulate the formation of the void. Removing all boundary restraints from the geosynthetic layers allowed for the nodes to be free to move. This resulted in soil movement, and downward deflection of the geosynthetic layer due to the weight of the soil above it.



**Figure 5.4 Restraint conditions in the FEM model when the void has formed**

**5.1.8 Loading conditions**

No surface loads were imposed on the laboratory model, the soil moved downward by self-weight due to gravity. Gravity acting in -y direction, gravitational acceleration =  $9.8\text{m/s}^2$

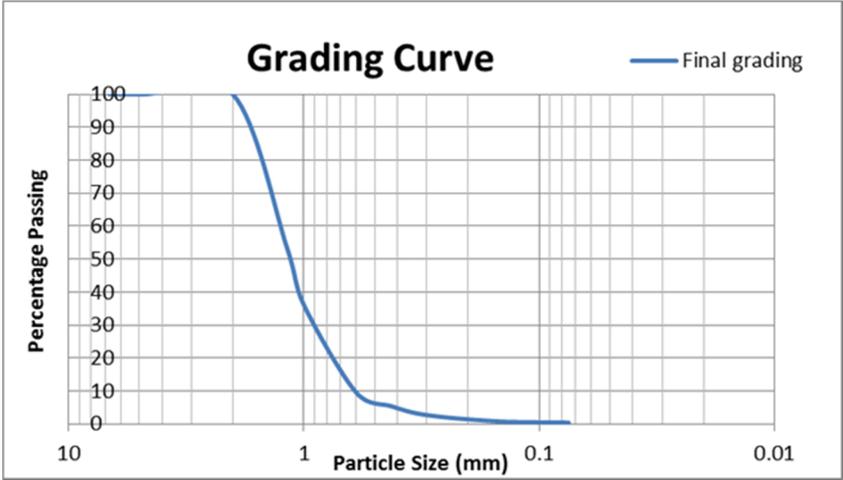
**5.1.9 Material characteristics**

The material characteristics for the soil and geosynthetic used are given in Table 5.1 below.

**Table 5.1: Soil and geosynthetic properties used in FEM model**

Material	Young’s Modulus (MPa)	Tensile strength (N/m)	Poisson’s Ratio	Density (kN/m <sup>3</sup> )	Cohesion (kPa)	Friction Angle (deg)
Soil	20	–	0.3	16.96	1	41
Geogrid	–	8.63	0.25	10	–	–

The geosynthetic properties in terms of the tensile strength were calculated from Table 5.1 using a 1mm geosynthetic thickness. de Lange (2016) used “washed silica sand” during the laboratory tests and performed a sieve analysis on the soil.



**Figure 5.5: Grading curve for soil used in experimental model in de Lange (2016)**

The grading curve yielded that the soil was uniformly graded sand with no cohesion. The soil was poured into the concrete rings loosely with no compaction. Triaxle tests performed on the soil in Sparks (2012) yielded an average soil friction angle of 41° and a dry density of 16.96 (Results shown in Appendix B). The general Young’s modulus for loose

sand was taken from Geotech data information (2013). A minimum cohesion of 1 kPa was used as the FEM model experienced difficulty in convergence with a cohesion value of zero.

**5.1.10 Numerical analysis**

A non-linear staged analysis was used. Non-linear models analyse the elastic-plastic soil deformation hence is used when the expected displacements in elements of the model are large (Strand 7 verification manual, 2013). The staging took place by changing the restraint conditions of the geosynthetic fabric as shown in section 5.1.7. “Freeing” the restraints in the

geosynthetic layer resulted in movement of the soil and geosynthetic layer downward. The results obtained for all three H/D ratios were compared in terms of the soil surface and geosynthetic deflections in Chapter 6.

## 6. CHAPTER 6: NUMERICAL MODEL RESULTS

### 6.1 Introduction:

The numerical models performed in Chapter 6 represent the laboratory experiments performed in both de Lange (2016) and Potts (2007). Both experimental models followed a similar principle, a void formed beneath the geosynthetically reinforced fill layer resulting in soil deflections. The difference was in that de Lange (2016) considered the use of both multi-layered and basal reinforcement as opposed to basal reinforcement alone. Both experimental models were reproduced using the FEM program Strand 7 and the results were compared.

### 6.2 Numerical model results Potts (2007):

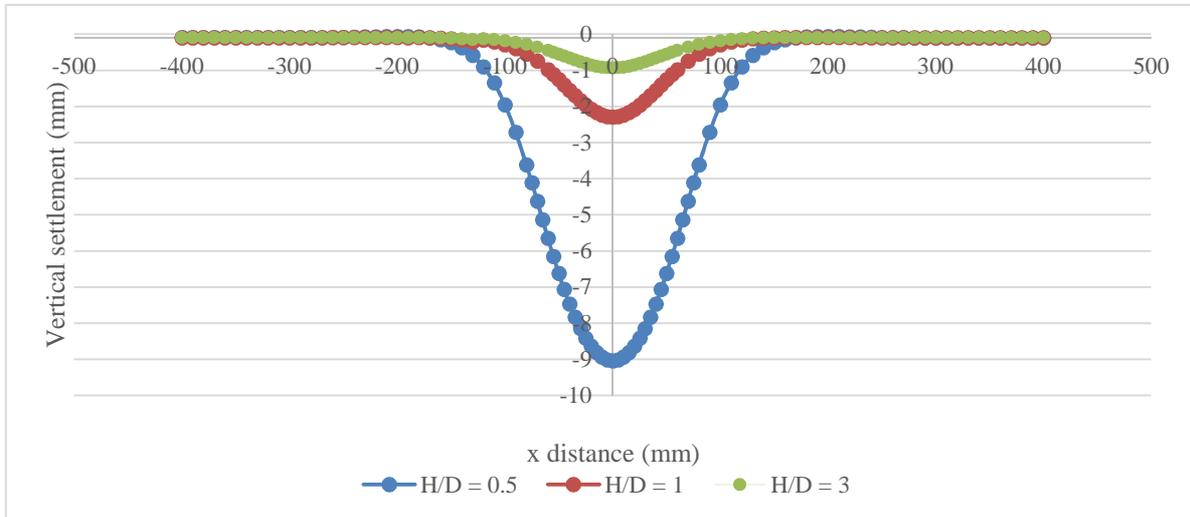
An overview of the laboratory experiment performed by Potts (2007) was covered in the case study in section 2.9.5. The results of the case study are presented below. Strand 7 was used to model the laboratory simulations. The aim was to establish that Strand 7 was capable of generating results of the same order of magnitude as the laboratory experiment. The method followed in developing the FEM model is covered in Chapter 5, the methodology section. The material characteristics of the soils and the geogrid layer taken from Potts (2007) are shown in Table 6.1 below.

**Table 6.1: Material characteristics used in Potts (2007) laboratory experiment**

Material	Parameter	Recommended value
Fill	$\gamma_{\text{loose}}$	15.5 kN/m <sup>3</sup>
	$\phi'_{\text{fill loose}}$	35 <sup>0</sup>
	E	20 MPa
	$\mu$	0.3
	K	0.4285
	e	0.2
Polythene sheet	J	11kN/m/m
	$\mu$	0.2

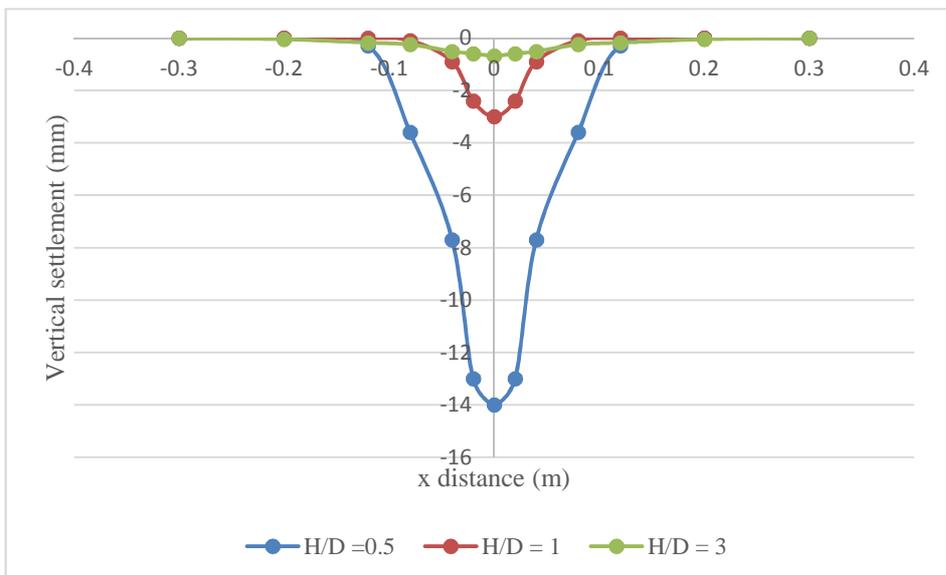
### 6.2.1 Soil surface settlement

The results of the FEM analysis using Strand 7 are presented below. The FEM results in Figure 6.1 illustrated that the soil surface deflection decreased with an increase in the H/D ratio.



**Figure 6.1: The soil surface deflections generated using Strand 7 FEM software to model Potts (2007) laboratory experiment with a change in H/D ratio.**

The laboratory results in Figure 6.2 showed a similar decrease in soil settlement with an increase in the H/D ratio.



The results from both Potts (2007) and Strand 7 FEM simulations are similar to the laboratory experiment in terms of the inversely proportional

**Figure 6.2: The soil surface deflections from Potts (2007) with an increasing H/D ratio**

relationship that existed between the settlement and H/D ratio.

### 6.2.2 Magnitude of soil surface deflection:

A comparison between the Potts (2007) laboratory, FEM results and the Strand 7 FEM results in terms of the maximum soil surface deflections was summarised in Table 6.2.

**Table 6.2: Maximum vertical soil settlement comparison between the maximum soil surface settlements obtained from the laboratory experiment, and the FEM model developed by Potts (2007) and Strand7.**

Soil fill height/void diameter		Maximum soil surface settlement, $d_s$ (mm)		
H/D	Description	Potts laboratory results	Potts FEM (ICFEP)	Strand 7 FEM
0.5	H = 80mm D = 160mm	14.014	10.022	8.938
1	H = 80mm D = 80mm	2.981	2.314	2.194
3	H = 240mm D = 80mm	0.651	1.201	0.836

The percentage difference between the laboratory data and the Strand 7 model were calculated and presented in Table 6.3.

**Table 6.3: Maximum soil surface settlement comparison between the maximum soil surface settlements obtained from the laboratory experiment, the FEM model developed by Potts (2007) and Strand7 and the percentage difference.**

H / D	Details	Maximum soil settlement (mm)		
		Potts laboratory results	Strand 7 results	% Difference
0.5	H = 80mm D = 160mm	14.014	8.938	36.220
1	H = 80mm D = 80mm	2.981	2.194	26.386

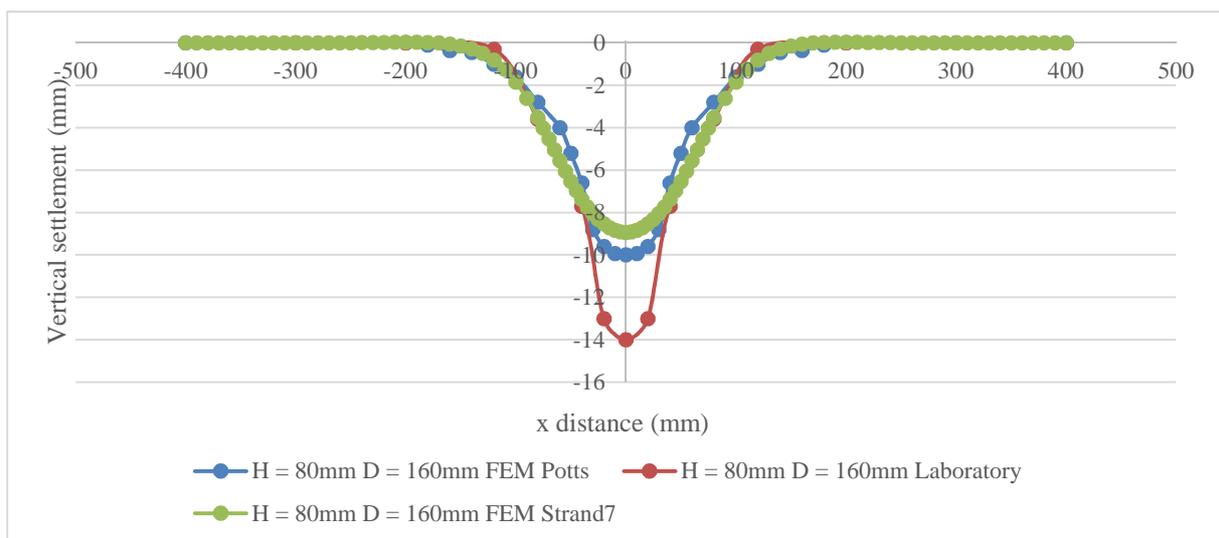
3	H = 240mm D = 80mm	0.651	0.836	28.488
---	--------------------	-------	-------	--------

		Maximum soil settlement (mm)		
H / D	Details	Potts laboratory results	Potts FEM (ICFEP)	% Difference
0.5	H = 80mm D = 160mm	14.014	10.022	28.486
1	H = 80mm D = 80mm	2.981	2.314	22.375
3	H = 240mm D = 80mm	0.651	1.201	45.795

The FEA results generated from both the ICFEP and Strand 7 were not highly accurate but were at least of the same order of magnitude as the laboratory results.

#### 6.2.2.1 H = 80mm D = 160mm

Figure 6.3 below provided a visual representation of the comparison between the laboratory and two FEM model data for the H/D = 0.5.



**Figure 6.3 Soil surface deflection comparison between Potts (2007) laboratory and FEM model and the FEM model generated using Strand 7**

Both FEM programs under predicted the settlement to a different degree. Potts (2007) attributed the under prediction of settlement to current material properties used in the FEM model. Improvement in the accuracy of the material properties should increase the accuracy of the results particularly in the case of the soil settlement. The same material properties were used in the Strand7 model, the results obtained are similar to those of the Potts (2007) FEM prediction and are lower than the actual laboratory values. The diameter of the cone is relatively constant in both the FEM models and the laboratory model.

### **6.3 Observations:**

Potts (2007) concluded that the soil surface settlement predicted using the FEM program ICFEP was not highly accurate. The values were however at least in the same order of magnitude as the laboratory results. The FEM model results can be improved by adjusting the material properties of the model.

The material properties used in the Strand7 model were the same as the ICFEP model for consistency. A discrepancy between the laboratory predictions and the Strand7 model to about the same degree as the ICFEP model would thus be expected. After further tests Potts (2007) drew the conclusion that the ICFEP program tended to over predict the settlement for H/D ratios larger than 1. For smaller H/D ratios the program tended to under predict settlement values.

From the Strand7 model both the settlements and the resulting settlement cone diameter were under predicted. One factor that accounted for the under prediction of the soil surface deflection would be the occurrence of dilation in the soil mass modelled by Strand 7. Dilation is the change in volumetric strain with respect to the change in shear strain (Craig, 2004). In Section 2.4.7, the concept of dilation in soils was investigated. When shearing took place due to soil movement, the soil mass could either dilate or contract. This depended on how loose or dense the soil initially was. Hence dense soil will have the tendency to dilate/expand upon shearing. The soil used in Potts (2007) laboratory model was poured in loosely. Strand 7 automatically took soil dilation into account, by assuming that the angle of soil dilation is equal to the angle of shearing resistance. The degree of dilation assumed by the program may not necessarily be indicative of the actual dilation that occurred. The under prediction on the soil surface settlements was thus attributed to an over estimation of the amount of dilation that occurs in the soil mass by the program.

At this stage of the investigation it was concluded that Strand7 could be used to predict soil surface settlements when the soil experiences a void and was supported by a geogrid layer. The accuracy of the results however depended on the nature of the soil being modelled (dilative or non-dilative). Based on the conclusions obtained from the Potts (2007) case study, FEM modelling using Strand 7 continued and the de Lange (2016) laboratory experiment was investigated.

#### **6.4 Numerical model results (de Lange, 2016)**

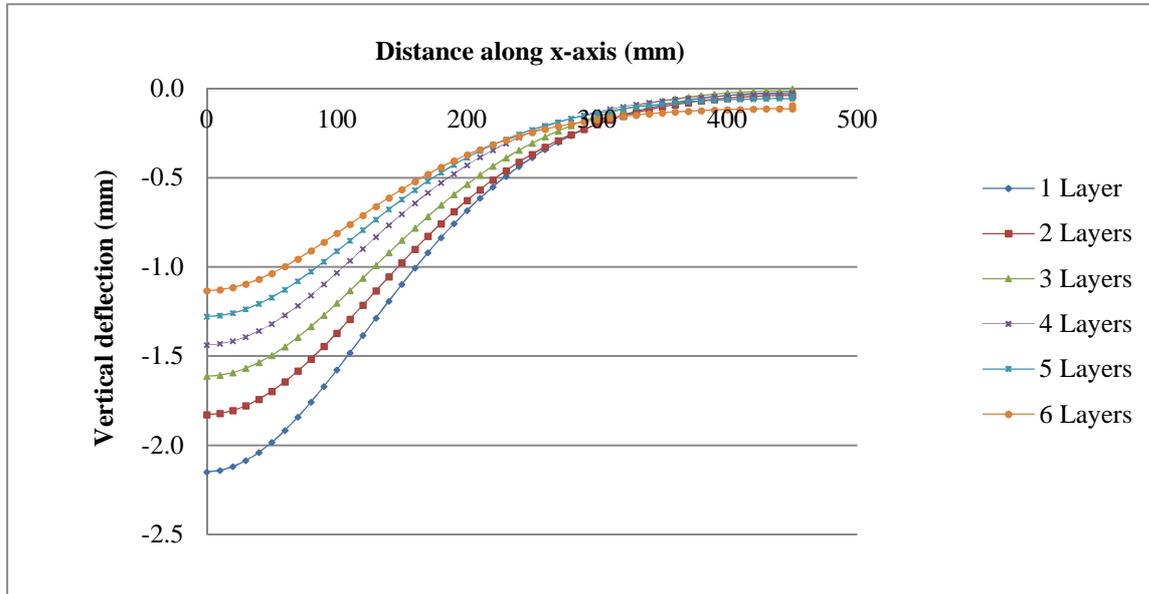
Numerical models representing the laboratory tests described in Chapter 3 was developed using Strand 7. The experimental model provided information about the pattern of soil surface settlements. So in order to validate the numerical model, it was necessary to reproduce the deflection patterns as closely as possible. The numerical model only considered the experiments performed when reinforcement was present in the soil mass, as a fully unreinforced model resulted in convergence problems.

##### ***6.4.1 Finite element analysis simulation: Reinforced model***

The inclusion of 1-6 geogrid layers were added to each H/D ratio of 1, 1.5 and 2 respectively. The method followed in developing the numerical model was covered in Chapter 5.

#### 6.4.1.1 Results: Soil surface deflection: $D = 150\text{mm}$ , $H/D = 2$

Figure 6.4 below shows the soil surface deflections predicted using FEA with 1 – 6 layers of reinforcement present.

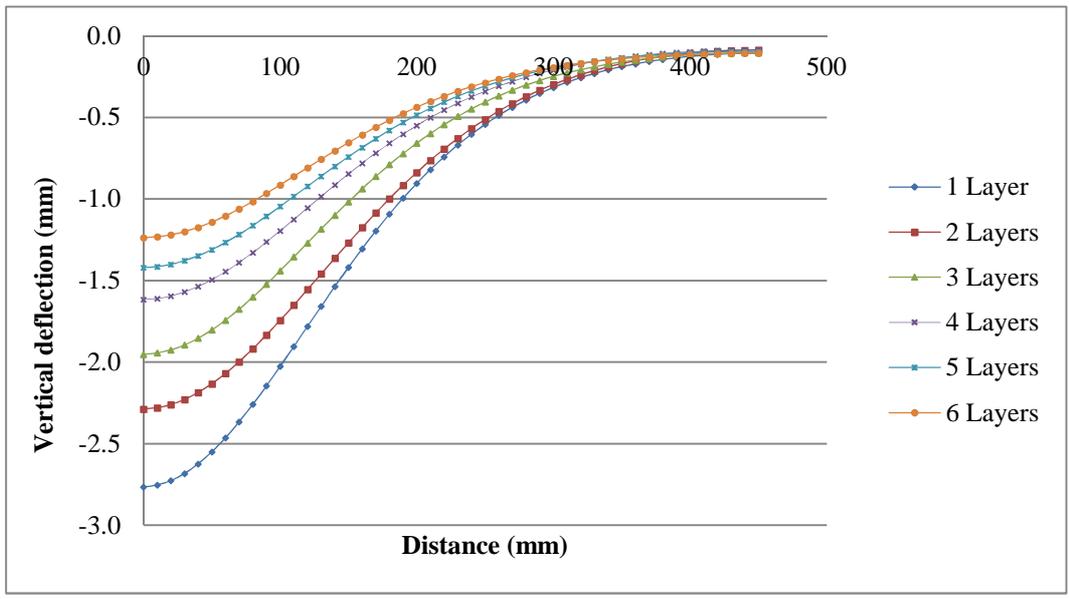


**Figure 6.4: FEM simulation results for vertical soil surface settlements for an  $H/D = 2$  with the inclusion of 1 – 6 layers of geosynthetic reinforcement.**

As the number of reinforcement layers increased the surface deflection decreased to a smaller degree. The shape of the displacement cone was consistent throughout the inclusion of more geogrid layers, the settlement cone just became shallower.

#### 6.4.1.2 Soil surface deflection: $D = 200\text{ mm}$ , $H/D = 1.5$

Figure 6.5 shows the soil surface deflections obtained when the void diameter was increased to 200mm. The largest decrease in deflection was seen when the second geogrid was placed. Each subsequent layer had a slightly diminished effect in decreasing the soil surface deflection.

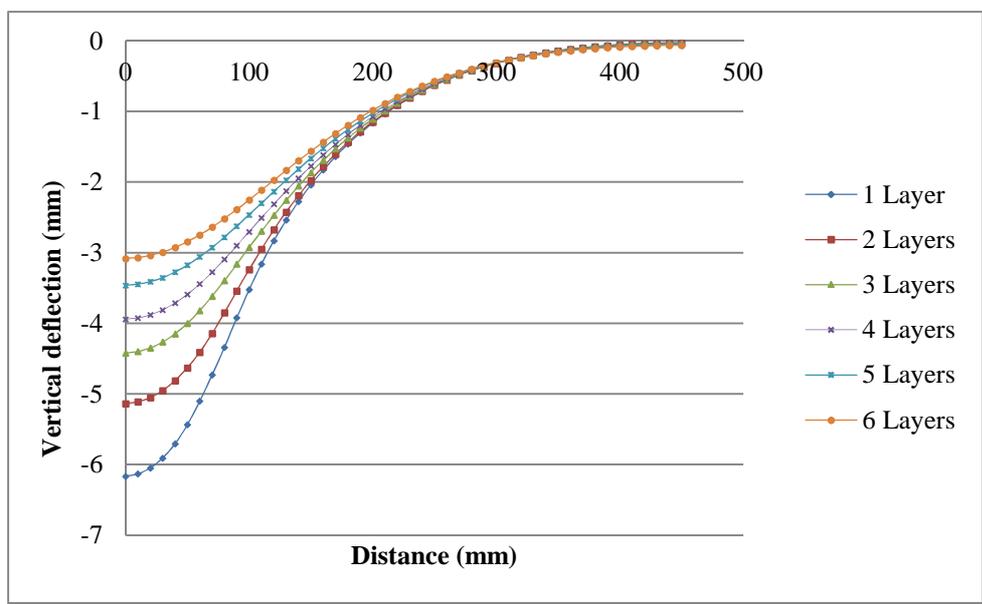


The shape of the deflection cone again remained consistent throughout the simulation, while the cone became shallower.

**Figure 6.5: FEM simulation results for vertical soil surface settlements for an  $H/D = 1.5$  with the inclusion of 1 – 6 layers of geosynthetic reinforcement.**

6.4.1.3 Soil surface deflection:  $D = 300\text{mm}$ ,  $H/D = 2$

The diameter of the void was increased to 300mm.



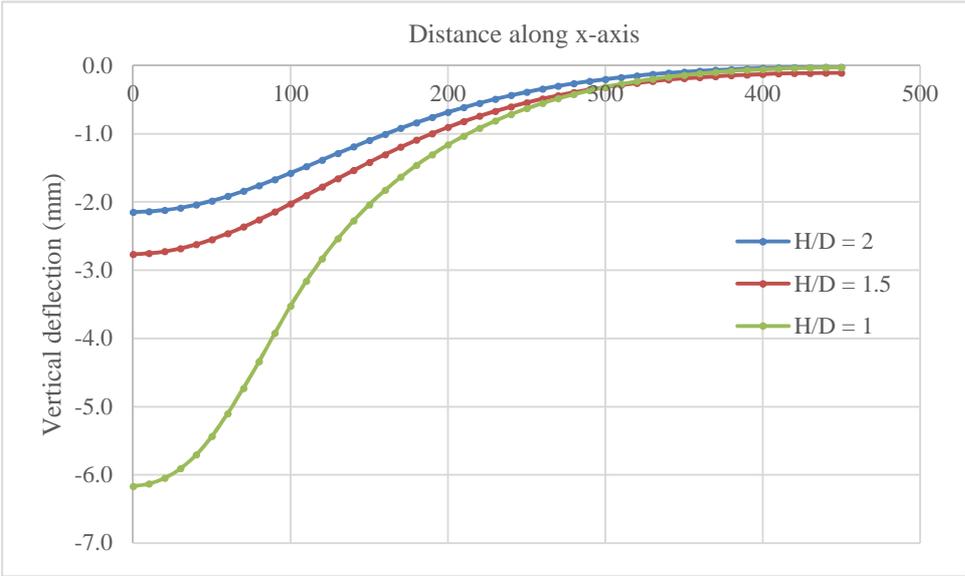
The deflection cone had the same shape in all three cases. Once again the 1st and 2nd layer had the largest affect in decreasing the

**Figure 6.6: FEM simulation results for vertical soil surface settlements for an  $H/D = 2$  with the inclusion of 1 – 6 layers of geosynthetic reinforcement.**

soil surface settlements.

6.4.1.4 Soil surface deflections with an increase in void diameter

In this section the effect that the increasing void diameter had on the FEM soil surface deflections was considered. The soil surface deflections predicted by the FEM model increased with an increase in the void diameter as shown in Figure 6.7 below.



The diameter of the settlement cone appeared to be uniform but the cone became deeper with the increase in void diameter.

**Figure 6.7: FEM soil surface deflection predicted using Strand 7 with change in the H/D ratio and a single layer of geosynthetic reinforcement**

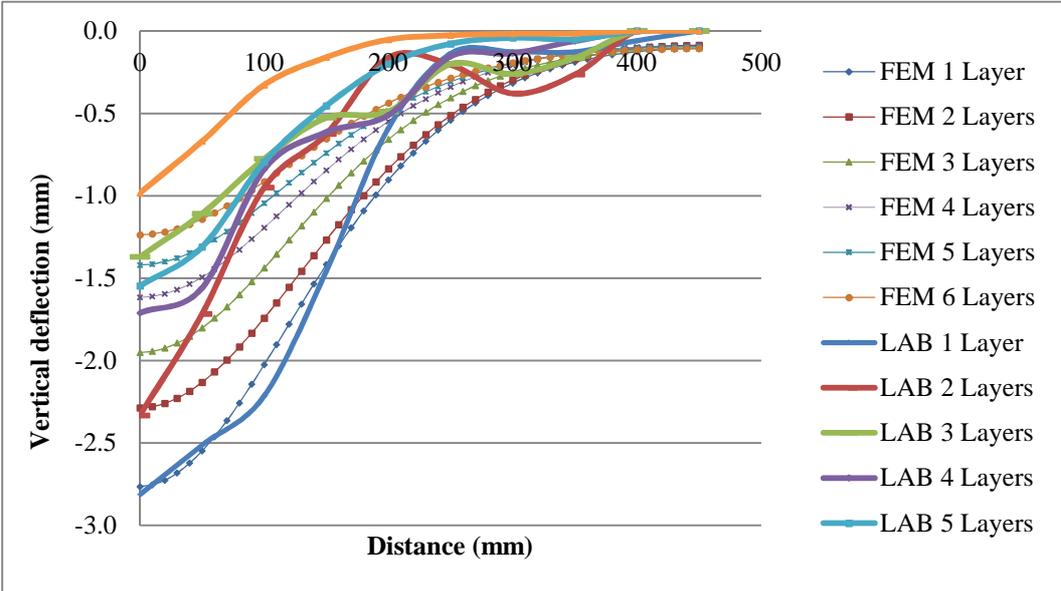
The trend in behaviour was the same as that observed in the experimental model, i.e. H/D increase resulted in a decrease in maximum surface settlement. Now that it's been established that the FEM model simulation behaved in a realistic manner, a comparison between the experimental data and numerical data took place.

**6.5 Numerical model vs experimental model:**

In section 6.5 the numerical model was compared to the experimental results in terms of the maximum vertical soil surface deflection as well as the shape of the settlement cone.

**6.5.1 Soil surface deflection comparison**

Figure 6.8 illustrated the soil surface deflections for both the numerical and experimental model, with 1 – 6 layers of geosynthetic reinforcement and an H/D = 1.5. The shape of the experimental model settlement cone was not uniform and varied when more reinforcement layers were placed. The FEM models settlement cone was parabolic throughout the simulation.



**Figure 6.8: Vertical soil surface deflection of the numerical model compared to the experimental model with 1 – 6 layers of geosynthetic reinforcement and an H/D = 1.5 for de Lange (2016).**

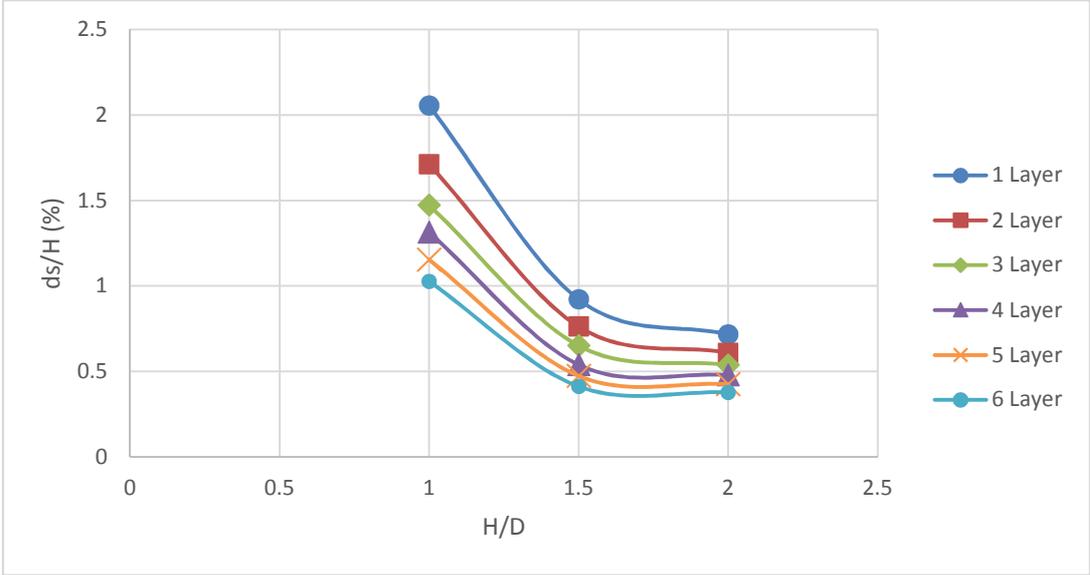
To get a better indication of the maximum soil surface settlements, the results for all H/D ratios were summarised in Table 6.4 below.

**Table 6.4: Maximum surface deflection comparison between the numerical and experimental model with 1 – 6 layers of geosynthetic reinforcement de Lange (2016).**

<b>Maximum surface deflection (mm) H/D = 2</b>						
<b>Number of layers</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Laboratory</b>	2.023	1.754	1.205	1.153	1.205	1.103
<b>FEM</b>	2.148	1.827	1.613	1.437	1.278	1.132
<b>% Difference</b>	6.199	4.186	25.276	19.742	5.715	2.656
<b>Average %</b>	<b>10.629</b>					
<b>Maximum surface deflection (mm) H/D = 1.5</b>						
<b>Number of layers</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Laboratory</b>	-2.812	-2.333	-1.370	-1.711	-1.547	-0.983
<b>FEM</b>	2.765	2.288	1.952	1.617	1.420	1.236
<b>% Difference</b>	1.612	1.822	29.806	5.760	9.146	20.729
<b>Average %</b>	<b>11.479</b>					
<b>Maximum surface deflection (mm) H/D = 1</b>						
<b>Number of layers</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Laboratory</b>	6.151	6.133	3.864	3.661	3.642	3.612
<b>FEM</b>	6.166	5.135	4.420	3.942	3.462	3.082
<b>% Difference</b>	0.257	16.225	12.663	7.153	5.156	17.143
<b>Average %</b>	<b>9.766</b>					

The maximum vertical soil surface deflection in the FEM model was smaller than the experimental model in most cases. There were various instances in which the experimental model did not behave as expected, and exhibited a sudden increase or decrease in maximum deflection with the inclusion of more geosynthetic layers. de Lange (2016) attributed this variation in results to the occurrence of soil arching in the experimental model. On average the numerical model shows a 10.624% variation when compared to the experimental data.

Figure 6.9 below shows the ratio of surface deflection to embankment height for all H/D ratios for the FEM model.

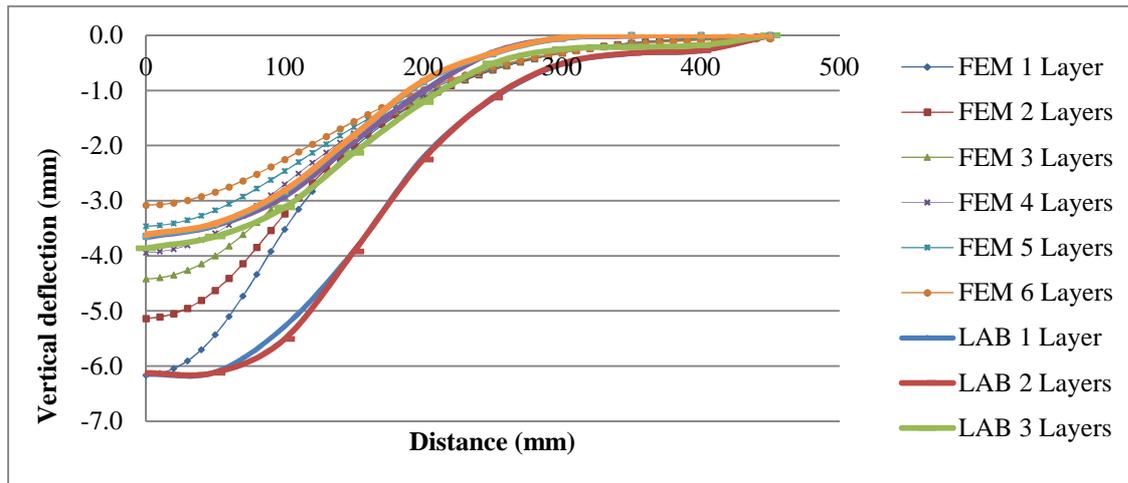


**Figure 6.9 Maximum vertical deflections along the centreline at the 3 H/D ratios in the FEM model**

When  $H/D = 1$ , the decrease in surface deflection with the inclusion of geosynthetic layers is most prominent, exhibiting a 50% reduction in settlements when multiple layers were present. For  $H/D = 2$ , the multiple layers of reinforcement are not as effective, and does not appear to provide any meaningful reduction beyond the third layer of reinforcement. This leads to the conclusion that multiple reinforcement layers have a more pronounced positive design effect in lower  $H/D$  ratios.

**6.5.2 Deflection cone shape**

No relationship could be drawn between the shapes of the deflection cone for the numerical and experimental model for this specific  $H/D$  ratio (1.5). To get a better indication of the settlement cone shape, Figure 6.10 below showed a comparison of results when  $H/D = 1$ . The experimental model in this case exhibited a parabolic cone no matter how many reinforcement layers were present. This cone shape was similar to that predicted by the FEM model.



**Figure 6.10: Vertical soil surface deflection of the numerical model compared to the experimental model with 1 – 6 layers of geosynthetic reinforcement and an  $H/D = 1$  for de Lange (2016).**

The angle of void propagation or angle of draw dictated the diameter of the soil surface settlement cone. This in turn played a role in selecting the dimensions of the geosynthetic reinforcement required on site and developing an economical design.

**Table 6.5: Angle of draw comparison between numerical and experimental model with basal reinforcement**

	Experimental model			
H/D	2	1.5	1	Average
D (mm)	150	200	300	
Ds (mm)	500	500	700	
Angle of draw (deg)	59.744	63.435	56.310	59.830
	Numerical model			
H/D	2	1.5	1	Average
D (mm)	150	200	300	
Ds (mm)	800	800	800	
Angle of draw (deg)	42.710	45.00	50.194	45.968

Table 6.5 above shows the angle of draw values for the numerical and experimental model, with a basal geosynthetic reinforcement layer. The numerical model predicted a wider and shallower deflection cone when compared to the experimental data.

### **6.5.3 Observations:**

When comparing the experimental laboratory results with the FEA data it was observed that the FEM program under predicted the soil surface deflection in most cases. The exception being the outlying data points obtained when apparent soil arching took place in the experimental model. With the outlying data points taken into account the FEA soil surface deflection is on average 10.624% lower than the actual experimental soil deflection. The FEA results were of the same magnitude as the experimental data, but as stated earlier the soil deformations were under predicted to a certain degree. The shape of the settlement cone predicted by the numerical model was generally shallower and wider than the experimental result. This would result in a lower strength geotextile being used over a larger surface area in actual track conditions.

One of the limitations of using FEA as a means of soil movement prediction is that the flow of the soil particles when in motion was difficult to predict. The individual soil particles were shearing relative to one another, which could result in soil expansion/volumetric change. Similar to the results obtained from the Potts (2007) FEM model, the soil deflections were under predicted. This is again attributed to the over prediction of the soil dilation from the Strand 7 program.

It was observed at this stage that FEA could in fact be used to numerically model the behaviour of a reinforced soil fill layer undermined by a subgrade voids, the accuracy of the results however depended greatly on the parameters input in the system and the degree of soil dilation. In order to further investigate the effect that parametric changes had on the accuracy of the FEA predictions, certain model parameters were altered and the effect that the parameters had on the accuracy of the FEA results were observed.

**6.6 Axisymmetric vs plane strain analysis**

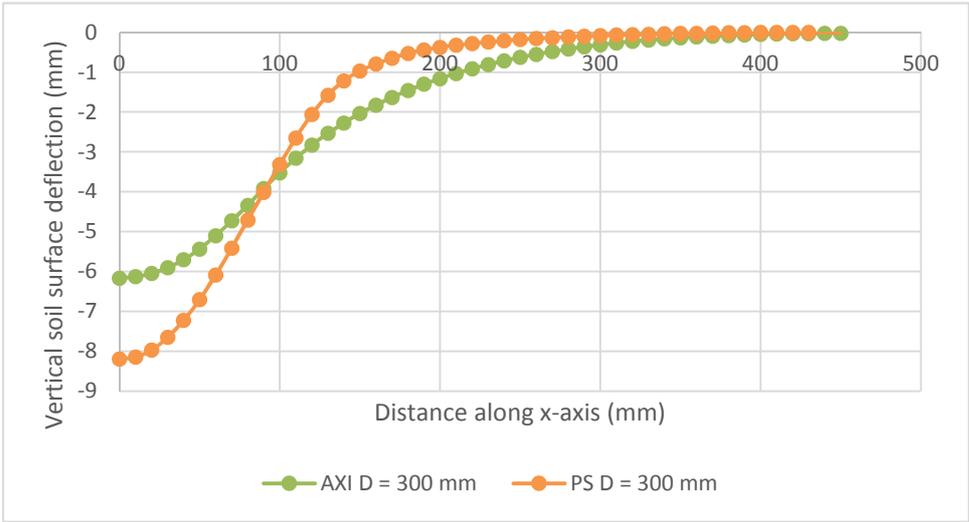
Axisymmetric analysis is used when the model is rotationally symmetric with respect to an axis, this provides a platform to model a 3D analysis as a 2D one. The previous FEM simulations used the axisymmetric analysis as this was the most appropriate means to model a circular void.

In plane strain analysis, it is assumed that the structures geometry is of infinite length normal to the plane section of the analysis. In order to investigate the behaviour of the model when subjected to a longitudinally shaped void, some of the models were analysed under plane strain conditions.

**6.6.1 Results: Axisymmetric vs plane strain**

In investigations carried out by Potts (2007) and Mifsud (2005) both plane strain and axisymmetric analysis were performed. The plane strain results predicted for the surface deflection as well as the geosynthetic strain/deflection were higher than the axisymmetric result. Potts (2007) then used plane strain conditions throughout the parametric modelling because plane strain analysis predicted the worst case scenario.

AXI = Axisymmetric, PS = Plane strain  
 Model used: H/D = 1 with single layer of reinforcement.



In the FEM models plane strain analysis predicted a higher surface deflection than axisymmetric analysis, with a smaller deflection

**Figure 6.11: Comparison between soil surface deflections obtained when using both axisymmetric and plane strain analysis for a basally reinforced fill with an H/D ratio of 1.**

cone diameter  
 A similar result was

obtained when two layers of geosynthetic reinforcement were used. The general trend observed is that plane strain analysis tends to result in a deeper more concentrated soil settlement cone, which is more indicative of the actual cone obtained from the experimental model.

**Table 6.6: Comparison between soil surface deflection values obtained for the experimental model, with axisymmetric and plane strain conditions.**

Diameter of void (mm)	Maximum soil surface deflection (mm)		
	Experimental data	Numerical model	
		Axisymmetric	Plane strain
150	2.023	2.148	3.536
200	2.812	2.765	4.112
300	6.151	6.166	8.189

In

Table 6.6 the plane strain and axisymmetric results were then compared to the laboratory model. The plane strain model over predicts the surface deflection according to the laboratory model.

**6.6.2 Conclusions: Axisymmetric vs plane strain**

For this specific design the axisymmetric results were more accurate in terms of soil surface deflection predictions. In the previous FEM model performed in the Potts (2007) case study, plane strain analysis was used (as the Potts 2007 laboratory model geometry was more accurately described using plane strain conditions). In general plane strain analysis is used as it predicts a larger degree of soil deformation and failure is more likely to take place in a plane strain analysis than an axisymmetric one.

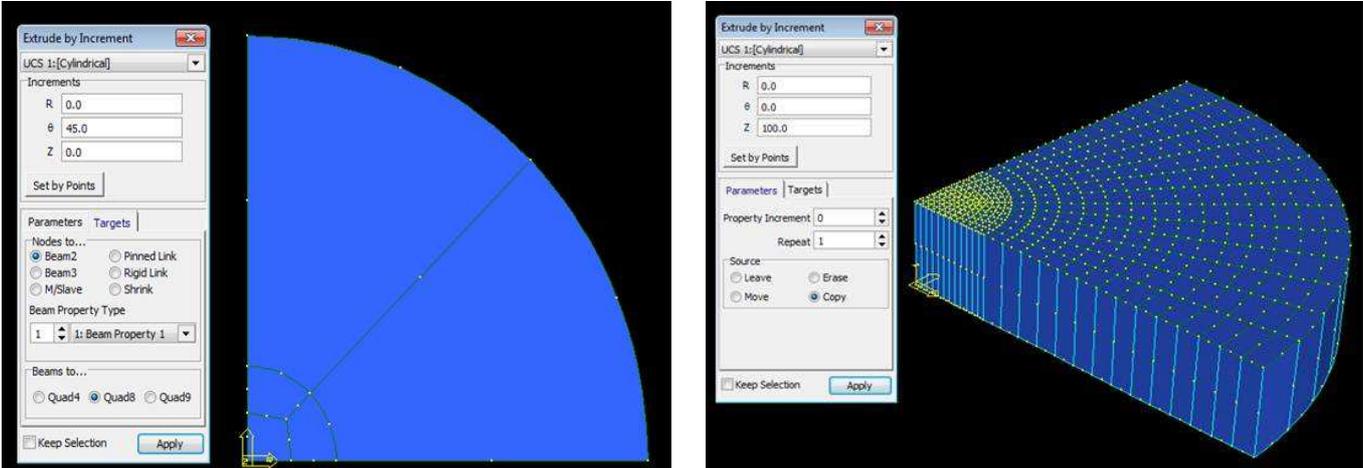
**6.7 3D vs 2D FEM model**

To this point plane strain and axisymmetric modelling have been represented in 2D simulations. A 3D model of the laboratory simulation was developed, using the same model characteristics as the 2D model and the results obtained from this analysis were compared. The 2D models provided a simplification of the actual 3D laboratory simulation. The aim of developing the 3D model was to confirm that the accuracy of results in the 2D analysis was not compromised by the assumptions made. It was expected that the 3D model generates the same results as the

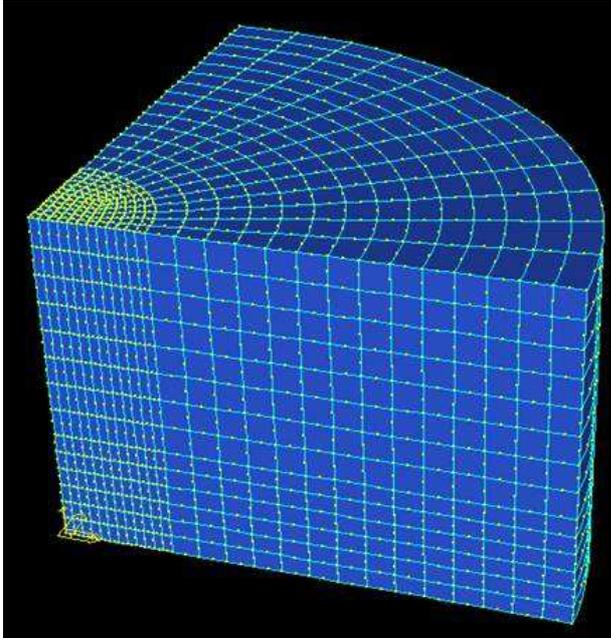
axisymmetric model, as the axisymmetric model is a 2D representation of a rotationally symmetric 3D analysis.

**6.7.1 Methodology: 3D Model**

In the 3D model 8-noded hexahedron brick elements was used to represent the soil, and 3D membrane elements represented the geotextile layer. A cylindrical co-ordinate system was used with a radius of 450 mm. An H/D ratio of 1.5 was considered throughout the 3D analysis. The soil height was set in the z-direction as shown in Figure 6.12



**Figure 6.12: 3D model geometry representing the soil fill layer**

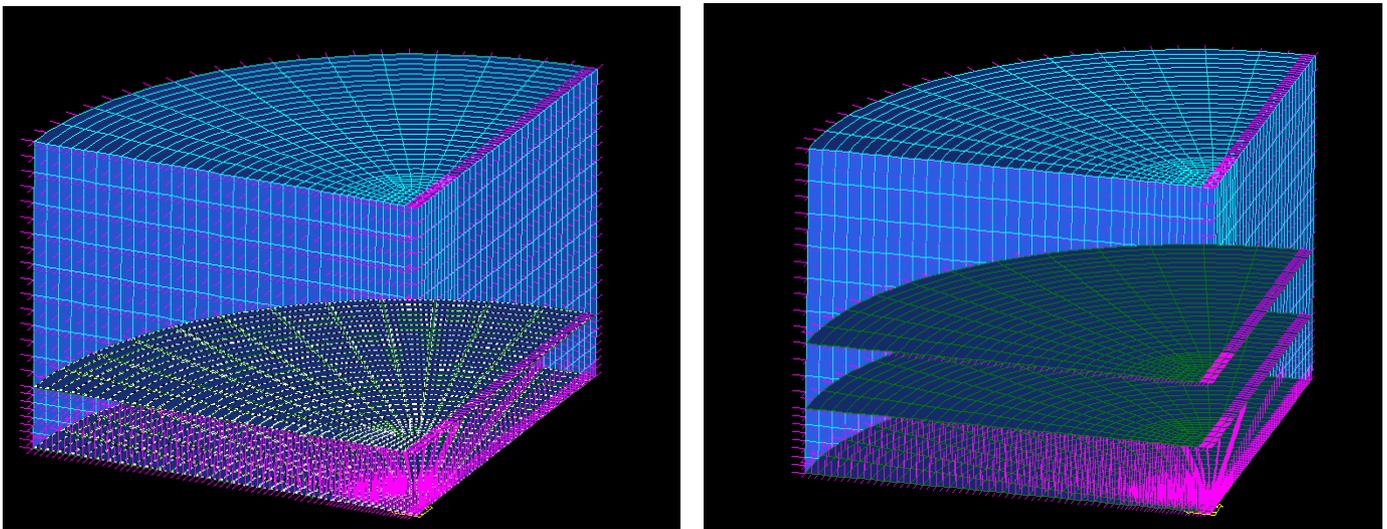


The restraint conditions were set and the soil material properties were input. The loading condition was set to gravitational loading

The geogrid and soil material properties were input into the program. Membrane elements were used to model geosynthetic reinforcement in Potts (2007) and Mifsud (2005).

**Figure 6.13: Full 3D geometry**

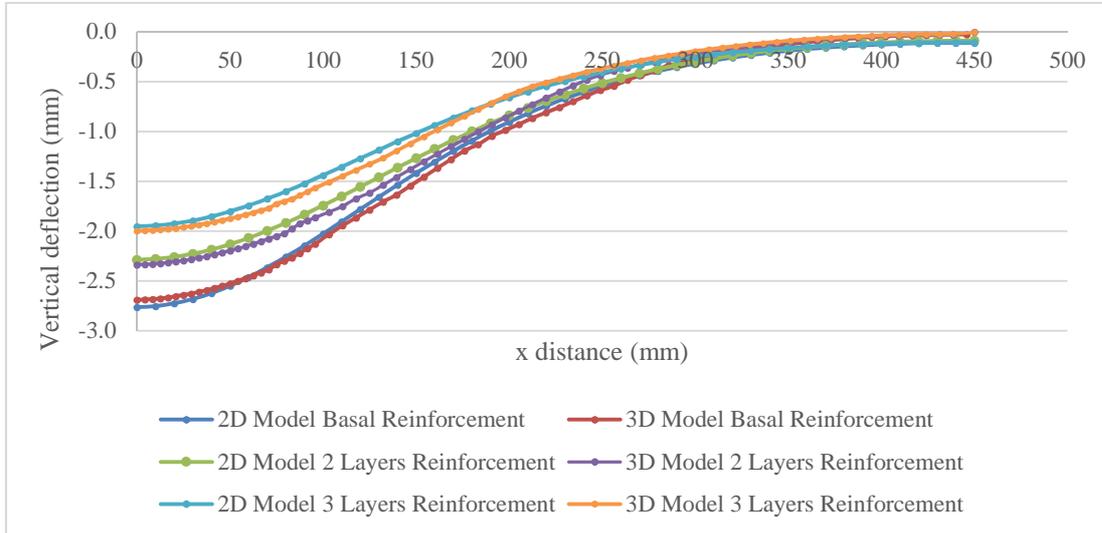
Geogrid layers were added into the 3D model to simulate multiple layers of reinforcement:



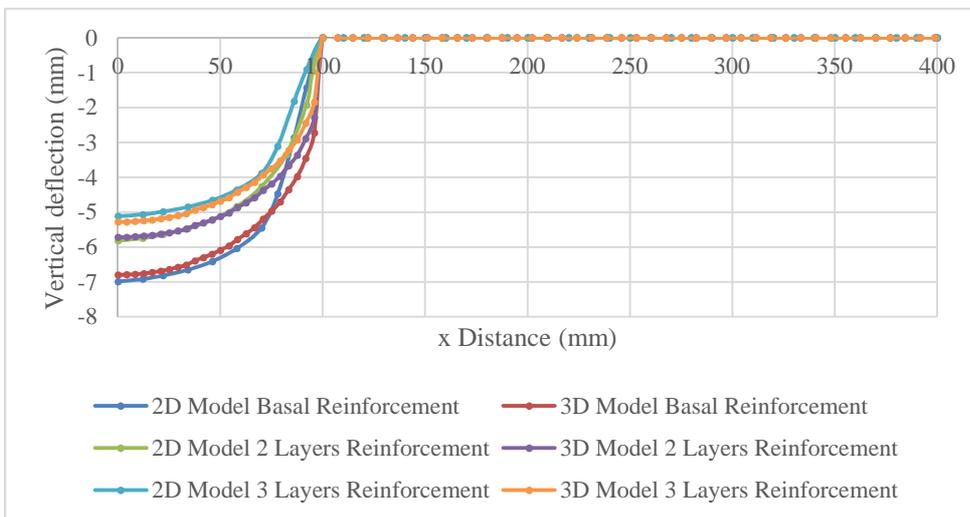
**Figure 6.14: 3D model with geogrid reinforcement present**

### 6.7.2 Results: 3D vs 2D Model

The maximum soil surface deflection obtained from the 2D and 3D analysis are compatible. The shape and diameter of the deflection cone also remained the same



**Figure 6.15 Comparison between soil surface deflection for a 2D and 3D model with 1- 3 layers of geosynthetic reinforcement and an H/D ratio of 1.5**



**Figure 6.16 Comparison between geosynthetic deflection for a 2D and 3D model with 1- 3 layers of geosynthetic reinforcement and an H/D ratio of 1.5**

The predicted geogrid deflection showed similar results. The deflected shape predicted in the 3D model was however slightly wider than the 2D model.

The magnitude of the geosynthetic displacement was the same in the 2D

and the 3D model, the geometry however differed slightly. The 3D model predicted a wider shape than the 2D model. The 2D vs 3D phase of the laboratory investigation proved that the 3D model can accurately predict geogrid and soil displacements. Further investigations with regard to 3D modelling took place in Chapter 7.

### **6.8 Summary of observations:**

The results of the FEM representation and the experimental models demonstrated similar trends in behaviour. The deformed shape of the geosynthetic was parabolic, in keeping with the theoretical assumptions presented in SANS 207. The soil surface settlement tended to decrease with an increase in the H/D ratio, as similarly demonstrated in the experimental model. The maximum soil surface settlement values themselves were not highly accurate but were at least of the same order of magnitude as the experimental data. The results can be improved further by refining the material properties of the model. For our current purpose of validating FEM as a means of modelling a geosynthetically reinforced fill layer however the results were sufficiently accurate. The observations from the various models are summarised below:

- The FEM results showed a relatively uniform decrease in soil surface deflection with the addition of reinforcement layers. The decrease in deflection did however become less apparent when more geosynthetic layers were present.
- The FEM model tended to predict a shallower soil surface settlement cone acting over a larger area while the experimental data was more concentrated to the area directly above the void.
- The results predicted using plane strain analysis produced larger soil surface and geogrid deflections when compared to the axisymmetric analysis. The settlement cone geometry predicted using plain strain analysis was deeper and more concentrated to above the void alone, as predicted in the experimental model. This indicates that the plain strain conditions would provide a more accurate geometric representation of the deflection cone in future analysis.
- The soil surface deflections and geogrid deflections predicted were the same for 2D and 3D analysis, showing that the accuracy of results were not compromised in the simplified 2D model. The geogrid deflection shape was parabolic in both applications, the 3D models parabolic shape was however wider than the 2D models.

## **7. Chapter 7: APPLICATION TO VOIDS BELOW RAILWAY TRACKS**

### **7.1 Introduction**

Now that the use of FEM in modelling soil/geogrid systems has been validated, a parametric investigation took place. During the investigation various parameters in the FEM model were altered and the change that occurs to the results analysed and discussed. The theoretical behaviour of the soil mass when a change in certain parameters took place, e.g. frictional angle, Young's modulus can be predicted using soil theory. But the degree to which changing the parameters will affect the results obtained is unknown. The parametric stage of the investigation thus observed the effect that the following parameters had on the results produced by the FEM method.

#### ***7.1.1 Soil properties***

- Young's modulus
- Soil frictional angle
- Coefficient of earth pressure

#### ***7.1.2 Geogrid properties***

- Geogrid tensile strength
- Geogrid position
- Number of geogrid layers

## 7.2 Parametric model description:

The objective of this study was to develop a cost effective means of reinforcing a sand mass to prevent catastrophic collapse of a rail track when undermined by the development of a sinkhole. The study was conducted using a FEM numerical model of a rail track structure over a reinforced sand mass. The model structure was a standard South African heavy haul line as set out by Transnet's manual for track maintenance.

CLASSIFICATION OF RUNNING LINES			TRACK STANDARDS FOR RUNNING LINES				
CLASS OF LINE	MAXIMUM AXLE LOAD (Ton)	GROSS TON PER YEAR (Million)	RAIL TYPE AND MASS	SLEEPER AND SPACING	BALLAST		
					DEPTH (mm)	QUANTITY (m <sup>3</sup> / km)	
						CONCRETE	WOOD / STEEL
S	25	–	60kg/m	FY/PY 650mm	300	1 500	–
N1	20	>15	57kg/m	FY/PY/ #700mm	280	1 500	–
N2	20	5–15	48kg/m	P2/F4 STEEL/ WOOD 700mm	200	1 200	1 100
N3	–	<5	REQUIRES THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE).				

**REMARKS:**

1. ANY DEPARTURE FROM THESE STANDARDS REQUIRE THE APPROVAL OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE).
2. CLAUSES 6.2 AND 6.7, AS WELL AS ANNEXURES 4 AND 15 SHEET 2, MUST BE READ TOGETHER WITH THIS TABLE.
3. # P2, F4 AND WOODEN SLEEPERS ARE ALSO ACCEPTABLE. SEE ANNEXURE 4 SHEET 1 FOR BALLAST QUANTITY.

CLASSIFICATION AND STANDARDS FOR RUNNING LINES : 1 065mm TRACK GAUGE

ANNEXURE 3 SHEET 1 of 1

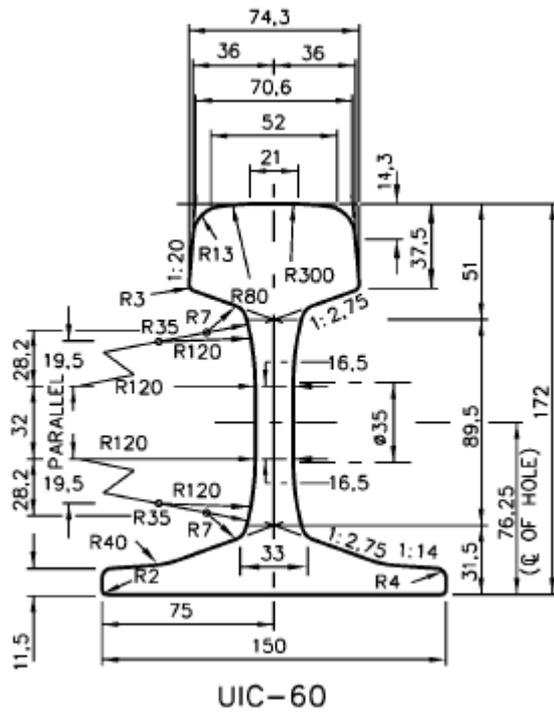
**Figure 7.1: Transnet classification of rails as per the Track maintenance manual (Transnet Freight Rail BBB0481, 2012)**

For a standard S-class line a 60 kg/m rail will be used paired with FY sleepers at a spacing of 650mm with a ballast depth of 300mm.

The axle loading used is 26T, the maintenance manual states that the maximum loading is 25T but the manual is currently under review and an updated value of 26 and 30T can be carried on 60kg rails.

### 7.2.1 Rail line characteristics:

Rail: 60 kg/m



**Figure 7.2 Cross section of UIC-60 Rail (Transnet Freight Rail BBB0481, 2012)**

The structural properties of the rail section used in the FEM model were developed from the dimensions shown in Figure 7.2 above. Some approximation was necessary due to the complexity of the section.

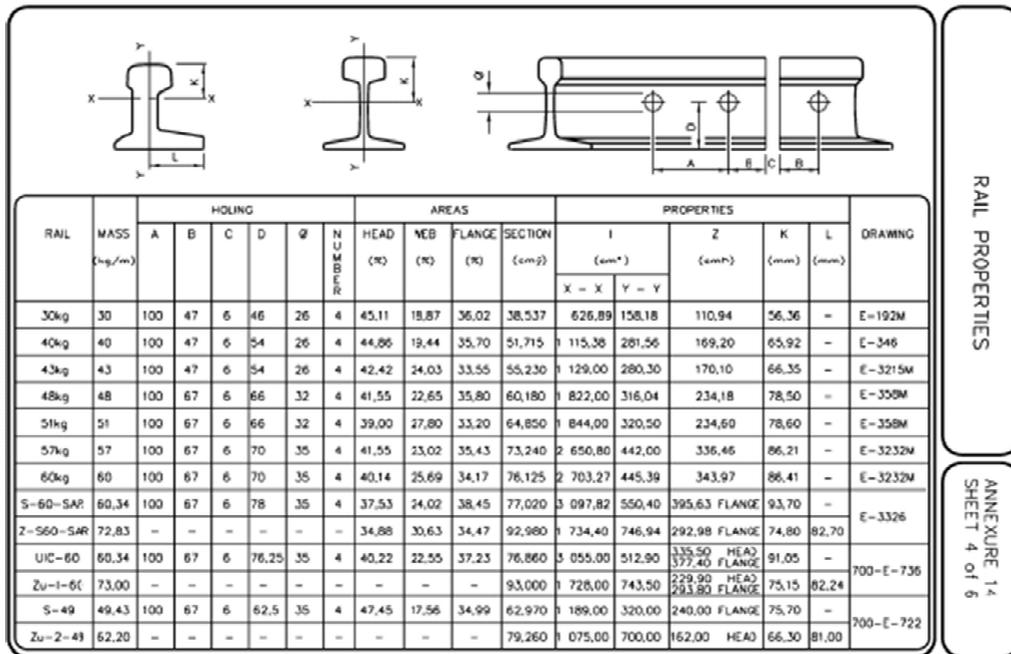


Figure 7.3 Rail geometric properties as per Track maintenance manual (Transnet Freight Rail BBB0481, 2012)

According to the Manual for track maintenance the cross sectional area of a 60kg rail should be 76.125 cm<sup>2</sup>. In the rail section developed for the FEM model the cross sectional area of the rail was 76.673 cm<sup>2</sup>, a 0.7% difference in cross sectional area.

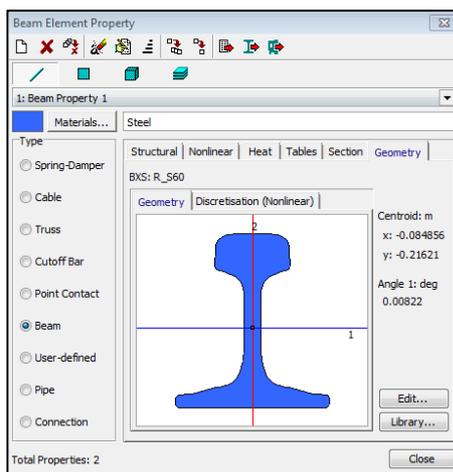


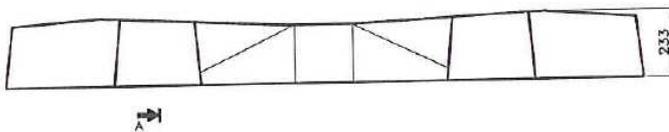
Figure 7.4: Rail cross section generated using Strand 7

### 7.2.2 Sleeper characteristics:

SLEEPER DETAIL :		ANNEXURE 30				
GENERAL		SHEET 1 of 7				
SLEEPER	TYPE	LENGTH (mm)	WIDTH (mm)	HEIGHT (mm)	MASS (kg)	REFERENCE DRAWING
P2	CONCRETE	2 057	254	230	215	E-3303 SH 1
PY	CONCRETE	2 200	300	232	278	E-3318 SH 1
F4	CONCRETE	2 057	254	244	215	E-3303 SH 2
FY	CONCRETE	2 200	300	258	282	E-3318 SH 2
WOOD	LAMINATED	2 100	250	195	72	_____
WOOD	LAMINATED	2 400	250	195	82	_____
WOOD	LAMINATED	2 700	250	195	92	_____
WOOD	LAMINATED	3 000	250	195	102	_____
WOOD	LAMINATED	3 400	250	195	116	_____
WOOD	LAMINATED	3 800	250	195	130	_____
WOOD	LAMINATED	4 200	250	195	143	_____
WOOD	LAMINATED	6 000	250	195	205	_____
STEEL	_____	2 060	260	87	63	E-3277
UNIVERSAL	CONCRETE	2 100	200			_____
WOOD	HARD	2 100		150		_____

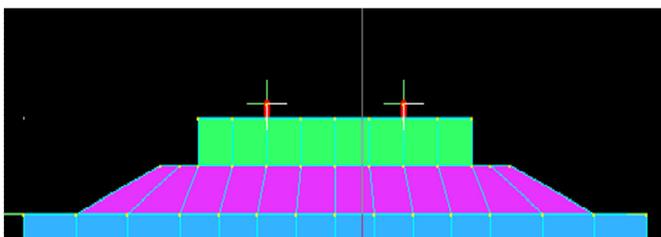
**Figure 7.5: Transnet standard sleeper detail (Transnet Freight Rail BBB0481, 2012)**

A standard FY concrete sleeper, as sketched in elevation Figure 7.6 has an average estimated cross sectional area of the sleeper of 768700 mm<sup>2</sup>.



**Figure 7.6: Standard rail transition sleeper**

The rectangular section used in the FEM program has a height of 300mm and a width of 275mm. The cross sectional area of 82500 mm<sup>2</sup>, was higher than the actual cross sectional area to preserve the similarity of the elastic characteristics of the prototype sleeper.



**Figure 7.7: FEM cross section of sleeper, ballast and SSB layer**

### 7.2.3 Parametric model properties:

The following material properties were used for the parametric study: (Refer to Table 7.3 for soil layer nomenclature). Values for the formation layers Young's modulus and Poisson's ratio were taken from past studies performed on Transnet lines by Grabe (2003).

**Table 7.1 Parametric model properties of formation layers**

Soil layer	Depth (mm)	E (MPa)	Poisson's ratio	Soil density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )
SSB	200	160	0.3	1900
SB	200	50	0.3	1950
A	200	20	0.3	1950
B	200	10	0.3	1950
BE	1200	5	0.3	1870
Ballast	200	200	0.35	1850

**Table 7.2: Parametric model properties of superstructure**

Track super-structure	E (MPa)	Poisson's ratio	Density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	fc (MPa)
Sleeper	36000	0.2	2400	32
Rail	200000	0.25	7870	–

The sub-structure characteristics are for a formation level beneath a national heavy haul line with a 26T axle load taken from Transnet's S410 specification.

**Table 7.3 Formation layer properties according to Transnet’s specification S410 (Transnet Limited S410, 1990)**

LAYER	SAR INDEX	MINIMUM GRADING MODULUS	MATERIAL PROPERTIES						PI	MAXIMUM CBR SWELL	MINIMUM COMPACTION % OF MODIFIED AASHTO DENSITY	MINIMUM STRENGTH AFTER COMPACTION CBR
			75	13.2	2.0	0.425	0.075	%				
BALLAST												
SSB	<50	2.0	100	60-85	20-50	10-30	5-15	3-10	0.5	98	60 (1.5-3Mpp) *	
SB	<80	1.8	100	70-100	20-60	10-40	5-20	3-10	0.5	95	30* (1.5-3Mpp) *	
A	<110	1.0	-	-	-	-	<40	<12	-	95 100*	20	
B	<155	0.5	-	-	-	-	<70	<17	-	93 98*	10	
B U L L K S	EA RT HW OR KS	-	-	-	-	-	-	<25	2	90 95*	5	

\*These densities apply to non-cohesive soils.

\* . Strengths in brackets apply in place of CBR values when sub-ballast is stabilised.

+ Increase to 45 in the absence of layer SSB unless otherwise specified. (Increase not normally required in dry areas).

NOTE: See Appendix A for comparable road materials. The classifications shown may be used by the Contractor at his discretion when preparing preliminary assessments of acceptability of materials for use in the listed layers.

## 7.2.4 Geosynthetic reinforcement properties:

### 7.2.4.1 Geosynthetic characteristics:

The existing design guide for a geosynthetically reinforced fill layer is SANS 207 for the South African environment. Chapter 4 concluded that SANS 207 generally over estimates the surface area affected by the presence of the void and did not provide sufficiently accurate results. Due to this, the geosynthetic tensile strength was selected based on available products.

Previous studies performed by Jaros et al. (2009) employed the use of Kaytech’s geosynthetic products when reinforcing the Gautrain line against sinkholes. The geosynthetic characteristics are shown in Table 7.4 below:

**Table 7.4: Commercially available bi-directional polyester grids**

Long term tensile resistance (kN/m)	Ultimate short term tensile resistance Tu (kN/m)	Thickness (mm)	Density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )
26	50	2	150
52	100	2	150
105	200	3	150

Creep and time dependent stresses are used in long term solutions, the geosynthetic solution proposed is a short term means of preventing catastrophic collapse. The long term tensile strength takes creep, environmental conditions and long term damage into account hence Tu will not be factored by safety coefficients. A tensile strength of 100 kN/m was selected for the parametric model, in the further investigation phase other tensile strengths were investigated. Full details of the geosynthetic material properties are contained in Appendix A.

**7.2.5 Model limitations:**

**7.2.5.1 Maximum rail stress:**

A maximum rail stress of 120 MPa is allowable on heavy haul lines (see section 7.4.1.1)

**7.2.5.2 Maximum ballast bed deformation:**

The allowable deformation in ballast beds as per the specifications set out in Section 2.8.1. SANS 207 was as follows:

$$\frac{d_s}{D_s} \leq 0.002$$

A similar ballast bed deformation was employed in the German design guide EBGEO: 2011 for heavy haul lines.

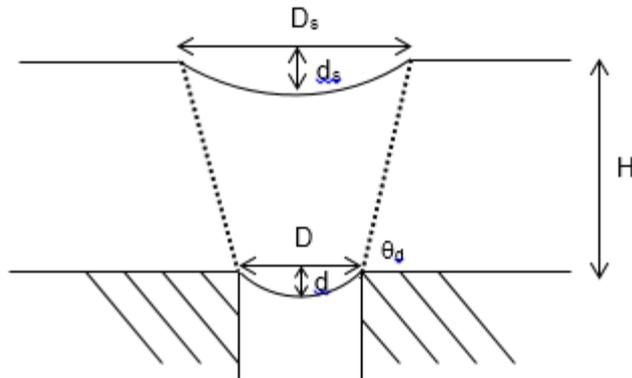
$$D_s = D + (2H/\tan\theta_d)$$

D = Selected sinkhole diameter, 2m (Sinkhole diameter selected depends on the geological history of the selected site)

$$H = SSB H + SB H + A H + B H$$

$$= (200 + 200 + 200 + 200) \text{ mm}$$

$$= 0.8 \text{ m}$$



**Figure 7.8 Upward propagation of a subgrade void assumed geometry (South African National Standard SANS 207, 2006)**

In SANS 207 the angle of draw is equal to the frictional angle of the soil above the geogrid layer, the material above the geogrid layer has varying properties in terms of the frictional angle. From previous investigations performed by de Lange (2016) a value of  $60^\circ$  is used. Hence  $\theta_d = 60^\circ$ . The maximum diameter of the settlement trough  $D_s =$

$$D_s = D + (2H/\tan\theta_d)$$

$$= 2 + (2 \cdot 0.8 / \tan(60^\circ))$$

$$= 2.924 \text{ m}$$

$$\frac{d_s}{D_s} = 0.002$$

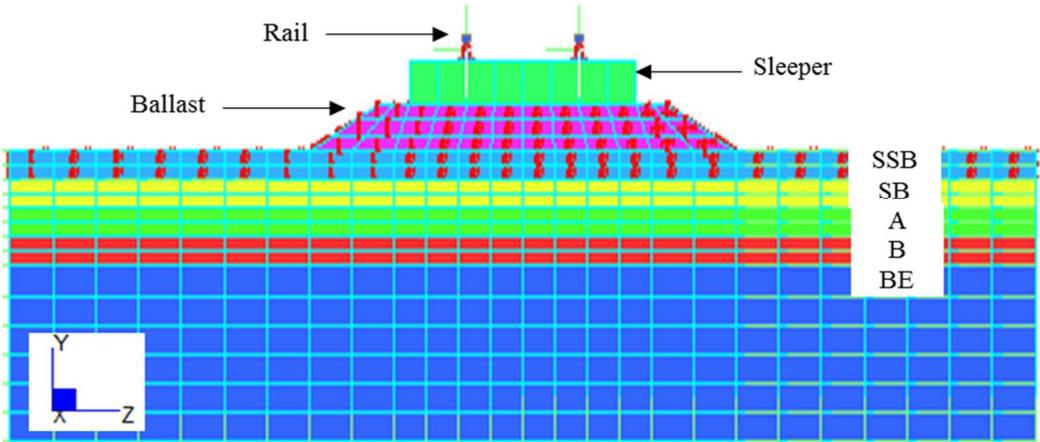
Hence the maximum ballast bed settlement

$$d_s = 2.924 \cdot 0.002$$

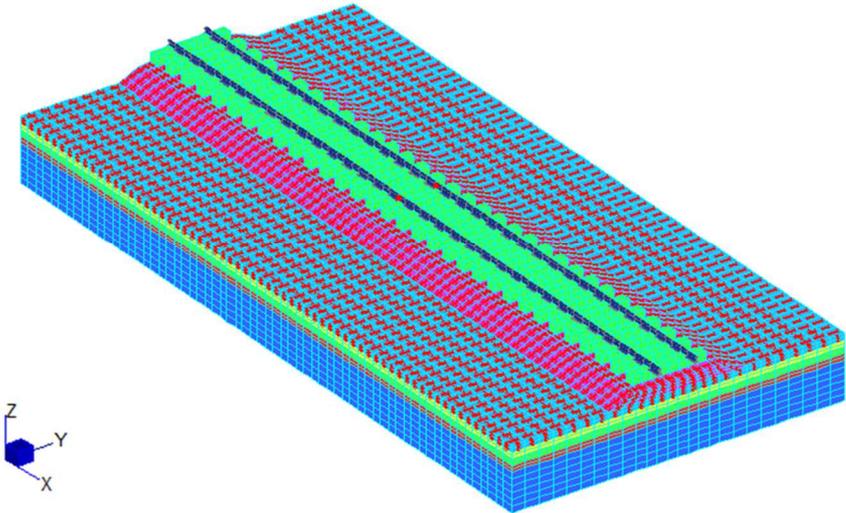
$$= 5.847 \text{ mm}$$

**7.3 Methodology:**

When developing the parametric model, the first step is to construct a suitable geometric representation of the problem. The development of the model geometry included the following elements: Rail, sleeper, ballast, SSB, SB, A, B and BE soil layer. The geometric characteristics of the layer works are set out in Table 7.1.



**Figure 7.9: Cross section of parametric model in YZ Plane**



**Figure 7.10: Parametric model 3D**

Figure 7.9 & Figure 7.10 above show the cross sectional and 3D view of the model geometry used.

### 7.3.1 Parametric model mesh:

The geometry of the mesh was selected such that the ballast, sleeper and rail were aligned to one another, to ensure compatibility of the mesh. The geometry of the mesh of the various track elements is shown in Figures 7.11 – 7.13 below:

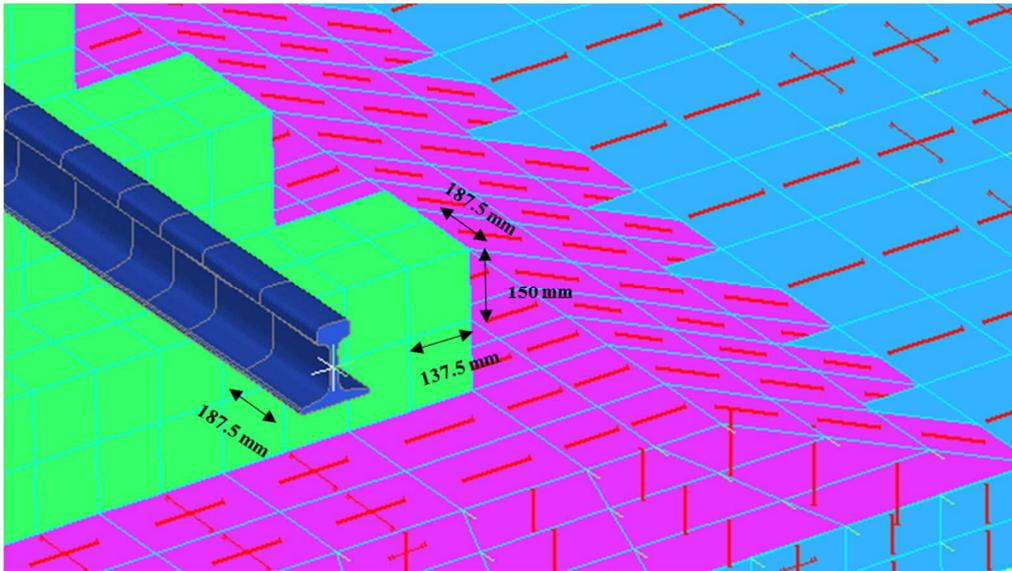


Figure 7.11: Mesh geometry of concrete sleeper in parametric model

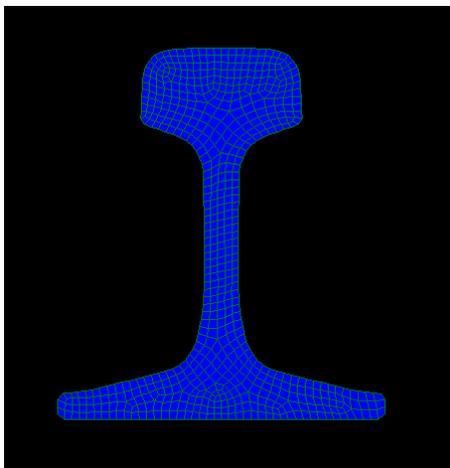


Figure 7.12: Mesh geometry of rail

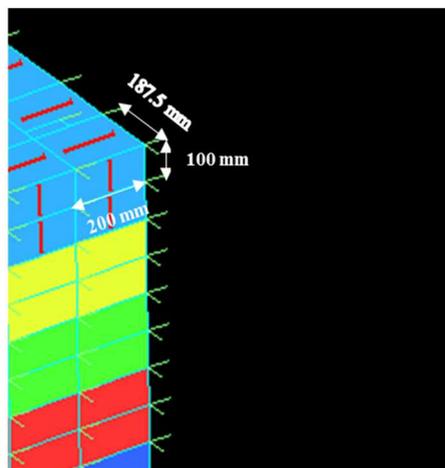


Figure 7.13: Mesh geometry of formation layers

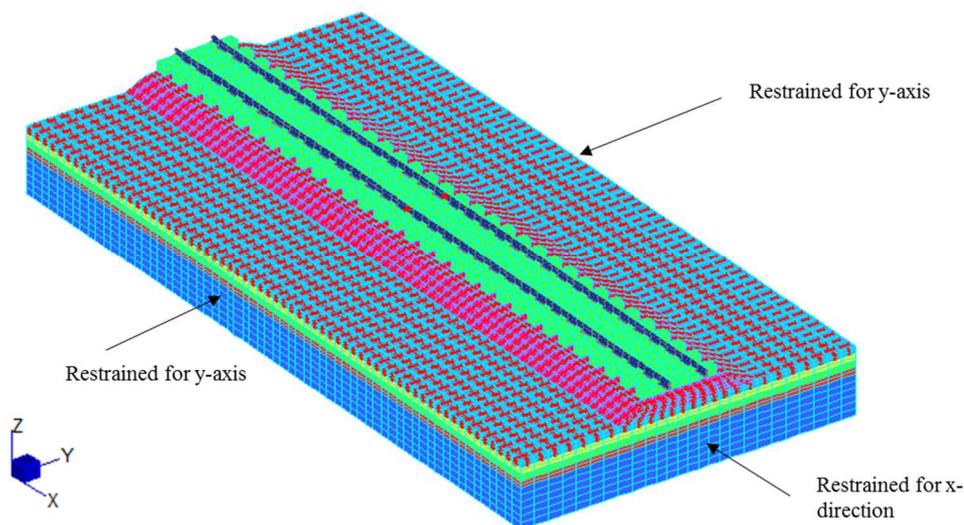
One of the factors that affected the computational time of 3D models was the density of the mesh. Due to the size of the model a smaller mesh greatly increased the running time, resulting in simulations taking several hours. The dimensions shown above are the minimum mesh sizes that give a relatively reasonable 3D model computational time of an hour.

### 7.3.2 *Type of element:*

- The soil was modelled using 8-noded brick elements.
- The geogrid is modelled using a 3D membrane element.

In 3D applications where fabric type structures need to be modelled, Strand 7 uses 3D membrane elements. 3D membranes carry in plane stresses alone and have no bending stiffness. The use of membrane elements in modelling geosynthetics was validated in previous studies Potts (2007), Mifsud (2005), Grabe (2003).

### 7.3.3 *Restraint conditions:*

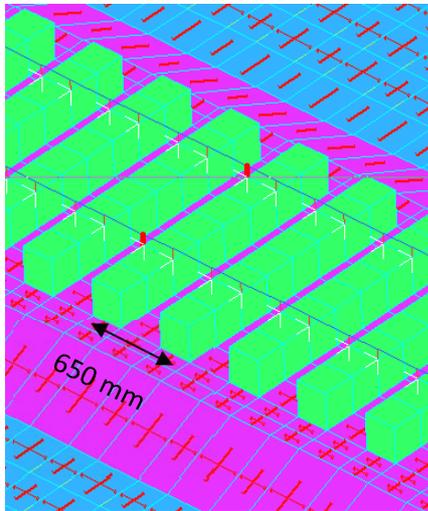


**Figure 7.14: Restraint conditions used in the parametric model**

The boundary of the model was restrained from horizontal movement but free in the vertical z-direction.

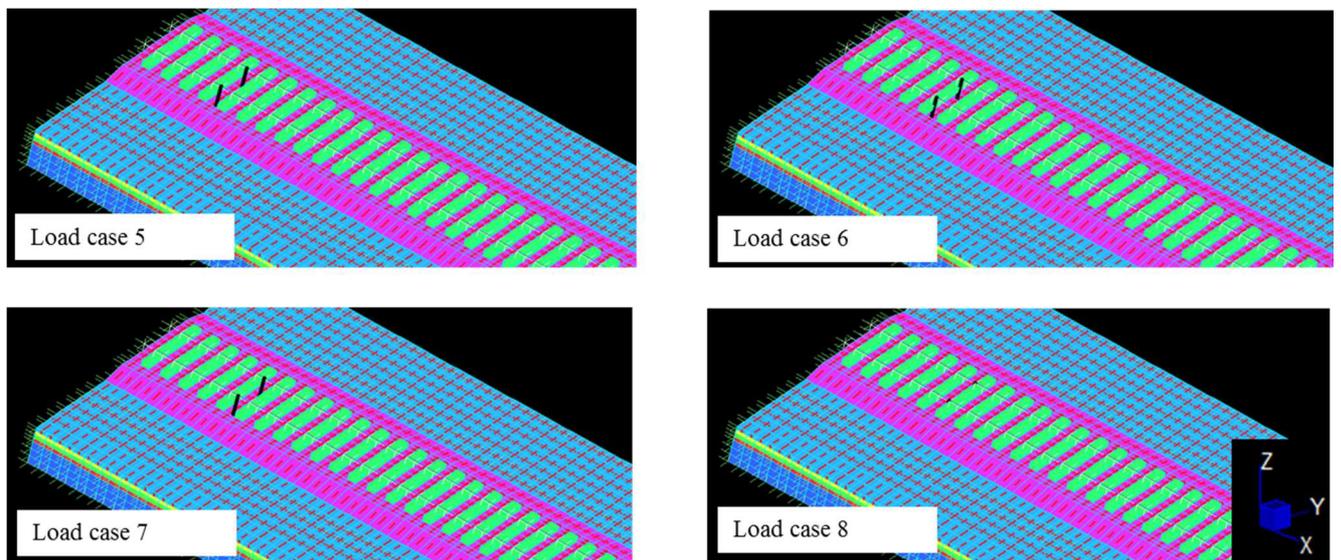
### 7.3.4 Loading conditions:

The line load was 26T for a 60kg/m heavy haul rail line. A 13T axle load was added to both rail line 1 and line 2. The loading cases were considered as a rolling load present on the sleeper and between the sleepers. There were 60 load cases considered in total (See Appendix B).



The load applied to the model was a static load applied in “stages”. A dynamic load would be more appropriate, however only a static mode was provided in this specific Strand 7 program package. Applying the static load in moving stages however accounted for the movement of the wheel axle load when passing over the rail line. The sleepers in the parametric model are spaced at 650mm at each loading stage in the model, the axle load was applied either onto the sleeper or in the 650mm section between the sleepers.

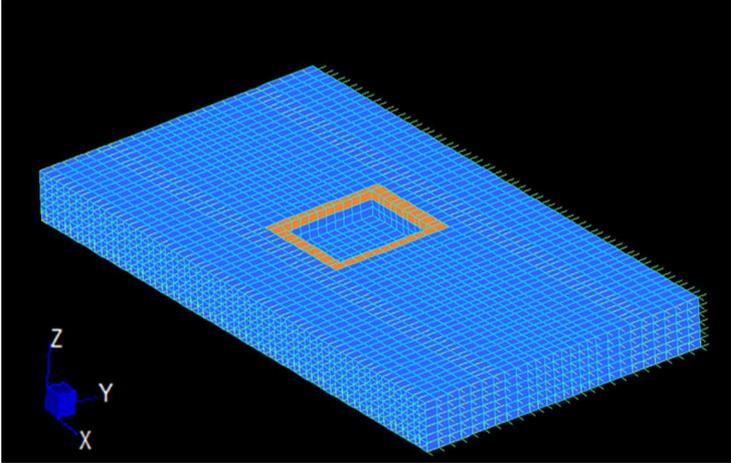
**Figure 7.15: Sleeper spacing used in all parametric models**



**Figure 7.16: Load cases position along rail line**

The position along the x-axis and the vertical loading are shown in Appendix B.

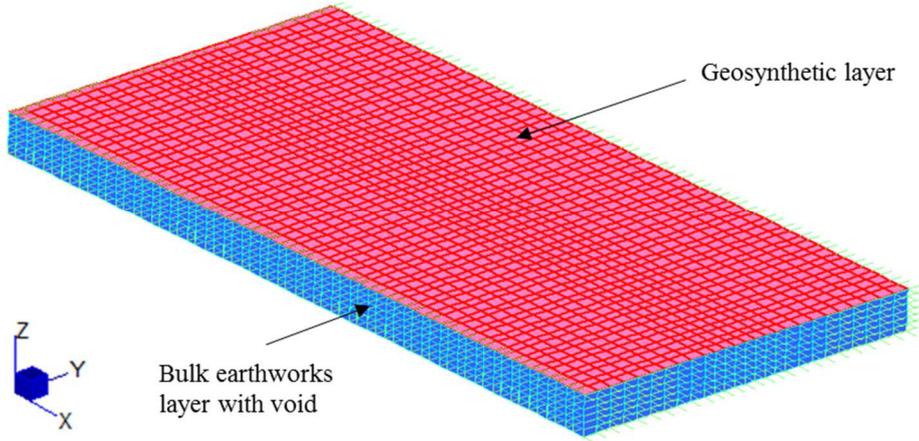
**7.3.5 Void formation:**



After the model geometry, restraint and loading conditions were developed, the void was formed. A 2 x 2 m void was created in the pre-existing bulk earthworks layer that supports the engineered fill layers above. The void was positioned directly underneath the rail line for maximum effect.

**Figure 7.17 Void developed within the bulk earth works layer (natural formation) beneath the engineered formation fill layers of the parametric model**

A geogrid layer represented by 3D membrane reinforcement was positioned above the void.



**Figure 7.18: Geogrid reinforcement positioning above the void in the parametric model**

The reinforcement was unrestrained along the edges such that movement and interlocking was allowed between the soil and the geosynthetic.

## 7.4 Results parametric study:

### 7.4.1 Reference model:

The reference model was a formation level, ballast, sleeper and rail model with no void or geogrid reinforcement. The model was developed so that a reference point for rail deflection is observed and the results between a geogrid reinforced formation level and a non-reinforced formation level are compared.

The following results were observed in the reference model:

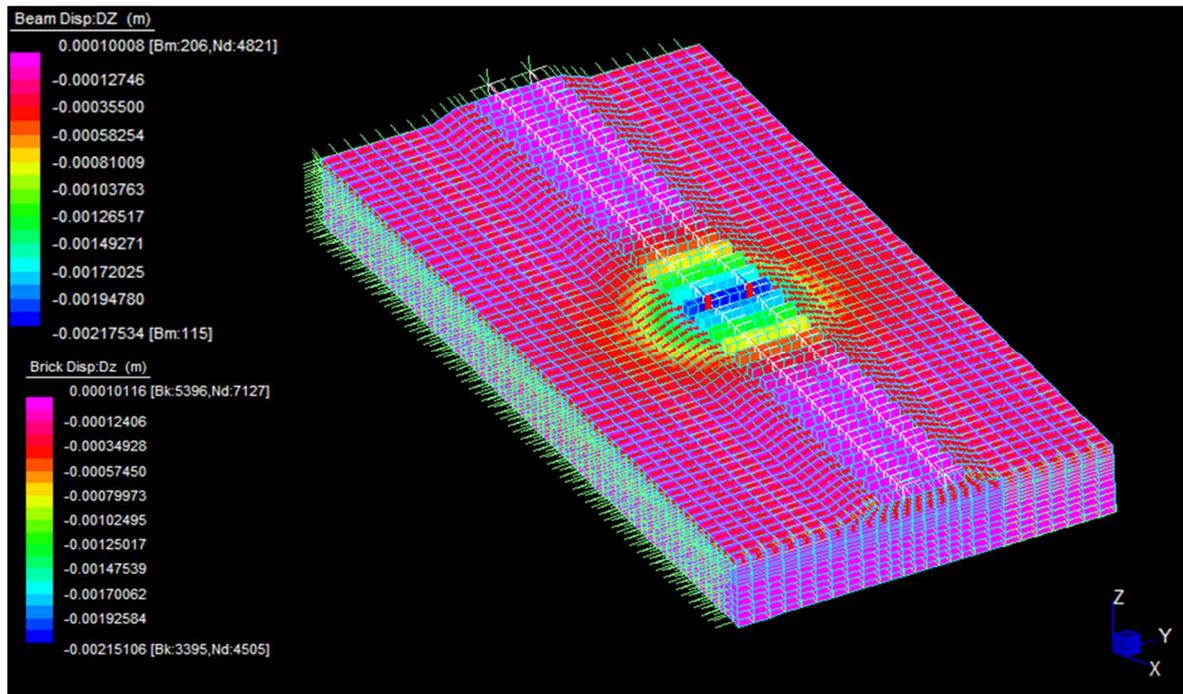
- Maximum rail deflection
- Maximum rail stress
- Maximum formation level deflection

#### 7.4.1.1 Model limits:

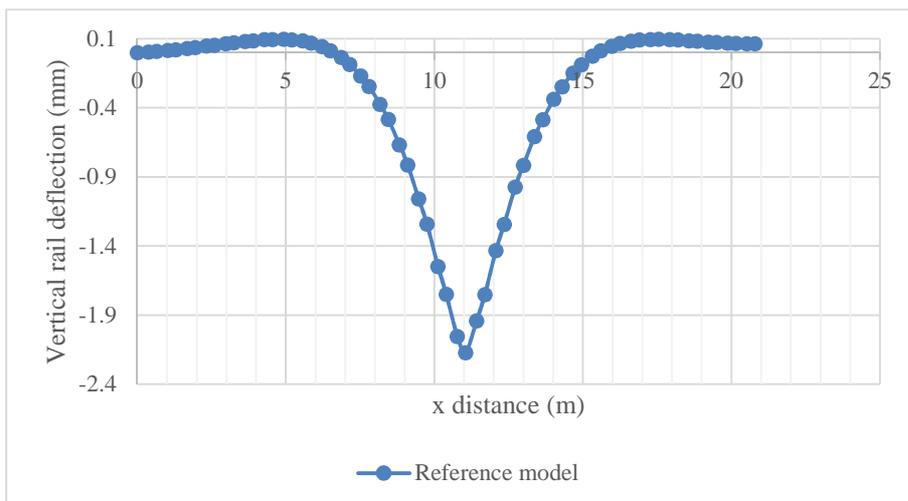
Rails are made of structural steel with a yield strength of 830 MPa. Due to the dynamic loading the line was constantly undergoing, a safety coefficient of 1/3 is multiplied to the steels ultimate tensile strength to prevent rail fatigue. The presence of welds in the rails was also taken into account by multiplying the rail UTS by a value of 0.6. The rail experienced longitudinal stresses due to temperature increase and an additional safety coefficient of 0.75 is used. Hence the serviceability limit on the rail becomes:  $UTS \times 0.333 \times 0.6 \times 0.75 = 124.3 \text{ MPa}$ , the stress limit in rails was thus taken as 120 MPa.

### 7.4.1.2 Rail deflection:

The results in terms of rail deflection are shown in Figure 7.19 & Figure 7.20 below. A maximum rail displacement of 2.175 mm was predicted by the FEM model. The rail showed an uplift of 0.1 mm before the maximum rail deflection, this was due to the longitudinal forces in the rail.

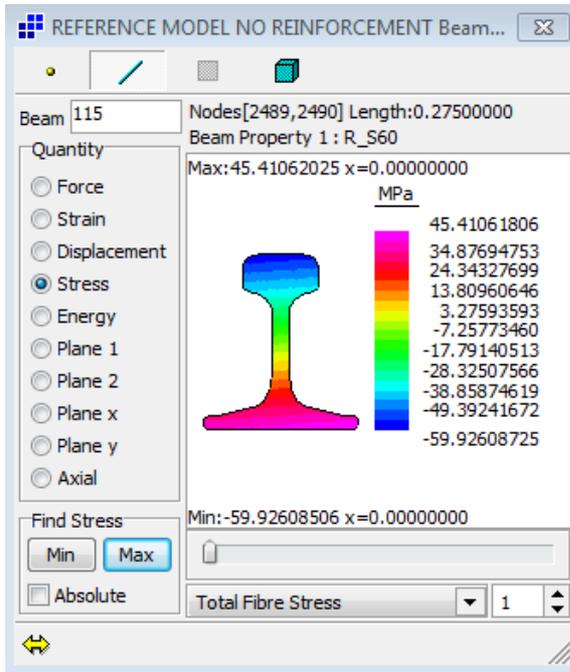


**Figure 7.19: Vertical displacement contours for load case 31**



**Figure 7.20: Maximum vertical rail deflection in the reference model:**

### 7.4.1.3 Rail stress



The maximum stress in the rail was a compressive force of 59.93 MPa. In similar loading applications performed in Prokon, the maximum rail stress predicted for a 60kg/m rail with a 26T axle load was  $\pm 60$ MPa in compression. The FEM program thus predicts a reasonable indication of the rail stress under normal track conditions.

**Figure 7.21: Maximum rail stress in the reference model of parametric investigation**

### 7.4.1.4 Summary of results: Reference model:

A summary of the results obtained from the reference parametric model are shown in the table below:

**Table 7.5: Summary of results for the reference parametric model**

	Value
Maximum rail deflection	2.175 mm
Maximum rail stress	59.926 MPa
Maximum formation level deflection	2.151 mm

The reference model provided a reasonable estimation of the rail stress and was used through the course of the parametric investigation for comparative purposes.

#### 7.4.2 Geosynthetically reinforced parametric model

For the first stage of the investigation, the reference model with the addition of a layer of geogrid reinforcement placed at a depth of 0.2 m was used. (Below the SSB layer). The analysis was performed and the maximum rail stress, deflection, formation level deflection and geogrid deflection were observed. The deformed shape of the 3D membrane representing the geotextile layer is shown in Figure 7.22 below.

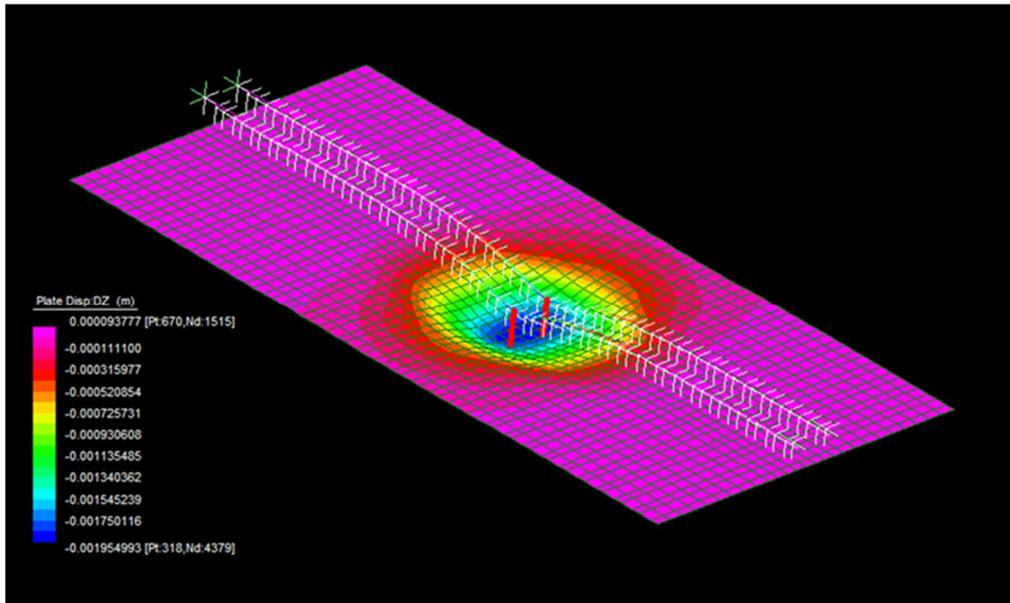


Figure 7.22: Deformed shape of geosynthetic layer

**7.4.3 Results: Geosynthetically reinforced parametric mode:**

The resulting rail, formation level and geosynthetic deflections are shown in Table 7.6 below

**Table 7.6: Results: Geosynthetically reinforced parametric model**

	Rail		Maximum formation level deflection (mm)
	Maximum deflection (mm)	Stress (MPa)	
Reference model	2.175	59.926	2.151
Model with geosynthetic reinforcement	2.175	59.923	2.149

The stress in the rail decreased by 0.005%. The formation level shows a 0.09% decrease in deflection when the geogrid layer is included. The decrease in rail stress is negligible with geosynthetic reinforcement present.

**7.4.4 Geogrid reinforced parametric model with void**

In this stage of the investigation a 2 x 2m void was created in the un-engineered bulk earthworks layer. The vertical sides of the void were restrained in DX and DY, so as to prevent collapse of the material surrounding the void.

**7.4.4.1 Geogrid reinforced parametric model with void**

The results of the investigation when a void was included are shown in Table 7.7 below:

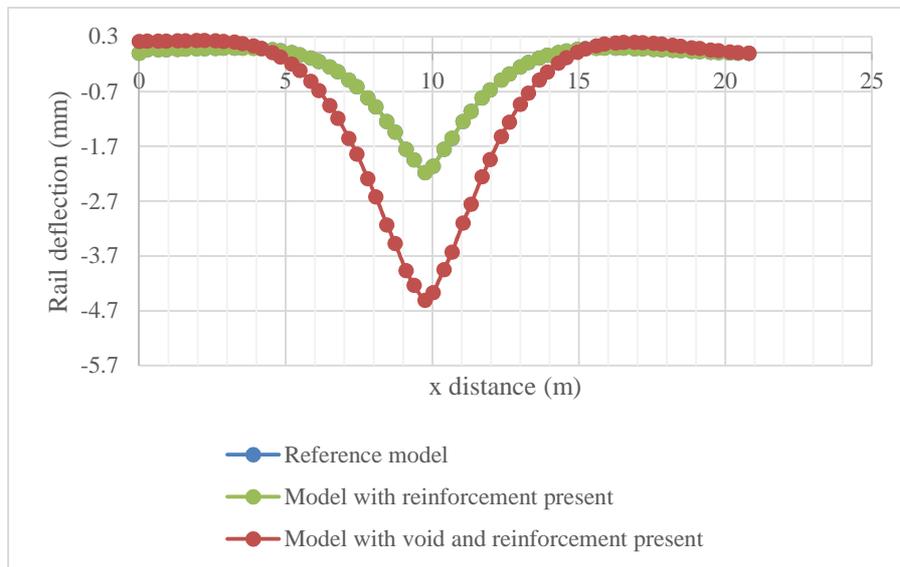
**Table 7.7: Result comparison geogrid reinforced section with void**

	Rail		Maximum formation level deflection (mm)	Maximum geogrid deflection (mm)
	Maximum deflection (mm)	Stress (MPa)		
Reference model	2.175	59.926	2.151	-

Model with single layer geogrid	2.175	59.923	2.149	1.950
Model with void and single geogrid layer	4.504	75.30	4.368	4.254

The addition of the void in the model resulted in an increase in rail deflection, stress and settlements as expected. The rail stress when a void has formed was still however below the maximum allowable stress value of 120 MPa. This indicated that the rail did not fail when the void formed beneath it.

Figure 7.23 below showed the increase in rail deflection with the formation of the subgrade void.



The maximum allowable deflection at ballast level according to the calculations carried out in section 7.2.5.2 was 5.85 mm.

**Figure 7.23: Comparison in vertical rail deflection between the reference models, reinforced model and reinforced model with a void present.**

The maximum ballast deflection obtained was 4.368mm, this is lower than the maximum allowable surface settlement. With the reasonable prediction of the rail deflections and stresses obtained, an investigation into how different formation layer characteristics/ geometric conditions change the predicted surface settlements and rail stresses was undertaken.

## 7.5 Soil parameters:

All FEM simulations performed used the Mohr-Coulomb failure criterion to predict the behaviour of the soil. The Mohr-Coulomb failure criterion was used in the FEM program to predict the shear strength in soil at different effective stress values, governed by the failure equation:

$$\tau = c' + \sigma_n \tan(\varphi')$$

The Mohr-Coulomb soil model was elastic-perfectly plastic. The elastic behaviour of soil/ how the soil behaves up to yield was governed by the Young's modulus (E) and Poisson's ratio ( $\mu$ ) values of compressibility. On the onset of plastic behaviour, the soil follows the failure equation stated above and is governed by the angle of internal friction ( $\varphi$ ) and the cohesion (c).

The Young's modulus (E), angle of internal friction ( $\varphi$ ), earth pressure coefficient ( $K_0$ ) and cohesion are altered and the effects these parameters had on the deformations/stresses in the geogrid layer were observed.

Table 7.8 below shows the range of values considered in the SSB soil layer during the parametric investigation.

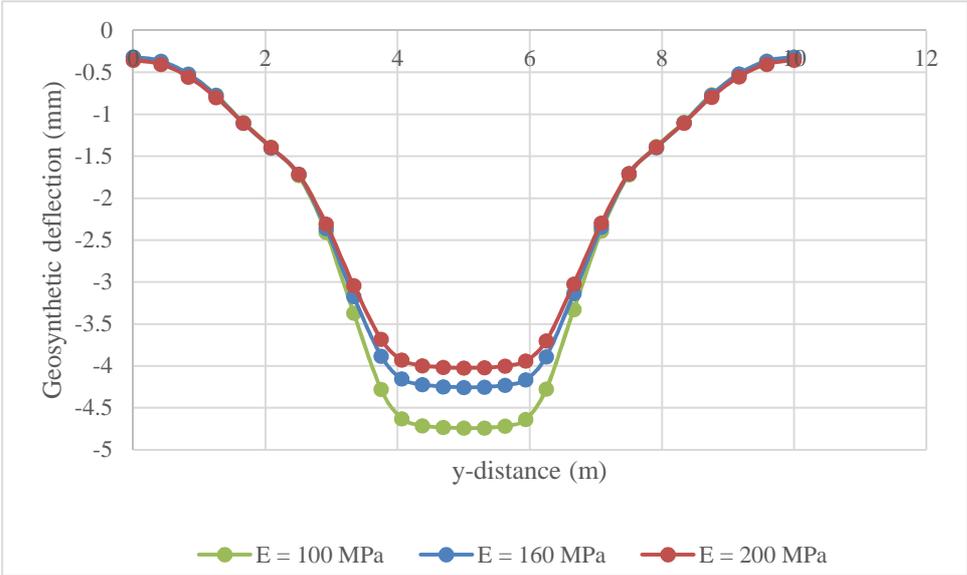
**Table 7.8: Soil parameters variations in the SSB layer of the parametric investigation**

Parameter	Value
Young's modulus (MPa)	100, 160, 200
Friction angle (Deg)	40, 50
Earth pressure coefficient	0.357, 0.5, 1
Cohesion (kPa)	1
Density (kN/m <sup>3</sup> )	19

### 7.5.1 Young's Modulus (E)

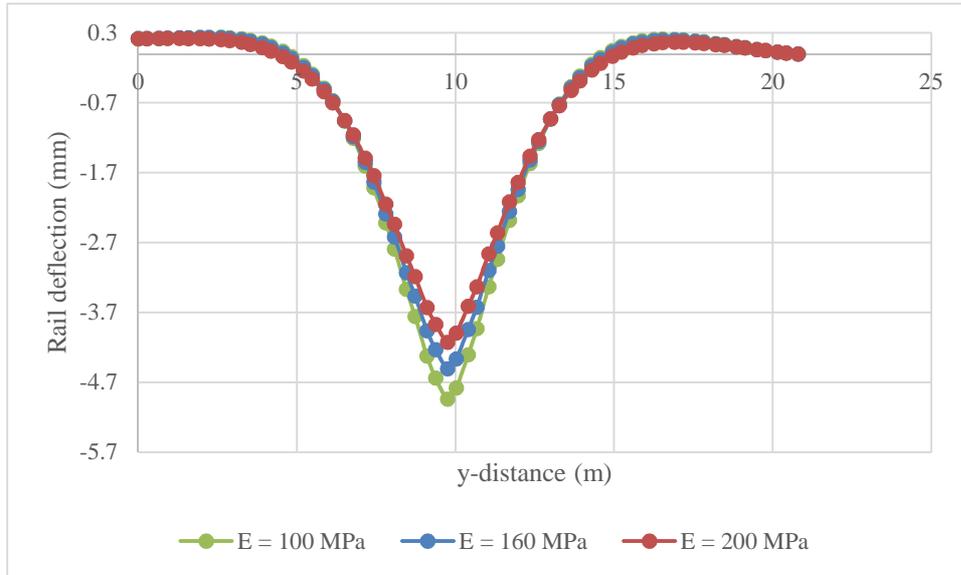
The Young's modulus was an indication of the elasticity of the soil, the E value controlled the compressibility of the material prior to yield. There are multiple formation layers in a track structure, for the sake of simplicity and to limit the number of variables, only the soil properties in the SSB layer were altered. In site conditions when formation rehabilitation occurs, the SSB layer is generally selected for improvement as this is the most cost effective choice and

minimises excavation. A Young's modulus value of 160 MPa was used in the SSB layer for the previous simulations.

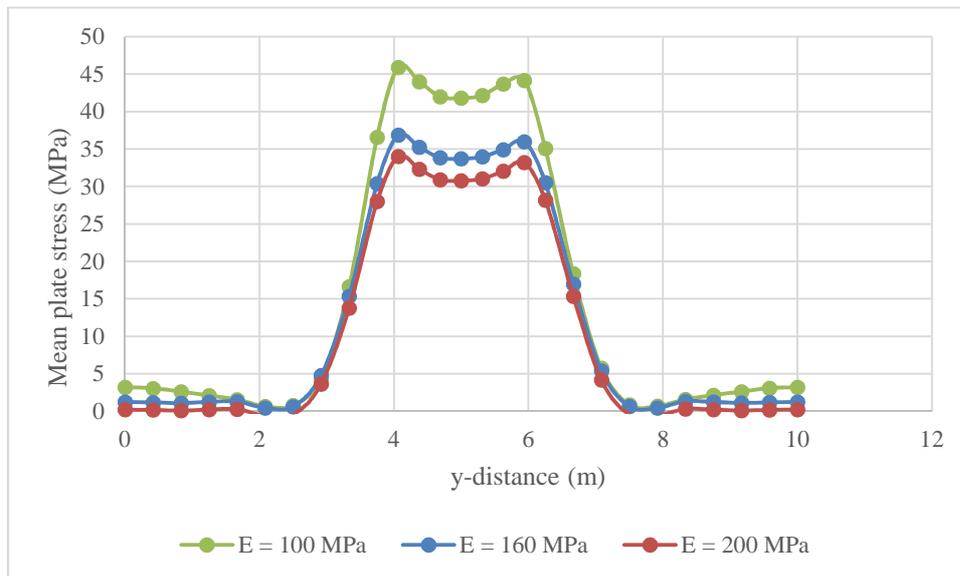


**Figure 7.24: Change in geosynthetic deflection in a geotextile present in a geosynthetically reinforced formation level with a subgrade void present when the Young's modulus of the formation level is increased.**

Increasing the Young's modulus of the SSB layer from 100 MPa to 200 MPa decreases the compressibility of the material above the void, this would result in a decrease in geotextile deflection as predicted by the FEM model. The rail deflection shows a similar decrease with an increase in the Young's Modulus and was illustrated in Figure 7.25 below. The rail stress decreases from 75.30 MPa when E = 160 MPa to 71.458 MPa when E = 200 MPa.



**Figure 7.25** Change in deflection of rail line over a geosynthetically reinforced formation level with a subgrade void present when the Young's modulus of the formation level is increased.



In Figure 7.26 the stress developed in the geosynthetic decreased from 36.003 MPa to 33.207 MPa when the SSB layers Young's modulus was increased.

**Figure 7.26:** Change in stress at geotextile level present in a geosynthetically reinforced formation level with a subgrade void present when the Young's modulus of the formation level is increased.

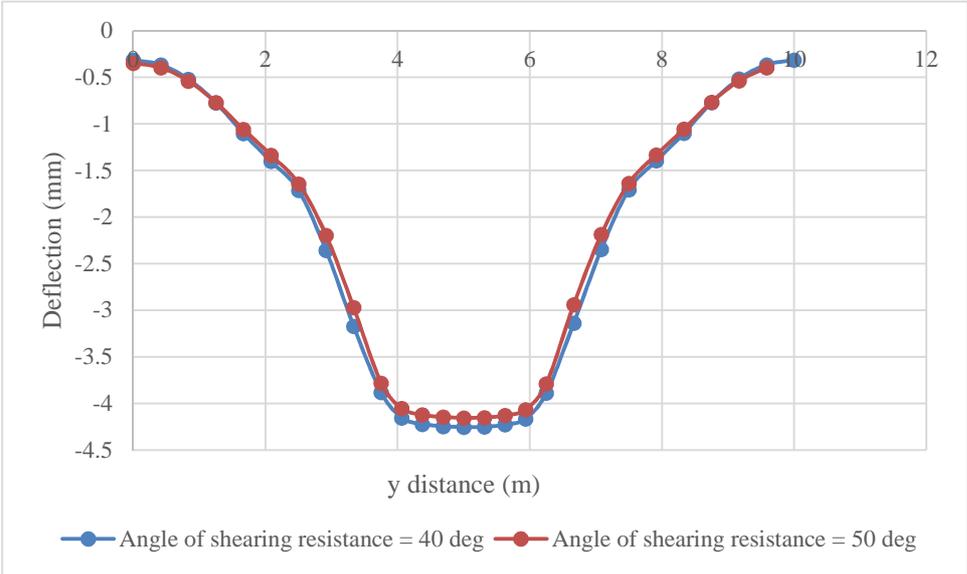
In a rail model the E value of the formation layers can be increased by including soil stabilising agents (cementing). However, concrete stabilised subgrades have exhibited problems such as cracking and excessive rail movement in long term Transnet applications. Although stabilisation is still practised in track, it is time consuming when compared to geosynthetic reinforcement and generally more expensive.

**7.5.2 Angle of internal friction ( $\phi$ )**

The angle of internal friction provided an indication of a soils/rocks ability to withstand shear force. The angle of shearing resistance in the SSB layer was increased from 40 to 50°.

A general angle of internal friction of 40° was used in the SSB layer as per Transnet’s specifications (Transnet Freight Rail S406, 1998). The angle of friction of 50° represented an SSB layer with a large amount of ballast stones present, hence a larger angle of internal friction.

With a larger angle of shearing resistance in the layer the geosynthetic deflections should decrease. The maximum rail stress underwent a decrease with an increase in the angle of internal friction.

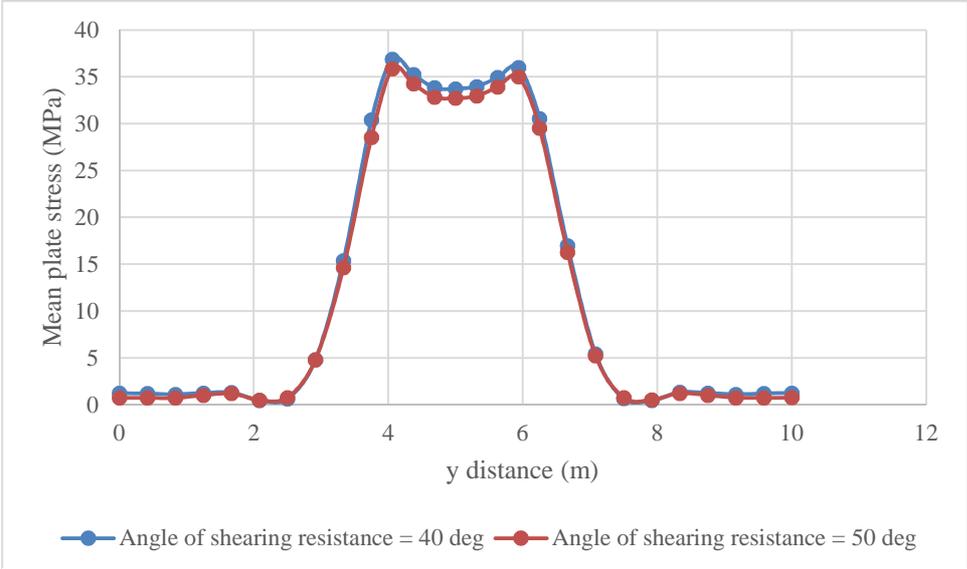


**Figure 7.27: Change in geosynthetic deflection in a geotextile present in a geosynthetically reinforced formation level with a subgrade void present when the angle of shearing resistance of the formation level was increased**

**Table 7.9: Parametric model results with angle of internal friction and Young’s Modulus increase**

Soil parameters	Maximum geosynthetic stress (MPa)	Maximum rail stress (MPa)
$E = 160 \text{ MPa}, \varphi = 40^\circ$	36.003	75.30
$E = 160 \text{ MPa}, \varphi = 50^\circ$	35.003	74.242
$E = 100 \text{ MPa}, \varphi = 40^\circ$	44.156	81.942
$E = 200 \text{ MPa}, \varphi = 40^\circ$	33.206	71.458

The stress within the geosynthetic fabric itself decreased as the angle of internal resistance increased as shown in Figure 7.28 below.



**Figure 7.28: Change in stress at geotextile level present in a geosynthetically reinforced formation level with a subgrade void present when the angle of shearing resistance of the formation level was increased**

Increasing the angle of shearing resistance decreased the settlement and the geosynthetic stress. In track conditions, the angle of shearing resistance can be increased by increasing the ratio of ballast stones to gravel in the SSB layer.

### 7.5.3 Earth pressure coefficient:

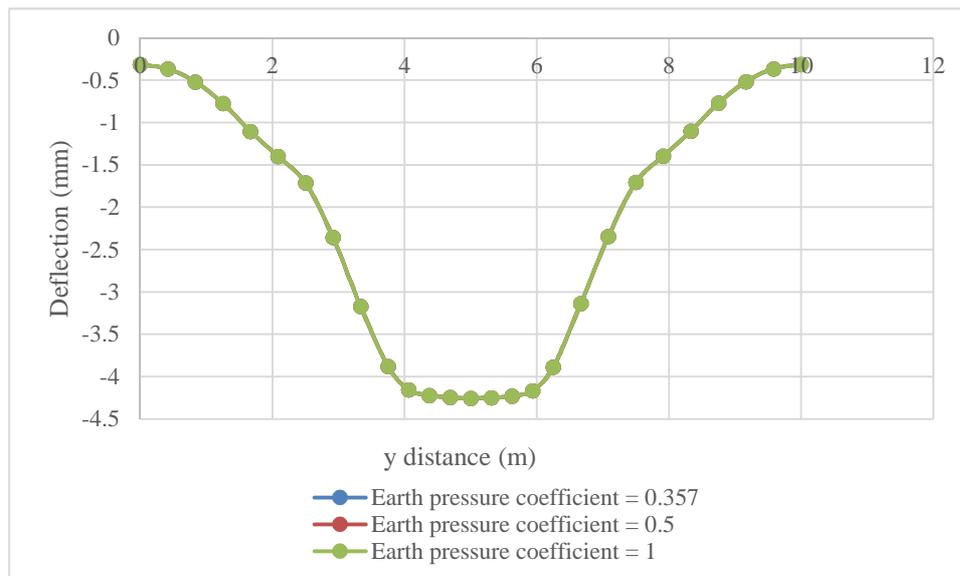
The coefficient of earth pressure at rest is used in the FEM program in order to accurately predict pre-existing in-situ stress in the soil due to the formation layer height, elevation of the element relative to any fluid (drained conditions are considered in all cases) as well as the material above each element. The equation describing  $K_0$  for normally consolidated soil is taken as:

$$K_0 = 1 - \sin(\varphi), \text{ where } \varphi = \text{Angle of internal friction (Jaky's Formulae)}$$

Jaky's formulae shows the relationship between the angle of internal resistance and the earth pressure coefficient. For all other parametric models a  $K_0$  of 0.357 was used for the SSB layer.

$$K_0 = 1 - \sin(40^\circ) = 0.357 \text{ (for the SSB layer)}$$

$K_0$  was then increased to 0.5 and 1, and the resulting geogrid deflection and rail stress are observed.



The geogrid deflection does not change with the increase in the earth pressure coefficient.

Theoretically it is expected that the geogrid

**Figure 7.29: Change in geosynthetic deflection in a geotextile present in a geosynthetically reinforced formation level with a subgrade void present when the coefficient of earth pressure at rest in the formation level was increased**

deflections and subsequent soil surface deflections will decrease with an increase in the soil pressure coefficient, this is however not the case. The maximum rail stress remains at 75.30 MPa throughout.

Similar results were obtained in Potts (2007) and Mifsud (2005) where the increase in  $K_0$  did not result in any change in the geogrid deflection, stress or soil surface settlement. Potts (2007) theorised that according to Tezarghis soil arching equation,

$$\sigma_v = \frac{D(\gamma - 2c/D)}{2K \tan \phi} \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{2Kz}{D} \tan \phi} \right) + w_s e^{-\frac{2Kz}{D} \tan \phi}$$

And increase in the coefficient of earth pressure would increase the fills ability to arch. With an increased probability of an arch forming in the soil, it is expected that smaller stresses in the geogrid and a decrease in soil as well as geogrid deflection will take place. The parametric models SSB layer H/D ratio is small (0.2), hence the probability of a soil arch taking place is quite low. The wheels axle point load would also play a role in preventing any possible soil arch formation.

#### **7.5.4 Cohesion:**

The cohesion value of soils is the shear strength in the soil when the compressive stresses are equal to zero. A minimal cohesion value of 1 kPa was selected for the SSB Layer, as the FEM solver will not run with a cohesion value of 0 MPa.

#### **7.5.5 Density:**

The density of the SSB layer depends mainly on the amount of compaction that the layer has undergone during the construction process as well as the mineral make-up of the soil and how the particles pack together. The SSB layer density as per Transnet's specifications is 19 kN/m<sup>3</sup>.

#### **7.6 Loading conditions:**

In this phase of the parametric study, the axle loading on the railway line was changed and the effect that this parameter change had on the geosynthetic stress and deflection was observed.

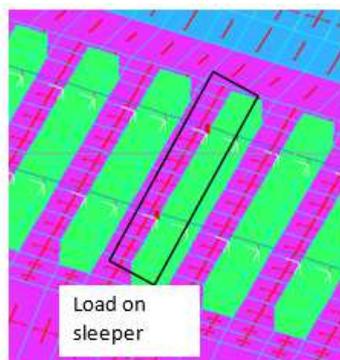
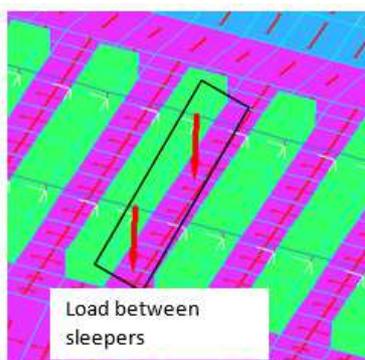
A 26 T axle load was considered in the previous parametric simulations, however the majority of the rail lines in South Africa carry a 20 T axle load.



Certain lines are being upgraded to a 30 T axle load in order to facilitate the transport of larger tonnages and more goods. With the increase in axle load the formation layers are tested to see if they conform to Transnet's standards.

**Figure 7.30: Perway network South Africa where the legend represents the tonnages carried as indicated by the colour of the rail line**

For research purposes expected axle load was increased in the existing model from 26T to 30T while keeping the formation level parameters the same.



The axle load was applied in 60 stages to simulate the movement of a locomotive's wheel over the rail. The axle load in all the load cases was increased to 30T and the results observed (Appendix B).

**Figure 7.31: Load position on track moving from on top of the sleeper itself to between the two sleepers**

The results of the axle load increase are shown in Table 7.10 below:

**Table 7.10: Geosynthetic strain with increase in axle load**

<b>Axle load (T)</b>	<b>Maximum rail stress (MPa)</b>	<b>Maximum geosynthetic stress (MPa)</b>	<b>Status</b>
26	75.30	36.003	Acceptable
30	Non convergence		Unacceptable

The ultimate tensile strength of the selected geosynthetic was 100 kN/m, the thickness of the fabric was 2mm hence the stress limit in the reinforcement was 50 MPa. At an axle load of 30 T, the ultimate stress limit in the fabric was exceeded and the model did not converge when the load was directly above the void. Indicating that with an axle load increase the formation needs to be removed and a geogrid layer with increased tensile strength should be installed (or multiple reinforcement layers).

### **7.7 Geosynthetic reinforcement parameters:**

In this phase of the parametric investigation, the geosynthetic reinforcement properties were varied in terms of the strength requirements and the number of geosynthetic layers used.

**Table 7.11: Geosynthetic reinforcement parameters: compare to in field geogrids**

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Value range</b>
Tensile modulus (kN/m)	50, 100, 200
Poisson's Ratio	0.2
Density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	150
Thickness (mm)	2-3
Number of geogrid layers	1 - 4

### 7.8 Tensile modulus (T):

The tensile modulus values were selected from existing products, the testing details are found in Appendix A. The following geosynthetic tensile resistance values were considered through the course of the parametric investigation:

**Table 7.12: Commercially available bi-directional polyester grids**

Long term tensile resistance (kN/m)	Ultimate short term tensile resistance $T_u$ (kN/m)	Thickness (mm)	Density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Cost (R/m <sup>2</sup> )
26	50	2	150	36.55
52	100	2	150	39.82
105	200	3	150	57.55

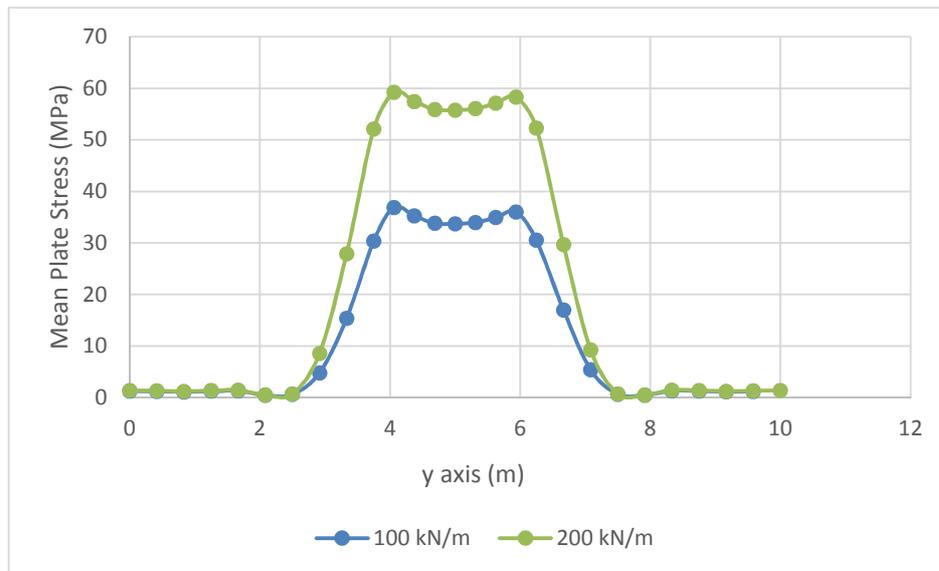
The long term tensile resistance value was the  $T_u$  value multiplied by factors of safety for creep and various environmental factors. For the purpose of the investigation creep and environmental factors are disregarded, hence the  $T_u$  value was considered as it is. The results of the analysis are shown in Table 7.13 below:

**Table 7.13: Geosynthetic strain with change in geosynthetic tensile modulus**

Geosynthetic modulus (kN/m)	Maximum rail stress (MPa)	Maximum geosynthetic stress (MPa)	Status
50	Non convergence		Unacceptable
100	75.30	36.003	Acceptable
200	68.491	59.263	Acceptable

In Table 7.13 as the geosynthetic modulus (T) increases there was

a decrease in the surface settlement and the subsequent rail deflections. The maximum stress in the rail also showed a decrease with increased stiffness of the geosynthetic layer. The resulting stress values were acceptable when  $T \geq 100$  kN/m.



**Figure 7.32 Change in stress at geotextile level present in a geosynthetically reinforced formation level with a subgrade void present when different commercially available geosynthetic products were used**

Increasing the tensile modulus of the geosynthetic caused an increase in the geosynthetic stress itself. A similar result was obtained in Potts (2007) where increasing the tensile modulus of the geogrid resulted in the geogrid attracting a larger load and ultimately moved the geogrid stress closer to the ultimate tensile strength when the tensile modulus was very high. This led to the conclusion that a stiffer reinforcement layer attracts more load.

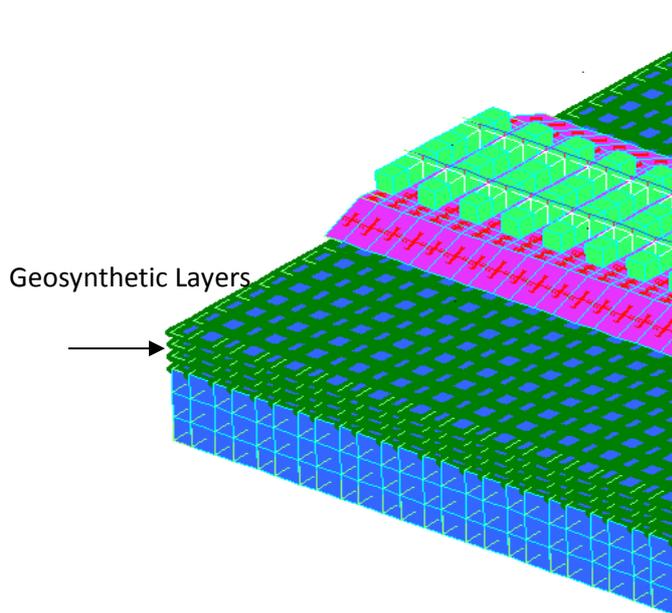
### 7.9 Number of geosynthetic reinforcement layers:

The use of a geosynthetic layer as basal reinforcement has been covered in SANS 207 and the British Code. The use of multi-layered geosynthetic reinforcement however has not been extensively researched, in this section of the parametric study up to four layers of geosynthetic reinforcement were used.

The void considered remains at 2m. The addition of the reinforcement layers caused the overall formation stiffness to increase, thus minimising the deflection in the model. In the study the use of 1 – 4 reinforcement layers was considered with a geosynthetic modulus of 100 kN/m.

In previous investigations performed by Mifsud (2005) and Potts (2007) it was seen that the soil deformations decreased slightly with the use of multiple geosynthetic layers. The inclusion of a second reinforcement layer did improve results in terms of the geosynthetic stress and

deflection, the addition of a 3rd and 4th layer of reinforcement resulted in no improvement in the results.



The geosynthetic layers were positioned as illustrated in Figure 7.33.

Layer 1: Below SSB Layer

Layer 2: Below SB Layer

Layer 3: Below A Layer

Layer 4: Below B Layer

The model was constructed from the bottom upward, with the bulk earthworks layer developed first, with the subsequent placement of the lowermost reinforcement layer. The B layer of soil was then placed above the system followed by the subsequent reinforcement

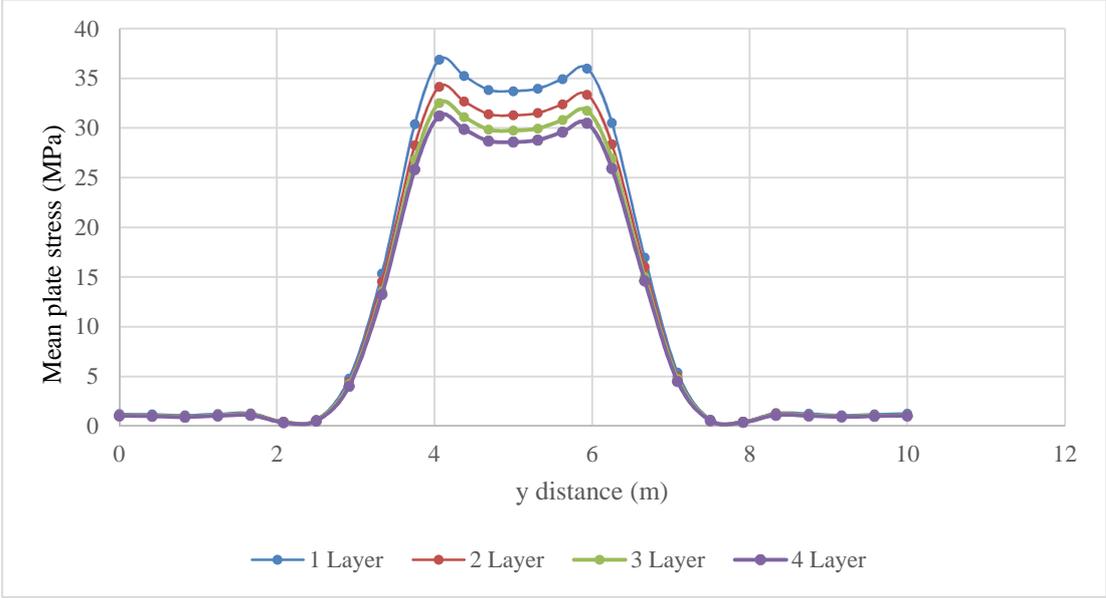
**Figure 7.33: Layout of geosynthetic reinforcement in formation at 200mm spacing**

layer. This continued until 1 – 4 layers of reinforcement were present in the formation. The results of the analysis are shown in Table 7.14 below:

**Table 7.14: Geosynthetic stress with increase in number of reinforcement layers.**

Number of geosynthetic layers	Maximum rail stress (MPa)	Maximum geosynthetic stress at lowermost layer (MPa)	Status
1	75.30	36.003	Acceptable
2	75.021	34.167	Acceptable
3	74.633	32.527	Acceptable
4	74.170	31.234	Acceptable

When additional geosynthetic layers were included in the parametric model, a decrease in rail stress was observed. The inclusion of the second layer of reinforcement resulted in the most apparent decrease in geosynthetic stress. Further layers resulted in a stress decrease but to a smaller degree as illustrated in Figure 7.34 below.



**Figure 7.34 Change in stress at geotextile level present in a geosynthetically reinforced formation level with a subgrade void present when the number of reinforcement layers in the formation level were increased**

**7.9.1 Discussion of results:**

Increasing the number of geosynthetic layers decreased the soil deformations. When a second layer was added the stiffening effect was most prominent, more than two layers of reinforcement resulted in a decrease in the soil deformations but to a lesser degree.

The parametric model in general showed an under prediction in the soil deformations due to dilation, the inclusion of multiple geosynthetic layers did result in a change in the deflection values, but to a very small degree. Which was expected due to the models deflections being generally under predicted.

The geosynthetic layers are 200mm apart. In the models considered by Potts (2007) and Mifsud (2005) the spacing between the geosynthetic layers was set at 600mm. No improvement of results was observed in these models beyond the 2nd layer, Potts (2007) attributed this to the distance between the geosynthetic layers and the height of the model. In addition to this Potts

(2007) concluded that the use of geosynthetic reinforcement beneath each formation layer creates a discontinuity in the soil fill and stops soil arching from taking place. Placing the reinforcement 200mm apart as opposed to 600mm creates a larger overall stiffness.

In de Lange (2016) the laboratory model showed a definitive decrease in soil surface deflections with the presence of multiple layers of reinforcement. The reinforcement strength characteristics were not changed with the addition of more layers, i.e. a higher overall stiffness would be expected. In the laboratory FEM model the reinforcement layer strength used was the same with the addition of geosynthetic layers, this higher overall stiffness resulted in a larger decrease in surface deflections with that addition of more geosynthetic layers.

From the results of Chapter 6, it was concluded that using multi-layered geosynthetic reinforcement exhibited improved results when compared to using basal reinforcement alone. The improvement in results however diminished with each additional reinforcement layer, indicating that the number of reinforcement layers, reinforcement strength and the spacing of these layers must be further investigated to develop an optimal model.

## **8. CHAPTER 8: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **8.1 Introduction**

The previous chapters described a study into the deflection behaviour of horizontally reinforced sand spanning over a developing subgrade void. The study comprised a series of FEM simulations of previously reported laboratory experiments (Potts, 2007 and de Lange, 2016) as well as an assessment of methods described in various design guides and methods (SANS 207 and RAFAEL) used to determine the required tensile strength and stiffness of a reinforced fill layer.

The primary aim of the investigation was to develop a finite element model that would be useful in the design of reinforcement for an embankment fill that might experience a loss of support due to subsidence of the underlying ground. The numerical accuracy of the FEM models was within 10% of the experimental model. The overall behaviour of the reinforced fill was predicted by the FEM model in terms of the deflected shape of the geosynthetic and the soil surface deflection shape.

The FEM model that most closely simulated the behaviour of the physical test models was then extended to include the track superstructure and substructure. This composite model was developed to identify the key variables that influence the strength and stiffness of the reinforced fill in order to improve applications of the soil reinforcement technique.

### **8.2 Experimental models:**

The initial aim of this investigation was to examine how finite element analysis could best be applied to provide a useful representation of a reinforced soil mass and how the reinforced soil mass reacted to a loss of subgrade support. In order to prove this, two laboratory modelling scenarios were considered. The first being a case study involving recreating a laboratory model developed at the University of London in Potts (2007) and the second creating an FEM model of a laboratory model developed at the University of Kwa Zulu Natal (de Lange, 2016).

The laboratory model developed by de Lange (2016) considered both a reinforced and unreinforced design. The number of geosynthetic layers as well as the H/D ratio were varied in the laboratory model. The findings of the laboratory experiment are listed below:

### **8.2.1 Unreinforced model:**

- The unreinforced laboratory model developed by de Lange (2016) used a concrete ring filled with loose sand and formed a reference point whereby the effect that geosynthetic reinforcement had on the system could be observed. The presence of the geosynthetic reinforcement reduced the soil surface settlement and gave an indication of the deflection improvement provided by the use of geosynthetics.

### **8.2.2 Reinforced model:**

The reinforced laboratory model developed by de Lange (2016) used a concrete ring filled with loose sand and reinforced with layers of mesh. The mesh layers were used to represent the geosynthetic reinforcement. Due to the small scale of the model (fill height was 300 mm) commercially available geosynthetic reinforcement would have been disproportionately stiff in relation to the self-weight of the soil. Lacking the facility (a centrifuge) to increase the load it was necessary to find a substitute fabric. The essential criteria was that the fabric be strong enough to carry the load without tearing and to have linear elasticity, at least at small strains, and to have a tensile modulus low enough to allow sufficient downward movement of the soil to be clearly visible, measurable and of a similar physical scale (several millimetres) as the model itself. A mosquito net mesh was found to reasonably match these criteria and the aperture size of the mesh allowed particle interlock to occur through the mesh while still retaining all but the finest of the constituent particles. The actual loss of fines through the basal reinforcing layer of the trapdoor void was insignificant.

From the reinforced laboratory model the shape of the soil deflection cone was investigated as well as the degree of soil settlement. A summary of the reinforced laboratory experiment findings are listed below:

- Increasing the H/D ratio resulted in a decrease in the soil surface settlement through the majority of the tests.
- The use of multiple layers of reinforcement decreased the expected soil surface settlements when  $H/D < 1.5$ , suggesting that little or no arching took place over the void.
- When  $H/D \geq 1.5$  lower than expected surface deflection was attributed to the occurrence of soil arching within the soil fill layer. A decrease in the vertical spacing between

reinforcing layers appeared to cause a breakdown of the soil arch and hence cause an unexpected increase in vertical deflection.

- The shape of the deflection surface was more parabolic than conical in shape and the maximum vertical displacement was centred above the void. The angle of draw was approximately  $60^{\circ}$ , which was larger than the value assumed in the SANS 207 design approach.

In summary the experimental model showed that both the H/D ratio and the vertical spacing between reinforcing layers had an influence on the potential for soil arching over the void. Higher H/D ratios exhibited an increased occurrence of soil arching, while closely spaced reinforcement layers tended to prevent soil arching from taking place. Further investigation into the influence that the spacing of the reinforcement has on the settlements is thus required.

### **8.3 Finite element analysis:**

A series of finite element analysis models were developed to represent the various de Lange (2016) laboratory experiments. A summary of the conclusions obtained from the FEM model are listed below:

- The general behaviour of the laboratory model was that as H/D increased, the vertical centreline settlement decreased. Both the experimental and FEM model exhibit a 50 % decrease in settlements when the H/D ratio is increased from 1 to 1.5. The FEM values predicted were lower but the general trend followed was the same.
- The FEM vertical deflections were on average 10% lower than the physical test data in terms of deflections. As mentioned in the previous chapters the Strand7 program assumes that the angle of shearing resistance is equal to the angle of soil dilation. The angle of dilation cannot be changed independently from the angle of shearing resistance which resulted in a general under-prediction in soil deflection values due to an over prediction of soil dilation. For the purpose of providing reasonable prediction of the behaviour of reinforced fill layer undermined by a void the potential for arching needs to be further investigated.

- In the FEM model using multiple layers of reinforcement resulted in a decrease in the soil surface settlement taking place. The deflection decrease provided diminished with increasing geosynthetic layers. This indicated that multiple reinforcement layers improves the fills overall performance but stops beyond reinforcing at a certain height above the void itself. The general trend discovered was that reinforcing above the mid height of the embankment had a diminished improvement of results. That being said, changing the spacing of the reinforcement layers should optimise the geosynthetics settlement reduction capabilities.
- The shape of the deflection cone generated when multiple layers of reinforcement were present was parabolic throughout the investigation. This was evident in both the experimental model and the design approaches SANS 207 and RAFAEL. The angle of void propagation however was on average  $45^{\circ}$ . The actual angle of void propagation was closer to  $60^{\circ}$ , indicating that the FEM model predicted a shallower settlement cone affecting a larger area. Some of the factors influencing the angle of void propagation predicted are the angle of shearing resistance of the soil and the soil dilation angle. If these can be changed independently from one another using different FEM software, a more realistic angle of draw can be predicted by the FEM model.
- Plane strain analysis provided a deeper and more concentrated settlement trough when compared to the axisymmetric conditions modelled using FEM. The settlement trough geometry predicted by the plane strain model was a better representation of the experimental results, exhibiting a more accurate angle of draw. The settlements were however over predicted hence improvement to the model is required going forward. In future FEM simulations plane strain analysis should be considered as it provides a deeper more concentrated settlement trough hence mitigation measures for the worst case scenario can be designed for.
- The 3D model was developed to validate the simplification assumptions made in the 2D model. The settlement values predicted between the 2D and 3D model were the same, with the overall under-prediction of deflections. The 3D model confirmed that modelling the geosynthetic fabric as line elements in 2D generated the same results as

the 3D membrane elements. It was thus concluded that the 2D model provides a sufficiently accurate representation of the 3D model and can be used to minimise computational time.

In conclusion FEM provides a means of predicting soil surface and geosynthetic deflections in a geosynthetically reinforced soil mass undermined by a subgrade void. The accuracy of the results can be improved in future with more detailed attention to material properties such as the angle of soil dilation.

#### **8.4 Design approaches:**

The aim of the analytical model was to assess the appropriateness of the assumptions made in developing the existing design guides. Calculations based on SANS 207 and RAFAEL design approaches were performed on the de Lange (2016) experimental model. The observations and conclusions derived from the reinforced analytical model calculations are listed below:

- It was evident from the design calculations that both SANS 207 and the RAFAEL method have limitations when estimating the diameter of the surface settlement cone. The diameter is calculated directly from the angle of void propagation. SANS 207 suggests that the angle of draw is equal to the angle of shearing resistance of the soil. This value is too small and results in the void propagating outward to an extent that surpassed the laboratory model boundary. To create a more realistic result the cone diameter from the laboratory model itself was used to calculate a revised angle of draw of approximately  $60^{\circ}$ . RAFAEL on the other hand assumes a perpendicular angle of draw, resulting in the settlements being concentrated entirely above the void. Neither method provided an accurate indication of the angle of draw and the subsequent settlement cone diameter.
- Another factor affecting the accuracy of the design calculations is the soil dilation. SANS 207 assumes that no dilation of the soil occurs upon shearing while the soil used in the experimental model showed a propensity towards dilation. With the adjusted angle of draw, the vertical soil surface settlements are overestimated by SANS 207. Given the soils tendency toward dilation, the SANS 207 method does not provide an accurate prediction of the settlement values.

- The RAFAEL design method however takes soil dilation into account. The degree of dilation is dictated by the soils coefficient of expansion. The expansion coefficient was selected from both the German design guide EBGEO: 2011 and Potts (2007) for granular fill layers resulted in an inaccurate prediction of results. The use of Potts (2007) expansion coefficient resulted in upward heave taking place, while the German code value resulted in deflections up to 90% larger than the experimental model. Further investigation into the coefficient of expansion is thus required before any meaningful conclusions with regard to RAFAEL's design approach can be made. Calculation of the coefficient of expansion based on RAFAEL's equation of the surface settlement while substituting in de Lange (2016) actual experimental data yielded a lower  $C_e$  value. This  $C_e$  of 1.0076 was calculated based on a single set of available data so to make more meaningful conclusions with regard to the coefficient of expansion, further investigation in which the volumetric change in the fill layer is monitored is thus required.

The overall conclusion is that when employing existing design techniques, the limitations with regard to the angle of draw and the degree of soil dilation must be taken into account or the design will not be the optimal solution.

### **8.5 Parametric model:**

The aim of the parametric model was to determine which factors have an effect on the behaviour of the geosynthetically reinforced fill layer, and to what extent these factors affect the model results. The load transfer capability of the geosynthetically reinforced fill layer was influenced by the stiffness of both the fill layer and the geosynthetic reinforcement, the number of geosynthetic reinforcement layers used, the shearing resistance of the fill, as well as the loading applied to the rail superstructure. The behaviour of the reinforced fill layer when subjected to void formation is summarised below:

- The soil stiffness was found to have a considerable effect on the soil surface settlement. Previous studies also revealed that using a geosynthetically reinforced fill layer and a stabilised subgrade improves the performance of the subgrade when subjected to void formation. The parametric model in which the upper 200 mm of SSB (below the ballast) was stabilised showed an improvement in terms of the soil surface settlement and the geosynthetic strain. The stiffer SSB layer tends to “attract” more load when subjected

to the overhead train. This results in less load being applied to the geosynthetic reinforcement itself hence smaller strains and deformations. However, concrete stabilisation of the subgrade has found to have certain negative long term effects. Such as subgrade cracking, brittleness when subgrade is over stabilised, and excessive rail movements. When compared to geosynthetic reinforcement, sub grade stabilisation is more time consuming and subsequently costs more. The ease of application of geosynthetic reinforcement indicates that less manpower and equipment is required when compared to cement stabilising the subgrade. Due to this, it will be more feasible to consider using multiple layers of geosynthetic reinforcement instead of stabilising the subgrade.

- An increase in the soils shearing resistance resulted in smaller soil surface deflections and a decrease in geosynthetic strain but to a smaller degree. In the Strand 7 program the angle of shearing resistance is taken as being equal to the angle of soil dilation. It is thus expected that an increase in the angle of shearing resistance to have a considerable effect on decreasing the soil surface settlements as the angle of dilation would subsequently be increasing too but this was not the case. The angle of dilation cannot really be commented on as it cannot be changed independently from the angle of shearing resistance.
- The various geosynthetic products considered were selected based on their previous use in reinforcing void prone topography. The range of tensile strength values considered showed that higher strength reinforcement fared better for the 2 m void diameter selected. Tensile strength of 50 kN/m would fail for the specified void diameter. It was also found that geosynthetic reinforcement with a higher tensile strength tends to attract more load. Increasing the tensile strength of the geosynthetic will decrease the formation settlement but up to a certain degree.
- With regard to the use of multiple layers of reinforcement, adding more than 2 geosynthetic layers decreases the deflections the fill layer further but to a smaller degree with each additional reinforcement layer. When compared to alternate methods such as cement stabilisation however, multiple layers of geosynthetic reinforcement is more

feasible. Further investigation is required into what spacing, strength and frequency of reinforcement layers is required in order to develop an optimised model.

- The loading conditions in the track superstructure also plays an important role. A relatively large axle load of 26 T was used in the parametric model, over recent years many South African heavy haul lines have been upgrading to 30 T axle loads. If the line modelled were to be upgraded i.e. use a 30 T axle load, it was found that the geosynthetic reinforcement would not be able to maintain the increased load when subjected to a subgrade void. Hence when upgrading the tonnages of a line, it should be noted that an upgrade in the tensile resistance of the reinforcement used may be required.
- The use of a continuous strain monitoring system should be considered in identified sinkhole prone areas. Transnet currently employs the use of various monitoring systems in lines that are prone to temperature related disturbances and derailments. The system monitors the strain and settlement of the rail, when the strain is excessive the user is notified and subsequent rehabilitation techniques can be employed. For sinkhole prone areas specifically this will serve as a quick means of identifying whether a void has formed and long term solutions can be provided for the line. The geosynthetic reinforcement will minimise the deflections till full rehabilitation can occur and prevent full collapse but does not serve as a long term solution.

In summary the parametric model helped identify the various factors affecting the soil surface deflection. Increasing the strength and frequency of the reinforcement layers improved the settlements in track. In order to develop an optimal model in terms of number of geosynthetic layers required and their spacing and strength further investigation is required.

### **8.6 Recommendations for future work:**

The laboratory experiments that will be used as a basis for the FEM model should undergo certain improvements during future investigations:

- The simple nature and small scale of de Lange (2016) laboratory model provided a platform to perform a simplified FEM model with a limited number of variables. This also makes it difficult to get a realistic indication of the soil and geosynthetic strains, a

larger model that uses actual geosynthetic fabric and not a scaled down representation of it should be considered. Performing the tests in a centrifuge will provide a more accurate indication of the strains in the soil mass and will remove any scaling problems as a result of the size of the model.

- The multi-layered reinforced laboratory model developed by de Lange (2016) used the same strength of geosynthetic fabric. A laboratory study where one strong basal layer of reinforcement and multiple layers of lower strength reinforcement are used should be performed. This will give a better indication of basal vs multi-layered reinforcement performance, and will help in the development of the most economical design. The spacing of the layers should be changed in future experimental models.
- Further investigation is required to determine an accurate coefficient of expansion and angle of dilation in the soil fill layers used in future testing.
- The strain monitoring system can be improved in the laboratory experiment, soil pressure transducers have been employed at Transnet to observe the pressure at various depths in a fill layer.
- In addition to the warning system, measures should be put in place in the event of the sinkhole forming, such as speed restrictions on the train in the area of void formation and informing all personnel involved.

The FEM model representing the laboratory experiment requires certain modifications to improve the accuracy of the results obtained:

- The under prediction of soil deformations in the FEM model was attributed to the automatic assignment of the angle of soil dilation by the program. Further investigation into modelling the dilation as an independent variable from the angle of shearing resistance is thus required. Currently Strand 7 does not allow this, hence a different FEM program should be used so that the soil deflection is not underestimated.

The analytical calculations covered an investigation into current design methods:

- The analytical calculations indicated that both design methods investigated in SANS 207 and the RAFAEL method showed some inaccuracies in terms of the soil surface deflection predictions. Revision of SANS 207 should take into account the dilative nature of soil. The angle of void propagation currently used in SANS 207 results in an over prediction of the settlement cone diameter and a shallower wider settlement cone. Further investigation into the angle of void propagation is thus required. To improve the RAFAEL design assumptions further testing with regard to the expansion coefficient of the sand must be performed.

The parametric model did exhibit a general under prediction in the soil surface deflections, this is partially attributed to the soil design capabilities in Strand 7 but also because the model needs to be refined further.

- Rail models are complex in that the connection between the concrete sleepers and the ballast stones are not fixed. The sleeper and ballast generally move relative to one another when the train is passing over the rail way line. Going forward a connection should be placed between the sleeper base and the ballast stones such that a gap is allowed between them when loading occurs. This can be done in the form of contact elements that allow movement between the ballast and the sleeper to a specified degree.
- The effect of the rail fastening system must also be taken into account more comprehensively. In the current model the rail is connected to the sleeper such that their meshes are aligned, hence they behave as if they are fixed to one another. This is not actually the case as relative movement between the rail and the sleeper should be allowed so that the rail uplift wave can be more accurately modelled when considering a train load.
- The modelling of the ballast stones also requires refining, generally discrete element analysis methods are considered when modelling particles and interlocking. The ballast layer was modelled as a soil layer but with a higher Young's modulus and an increased void ratio and angle of shearing resistance. Investigation into the accurate modelling of ballast stones is currently being undertaken at Transnet Freight Rail.

- The manner in which the load is applied to the rail must be revised, the current Strand 7 package available allows only static loading conditions, and dynamic loading conditions more representative of the trains axle load are available but were not purchased with this specific Strand 7 package.
- The modelling of soil using Strand 7 has resulted in general underestimation of the soil deformations, this is probably due to overestimation of soil dilation in the program. This can be overcome by regarding the soils angle of dilation separately from the angle of internal friction, Strand 7 is capable of modelling soil but for a more accurate representation of soil conditions, a different software should be considered.

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## **APPENDIX LIST**

### **Geosynthetic testing results**

The results of the geosynthetic testing for both the de Lange (2016) laboratory model and the parametric investigation is described in Appendix A.

### **Soil testing results**

The results of the soil testing is described in Appendix B.

### **Design Procedures:**

The results of the analytical study of the current design methods are attached in the Appendix C.

### **Potts FEM Case Study:**

The results of the Strand 7 FEM analysis describing the Potts case study are attached in the Appendix D.

### **UKZN Laboratory Tests:**

The results of the Strand 7 FEM analysis describing the UKZN laboratory tests are attached in the Appendix E.

### **Parametric Study:**

The position of the loading conditions along the x axis is shown in Appendix B.

The results of the Strand 7 FEM analysis describing the parametric model are attached in the Appendix F.

## APPENDIX A:

### Laboratory results for geogrid testing:

The geosynthetic reinforcement used in de Lange (2016) was tested at the Geosynthetic Laboratory. The results of the tests are attached below:

**Table A1: Results of testing of geosynthetic sample used in de Lange (2016)**



**GEOSYNTHETIC**  
LABORATORY

**SANS 10221-07 : Tensile Test**

Test Number : P2010069  
Customer : UKZN  
Manufacturer : N/A  
Project : UKZN Dissertation  
Tensile test Strength

Specimen ID : 250mm X 250mm  
Sample details : Sample 2 White  
K - MF  
Mosquito Net

Date Recev : 2010-12-07  
Date Sampled : 2010-12-07  
Sub-series Identifier: Diagonal white  
Condition of test : Dry  
Pre-load : 5 N

**TEST REPORT**

Test speed : 60 mm/min  
Sampled : Elgie  
Tester : Elgie  
Start : 2010-12-07  
Finish : 2010-12-07  
Atmosphere : @ start  
Temp 23.7°C  
Humid 54.9% rh  
@ end  
Temp 23.0C  
Humid 53.5% rh

Deviation : None  
Specimen grips : 250mm Wide width  
Zwick UTM : Type : 1488  
Fmax : 200kN  
Ser Num : 109494/04  
Extensio : Exoptic 001  
Ser Num : 811603/05

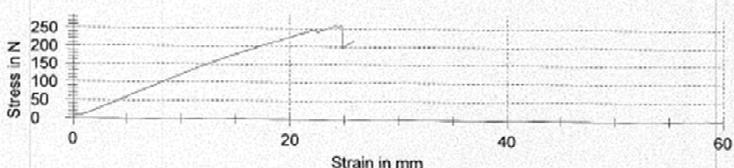
Observation :

11 Livingstone Road; Pinetown  
P.O. Box 116  
3600  
Tel: 031 717 2360  
Fax: 031 702 4477  
E-mail: prakash@geolaboratory.com  
Webpage: www.geolaboratory.com

**Results:**

Diagonal white	Max Force	Tult	ε Strain @ Fmax.	E-Modulus	Gauge Length	Date Test
Nr	N	kN/m	mm	MPa	mm	
29	257.718	1.03	24.21	8.63	80.00	2010/12/07

**Series graphics:**



**Statistics:**

Diagonal white	Max Force	Tult	ε Strain @ Fmax.	E-Modulus
n = 1	N	kN/m	mm	MPa
x	257.718	1.03	24.21	8.63
s	-	-	-	-
v	-	-	-	-

The test results contained herein refers only to the specific product tested as per the referenced test standard and should not be compared to any similar product not tested. Geosynthetic Laboratory does not imply suitability of this product to be used in any particular application, nor does it imply approval of the quality of the product. This test report shall not be reproduced except in full, and only with written approval of Geosynthetic Laboratory.

Authorised by:

Date:

UKZN Dissertation Tensile P2010069.ZSE

The commercially available geosynthetic properties used in the course of the parametric study are shown in the Table A2 below:

**Table A2: Commercially available geosynthetic properties**

			50/50	100/100	200/200		
Material		Polyester, staple fibre 150 g/m <sup>2</sup> needle punched, nonwoven / high strength polyester yarns					
Short Term Tensile Strength (T <sub>u</sub> )	Machine	kN/m	50	100	200	ISO 10319	
	Across	kN/m	50	100	200		
	Elongation	%	10	10	10		
Long Term Design Strength (LTDS*) 120 Years		kN/m	26	52	105	ISO 10319	
Creep Limited Strength 120 Years		kN/m	30	60	120	ISO 13431	
Water Flow Rate	Normal to Plane	l/s/m <sup>2</sup>	150			ISO 11058	
	In Plane 20 kPa	l/s/m/hr	20			ISO 12958	
Roll Dimensions		m	5 x 100			ISO 12958	

$$LTDS = \frac{T_u}{f_c \cdot f_d \cdot f_e \cdot f_m}$$

f <sub>c</sub> (creep)	=	1.65	(120 years)
f <sub>d</sub> (damage)	=	1.05	(sand, silt, clay, yarn facing soil)
f <sub>e</sub> (environment)	=	1.10	(pH 4-9)
f <sub>m</sub> (material)	=	1.00	



**Table B2: Load cases used in parametric investigation:**

<b>Load case</b>	<b>x distance (m)</b>	<b>Sum of loading -z direction (T)</b>
1	-0.275	26
2	0.000	26
3	0.375	26
4	0.650	26
5	1.025	26
6	1.300	26
7	1.675	26
8	1.950	26
9	2.325	26
10	2.600	26
11	2.975	26
12	3.250	26
13	3.625	26
14	3.900	26
15	4.275	26
16	4.550	26
17	4.925	26
18	5.200	26
19	5.575	26
20	5.850	26
21	6.225	26
22	6.500	26
23	6.875	26
24	7.150	26
25	7.525	26
26	7.800	26
27	8.175	26
28	8.450	26
29	8.825	26
30	9.100	26
31	9.475	26
32	9.750	26
33	10.125	26
34	10.400	26
35	10.775	26
36	11.050	26
37	11.425	26
38	11.700	26
39	12.075	26
40	12.350	26

41	12.725	26
42	13.000	26
43	13.375	26
44	13.650	26
45	14.025	26
46	14.300	26
47	14.675	26
48	14.950	26
49	15.325	26
50	15.600	26
51	15.975	26
52	16.250	26
53	16.625	26
54	16.900	26
55	17.275	26
56	17.550	26

## APPENDIX C

D (mm)				Geogrid No.
150	200	300		
Ds (mm)	500.000	500.000	700.000	
ds (mm)	3.843	9.109	19.594	1
	3.284	7.783	16.741	2
	4.536	10.751	23.126	3
	4.546	10.776	18.551	4
	4.328	10.258	22.065	5
	4.458	10.567	22.729	6

D (mm)				Geogrid No.
150	200	300		
D	42.71544656	56.95393	85.4308931	1
d	36.49753844	48.66338	72.9950769	2
	50.41623622	67.22165	100.832472	3
	50.53116303	67.37488	101.062326	4
	48.10389147	64.13852	96.2077829	5
	49.55110998	66.06815	99.10222	6

H	300		mm
θ	59.74	63.43	56.3 deg
L geogrid	80		mm

Geogrid No.	Elongation	εmax
1	17.3	0.21625
2	12.63	0.157875
3	24.1	0.30125
4	24.21	0.302625
5	21.94	0.27425
6	23.28	0.291

SANS207

Geogrid No.	Tmax(N)	εmax	D		
			p (N)	p (N)	p (N)
1	338.295	0.21625	3.389692	2.542269	1.694846
2	232.985	0.157875	2.16664694	1.62498521	1.083323
3	180.943	0.30125	1.93579692	1.45184769	0.967898
4	257.718	0.302625	2.75939879	2.06954909	1.379699
5	241.679	0.27425	2.54139817	1.90604862	1.270699
6	279.558	0.291	2.97223069	2.22917302	1.486115

H	300	mm
Ce	1.03	
H>	1.67 D	

D (mm)	H (mm)	d (mm)	ds (mm)	Ce
150	300	-	2.01	
200	300	7.39	2.81	1.008
300	300	-	6.15	

D	D (mm)			Geogrid No.	D (mm)		
	150	200	300		1.67D	1.67D	1.67D
d	42.71544656	56.95393	85.4308931	1	71.3348	95.11306	142.6696
	36.49753844	48.66338	72.9950769	2	60.95089	81.26785	121.9018
	50.41623622	67.22165	100.832472	3	84.19511	112.2602	168.3902
	50.53116303	67.37488	101.062326	4	84.38704	112.5161	168.7741
	48.10389147	64.13852	96.2077829	5	80.3335	107.1113	160.667
	49.55110998	66.06815	99.10222	6	82.75035	110.3338	165.5007

D	D (mm)			Geogrid No.
	150	200	300	
ds	24.71544656	38.95393	67.4308931	1
	18.49753844	30.66338	54.9950769	2
	32.41623622	49.22165	82.8324724	3
	32.53116303	49.37488	83.0623261	4
	30.10389147	46.13852	78.2077829	5
	31.55110998	48.06815	81.10222	6

RAFAEL METHOD

Volume Calculations:				
Void Diameter (mm)	RAFAEL	V (mm <sup>3</sup> )	H (mm)	ΔV (%)
150 mm	Base	446479.68	50.53	35.62
	Surface	287436.55	32.53	
200 mm	Base	1058322.20	67.37	26.72
	Surface	775578.87	49.37	
300 mm	Base	3571837.44	101.06	17.81
	Surface	2935664.93	83.06	

Volume Calculations:				
Void Diameter (mm)	SANS 207	V (mm <sup>3</sup> )	H (mm)	ΔV (%)
150 mm	Base	446479.68	50.53	0.03
	Surface	446345.74	4.55	
200 mm	Base	1058322.20	67.37	0.04
	Surface	1057910.94	10.78	
300 mm	Base	3571837.44	101.06	0.06
	Surface	3569538.30	18.55	

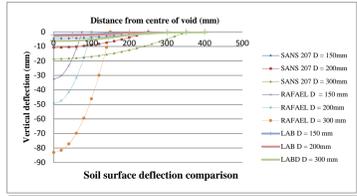
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150  
200  
300

3.141593 r  
150 250  
200 250  
300 350

V original

Basal					
FEM Model		Soil surface deflection		Soil surface deflection	
D=150		D=200		D=300	
x	y	x	y	x	y
0.00	-1.69	0.00	-2.26	0.00	-5.40
10.00	-1.68	10.00	-2.25	10.00	-5.39
20.00	-1.67	20.00	-2.24	20.00	-5.36
30.00	-1.65	30.00	-2.21	30.00	-5.30
40.00	-1.62	40.00	-2.17	40.00	-5.23
50.00	-1.58	50.00	-2.12	50.00	-5.14
60.00	-1.54	60.00	-2.06	60.00	-5.03
70.00	-1.49	70.00	-2.00	70.00	-4.90
80.00	-1.43	80.00	-1.92	80.00	-4.76
90.00	-1.37	90.00	-1.84	90.00	-4.61
100.00	-1.31	100.00	-1.76	100.00	-4.44
110.00	-1.24	110.00	-1.67	110.00	-4.26
120.00	-1.18	120.00	-1.58	120.00	-4.08
130.00	-1.11	130.00	-1.49	130.00	-3.89
140.00	-1.04	140.00	-1.40	140.00	-3.70
150.00	-0.97	150.00	-1.31	150.00	-3.51
160.00	-0.90	160.00	-1.22	160.00	-3.30
170.00	-0.84	170.00	-1.13	170.00	-3.11
180.00	-0.77	180.00	-1.04	180.00	-2.92
190.00	-0.71	190.00	-0.96	190.00	-2.74
200.00	-0.65	200.00	-0.88	200.00	-2.56
210.00	-0.60	210.00	-0.81	210.00	-2.38
220.00	-0.54	220.00	-0.74	220.00	-2.22
230.00	-0.50	230.00	-0.67	230.00	-2.06
240.00	-0.45	240.00	-0.61	240.00	-1.89
250.00	-0.41	250.00	-0.55	250.00	-1.75
260.00	-0.37	260.00	-0.50	260.00	-1.62
270.00	-0.33	270.00	-0.45	270.00	-1.49
280.00	-0.30	280.00	-0.40	280.00	-1.38
290.00	-0.27	290.00	-0.36	290.00	-1.28
300.00	-0.24	300.00	-0.32	300.00	-1.18
310.00	-0.21	310.00	-0.29	310.00	-1.07
320.00	-0.19	320.00	-0.26	320.00	-0.99
330.00	-0.17	330.00	-0.23	330.00	-0.92
340.00	-0.15	340.00	-0.21	340.00	-0.83
350.00	-0.14	350.00	-0.18	350.00	-0.78
360.00	-0.12	360.00	-0.17	360.00	-0.70
370.00	-0.11	370.00	-0.15	370.00	-0.66
380.00	-0.10	380.00	-0.13	380.00	-0.60
390.00	-0.09	390.00	-0.12	390.00	-0.57
400.00	-0.08	400.00	-0.11	400.00	-0.50
410.00	-0.08	410.00	-0.10	410.00	-0.48
420.00	-0.07	420.00	-0.10	420.00	-0.42
430.00	-0.07	430.00	-0.09	430.00	-0.39
440.00	-0.07	440.00	-0.09	440.00	-0.39
450.00	-0.07	450.00	-0.09	450.00	-0.38



LAB RESULTS		
D = 300mm		
x	y	
0	-2	
50	-1.85	
100	-1.68	
150	-1.5	
200	-1.25	
250	-1	
300	-0.5	
350	-0.1	
400	0	

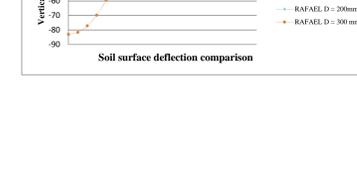
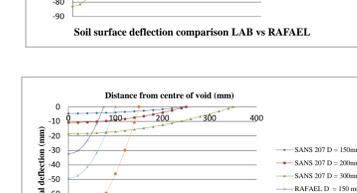
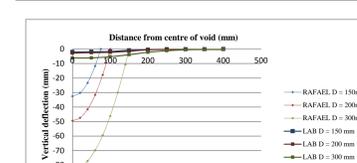
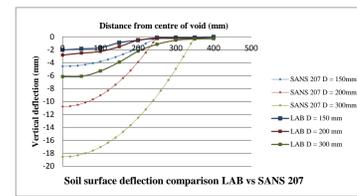
LAB RESULTS		
D = 200mm		
x	y	
0	-2.81	
50	-2.51	
100	-2.25	
150	-1.51	
200	-0.52	
250	-0.25	
300	-0.24	
350	-0.23	
400	-0.23	

LAB RESULTS		
D = 150mm		
x	y	
0	-2.01	
50	-1.85	
100	-1.68	
150	-0.9	
200	-0.52	
250	-0.13	
300	-0.12	
350	-0.105	
400	0	

RAFAEL D=150		
x	y	
0	-32.5312	
20	-30.2178	
40	-23.2779	
60	-11.7112	
75	0	

RAFAEL D=200		
x	y	
0	-49.3749	
20	-47.3999	
40	-41.4749	
60	-31.5999	
80	-17.775	
100	0	

RAFAEL D=300		
x	y	
0	-83.0623	
20	-81.5857	
40	-77.1557	
60	-69.7724	
80	-59.4357	
100	-46.1457	
120	-29.9024	
140	-10.7058	
150	0	



SANS207	D (mm)		
	150	200	300
Ds (mm)	500	500	700
ds (mm)	4.54644	10.77579	18.55052
d(mm)	50.53116	67.37488	101.0623
D (mm)	150	200	300
d/D	0.336874	0.336874	0.336874
r	80.9243	107.8991	161.8486

RAFAEL	D (mm)		
	150	200	300
Ds (mm)	150	200	300
ds (mm)	32.53116	49.37488	83.06233
d(mm)	50.53116	67.37488	101.0623
D (mm)	150	200	300
d/D	0.336874	0.336874	0.336874
r	80.9243	107.8991	161.8486

Soil surface deflection		
SANS207: D=150		
x	y	
0	-4.54644	
20	-4.51734	
40	-4.43005	
60	-4.28457	
80	-4.08088	
100	-3.81901	
120	-3.49894	
140	-3.12068	
160	-2.68422	
180	-2.18957	
200	-1.63672	
220	-1.02568	
240	-0.35644	
250	0	

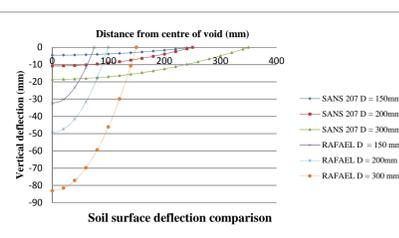
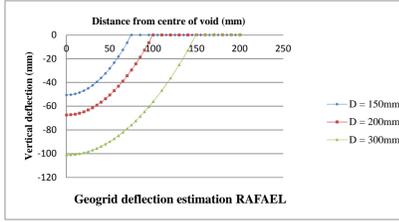
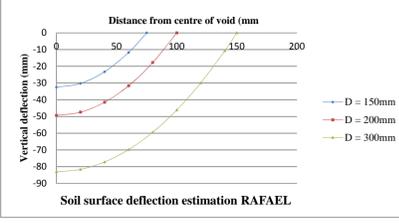
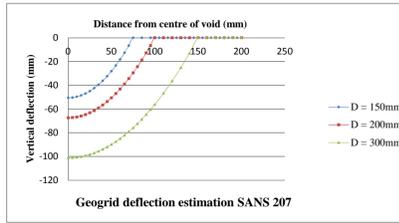
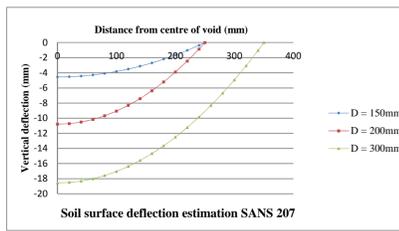
Soil surface deflection		
SANS207: D=200		
x	y	
0	-10.7758	
20	-10.7068	
40	-10.4999	
60	-10.1551	
80	-9.67235	
100	-9.05167	
120	-8.29305	
140	-7.3965	
160	-6.36203	
180	-5.18962	
200	-3.87929	
220	-2.43102	
240	-0.84482	
250	0	

Soil surface deflection		
SANS207: D=300		
x	y	
0	-18.5505	
20	-18.4899	
40	-18.3082	
60	-18.0054	
80	-17.5813	
100	-17.0362	
120	-16.3699	
140	-15.5824	
160	-14.6738	
180	-13.6441	
200	-12.4932	
220	-11.2212	
240	-9.82799	
260	-8.31366	
280	-6.67819	
300	-4.92157	
320	-3.0438	
340	-1.04489	
350	0	

Soil surface deflection		
RAFAEL: D=150		
x	y	
0	-32.5312	
20	-30.2178	
40	-23.2779	
60	-11.7112	
75	0	

Soil surface deflection		
RAFAEL: D=200		
x	y	
0	-49.3749	
20	-47.3999	
40	-41.4749	
60	-31.5999	
80	-17.775	
100	0	

Soil surface deflection		
RAFAEL: D=300		
x	y	
0	-83.0623	
20	-81.5857	
40	-77.1557	
60	-69.7724	
80	-59.4357	
100	-46.1457	
120	-29.9024	
140	-10.7058	
150	0	



Geogrid deflection: Parabola					
SANS207: D=150		SANS207: D=200		SANS207: D=300	
x	y	x	y	x	y
0	-50.5312	0	-67.3749	0	-101.062
5	-50.3066	5	-67.2064	5	-100.95
10	-49.6328	10	-66.7011	10	-100.613
15	-48.5099	15	-65.8589	15	-100.052
20	-46.9378	20	-64.6799	20	-99.2657
25	-44.9166	25	-63.164	25	-98.255
30	-42.4462	30	-61.3111	30	-97.0198
35	-39.5266	35	-59.1215	35	-95.56
40	-36.1579	40	-56.5949	40	-93.8757
45	-32.3399	45	-53.7315	45	-91.9667
50	-28.0729	50	-50.5312	50	-89.8332
55	-23.3566	55	-46.994	55	-87.4751
60	-18.1912	60	-43.1199	60	-84.8924
65	-12.5766	65	-38.909	65	-82.0851
70	-6.51291	70	-34.3612	70	-79.0532
75	7.11E-15	75	-29.4765	75	-75.7967
85	0	80	-24.255	80	-72.3157
95	0	85	-18.6965	85	-68.6101
105	0	90	-12.8012	90	-64.6799
115	0	95	-6.56905	95	-60.5251
125	0	100	0	100	-56.1457
135	0	110	0	110	-46.7133
145	0	120	0	120	-36.3824
155	0	130	0	130	-25.1533
165	0	140	0	140	-13.0258
175	0	150	0	150	1.42E-14
185	0	160	0	160	0
195	0	170	0	170	0
		180	0	180	0
		190	0	190	0
		200	0	200	0

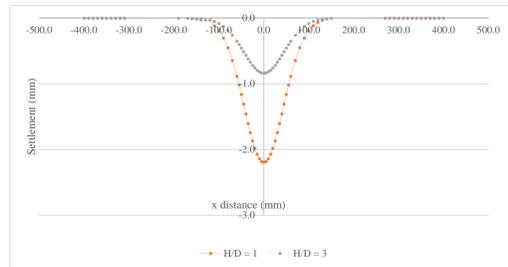
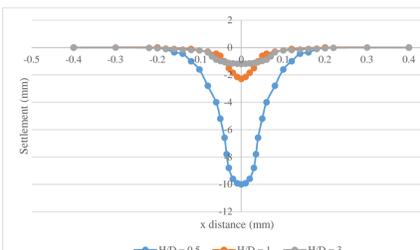
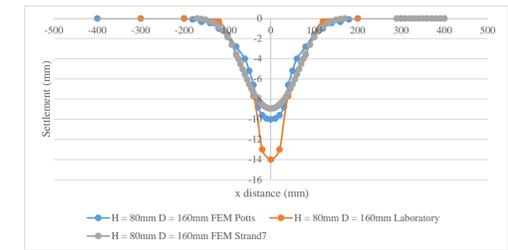
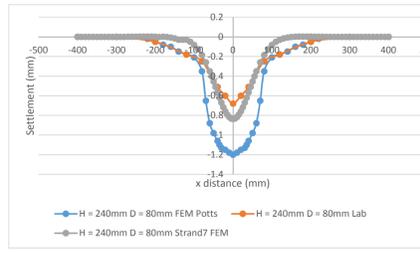
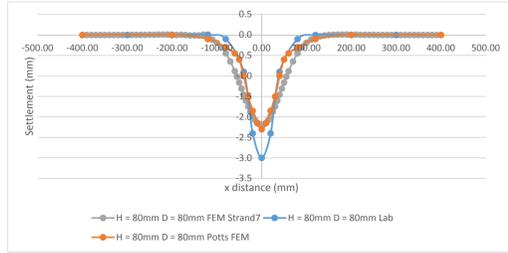
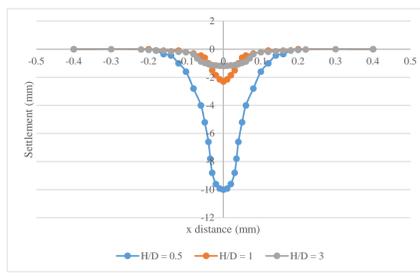
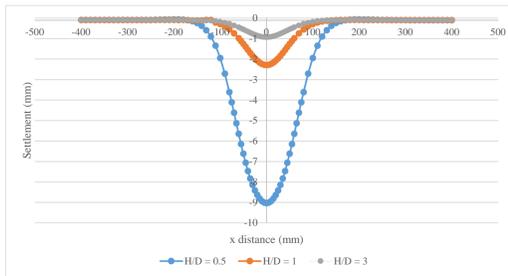
Geogrid deflection: Parabola					
RAFAEL: D=150		RAFAEL: D=200		RAFAEL: D=300	
x	y	x	y	x	y
0	-50.5312	0	-67.3749	0	-101.062
5	-50.3066	5	-67.2064	5	-100.95
10	-49.6328	10	-66.7011	10	-100.613
15	-48.5099	15	-65.8589	15	-100.052
20	-46.9378	20	-64.6799	20	-99.2657
25	-44.9166	25	-63.164	25	-98.255
30	-42.4462	30	-61.3111	30	-97.0198
35	-39.5266	35	-59.1215	35	-95.56
40	-36.1579	40	-56.5949	40	-93.8757
45	-32.3399	45	-53.7315	45	-91.9667
50	-28.0729	50	-50.5312	50	-89.8332
55	-23.3566	55	-46.994	55	-87.4751
60	-18.1912	60	-43.1199	60	-84.8924
65	-12.5766	65	-38.909	65	-82.0851
70	-6.51291	70	-34.3612	70	-79.0532
75	7.11E-15	75	-29.4765	75	-75.7967
85	0	80	-24.255	80	-72.3157
95	0	85	-18.6965	85	-68.6101
105	0	90	-12.8012	90	-64.6799
115	0	95	-6.56905	95	-60.5251
125	0	100	0	100	-56.1457
135	0	110	0	110	-46.7133
145	0	120	0	120	-36.3824
155	0	130	0	130	-25.1533
165	0	140	0	140	-13.0258
175	0	150	0	150	1.42E-14
185	0	160	0	160	0
195	0	170	0	170	0
		180	0	180	0
		190	0	190	0
		200	0	200	0

## **APPENDIX D**

H = 80 D = 160		
H/D = 0.5		
x	y	
-400.00	0.01	
-390.00	0.01	
-380.00	0.01	
-370.00	0.01	
-360.00	0.01	
-350.00	0.01	
-340.00	0.01	
-330.00	0.01	
-320.00	0.01	
-310.00	0.01	
-300.00	0.01	
-290.00	0.01	
-280.00	0.01	
-270.00	0.01	
-260.00	0.01	
-250.00	0.01	
-240.00	0.02	
-230.00	0.02	
-220.00	0.03	
-210.00	0.03	
-200.00	0.03	
-190.00	0.03	
-180.00	0.02	
-170.00	0.00	
-160.00	-0.05	
-150.00	-0.14	
-140.00	-0.28	
-130.00	-0.49	
-120.00	-0.80	
-110.00	-1.25	
-100.00	-1.85	
-90.00	-2.62	
-80.00	-3.52	
-75.00	-4.01	
-70.00	-4.52	
-65.00	-5.04	
-60.00	-5.55	
-55.00	-6.05	
-50	-6.52	
-45	-6.97	
-40	-7.37	
-35	-7.73	
-30	-8.05	
-25	-8.32	
-20	-8.54	
-15	-8.71	
-10	-8.84	
-5	-8.91	
0	-8.93814	
5	-8.91305	
10	-8.83789	
15	-8.71301	
20	-8.53899	
25	-8.31656	
30	-8.04666	
35	-7.73043	
40	-7.36951	
45	-6.96636	
50	-6.52487	
55	-6.05086	
60	-5.55229	
65	-5.03897	
70	-4.52177	
75	-4.01168	
80	-3.52067	
90	-2.61740	
100	-1.85368	
110	-1.24756	
120	-0.80251	
130	-0.49122	
140	-0.27855	
150	-0.13852	
160	-0.05231	
170	-0.00282	
180	0.02262	
190	0.03305	
200	0.03467	
210	0.03157	
220	0.02636	
230	0.02059	
240	0.01514	
250	0.01041	
260	0.00657	
270	0.00359	
280	0.00138	
290	-0.00019	
300	-0.00125	
310	-0.00191	
320	-0.00230	
330	-0.00249	
340	-0.00255	
350	-0.00254	
360	-0.00249	
370	-0.00242	
380	-0.00237	
390	-0.00233	
400	-0.00232	

H = 80 D = 80		
H/D = 1		
x	y	
-400.00	-0.00054	
-390.00	-0.00057	
-380.00	-0.00060	
-370.00	-0.00062	
-360.00	-0.00063	
-350.00	-0.00063	
-340.00	-0.00060	
-330.00	-0.00051	
-320.00	-0.00036	
-310.00	-0.00011	
-300.00	0.00027	
-290.00	0.00081	
-280.00	0.00154	
-270.00	0.00249	
-260.00	0.00365	
-250.00	0.00501	
-240.00	0.00646	
-230.00	0.00781	
-220.00	0.00867	
-210.00	0.00844	
-200.00	0.00615	
-190.00	0.00032	
-180.00	0.00615	
-170.00	0.00032	
-160.00	-0.01119	
-150.00	-0.01119	
-140.00	-0.01119	
-130.00	0.00844	
-120.00	0.00867	
-110.00	-0.11592	
-100.00	-0.19230	
-90.00	-0.30124	
-80.00	-0.45018	
-70.00	-0.64439	
-60.00	-0.88430	
-55.00	-1.01841	
-50.00	-1.16080	
-45.00	-1.30803	
-40	-1.45660	
-35	-1.60246	
-30	-1.74126	
-25	-1.86846	
-20	-1.97966	
-15	-2.07085	
-10	-2.13860	
-5	-2.18033	
0	-2.19443	
5	-2.18033	
10	-2.13860	
15	-2.07085	
20	-1.97966	
25	-1.86846	
30	-1.74126	
35	-1.60246	
40	-1.45660	
45	-1.30803	
50	-1.16080	
55	-1.01841	
60	-0.88430	
70	-0.64439	
80	-0.45018	
90	-0.30124	
100	-0.19230	
110	-0.11592	
120	-0.06453	
130	-0.03142	
140	-0.01119	
150	0.00032	
160	0.00615	
170	0.00844	
180	0.00867	
190	0.00781	
200	0.00646	
210	0.00501	
220	0.00365	
230	0.00249	
240	0.00154	
250	0.00081	
260	0.00027	
270	-0.00011	
280	-0.00036	
290	-0.00051	
300	-0.00060	
310	-0.00063	
320	-0.00063	
330	-0.00062	
340	-0.00060	
350	-0.00057	
360	-0.00054	
370	-0.00052	
380	-0.00050	
390	-0.00049	
400	-0.00049	

H = 240 D = 80		
H/D = 3		
x	y	
-400	-0.00029	
-390	-0.00030	
-380	-0.00031	
-370	-0.00032	
-360	-0.00033	
-350	-0.00033	
-340	-0.00031	
-330	-0.00028	
-320	-0.00021	
-310	-0.00010	
-300	0.00007	
-290	0.00029	
-280	0.00060	
-270	0.00099	
-260	0.00146	
-250	0.00199	
-240	0.00254	
-230	0.00299	
-220	0.00319	
-210	0.00287	
-200	0.00161	
-190	-0.00121	
-180	0.00161	
-170	-0.00121	
-160	-0.00645	
-150	-0.01533	
-140	-0.02946	
-130	-0.02946	
-120	-0.02946	
-110	-0.05089	
-100	-0.08208	
-90	-0.12572	
-80	-0.18432	
-70	-0.25947	
-60	-0.35097	
-55	-0.40157	
-50	-0.45499	
-45	-0.50992	
-40	-0.56510	
-35	-0.61907	
-30	-0.67025	
-25	-0.71703	
-20	-0.75784	
-15	-0.79125	
-10	-0.81605	
-5	-0.83131	
0	-0.83646	
5	-0.83131	
10	-0.81605	
15	-0.79125	
20	-0.75784	
25	-0.71703	
30	-0.67025	
35	-0.61907	
40	-0.56510	
45	-0.50992	
50	-0.45499	
55	-0.40157	
60	-0.35097	
70	-0.25947	
80	-0.18432	
90	-0.12572	
100	-0.08208	
110	-0.05089	
120	-0.02946	
130	-0.01533	
140	-0.00645	
150	-0.00121	
160	0.00161	
170	0.00287	
180	0.00319	
190	0.00299	
200	0.00254	
210	0.00199	
220	0.00146	
230	0.00099	
240	0.00060	
250	0.00029	
260	0.00007	
270	-0.00010	
280	-0.00021	
290	-0.00028	
300	-0.00031	
310	-0.00033	
320	-0.00033	
330	-0.00032	
340	-0.00031	
350	-0.00030	
360	-0.00029	
370	-0.00027	
380	-0.00027	
390	-0.00026	
400	-0.00026	



Maximum Soil Settlement (mm)				
H/D	Lab	FEM	Strand 7	% Difference
0.5	14.014	10.022	8.938	36.220
1	2.981	2.314	2.194	26.386
3	0.651	1.201	0.836	28.488

Maximum Soil Settlement (mm)				
H / D	Details	Lab	Strand 7	% Difference
0.5	H = 80mm D = 160mm	14.014	8.938	42.786
1	H = 80mm D = 80mm	2.981	2.194	36.667
3	H = 240mm D = 80mm	0.651	0.836	46.154

Maximum Soil Settlement (mm)				
H / D	Details	Lab	Potts FEM	% Difference
0.5	H = 80mm D = 160mm	14.014	10.022	28.486
1	H = 80mm D = 80mm	2.981	2.314	22.375
3	H = 240mm D = 80mm	0.651	1.201	45.795

POTTS FEM = 80mm, D = 160mm			
x	y		1000
-0.40	-400.00	0.00	
-0.20	-200.00	0.00	
-0.18	-180.00	-0.10	
-0.16	-160.00	-0.35	
-0.14	-140.00	-0.45	
-0.12	-120.00	-1.00	
-0.10	-100.00	-1.60	
-0.08	-80.00	-2.80	
-0.06	-60.00	-4.00	
-0.05	-50.00	-5.20	
-0.04	-40.00	-6.60	
-0.04	-35.00	-7.80	
-0.03	-30.00	-8.80	
-0.02	-20.00	-9.60	
-0.01	-10.00	-9.93	
0.00	0.00	-10.02	
0.01	10.00	-9.93	
0.02	20.00	-9.60	
0.03	30.00	-8.80	
0.04	35.00	-7.80	
0.04	40.00	-6.60	
0.05	50.00	-5.20	
0.06	60.00	-4.00	
0.08	80.00	-2.80	
0.10	100.00	-1.60	
0.12	120.00	-1.00	
0.14	140.00	-0.45	
0.16	160.00	-0.35	
0.18	180.00	-0.10	
0.20	200.00	0.00	
0.40	400.00	0.00	

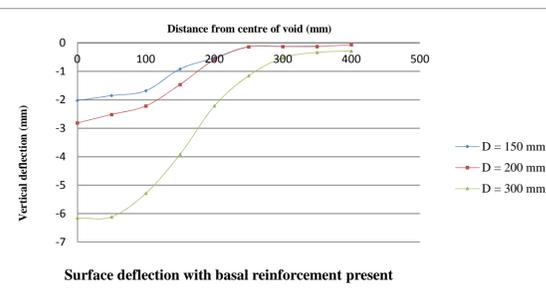
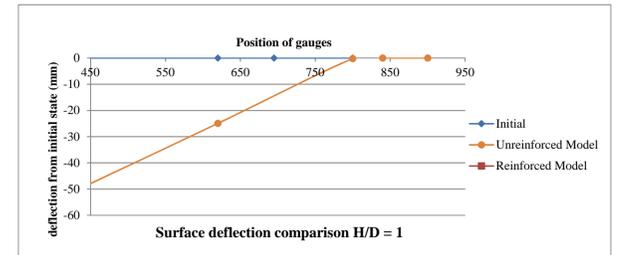
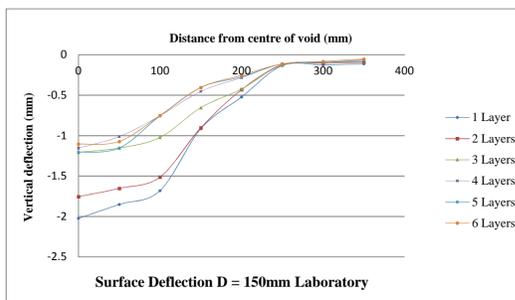
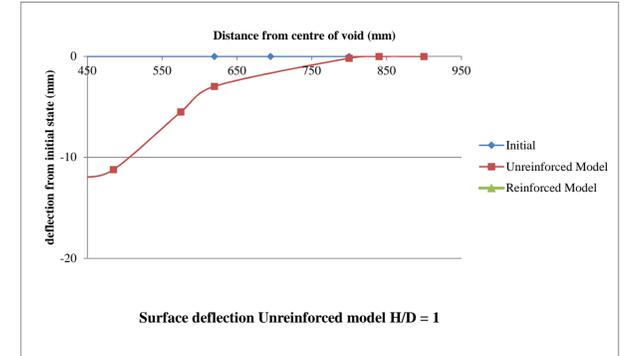
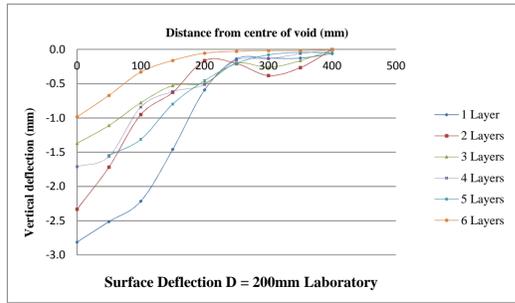
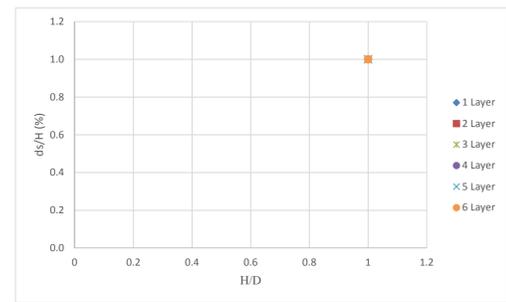
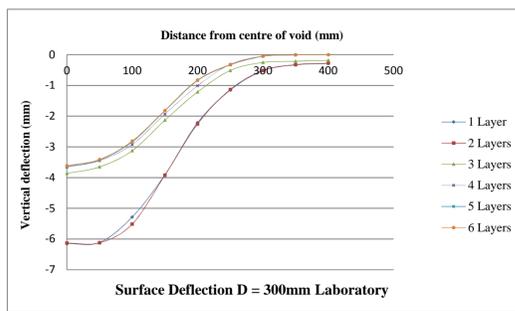
POTTS FEM = 80mm, D = 80mm			
x	y		
-0.4	-400	0	
-0.2	-200	0	
-0.12	-120	-0.1	
-0.08	-80	-0.3	
-0.06	-60	-0.45	
-0.05	-50	-0.6	
-0.04	-40	-1	
-0.03	-30	-1.5	
-0.02	-20	-1.85	
-0.01	-10	-2.15	
0	0	-2.31	
0.01	10	-2.15	
0.02	20	-1.85	
0.03	30	-1.5	
0.04	40	-1	
0.05	50	-0.6	
0.06	60	-0.45	
0.08	80	-0.3	
0.12	120	-0.1	
0.2	200	0	
0.4	400	0	

## APPENDIX E

D = 300mm						
m centre	Vertical deflection (mm)					
	1 Layer	2 Layers	3 Layers	4 Layers	5 Layers	6 Layers
0	-6.151	-6.133	-3.864	-3.661	-3.642	-3.612
50	-6.112	-6.124	-3.654	-3.452	-3.431	-3.411
100	-5.284	-5.513	-3.125	-2.922	-2.837	-2.811
150	-3.912	-3.922	-2.131	-1.933	-1.823	-1.812
200	-2.213	-2.254	-1.213	-1.011	-0.841	-0.821
250	-1.153	-1.134	-0.512	-0.314	-0.333	-0.322
300	-0.521	-0.514	-0.252	-0.051	-0.052	-0.041
350	-0.331	-0.323	-0.213	-0.011	0	0
400	-0.284	-0.272	-0.181	0.023	0	0
450	0	0	0	0	0	0

D = 200mm						
x (mm)	y (mm)					
	1 Layer	2 Layers	3 Layers	4 Layers	5 Layers	6 Layers
0	-2.8121899	-2.3327109	-1.369624107	-1.7106035	-1.5471264	-0.983334022
50	-2.5134303	-1.7173202	-1.108941844	-1.56020268	-1.31101085	-0.669582253
100	-2.2149765	-0.949825	-0.776553937	-0.83949506	-0.79602829	-0.327720071
150	-1.458805	-0.6249296	-0.526681362	-0.61432726	-0.45448462	-0.159177499
200	-0.5895757	-0.1609753	-0.489021082	-0.5105828	-0.20106507	-0.052337219
250	-0.1367721	-0.2050517	-0.20071726	-0.15451908	-0.07770115	-0.026139777
300	-0.1263319	-0.3796605	-0.260838414	-0.13557087	-0.04128668	-0.0162434
350	-0.1259318	-0.2646981	-0.162968498	-0.06052729	-0.05066068	-0.014457146
400	-0.0589781	0	0	0	0	0
450	0	0	0	0	0	0

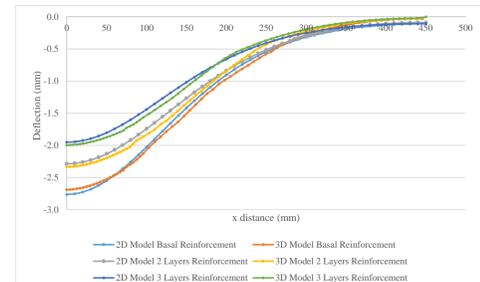
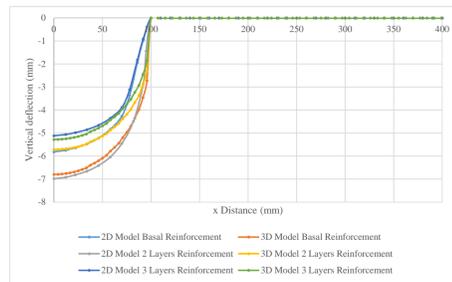
D = 150mm						
m centre	Vertical deflection (mm)					
	1 Layer	2 Layers	3 Layers	4 Layers	5 Layers	6 Layers
0	-2.023	-1.754	-1.205	-1.153	-1.205	-1.103
50	-1.851	-1.652	-1.153	-1.011	-1.153	-1.072
100	-1.68	-1.512	-1.021	-0.753	-0.755	-0.751
150	-0.914	-0.902	-0.654	-0.451	-0.404	-0.405
200	-0.521	-0.431	-0.422	-0.283	-0.272	-0.253
250	-0.133	-0.121	-0.126	-0.112	-0.113	-0.112
300	-0.124	-0.103	-0.091	-0.091	-0.093	-0.081
350	-0.112	-0.091	-0.081	-0.082	-0.064	-0.052
400	0	-0.081	-0.06	-0.05	-0.05	-0.04
450	0	0	0	0	0	0



Drop (mm)	ds
10	11.95
20	20.9
30	29.85
40	39.15
50	47.95

1 Layer			2 Layers			3 Layers		
Geosynthetic deflection (mm)	x	Deflection	Geosynthetic deflection (mm)	x	Deflection	Geosynthetic deflection (mm)	x	Deflection
0	0	-6.79636	0	0	-5.7186	0	0	-5.2786
4.16667	12.5	-6.79132	4.16667	12.5	-5.71436	4.16667	12.5	-5.27436
8.33333	25	-6.7776	8.33333	25	-5.703	8.33333	25	-5.263
12.5	37.5	-6.75616	12.5	37.5	-5.68524	12.5	37.5	-5.24524
16.6667	50	-6.72584	16.6667	50	-5.66016	16.6667	50	-5.22016
20.8333	62.5	-6.68612	20.8333	62.5	-5.62728	20.8333	62.5	-5.18728
25	75	-6.6374	25	75	-5.58696	25	75	-5.14696
29.1667	87.5	-6.5794	29.1667	87.5	-5.539	29.1667	87.5	-5.099
33.3333	100	-6.51152	33.3333	100	-5.48288	33.3333	100	-5.04288
37.5	112.5	-6.43912	37.5	112.5	-5.418076	37.5	112.5	-4.98076
41.6667	125	-6.3038	41.6667	125	-5.304236	41.6667	125	-4.864236
45.8333	137.5	-6.20264	45.8333	137.5	-5.220636	45.8333	137.5	-4.780636
50	150	-6.08896	50	150	-5.126692	50	150	-4.686692
54.1667	162.5	-5.9614	54.1667	162.5	-5.021308	54.1667	162.5	-4.581308
58.3333	175	-5.77884	58.3333	175	-4.863504	58.3333	175	-4.423504
62.5	187.5	-5.618956	62.5	187.5	-4.731376	62.5	187.5	-4.291376
66.6667	200	-5.43994	66.6667	200	-4.583412	66.6667	200	-4.143412
70.8333	212.5	-5.198132	70.8333	212.5	-4.37672	70.8333	212.5	-3.93672
75	225	-4.969252	75	225	-4.187628	75	225	-3.747628
79.1667	237.5	-4.70304	79.1667	237.5	-3.967268	79.1667	237.5	-3.527268
83.3333	250	-4.349552	83.3333	250	-3.667496	83.3333	250	-3.227496
87.5	262.5	-3.981144	87.5	262.5	-3.366028	87.5	262.5	-2.926028
91.6667	275	-3.459396	91.6667	275	-2.89018	91.6667	275	-2.45018
95.8333	287.5	-2.727428	95.8333	287.5	-2.283132	95.8333	287.5	-1.843132
100	300	0	100	300	0	100	300	0
107.292	312.5	0	107.292	312.5	0	107.292	312.5	0
114.583	325	0	114.583	325	0	114.583	325	0
121.875	337.5	0	121.875	337.5	0	121.875	337.5	0
129.167	350	0	129.167	350	0	129.167	350	0
136.458	362.5	0	136.458	362.5	0	136.458	362.5	0
143.75	375	0	143.75	375	0	143.75	375	0
151.042	387.5	0	151.042	387.5	0	151.042	387.5	0
158.333	400	0	158.333	400	0	158.333	400	0
165.625	412.5	0	165.625	412.5	0	165.625	412.5	0
172.917	425	0	172.917	425	0	172.917	425	0
180.208	437.5	0	180.208	437.5	0	180.208	437.5	0
187.5	450	0	187.5	450	0	187.5	450	0
194.792	0	0	194.792	0	0	194.792	0	0
202.083	0	0	202.083	0	0	202.083	0	0
209.375	0	0	209.375	0	0	209.375	0	0
216.667	0	0	216.667	0	0	216.667	0	0
223.958	0	0	223.958	0	0	223.958	0	0
231.25	0	0	231.25	0	0	231.25	0	0
238.542	0	0	238.542	0	0	238.542	0	0
245.833	0	0	245.833	0	0	245.833	0	0
253.125	0	0	253.125	0	0	253.125	0	0
260.417	0	0	260.417	0	0	260.417	0	0
267.708	0	0	267.708	0	0	267.708	0	0
275	0	0	275	0	0	275	0	0
282.292	0	0	282.292	0	0	282.292	0	0
289.583	0	0	289.583	0	0	289.583	0	0
296.875	0	0	296.875	0	0	296.875	0	0
304.167	0	0	304.167	0	0	304.167	0	0
311.458	0	0	311.458	0	0	311.458	0	0
318.75	0	0	318.75	0	0	318.75	0	0
326.042	0	0	326.042	0	0	326.042	0	0
333.333	0	0	333.333	0	0	333.333	0	0
340.625	0	0	340.625	0	0	340.625	0	0
347.917	0	0	347.917	0	0	347.917	0	0
355.208	0	0	355.208	0	0	355.208	0	0
362.5	0	0	362.5	0	0	362.5	0	0
369.792	0	0	369.792	0	0	369.792	0	0
377.083	0	0	377.083	0	0	377.083	0	0
384.375	0	0	384.375	0	0	384.375	0	0
391.667	0	0	391.667	0	0	391.667	0	0
398.958	0	0	398.958	0	0	398.958	0	0
406.25	0	0	406.25	0	0	406.25	0	0
413.542	0	0	413.542	0	0	413.542	0	0
420.833	0	0	420.833	0	0	420.833	0	0
428.125	0	0	428.125	0	0	428.125	0	0
435.417	0	0	435.417	0	0	435.417	0	0
442.708	0	0	442.708	0	0	442.708	0	0
450	0	0	450	0	0	450	0	0

1 Layer			2 Layer			3 Layers		
Geosynthetic deflection (mm)	x	Deflection	Geosynthetic deflection (mm)	x	Deflection	Geosynthetic deflection (mm)	x	Deflection
0	0	-6.98511	0	0	-5.815365	0	0	-5.116088
12	12	-6.920205	12	12	-5.7473465	12	12	-5.064164
22	22	-6.816595	22	22	-5.6385245	22	22	-4.981276
34	34	-6.655015	34	34	-5.469702	34	34	-4.852012
46	46	-6.410215	46	46	-5.216757	46	46	-4.656172
58	58	-6.03874	58	58	-4.840465	58	58	-4.358992
70	70	-5.451776	70	70	-4.2664475	70	70	-3.894208
82	82	-4.476536	82	82	-3.3561878	82	82	-3.1092288
94	94	-2.8653355	94	94	-1.9275473	94	94	-1.8202684
105	105	-1.43266775	105	105	-0.96377365	105	105	-0.9101342
110	110	0	110	110	0	110	110	0
120	120	0	120	120	0	120	120	0
130	130	0	130	130	0	130	130	0
140	140	0	140	140	0	140	140	0
150	150	0	150	150	0	150	150	0
160	160	0	160	160	0	160	160	0
170	170	0	170	170	0	170	170	0
180	180	0	180	180	0	180	180	0
190	190	0	190	190	0	190	190	0
200	200	0	200	200	0	200	200	0
210	210	0	210	210	0	210	210	0
220	220	0	220	220	0	220	220	0
230	230	0	230	230	0	230	230	0
240	240	0	240	240	0	240	240	0
250	250	0	250	250	0	250	250	0
260	260	0	260	260	0	260	260	0
270	270	0	270	270	0	270	270	0
280	280	0	280	280	0	280	280	0
290	290	0	290	290	0	290	290	0
300	300	0	300	300	0	300	300	0
310	310	0	310	310	0	310	310	0
320	320	0	320	320	0	320	320	0
330	330	0	330	330	0	330	330	0
340	340	0	340	340	0	340	340	0
350	350	0	350	350	0	350	350	0
360	360	0	360	360	0	360	360	0
370	370	0	370	370	0	370	370	0
380	380	0	380	380	0	380	380	0
390	390	0	390	390	0	390	390	0
400	400	0	400	400	0	400	400	0
410	410	0	410	410	0	410	410	0
420	420	0	420	420	0	420	420	0
430	430	0	430	430	0	430	430	0
440	440	0	440	440	0	440	440	0
450	450	0	450	450	0	450	450	0



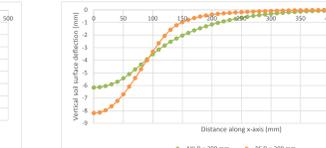
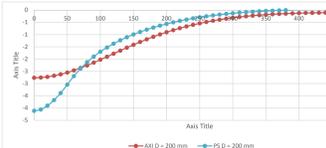
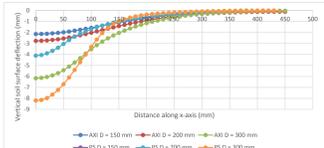
1 Layer			2 Layers			3 Layers		
Surface deflection (mm)	x	Deflection	Surface deflection (mm)	x	Deflection	Surface deflection (mm)	x	Deflection
0	0	-2.69095	0	0	-2.33589	0	0	-1.99638
4.16667	12.5	-2.68787	4.16667	12.5	-2.33329	4.16667	12.5	-1.99409
8.33333	25	-2.68276	8.33333	25	-2.32896	8.33333	25	-1.99029
12.5	37.5	-2.67562	12.5	37.5	-2.32292	12.5	37.5	-1.98498
16.6667	50	-2.66649	16.6667	50	-2.3152	16.6667	50	-1.97818
20.8333	62.5	-2.65537	20.8333	62.5	-2.30579	20.8333	62.5	-1.96991
25	75	-2.64232	25	75	-2.29476	25	75	-1.9602
29.1667	87.5	-2.62735	29.1667	87.5	-2.2821	29.1667	87.5	-1.94908
33.3333	100	-2.61054	33.3333	100	-2.26789	33.3333	100	-1.93658
37.5	112.5	-2.5919	37.5	112.5	-2.25214	37.5	112.5	-1.92272
41.6667	125	-2.57151	41.6667	125	-2.23491	41.6667	125	-1.90758
45.8333	137.5	-2.54941	45.8333	137.5	-2.21624	45.8333	137.5	-1.89116
50	150	-2.52568	50	150	-2.19621	50	150	-1.87355
54.1667	162.5	-2.50037	54.1667	162.5	-2.17485	54.1667	162.5	-1.85476
58.3333	175	-2.47356	58.3333	175	-2.15223	58.3333	175	-1.83488
62.5	187.5	-2.44532	62.5	187.5	-2.12841	62.5	187.5	-1.81394
66.6667	200	-2.41572	66.6667	200	-2.10347	66.6667	200	-1.79201
70.8333	212.5	-2.38485	70.8333	212.5	-2.07746	70.8333	212.5	-1.76914
75	225	-2.33278	75	225	-2.05045	75	225	-1.7254
79.1667	237.5	-2.29958	79.1667	237.5	-2.02252	79.1667	237.5	-1.70084
83.3333	250							

Asymmetric			
1 Layer		1 Layer	
Surface deflection 150mm	Surface deflection 200mm	Surface deflection 200mm	Surface deflection 300mm
x	y	x	y
0.0000	-2.1484	0.0000	-2.7671
10.0000	-2.1393	10.0000	-2.7529
20.0000	-2.1184	20.0000	-2.7256
30.0000	-2.0848	30.0000	-2.6819
40.0000	-2.0392	40.0000	-2.6236
50.0000	-1.9824	50.0000	-2.5489
60.0000	-1.9157	60.0000	-2.4624
70.0000	-1.8401	70.0000	-2.3647
80.0000	-1.7574	80.0000	-2.2580
90.0000	-1.6688	90.0000	-2.1441
100.0000	-1.5761	100.0000	-2.0251
110.0000	-1.4805	110.0000	-1.9030
120.0000	-1.3836	120.0000	-1.7797
130.0000	-1.2866	130.0000	-1.6555
140.0000	-1.1907	140.0000	-1.5306
150.0000	-1.0970	150.0000	-1.4057
160.0000	-1.0061	160.0000	-1.2808
170.0000	-0.9188	170.0000	-1.1559
180.0000	-0.8357	180.0000	-1.0310
190.0000	-0.7571	190.0000	-0.9061
200.0000	-0.6833	200.0000	-0.7812
210.0000	-0.6143	210.0000	-0.6563
220.0000	-0.5503	220.0000	-0.5314
230.0000	-0.4912	230.0000	-0.4065
240.0000	-0.4368	240.0000	-0.2816
250.0000	-0.3870	250.0000	-0.1567
260.0000	-0.3416	260.0000	-0.0318
270.0000	-0.3004	270.0000	0.0931
280.0000	-0.2632	280.0000	0.2182
290.0000	-0.2296	290.0000	0.3433
300.0000	-0.1995	300.0000	0.4684
310.0000	-0.1726	310.0000	0.5935
320.0000	-0.1486	320.0000	0.7186
330.0000	-0.1274	330.0000	0.8437
340.0000	-0.1087	340.0000	0.9688
350.0000	-0.0923	350.0000	1.0939
360.0000	-0.0781	360.0000	1.2190
370.0000	-0.0658	370.0000	1.3441
380.0000	-0.0553	380.0000	1.4692
390.0000	-0.0466	390.0000	1.5943
400.0000	-0.0394	400.0000	1.7194
410.0000	-0.0337	410.0000	1.8445
420.0000	-0.0294	420.0000	1.9696
430.0000	-0.0263	430.0000	2.0947
440.0000	-0.0246	440.0000	2.2198
450.0000	-0.0240	450.0000	2.3449

Plane strain			
1 Layer		1 Layer	
Surface deflection 150mm	Surface deflection 200mm	Surface deflection 200mm	Surface deflection 300mm
x	y	x	y
0.0000	-3.5365	0.0000	-4.1119
10.0000	-3.4964	10.0000	-4.0564
20.0000	-3.3928	20.0000	-3.9024
30.0000	-3.2522	30.0000	-3.6738
40.0000	-3.0742	40.0000	-3.3868
50.0000	-2.8213	50.0000	-3.0435
60.0000	-2.5299	60.0000	-2.6938
70.0000	-2.2295	70.0000	-2.3092
80.0000	-2.0187	80.0000	-2.1268
90.0000	-1.8038	90.0000	-1.8997
100.0000	-1.6114	100.0000	-1.7311
110.0000	-1.4391	110.0000	-1.5270
120.0000	-1.2843	120.0000	-1.3724
130.0000	-1.1441	130.0000	-1.2338
140.0000	-1.0197	140.0000	-1.1205
150.0000	-0.9067	150.0000	-1.0197
160.0000	-0.8044	160.0000	-0.9283
170.0000	-0.7129	170.0000	-0.8459
180.0000	-0.6266	180.0000	-0.7714
190.0000	-0.5519	190.0000	-0.7044
200.0000	-0.4845	200.0000	-0.6438
210.0000	-0.4233	210.0000	-0.5897
220.0000	-0.3685	220.0000	-0.5416
230.0000	-0.3189	230.0000	-0.4987
240.0000	-0.2745	240.0000	-0.4611
250.0000	-0.2344	250.0000	-0.4282
260.0000	-0.1982	260.0000	-0.3995
270.0000	-0.1656	270.0000	-0.3745
280.0000	-0.1364	280.0000	-0.3527
290.0000	-0.1103	290.0000	-0.3336
300.0000	-0.0870	300.0000	-0.3167
310.0000	-0.0664	310.0000	-0.3017
320.0000	-0.0481	320.0000	-0.2882
330.0000	-0.0320	330.0000	-0.2759
340.0000	-0.0179	340.0000	-0.2646
350.0000	-0.0065	350.0000	-0.2541
360.0000	0.0144	360.0000	-0.2444
370.0000	0.0253	370.0000	-0.2354
380.0000	0.0369	380.0000	-0.2271
390.0000	0.0483	390.0000	-0.2194
400.0000	0.0594	400.0000	-0.2123
410.0000	0.0702	410.0000	-0.2057
420.0000	0.0804	420.0000	-0.1996
430.0000	0.0902	430.0000	-0.1940
440.0000	0.0996	440.0000	-0.1888
450.0000	0.1084	450.0000	-0.1840

Asymmetric			
2 Layer		2 Layer	
Surface deflection 150mm	Surface deflection 200mm	Surface deflection 200mm	Surface deflection 300mm
x	y	x	y
0.0000	-1.8274	0.0000	-2.2875
10.0000	-1.8203	10.0000	-2.2794
20.0000	-1.8037	20.0000	-2.2595
30.0000	-1.7771	30.0000	-2.2280
40.0000	-1.7409	40.0000	-2.1852
50.0000	-1.6958	50.0000	-2.1317
60.0000	-1.6426	60.0000	-2.0685
70.0000	-1.5822	70.0000	-1.9967
80.0000	-1.5158	80.0000	-1.9177
90.0000	-1.4445	90.0000	-1.8323
100.0000	-1.3695	100.0000	-1.7427
110.0000	-1.2918	110.0000	-1.6495
120.0000	-1.2127	120.0000	-1.5542
130.0000	-1.1330	130.0000	-1.4580
140.0000	-1.0538	140.0000	-1.3620
150.0000	-0.9758	150.0000	-1.2672
160.0000	-0.8999	160.0000	-1.1745
170.0000	-0.8265	170.0000	-1.0845
180.0000	-0.7561	180.0000	-0.9979
190.0000	-0.6892	190.0000	-0.9152
200.0000	-0.6259	200.0000	-0.8367
210.0000	-0.5665	210.0000	-0.7626
220.0000	-0.5109	220.0000	-0.6931
230.0000	-0.4594	230.0000	-0.6283
240.0000	-0.4117	240.0000	-0.5682
250.0000	-0.3678	250.0000	-0.5126
260.0000	-0.3276	260.0000	-0.4614
270.0000	-0.2909	270.0000	-0.4146
280.0000	-0.2576	280.0000	-0.3718
290.0000	-0.2274	290.0000	-0.3330
300.0000	-0.2002	300.0000	-0.2979
310.0000	-0.1759	310.0000	-0.2663
320.0000	-0.1541	320.0000	-0.2379
330.0000	-0.1347	330.0000	-0.2126
340.0000	-0.1176	340.0000	-0.1902
350.0000	-0.1025	350.0000	-0.1704
360.0000	-0.0894	360.0000	-0.1531
370.0000	-0.0781	370.0000	-0.1382
380.0000	-0.0684	380.0000	-0.1254
390.0000	-0.0603	390.0000	-0.1146
400.0000	-0.0536	400.0000	-0.1058
410.0000	-0.0483	410.0000	-0.0987
420.0000	-0.0443	420.0000	-0.0933
430.0000	-0.0414	430.0000	-0.0896
440.0000	-0.0398	440.0000	-0.0874
450.0000	-0.0393	450.0000	-0.0867

Plane strain			
2 Layer		2 Layer	
Surface deflection 150mm	Surface deflection 200mm	Surface deflection 200mm	Surface deflection 300mm
x	y	x	y
0.0000	-2.2991	0.0000	-2.9036
10.0000	-2.1966	10.0000	-2.8049
20.0000	-2.0695	20.0000	-2.6710
30.0000	-1.9239	30.0000	-2.5076
40.0000	-1.7602	40.0000	-2.3201
50.0000	-1.5787	50.0000	-2.1098
60.0000	-1.3848	60.0000	-1.8848
70.0000	-1.1810	70.0000	-1.6490
80.0000	-0.9640	80.0000	-1.4067
90.0000	-0.7302	90.0000	-1.1527
100.0000	-0.4843	100.0000	-0.8827
110.0000	-0.2469	110.0000	-0.6011
120.0000	-0.0225	120.0000	-0.3132
130.0000	0.1812	130.0000	-0.0148
140.0000	0.3882	140.0000	0.2842
150.0000	0.5922	150.0000	0.5863
160.0000	0.7914	160.0000	0.8884
170.0000	0.9845	170.0000	1.1895
180.0000	1.1704	180.0000	1.4886
190.0000	1.3482	190.0000	1.7857
200.0000	1.5179	200.0000	2.0808
210.0000	1.6794	210.0000	2.3739
220.0000	1.8326	220.0000	2.6650
230.0000	1.9774	230.0000	2.9541
240.0000	2.1137	240.0000	3.2412
250.0000	2.2414	250.0000	3.5263
260.0000	2.3604	260.0000	3.8094
270.0000	2.4706	270.0000	4.0905
280.0000	2.5720	280.0000	4.3696
290.0000	2.6645	290.0000	4.6467
300.0000	2.7481	300.0000	4.9218
310.0000	2.8228	310.0000	5.1949
320.0000	2.8886	320.0000	5.4660
330.0000	2.9455	330.0000	5.7351
340.0000	2.9934	340.0000	6.0022
350.0000	3.0323	350.0000	6.2673
360.0000	3.0622	360.0000	6.5304
370.0000	3.0831	370.0000	6.7915
380.0000	3.0950	380.0000	7.0506
390.0000	3.0979	390.0000	7.3077
400.0000	3.0918	400.0000	7.5628
410.0000	3.0767	410.0000	7.8159
420.0000	3.0526	420.0000	8.0670
430.0000	3.0195	430.0000	8.3161
440.0000	2.9774	440.0000	8.5632
450.0000	2.9263	450.0000	8.8083



1 Layer		
Surface deflection 150mm		
x	y	
0.000	-2.148	
10.000	-2.139	
20.000	-2.118	
30.000	-2.085	
40.000	-2.039	
50.000	-1.982	
60.000	-1.916	
70.000	-1.840	
80.000	-1.757	
90.000	-1.669	
100.000	-1.576	
110.000	-1.481	
120.000	-1.386	
130.000	-1.287	
140.000	-1.191	
150.000	-1.097	
160.000	-1.006	
170.000	-0.919	
180.000	-0.836	
190.000	-0.757	
200.000	-0.683	
210.000	-0.614	
220.000	-0.550	
230.000	-0.491	
240.000	-0.437	
250.000	-0.387	
260.000	-0.342	
270.000	-0.300	
280.000	-0.263	
290.000	-0.230	
300.000	-0.199	
310.000	-0.173	
320.000	-0.149	
330.000	-0.127	
340.000	-0.109	
350.000	-0.092	
360.000	-0.078	
370.000	-0.066	
380.000	-0.055	
390.000	-0.047	
400.000	-0.039	
410.000	-0.034	
420.000	-0.029	
430.000	-0.026	
440.000	-0.025	
450.000	-0.024	

2 Layer		
Surface deflection 150mm		
x	y	
0.000	-1.837	
10.000	-1.820	
20.000	-1.804	
30.000	-1.777	
40.000	-1.741	
50.000	-1.696	
60.000	-1.643	
70.000	-1.582	
80.000	-1.516	
90.000	-1.445	
100.000	-1.369	
110.000	-1.292	
120.000	-1.213	
130.000	-1.133	
140.000	-1.054	
150.000	-0.976	
160.000	-0.900	
170.000	-0.826	
180.000	-0.756	
190.000	-0.689	
200.000	-0.626	
210.000	-0.566	
220.000	-0.511	
230.000	-0.459	
240.000	-0.412	
250.000	-0.368	
260.000	-0.328	
270.000	-0.291	
280.000	-0.258	
290.000	-0.227	
300.000	-0.199	
310.000	-0.176	
320.000	-0.156	
330.000	-0.135	
340.000	-0.118	
350.000	-0.103	
360.000	-0.089	
370.000	-0.078	
380.000	-0.068	
390.000	-0.060	
400.000	-0.054	
410.000	-0.048	
420.000	-0.044	
430.000	-0.041	
440.000	-0.040	
450.000	-0.039	
450.000	-0.033	

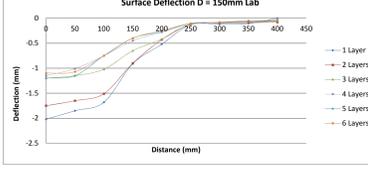
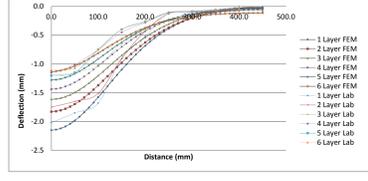
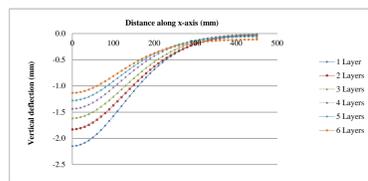
3 Layer		
Surface deflection 150mm		
x	y	
0.000	-1.61241	
10.000	-1.60619	
20.000	-1.59134	
30.000	-1.56753	
40.000	-1.53513	
50.000	-1.49472	
60.000	-1.44705	
70.000	-1.39301	
80.000	-1.33257	
90.000	-1.26974	
100.000	-1.20256	
110.000	-1.13395	
120.000	-1.06219	
130.000	-0.99091	
140.000	-0.92002	
150.000	-0.85028	
160.000	-0.78232	
170.000	-0.71667	
180.000	-0.65375	
190.000	-0.59389	
200.000	-0.53732	
210.000	-0.48418	
220.000	-0.43455	
230.000	-0.38845	
240.000	-0.34584	
250.000	-0.30662	
260.000	-0.2707	
270.000	-0.23793	
280.000	-0.20815	
290.000	-0.1812	
300.000	-0.15692	
310.000	-0.13513	
320.000	-0.11566	
330.000	-0.09835	
340.000	-0.08304	
350.000	-0.06959	
360.000	-0.05787	
370.000	-0.04774	
380.000	-0.03921	
390.000	-0.03184	
400.000	-0.02587	
410.000	-0.02111	
420.000	-0.01745	
430.000	-0.01497	
440.000	-0.01349	
450.000	-0.01303	
450.000	-0.00263	

4 Layer		
Surface deflection 150mm		
x	y	
0.000	-1.43661	
10.000	-1.43011	
20.000	-1.41508	
30.000	-1.39105	
40.000	-1.35844	
50.000	-1.31795	
60.000	-1.27045	
70.000	-1.21694	
80.000	-1.15851	
90.000	-1.0963	
100.000	-1.03142	
110.000	-0.96496	
120.000	-0.89796	
130.000	-0.83135	
140.000	-0.76594	
150.000	-0.70243	
160.000	-0.6414	
170.000	-0.58329	
180.000	-0.52843	
190.000	-0.47703	
200.000	-0.42921	
210.000	-0.385	
220.000	-0.34437	
230.000	-0.30723	
240.000	-0.27343	
250.000	-0.24282	
260.000	-0.2152	
270.000	-0.19038	
280.000	-0.16816	
290.000	-0.14833	
300.000	-0.13069	
310.000	-0.11596	
320.000	-0.10326	
330.000	-0.09313	
340.000	-0.08452	
350.000	-0.07828	
360.000	-0.07306	
370.000	-0.06949	
380.000	-0.06686	
390.000	-0.0651	
400.000	-0.06428	
410.000	-0.06427	
420.000	-0.06484	
430.000	-0.06569	
440.000	-0.06711	
450.000	-0.06942	
450.000	-0.07263	

5 Layer		
Surface deflection 150mm		
x	y	
0.000	-1.2785	
10.000	-1.2721	
20.000	-1.2581	
30.000	-1.2363	
40.000	-1.2065	
50.000	-1.1696	
60.000	-1.1264	
70.000	-1.0780	
80.000	-1.0252	
90.000	-0.9693	
100.000	-0.9113	
110.000	-0.8521	
120.000	-0.7926	
130.000	-0.7329	
140.000	-0.6727	
150.000	-0.6124	
160.000	-0.5526	
170.000	-0.4930	
180.000	-0.4342	
190.000	-0.3773	
200.000	-0.3221	
210.000	-0.2688	
220.000	-0.2172	
230.000	-0.1673	
240.000	-0.1192	
250.000	-0.0730	
260.000	-0.0297	
270.000	-0.1870	
280.000	-0.1686	
290.000	-0.1523	
300.000	-0.1377	
310.000	-0.1248	
320.000	-0.1135	
330.000	-0.1035	
340.000	-0.0947	
350.000	-0.0871	
360.000	-0.0806	
370.000	-0.0749	
380.000	-0.0701	
390.000	-0.0661	
400.000	-0.0628	
410.000	-0.0602	
420.000	-0.0583	
430.000	-0.0569	
440.000	-0.0561	
450.000	-0.0558	
450.000	-0.0558	

6 Layer		
Surface deflection 150mm		
x	y	
0.000	-1.1323	
10.000	-1.1268	
20.000	-1.1143	
30.000	-1.0944	
40.000	-1.0677	
50.000	-1.0350	
60.000	-0.9971	
70.000	-0.9548	
80.000	-0.9090	
90.000	-0.8607	
100.000	-0.8107	
110.000	-0.7601	
120.000	-0.7095	
130.000	-0.6597	
140.000	-0.6113	
150.000	-0.5648	
160.000	-0.5206	
170.000	-0.4790	
180.000	-0.4402	
190.000	-0.4042	
200.000	-0.3711	
210.000	-0.3408	
220.000	-0.3133	
230.000	-0.2884	
240.000	-0.2660	
250.000	-0.2459	
260.000	-0.2279	
270.000	-0.2119	
280.000	-0.1976	
290.000	-0.1850	
300.000	-0.1739	
310.000	-0.1641	
320.000	-0.1555	
330.000	-0.1480	
340.000	-0.1414	
350.000	-0.1357	
360.000	-0.1308	
370.000	-0.1266	
380.000	-0.1221	
390.000	-0.1181	
400.000	-0.1146	
410.000	-0.1115	
420.000	-0.1089	
430.000	-0.1067	
440.000	-0.1049	
450.000	-0.1034	
450.000	-0.1028	

1 Layer		
Geogrid deflection 150mm		
x	y	
0.000	-1.097	
10.000	-1.085	
20.000	-1.068	
30.000	-1.044	
40.000	-1.014	
50.000	-0.979	
60.000	-0.939	
70.000	-0.895	
80.000	-0.848	
90.000	-0.800	
100.000	-0.751	
110.000	-0.701	
120.000	-0.651	
130.000	-0.601	
140.000	-0.551	
150.000	-0.501	
160.000	-0.451	
170.000	-0.401	
180.000	-0.351	
190.000	-0.301	
200.000	-0.251	
210.000	-0.201	
220.000	-0.151	
230.000	-0.101	
240.000	-0.051	
250.000	0.000	



x (mm)	D = 150mm					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
0	-2.02	-1.75	-1.2	-1.15	-1.2	-1.1
50	-1.85	-1.65	-1.15	-1.01	-1.15	-1.07
100	-1.68	-1.51	-1.02	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75
150	-0.91	-0.90	-0.65	-0.45	-0.40	-0.40
200	-0.52	-0.43	-0.42	-0.28	-0.27	-0.25
250	-0.13	-0.12	-0.12	-0.11	-0.105	-0.105
300	-0.12	-0.095	-0.09	-0.09	-0.086	-0.08
350	-0.105	-0.09	-0.08	-0.075	-0.063	-0.05
400	0	-0.08	-0.06	-0.05	-0.05	-0.04
450	0	0	0	0	0	0

H (opp) 300 mm  
Adj 175  
57.296

H (opp) 300 mm  
Adj 150  
57.296

H (opp) 300 mm  
Adj 200  
57.296

H (opp)	Experimental model				
	2	1.5	1	Average	
HD	150	200	300		
D	500	500	700		
Da	59.74	63.44	56.31	59.83	
Angle of draw					

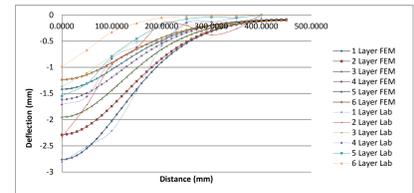
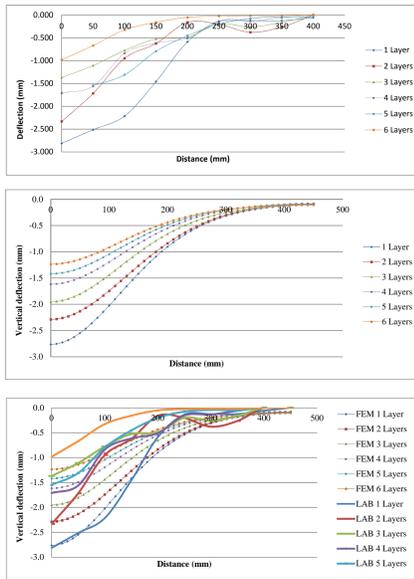
  

H (opp)	Numerical model				
	2	1.5	1	Average	
HD	150	200	300		
D	500	500	700		
Da	800	800	800		
Angle of draw	42.71	45.00	50.19	45.97	

H (opp) 300 mm  
Adj 325  
57.296

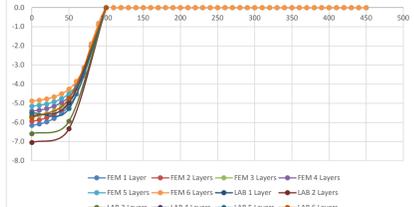
H (opp) 300 mm  
Adj 300  
57.296

1 Layer		2 Layer		3 Layer		4 Layer		5 Layer		6 Layer	
Surface deflection: 200mm		Surface deflection: 200mm		Surface deflection: 200mm		Surface deflection: 200mm		Surface deflection: 200mm		Surface deflection: 200mm	
x	y	x	y	x	y	x	y	x	y	x	y
0.0000	-2.7646986	0.0000	-2.2875	0.0000	-1.9517	0.0000	-1.6169	0.0000	-1.4201	0.0000	-1.2363
10.0000	-2.7528896	10.0000	-2.2791	10.0000	-1.9436	10.0000	-1.6101	10.0000	-1.4141	10.0000	-1.2310
20.0000	-2.7255976	20.0000	-2.2595	20.0000	-1.9247	20.0000	-1.5946	20.0000	-1.4001	20.0000	-1.2189
30.0000	-2.6819316	30.0000	-2.2280	30.0000	-1.8944	30.0000	-1.5697	30.0000	-1.3778	30.0000	-1.1996
40.0000	-2.626386	40.0000	-2.1852	40.0000	-1.8534	40.0000	-1.5358	40.0000	-1.3476	40.0000	-1.1735
50.0000	-2.5489366	50.0000	-2.1317	50.0000	-1.8023	50.0000	-1.4938	50.0000	-1.3101	50.0000	-1.1411
60.0000	-2.4623756	60.0000	-2.0685	60.0000	-1.7424	60.0000	-1.4444	60.0000	-1.2661	60.0000	-1.1033
70.0000	-2.3643996	70.0000	-1.9967	70.0000	-1.6747	70.0000	-1.3867	70.0000	-1.2165	70.0000	-1.0607
80.0000	-2.2579716	80.0000	-1.9177	80.0000	-1.6007	80.0000	-1.3277	80.0000	-1.1625	80.0000	-1.0143
90.0000	-2.1440916	90.0000	-1.8325	90.0000	-1.5218	90.0000	-1.2627	90.0000	-1.1049	90.0000	-0.9650
100.0000	-2.0251266	100.0000	-1.7427	100.0000	-1.4392	100.0000	-1.1946	100.0000	-1.0449	100.0000	-0.9136
110.0000	-1.9030396	110.0000	-1.6495	110.0000	-1.3544	110.0000	-1.1247	110.0000	-0.9835	110.0000	-0.8611
120.0000	-1.7796746	120.0000	-1.5542	120.0000	-1.2697	120.0000	-1.0540	120.0000	-0.9215	120.0000	-0.8081
130.0000	-1.6567066	130.0000	-1.4580	130.0000	-1.1831	130.0000	-0.9834	130.0000	-0.8599	130.0000	-0.7555
140.0000	-1.5356146	140.0000	-1.3620	140.0000	-1.0988	140.0000	-0.9138	140.0000	-0.7993	140.0000	-0.7039
150.0000	-1.4177	150.0000	-1.2672	150.0000	-1.0166	150.0000	-0.8459	150.0000	-0.7404	150.0000	-0.6537
160.0000	-1.3038666	160.0000	-1.1745	160.0000	-0.9372	160.0000	-0.7803	160.0000	-0.6838	160.0000	-0.6055
170.0000	-1.1950556	170.0000	-1.0845	170.0000	-0.8612	170.0000	-0.7175	170.0000	-0.6297	170.0000	-0.5595
180.0000	-1.0918256	180.0000	-0.9979	180.0000	-0.7892	180.0000	-0.6579	180.0000	-0.5785	180.0000	-0.5160
190.0000	-0.9945911	190.0000	-0.9152	190.0000	-0.7212	190.0000	-0.6017	190.0000	-0.5303	190.0000	-0.4752
200.0000	-0.9035944	200.0000	-0.8367	200.0000	-0.6577	200.0000	-0.5490	200.0000	-0.4854	200.0000	-0.4371
210.0000	-0.8189367	210.0000	-0.7626	210.0000	-0.5985	210.0000	-0.5000	210.0000	-0.4437	210.0000	-0.4017
220.0000	-0.7405996	220.0000	-0.6931	220.0000	-0.5439	220.0000	-0.4546	220.0000	-0.4051	220.0000	-0.3690
230.0000	-0.6684663	230.0000	-0.6283	230.0000	-0.4935	230.0000	-0.4128	230.0000	-0.3697	230.0000	-0.3390
240.0000	-0.6023491	240.0000	-0.5682	240.0000	-0.4474	240.0000	-0.3744	240.0000	-0.3373	240.0000	-0.3115
250.0000	-0.5420024	250.0000	-0.5126	250.0000	-0.4054	250.0000	-0.3394	250.0000	-0.3077	250.0000	-0.2865
260.0000	-0.4871421	260.0000	-0.4614	260.0000	-0.3672	260.0000	-0.3076	260.0000	-0.2809	260.0000	-0.2638
270.0000	-0.4374592	270.0000	-0.4146	270.0000	-0.3327	270.0000	-0.2788	270.0000	-0.2566	270.0000	-0.2432
280.0000	-0.3927312	280.0000	-0.3718	280.0000	-0.3015	280.0000	-0.2528	280.0000	-0.2347	280.0000	-0.2247
290.0000	-0.3523316	290.0000	-0.3330	290.0000	-0.2735	290.0000	-0.2294	290.0000	-0.2150	290.0000	-0.2080
300.0000	-0.316237	300.0000	-0.2979	300.0000	-0.2485	300.0000	-0.2084	300.0000	-0.1974	300.0000	-0.1930
310.0000	-0.2840331	310.0000	-0.2663	310.0000	-0.2262	310.0000	-0.1897	310.0000	-0.1817	310.0000	-0.1797
320.0000	-0.2554187	320.0000	-0.2379	320.0000	-0.2063	320.0000	-0.1730	320.0000	-0.1677	320.0000	-0.1678
330.0000	-0.2301089	330.0000	-0.2126	330.0000	-0.1888	330.0000	-0.1583	330.0000	-0.1553	330.0000	-0.1573
340.0000	-0.2078373	340.0000	-0.1902	340.0000	-0.1733	340.0000	-0.1453	340.0000	-0.1444	340.0000	-0.1481
350.0000	-0.1883573	350.0000	-0.1704	350.0000	-0.1598	350.0000	-0.1339	350.0000	-0.1348	350.0000	-0.1400
360.0000	-0.1714252	360.0000	-0.1531	360.0000	-0.1481	360.0000	-0.1241	360.0000	-0.1265	360.0000	-0.1329
370.0000	-0.1568768	370.0000	-0.1382	370.0000	-0.1380	370.0000	-0.1156	370.0000	-0.1193	370.0000	-0.1268
380.0000	-0.1448261	380.0000	-0.1254	380.0000	-0.1294	380.0000	-0.1083	380.0000	-0.1132	380.0000	-0.1216
390.0000	-0.1341352	390.0000	-0.1146	390.0000	-0.1222	390.0000	-0.1022	390.0000	-0.1081	390.0000	-0.1173
400.0000	-0.12563759	400.0000	-0.1058	400.0000	-0.1163	400.0000	-0.0972	400.0000	-0.1038	400.0000	-0.1137
410.0000	-0.1188773	410.0000	-0.0987	410.0000	-0.1116	410.0000	-0.0933	410.0000	-0.1005	410.0000	-0.1109
420.0000	-0.11375233	420.0000	-0.0933	420.0000	-0.1080	420.0000	-0.0903	420.0000	-0.0887	420.0000	-0.1087
430.0000	-0.11017518	430.0000	-0.0896	430.0000	-0.1055	430.0000	-0.0882	430.0000	-0.1072	430.0000	-0.1072
440.0000	-0.10807431	440.0000	-0.0874	440.0000	-0.1041	440.0000	-0.0869	440.0000	-0.0951	440.0000	-0.1063
450.0000	-0.10742692	450.0000	-0.0867	450.0000	-0.1036	450.0000	-0.0865	450.0000	-0.0948	450.0000	-0.1061



D = 200mm						
x (mm)	1	2	3	4	5	6
0	-2.812	-2.333	-1.370	-1.711	-1.547	-0.983
50	-2.513	-1.717	-1.109	-1.560	-1.311	-0.670
100	-2.215	-0.950	-0.777	-0.839	-0.796	-0.328
150	-1.459	-0.625	-0.527	-0.614	-0.454	-0.159
200	-0.590	-0.161	-0.489	-0.511	-0.201	-0.052
250	-0.137	-0.205	-0.201	-0.155	-0.078	-0.028
300	-0.126	-0.380	-0.261	-0.136	-0.041	-0.016
350	-0.126	-0.265	-0.163	-0.061	-0.051	-0.014
400	-0.059	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
450	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

No. Layers	Maximum surface deflection (mm) H/D = 1.5					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Laboratory	2.81219	2.332711	1.37	1.71	1.55	0.98
FEM	2.76	2.29	1.95	1.62	1.42	1.24
% Difference	1.69	1.94	29.83	5.80	8.94	20.46
Average %	11.44					



1 Layer		1 Layer		1 Layer		1 Layer		1 Layer		1 Layer	
Geogrid deflection: 200mm		Geogrid deflection: 200mm		Geogrid deflection: 200mm		Geogrid deflection: 200mm		Geogrid deflection: 200mm		Geogrid deflection: 200mm	
x	y	x	y	x	y	x	y	x	y	x	y
0.0000	-6.15382593	0.0000	-5.934046	0	-5.68454	0	-5.40323	0	-5.14703	0	-4.87613
10.0000	-6.08189615	10.0000	-5.896399	10	-5.62685	10	-5.35299	10	-5.10493	10	-4.83555
20.0000	-5.9669256	20.0000	-5.75396	20	-5.52475	20	-5.27446	20	-5.03292	20	-4.78897
30.0000	-5.78804444	30.0000	-5.581329	30	-5.39112	30	-5.14522	30	-4.92246	30	-4.66338
40.0000	-5.52037778	40.0000	-5.323221	40	-5.17352	40	-4.95787	40	-4.75131	40	-4.50124
50.0000	-5.1218519	50.0000	-4.93925	50	-4.84332	50	-4.66472	50	-4.48806	50	-4.25185
60.0000	-4.51475926	60.0000	-4.353518	60	-4.32158	60	-4.19374	60	-4.06997	60	-3.84724
70.0000	-3.53152148	70.0000	-3.424681	70	-3.4547	70	-3.38839	70	-3.31365	70	-3.13924
80.0000	-2.0973259	80.0000	-1.966885	80	-2.02252	80	-2.00968	80	-1.98953	80	-1.88481
90.0000	-0.85185185	90.0000	-0.821429	90	-0.88889	90	-0.89552	90	-0.88889	90	-0.84211
100.0000	0.0000	100.0000	0.0000	100	0	100	0	100	0	100	0
110.0000	0.0000	110.0000	0.0000	110	0	110	0	110	0	110	0
120.0000	0.0000	120.0000	0.0000	120	0	120	0	120	0	120	0
130.0000	0.0000	130.0000	0.0000	130	0	130	0	130	0	130	0
140.0000	0.0000	140.0000	0.0000	140	0	140	0	140	0	140	0
150.0000	0.0000	150.0000	0.0000	150	0	150	0	150	0	150	0
160.0000	0.0000	160.0000	0.0000	160	0	160	0	160	0	160	0
170.0000	0.0000	170.0000	0.0000	170	0	170	0	170	0	170	0
180.0000	0.0000	180.0000	0.0000	180	0	180	0	180	0	180	0
190.0000	0.0000	190.0000	0.0000	190	0	190	0	190	0	190	0
200.0000	0.0000	200.0000	0.0000	200	0	200	0	200	0	200	0
210.0000	0.0000	210.0000	0.0000	210	0	210	0	210	0	210	0
220.0000	0.0000	220.0000	0.0000	220	0	220	0	220	0	220	0
230.0000	0.0000	230.0000	0.0000	230	0	230	0	230	0	230	0
240.0000	0.0000	240.0000	0.0000	240	0	240	0	240	0	240	0
250.0000	0.0000	250.0000	0.0000	250	0	250	0	250	0	250	0
260.0000	0.0000	260.0000	0.0000	260	0	260	0	260	0	260	0
270.0000	0.0000	2									



## APPENDIX F

Geogrid deflection (mm)			Friction angle		
Angle = 40			1000		
x	y (m)	y (mm)	x	y (m)	y (mm)
0	-0.00031556	-0.31556	0	-0.0003495	-0.3495
0.416667	-0.00036651	-0.36651	0.416667	-0.00039741	-0.39741
0.833333	-0.00052	-0.52	0.833333	-0.00054004	-0.54004
1.25	-0.0007379	-0.7379	1.25	-0.00076971	-0.76971
1.666667	-0.00110406	-1.10406	1.666667	-0.00105846	-1.05846
2.083333	-0.00140079	-1.40079	2.083333	-0.00133536	-1.33536
2.5	-0.00171289	-1.71289	2.5	-0.00164242	-1.64242
2.916667	-0.0023576	-2.3576	2.916667	-0.00219428	-2.19428
3.333333	-0.00316989	-3.16989	3.333333	-0.00287451	-2.96989
3.75	-0.00388015	-3.88015	3.75	-0.00346991	-3.78015
4.0625	-0.0045347	-4.5347	4.0625	-0.00370015	-4.05347
4.375	-0.00422187	-4.22187	4.375	-0.00376457	-4.12187
4.6875	-0.00424885	-4.24885	4.6875	-0.00378419	-4.14585
5	-0.00425444	-4.25444	5	-0.00379134	-4.15444
5.3125	-0.00425019	-4.25019	5.3125	-0.00378856	-4.15019
5.625	-0.00422823	-4.22823	5.625	-0.00377086	-4.12823
5.9375	-0.00416522	-4.16522	5.9375	-0.00371042	-4.06522
6.25	-0.00388835	-3.88835	6.25	-0.00349023	-3.78835
6.666667	-0.003137	-3.137	6.666667	-0.00286219	-2.937
7.083333	-0.00234466	-2.34466	7.083333	-0.00218541	-2.18541
7.5	-0.00170547	-1.70547	7.5	-0.00163686	-1.63686
7.916667	-0.0013951	-1.3951	7.916667	-0.0013312	-1.3312
8.333333	-0.00110009	-1.10009	8.333333	-0.00105561	-1.05561
8.75	-0.00077121	-0.77121	8.75	-0.00076785	-0.76785
9.166667	-0.00051839	-0.51839	9.166667	-0.00053885	-0.53885
9.583333	-0.00036542	-0.36542	9.583333	-0.00039661	-0.39661
10	-0.00031463	-0.31463	10	-0.00034881	-0.34881

Rail deflection (mm)			50		
x	y (m)	y (mm)	x	y (m)	y (mm)
0	0.00021864	0.21864	0	0.0002169	0.2169
0.275	0.0002189	0.22152	0.275	0.00021705	0.21705
0.65	0.00022019	0.22425	0.65	0.00021782	0.21782
0.925	0.00021999	0.22586	0.925	0.00021698	0.21698
1.3	0.0002216	0.23085	1.3	0.00021736	0.21736
1.575	0.00021959	0.23198	1.575	0.00021424	0.21424
1.95	0.00021857	0.236	1.95	0.00021141	0.21141
2.225	0.00021201	0.23358	2.225	0.00020339	0.20339
2.6	0.00020353	0.23125	2.6	0.00019272	0.19272
2.875	0.00018835	0.22063	2.875	0.00017596	0.17596
3.25	0.00016559	0.20425	3.25	0.00015095	0.15095
3.525	0.0001364	0.17919	3.525	0.00012037	0.12037
3.9	0.00009053	0.13863	3.9	0.00007267	0.07267
4.175	0.00004072	0.09129	4.175	0.00002208	0.02208
4.55	-0.00003897	0.01404	4.55	-0.00000884	-0.00884
4.825	-0.00011699	-0.06474	4.825	-0.00013604	-0.13604
5.2	-0.00024264	-0.19317	5.2	-0.00026065	-0.26065
5.475	-0.00035682	-0.31324	5.475	-0.00037267	-0.37267
5.85	-0.00054106	-0.50823	5.85	-0.00055313	-0.55313
6.125	-0.00069869	-0.67898	6.125	-0.00070613	-0.70613
6.5	-0.00095288	-0.95481	6.5	-0.0009529	-0.9529
6.775	-0.00115879	-1.18298	6.775	-0.00115116	-1.15116
7.15	-0.00149001	-1.54909	7.15	-0.00147063	-1.47063
7.425	-0.00174337	-1.83476	7.425	-0.0017131	-1.7131
7.8	-0.00214825	-2.28821	7.8	-0.00210189	-2.10189
8.075	-0.00243669	-2.61754	8.075	-0.00237676	-2.37676
8.45	-0.00288992	-3.1287	8.45	-0.00281101	-2.81101
8.725	-0.00318343	-3.46478	8.725	-0.00309055	-3.09055
9.1	-0.00363633	-3.69992	9.1	-0.00351642	-3.51642
9.375	-0.00386868	-4.22928	9.375	-0.00374994	-3.74994
9.75	-0.0041275	-4.50458	9.75	-0.00400338	-4.00338
10.025	-0.00399422	-4.36292	10.025	-0.00387284	-3.87284
10.4	-0.0036115	-3.94276	10.4	-0.00350236	-3.50236
10.675	-0.00332993	-3.6236	10.675	-0.00323312	-3.23312
11.05	-0.00286279	-3.09769	11.05	-0.00278521	-2.78521
11.325	-0.00256073	-2.75178	11.325	-0.00249762	-2.49762
11.7	-0.00211745	-2.25323	11.7	-0.00207256	-2.07256
11.975	-0.0018385	-1.93651	11.975	-0.00180624	-1.80624
12.35	-0.00146142	-1.51666	12.35	-0.00144348	-1.44348
12.625	-0.00122662	-1.25391	12.625	-0.0012182	-1.2182
13	-0.00092843	-0.92887	13	-0.00092985	-0.92985
13.275	-0.00074368	-0.72403	13.275	-0.00075141	-0.75141
13.65	-0.00052177	-0.48553	13.65	-0.00053526	-0.53526
13.925	-0.0003848	-0.38878	13.925	-0.00040418	-0.40418
14.3	-0.00025973	-0.17663	14.3	-0.00024928	-0.24928
14.575	-0.00014441	-0.07778	14.575	-0.00015532	-0.15532
14.95	-0.00003419	0.02292	14.95	-0.00005534	-0.05534
15.225	0.00002706	0.08349	15.225	0.00000606	0.00606
15.6	0.00008468	0.13753	15.6	0.0000649	0.0649
15.875	0.00011954	0.1692	15.875	0.00010082	0.10082
16.25	0.00014575	0.1898	16.25	0.00012902	0.12902
16.525	0.00016116	0.20087	16.525	0.00014597	0.14597
16.9	0.00016544	0.19895	16.9	0.0001525	0.1525
17.175	0.00016731	0.19626	17.175	0.00015604	0.15604
17.55	0.00015726	0.18038	17.55	0.00014817	0.14817
17.825	0.00015036	0.16929	17.825	0.00014284	0.14284
18.2	0.00013185	0.14587	18.2	0.0001262	0.1262
18.475	0.00011991	0.13045	18.475	0.0001156	0.1156
18.85	0.00009739	0.10418	18.85	0.00009455	0.09455
19.125	0.00008338	0.08755	19.125	0.00008158	0.08158
19.5	0.00006027	0.06906	19.5	0.00005948	0.05948
19.775	0.00004651	0.04658	19.775	0.00004637	0.04637
20.15	0.00002528	0.02446	20.15	0.00002554	0.02554
20.425	0.0000132	0.01226	20.425	0.00001354	0.01354
20.8	0	0	20.8	0	0

Geogrid stress			500		
x	y (m)	y (mm)	x	y (m)	y (mm)
0	0.00247816	1.23908	0	0.00148014	0.74007
0.416667	0.00237391	1.186955	0.416667	0.00143239	0.716195
0.833333	0.00219588	1.09794	0.833333	0.00144203	0.721015
1.25	0.00247497	1.237485	1.25	0.00197994	0.98997
1.666667	0.00260127	1.300635	1.666667	0.00237553	1.187765
2.083333	0.0099286	0.45143	2.083333	0.00989999	0.494995
2.5	0.00127523	0.637615	2.5	0.00152547	0.762735
2.916667	0.00962382	4.81191	2.916667	0.00957853	4.789265
3.333333	0.03073555	15.36778	3.333333	0.02928005	14.64003
3.75	0.0680431	30.40216	3.75	0.05780024	28.54012
4.0625	0.07375254	36.87627	4.0625	0.06896669	35.87627
4.375	0.0705067	35.25335	4.375	0.06591866	34.25335
4.6875	0.0676797	33.83899	4.6875	0.06325311	32.83899
5	0.06743875	33.71938	5	0.06302067	32.71938
5.3125	0.06794031	33.97016	5.3125	0.0635189	32.97016
5.625	0.06986895	34.93448	5.625	0.06530852	33.93448
5.9375	0.07200701	36.00351	5.9375	0.06750408	35.00351
6.25	0.06107944	30.53972	6.25	0.05807995	29.53972
6.666667	0.0397248	16.98624	6.666667	0.03253616	16.26808
7.083333	0.0108239	5.41195	7.083333	0.01042566	5.21283
7.5	0.0012976	0.6488	7.5	0.00151881	0.759405
7.916667	0.00093123	0.465615	7.916667	0.00101483	0.507415
8.333333	0.00264666	1.32328	8.333333	0.00241928	1.20964
8.75	0.00250305	1.251525	8.75	0.00200942	1.00471
9.166667	0.0022224	1.1112	9.166667	0.00146984	0.73492
9.583333	0.00239647	1.198235	9.583333	0.0014568	0.7284
10	0.00249965	1.249825	10	0.00150358	0.75179

Geogrid deflection (mm)			1000		
x	y (m)	y (mm)	x	y (m)	y (mm)
0	-0.0003495	-0.3495	0	-0.0003495	-0.3495
0.416667	-0.00039741	-0.39741	0.416667	-0.00039741	-0.39741
0.833333	-0.00054004	-0.54004	0.833333	-0.00054004	-0.54004
1.25	-0.00076971	-0.76971	1.25	-0.00076971	-0.76971
1.666667	-0.00105846	-1.05846	1.666667	-0.00105846	-1.05846
2.083333	-0.00133536	-1.33536	2.083333	-0.00133536	-1.33536
2.5	-0.00164242	-1.64242	2.5	-0.00164242	-1.64242
2.916667	-0.00219428	-2.19428	2.916667	-0.00219428	-2.19428
3.333333	-0.00287451	-2.96989	3.333333	-0.00287451	-2.96989
3.75	-0.00346991	-3.78015	3.75	-0.00346991	-3.78015
4.0625	-0.00370015	-4.05347	4.0625	-0.00370015	-4.05347
4.375	-0.00376457	-4.12187	4.375	-0.00376457	-4.12187
4.6875	-0.00378419	-4.14585	4.6875	-0.00378419	-4.14585
5	-0.00379134	-4.15444	5	-0.00379134	-4.15444
5.3125	-0.00378856	-4.15019	5.3125	-0.00378856	-4.15019
5.625	-0.00377086	-4.12823	5.625	-0.00377086	-4.12823
5.9375	-0.00371042	-4.06522	5.9375	-0.00371042	-4.06522
6.25	-0.00349023	-3.78835	6.25	-0.00349023	-3.78835
6.666667	-0.00286219	-2.937	6.666667	-0.00286219	-2.937
7.083333	-0.00218541	-2.18541	7.083333	-0.00218541	-2.18541
7.5	-0.00163686	-1.63686	7.5	-0.00163686	-1.63686
7.916667	-0.0013312	-1.3312	7.916667	-0.0013312	-1.3312
8.333333	-0.00105561	-1.05561	8.333333	-0.00105561	-1.05561
8.75	-0.00076785	-0.76785	8.75	-0.00076785	-0.76785
9.166667	-0.00053885	-0.53885	9.166667	-0.00053885	-0.53885
9.583333	-0.00039661	-0.39661	9.583333	-0.00039661	-0.39661
10	-0.00034881	-0.34881	10	-0.00034881	-0.34881

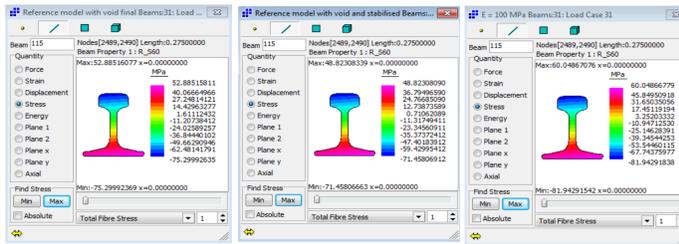
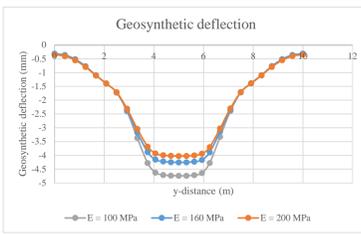
Rail deflection (mm)			1000		
x	y (m)	y (mm)	x	y (m)	y (mm)
0	0.0002169	0.2169	0	0.0002169	0.2169
0.275	0.00021705	0.21705	0.275		



Geogrid deflection (mm)		
E = 160 MPa		
x	y (mm)	1000
0	-0.00031556	-0.31556
0.41666667	-0.00036651	-0.36651
0.83333333	-0.00052	-0.52
1.25	-0.00077379	-0.77379
1.66666667	-0.0010406	-1.0406
2.08333333	-0.00140079	-1.40079
2.5	-0.00171289	-1.71289
2.91666667	-0.0023576	-2.3576
3.33333333	-0.00316989	-3.16989
3.75	-0.00388015	-3.88015
4.0625	-0.00415347	-4.15347
4.375	-0.00422187	-4.22187
4.6875	-0.00425485	-4.25485
5	-0.00425444	-4.25444
5.3125	-0.00425019	-4.25019
5.625	-0.00422823	-4.22823
5.9375	-0.00416522	-4.16522
6.25	-0.00398835	-3.98835
6.66666667	-0.003137	-3.137
7.08333333	-0.00234466	-2.34466
7.5	-0.00170547	-1.70547
7.91666667	-0.0011951	-1.1951
8.33333333	-0.00110009	-1.10009
8.75	-0.00077121	-0.77121
9.16666667	-0.00051839	-0.51839
9.58333333	-0.00036542	-0.36542
10	-0.00031463	-0.31463

Geogrid deflection (mm)		
E = 200 MPa		
x	y (mm)	1000
0	-0.00035351	-0.3535063
0.41666667	-0.00040382	-0.4038218
0.83333333	-0.00055406	-0.5540576
1.25	-0.00079749	-0.7974878
1.66666667	-0.0011052	-1.1052003
2.08333333	-0.00139441	-1.39444
2.5	-0.00171192	-1.7119218
2.91666667	-0.00230491	-2.3049134
3.33333333	-0.00303896	-3.0389635
3.75	-0.00368108	-3.6810758
4.0625	-0.00392774	-3.9277402
4.375	-0.00399468	-3.9946799
4.6875	-0.00401575	-4.0157537
5	-0.00402351	-4.0235096
5.3125	-0.00402028	-4.0202754
5.625	-0.00393861	-3.9386067
5.9375	-0.00369075	-3.6907497
6.25	-0.00320199	-3.2019891
6.66666667	-0.00229475	-2.2947473
7.08333333	-0.00170576	-1.7057624
7.5	-0.00119582	-1.1958202
7.91666667	-0.00110205	-1.1020485
8.33333333	-0.00079542	-0.7954175
8.75	-0.00055275	-0.5527495
9.16666667	-0.00040294	-0.402936
9.58333333	-0.00035275	-0.3527456
10	-0.00035275	-0.3527456

Geogrid deflection (mm)		
E = 100 MPa		
x	y (mm)	1000
0	-0.00031674	-0.31674
0.41666667	-0.00036705	-0.36705
0.83333333	-0.00051864	-0.51864
1.25	-0.00076939	-0.76939
1.66666667	-0.00109633	-1.09633
2.08333333	-0.00138973	-1.38973
2.5	-0.0016887	-1.7287
2.91666667	-0.00236675	-2.40675
3.33333333	-0.0032674	-3.36674
3.75	-0.00419959	-4.27959
4.0625	-0.00454654	-4.62654
4.375	-0.00463029	-4.71029
4.6875	-0.00465245	-4.73245
5	-0.0046599	-4.7399
5.3125	-0.00467555	-4.73755
5.625	-0.0045737	-4.7173
5.9375	-0.00421715	-4.27424
6.25	-0.00373739	-3.73739
6.66666667	-0.00232088	-2.32088
7.08333333	-0.00167956	-1.71956
7.5	-0.00119524	-1.19524
7.91666667	-0.00082724	-0.82724
8.33333333	-0.00061946	-0.61946
8.75	-0.0004662	-0.4662
9.16666667	-0.00036564	-0.36564
9.58333333	-0.0003657	-0.3657
10	-0.0003656	-0.3656



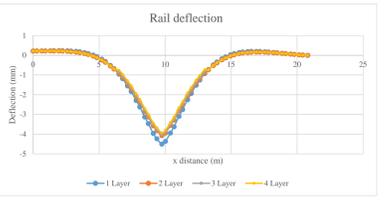
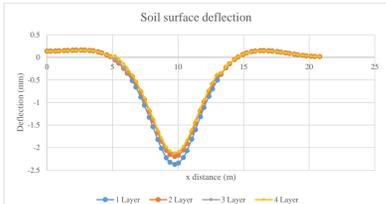
Rail deflection (mm)		
E = 160		
x	y (mm)	1000
0	0.00021864	0.23099
0.275	0.0002189	0.23152
0.65	0.00022019	0.23245
0.925	0.00021999	0.23286
1.3	0.0002216	0.23085
1.575	0.00021959	0.23198
1.95	0.00021857	0.2325
2.225	0.00021201	0.23358
2.6	0.00020353	0.23125
2.875	0.00018835	0.22063
3.25	0.00016559	0.20425
3.525	0.0001364	0.17919
3.9	0.00009053	0.13863
4.175	0.00004072	0.09129
4.55	-0.00003897	0.01404
4.825	-0.00011699	-0.06474
5.2	-0.00024264	-0.19317
5.475	-0.00035682	-0.31324
5.85	-0.00054106	-0.50823
6.125	-0.00069869	-0.67898
6.5	-0.00095288	-0.95481
6.775	-0.00115879	-1.18298
7.15	-0.00149001	-1.54909
7.425	-0.00174337	-1.83476
7.8	-0.00214825	-2.28821
8.075	-0.00243669	-2.61754
8.45	-0.00288992	-3.1287
8.725	-0.00318343	-3.46478
9.1	-0.00362633	-3.95992
9.375	-0.00386868	-4.22928
9.75	-0.0041275	-4.50458
10.025	-0.00399422	-4.36292
10.4	-0.00361115	-3.94276
10.675	-0.0032993	-3.6236
11.05	-0.00286279	-3.09769
11.325	-0.00256073	-2.75178
11.7	-0.00211745	-2.25323
11.975	-0.0018385	-1.93651
12.35	-0.00146142	-1.51666
12.625	-0.00122662	-1.25391
13	-0.00092843	-0.92687
13.275	-0.00074368	-0.72403
13.65	-0.00052177	-0.48553
13.925	-0.0003848	-0.33878
14.3	-0.00022973	-0.17663
14.575	-0.00013441	-0.07778
14.95	-0.00003419	0.02292
15.225	0.000002706	0.08349
15.6	0.000008468	0.13753
15.875	0.000011954	0.1692
16.25	0.000014575	0.1898
16.525	0.000016116	0.20087
16.9	0.000016544	0.19895
17.175	0.000016731	0.19626
17.55	0.000015726	0.18038
17.825	0.000015036	0.16929
18.2	0.000013185	0.14587
18.475	0.000011991	0.13045
18.85	0.000009739	0.10418
19.125	0.000008338	0.08755
19.5	0.000006027	0.06196
19.775	0.000004651	0.04658
20.15	0.000002528	0.02446
20.425	0.00000132	0.01226
20.8	0	0

Rail deflection (mm)		
E = 200		
x	y (mm)	1000
0	0.00022099	0.21864
0.275	0.00022152	0.2189
0.65	0.00022425	0.22019
0.925	0.00022586	0.21999
1.3	0.00023085	0.2216
1.575	0.00023198	0.21959
1.95	0.000236	0.21857
2.225	0.0002358	0.21201
2.6	0.00023125	0.20353
2.875	0.00022063	0.18835
3.25	0.00020425	0.16559
3.525	0.00017919	0.1364
3.9	0.00013863	0.09053
4.175	0.00009129	0.04072
4.55	0.00001404	-0.03897
4.825	-0.00006474	-0.11699
5.2	-0.00019317	-0.24264
5.475	-0.00031324	-0.35682
5.85	-0.00050823	-0.54106
6.125	-0.00067898	-0.69869
6.5	-0.00095481	-0.95288
6.775	-0.00118298	-1.15879
7.15	-0.00154909	-1.49001
7.425	-0.00183476	-1.74337
7.8	-0.00228821	-2.14825
8.075	-0.00261754	-2.43669
8.45	-0.0031287	-2.88992
8.725	-0.00346478	-3.18343
9.1	-0.00395992	-3.62633
9.375	-0.00422928	-3.86868
9.75	-0.00450458	-4.1275
10.025	-0.00436292	-3.99422
10.4	-0.00394276	-3.6115
10.675	-0.0036236	-3.32993
11.05	-0.00309769	-2.86279
11.325	-0.00275178	-2.56073
11.7	-0.00228323	-2.11745
11.975	-0.00193651	-1.8385
12.35	-0.00151666	-1.46142
12.625	-0.00125391	-1.22662
13	-0.00092687	-0.92843
13.275	-0.00072403	-0.74368
13.65	-0.00048553	-0.52177
13.925	-0.00033878	-0.3848
14.3	-0.00017663	-0.22973
14.575	-0.00007778	-0.13441
14.95	0.00002292	-0.03419
15.225	0.00008349	0.02706
15.6	0.00013753	0.08468
15.875	0.0001692	0.11954
16.25	0.0001898	0.14575
16.525	0.00020087	0.16116
16.9	0.00019895	0.16544
17.175	0.00019626	0.16731
17.55	0.00018038	0.15726
17.825	0.00016929	0.15036
18.2	0.00014587	0.13185
18.475	0.00013045	0.11991
18.85	0.00010418	0.09739
19.125	0.00008755	0.08338
19.5	0.00006196	0.06027
19.775	0.00004658	0.04651
20.15	0.00002446	0.02528
20.425	0.00001226	0.0132
20.8	0	0

Rail deflection (mm)		
E = 100		
x	y (mm)	1000
0	0.00021468	0.21468
0.275	0.00021529	0.21529
0.65	0.00021867	0.21867
0.925	0.00022116	0.22116
1.3	0.00022778	0.22778
1.575	0.00023054	0.23054
1.95	0.00023715	0.23715
2.225	0.00023704	0.23704
2.6	0.00023815	0.23815
2.875	0.00023038	0.23038
3.25	0.000218	0.218
3.525	0.00019595	0.19595
3.9	0.00015929	0.15929
4.175	0.00011445	0.11445
4.55	0.00003098	0.03098
4.825	-0.00003812	-0.03812
5.2	-0.00016711	-0.16711
5.475	-0.00028968	-0.28968
5.85	-0.00049116	-0.49116
6.125	-0.00067009	-0.67009
6.5	-0.00096203	-0.96203
6.775	-0.00120704	-1.20704
7.15	-0.0016033	-1.6033
7.425	-0.00191757	-1.91757
7.8	-0.00241921	-2.41921
8.075	-0.00279064	-2.79064
8.45	-0.0033681	-3.3681
8.725	-0.00375711	-3.75711
9.1	-0.0043296	-4.3296
9.375	-0.00463851	-4.63851
9.75	-0.00494073	-4.94073
10.025	-0.00478131	-4.78131
10.4	-0.00430449	-4.30449
10.675	-0.00393211	-3.93211
11.05	-0.00333325	-3.33325
11.325	-0.00293805	-2.93805
11.7	-0.0023806	-2.3806
11.975	-0.00202784	-2.02784
12.35	-0.00156842	-1.56842
12.625	-0.00128284	-1.28284
13	-0.00093274	-0.93274
13.275	-0.00071744	-0.71744
13.65	-0.00046779	-0.46779
13.925	-0.00031573	-0.31573
14.3	-0.00015012	-0.15012
14.575	-0.00005038	-0.05038
14.95	0.00004941	0.04941
15.225	0.0001085	0.1085
15.6	0.00015962	0.15962
15.875	0.00018888	0.18888
16.25	0.00020608	0.20608
16.525	0.0002147	0.2147
16.9	0.00020978	0.20978
17.175	0.00020504	0.20504
17.55	0.00018693	0.18693
17.825	0.00017436	0.17436
18.2	0.0001495	0.1495
18.475	0.00013312	0.13312
18.85	0.00010603	0.10603
19.125	0.00008875	0.08875
19.5</		



Geogrid deflection (mm)				Geogrid stress (MPa)				Rail deflection (mm)				Formation deflection (mm)			
x	y	z	1000	x	y	z	1000	x	y	z	1000	x	y	z	1000
0	-0.00031556	-0.31556	0	0	1.29308	0	0.00021864	0.2099	0	0.0001417	0.1417	0	0.0001417	0.1417	
0.4166667	-0.00036651	-0.36651	0	0.4166667	1.18955	0	0.0002189	0.2152	0.275	0.0001434	0.1434	0.275	0.0001434	0.1434	
0.8333333	-0.0004052	-0.4052	0	0.8333333	1.09794	0	0.00022019	0.22425	0.65	0.0001450	0.1450	0.65	0.0001450	0.1450	
1.25	-0.00047739	-0.47739	1.25	1.25	1.237485	0.925	0.00021999	0.22586	0.925	0.00014784	0.14784	0.925	0.00014784	0.14784	
1.6666667	-0.0010406	-1.0406	1.6666667	1.6666667	1.300635	1.3	0.0002216	0.23085	1.3	0.0001524	0.1524	1.3	0.0001524	0.1524	
2.0833333	-0.00140079	-1.40079	2.0833333	2.0833333	0.45143	1.575	0.00021959	0.23198	1.575	0.00015608	0.15608	1.575	0.00015608	0.15608	
2.5	-0.00171289	-1.71289	2.5	2.5	0.637615	1.95	0.00021857	0.236	1.95	0.00016013	0.16013	1.95	0.00016013	0.16013	
2.9166667	-0.0023576	-2.3576	2.9166667	2.9166667	4.81191	2.225	0.00021201	0.23358	2.225	0.00016345	0.16345	2.225	0.00016345	0.16345	
3.3333333	-0.0031689	-3.1689	3.3333333	3.3333333	15.367775	2.6	0.00020353	0.23125	2.6	0.00016491	0.16491	2.6	0.00016491	0.16491	
3.75	-0.00388015	-3.88015	3.75	3.75	30.402155	2.875	0.00018835	0.22063	2.875	0.00016384	0.16384	2.875	0.00016384	0.16384	
4.0625	-0.00415347	-4.15347	4.0625	4.0625	38.87627	3.25	0.00016559	0.20425	3.25	0.00015997	0.15997	3.25	0.00015997	0.15997	
4.375	-0.0042187	-4.2187	4.375	4.375	35.2535	3.525	0.0001364	0.1919	3.525	0.00014752	0.14752	3.525	0.00014752	0.14752	
4.6875	-0.00424585	-4.24585	4.6875	4.6875	33.838985	3.9	0.00009053	0.1863	3.9	0.0001263	0.1263	3.9	0.0001263	0.1263	
5	-0.00425444	-4.25444	5	5	33.719375	4.175	0.00004072	0.09129	4.175	0.00010331	0.10331	4.175	0.00010331	0.10331	
5.3125	-0.00423019	-4.23019	5.3125	5.3125	33.970155	4.55	0.00003807	0.01404	4.55	0.00009942	0.09942	4.55	0.00009942	0.09942	
5.625	-0.00422823	-4.22823	5.625	5.625	34.934475	4.825	0.00011699	-0.06474	4.825	0.0000644	0.01644	4.825	0.0000644	0.01644	
5.9375	-0.00416522	-4.16522	5.9375	5.9375	36.003505	5.2	-0.00024264	-0.19317	5.2	-0.00005941	-0.05941	5.2	-0.00005941	-0.05941	
6.25	-0.00388835	-3.88835	6.25	6.25	30.5972	5.475	-0.00035682	-0.31324	5.475	-0.00012942	-0.12942	5.475	-0.00012942	-0.12942	
6.6666667	-0.003117	-3.117	6.6666667	6.6666667	16.98624	5.85	-0.00054106	-0.50823	5.85	-0.00024575	-0.24575	5.85	-0.00024575	-0.24575	
7.0833333	-0.0023466	-2.3466	7.0833333	7.0833333	5.41195	6.125	-0.00069869	-0.7898	6.125	-0.0003504	-0.3504	6.125	-0.0003504	-0.3504	
7.5	-0.00170547	-1.70547	7.5	7.5	0.4688	6.5	-0.00095288	-0.95481	6.5	-0.0005171	-0.5171	6.5	-0.0005171	-0.5171	
7.9166667	-0.0013951	-1.3951	7.9166667	7.9166667	0.465615	6.775	-0.00115879	-1.18298	6.775	-0.00065892	-0.65892	6.775	-0.00065892	-0.65892	
8.3333333	-0.0011009	-1.1009	8.3333333	8.3333333	1.23238	7.15	-0.00149001	-1.54909	7.15	-0.0007885	-0.7885	7.15	-0.0007885	-0.7885	
8.75	-0.00077121	-0.77121	8.75	8.75	1.251525	7.425	-0.00174357	-1.83476	7.425	-0.00105945	-1.05945	7.425	-0.00105945	-1.05945	
9.1666667	-0.00051539	-0.51539	9.1666667	9.1666667	1.1112	7.8	-0.00212825	-2.2821	7.8	-0.0013284	-1.3284	7.8	-0.0013284	-1.3284	
9.5833333	-0.00036542	-0.36542	9.5833333	9.5833333	1.198235	8.075	-0.00243669	-2.61754	8.075	-0.00157386	-1.57386	8.075	-0.00157386	-1.57386	
10	-0.00031463	-0.31463	10	10	1.249825	8.45	-0.00288992	-3.1287	8.45	-0.00182274	-1.82274	8.45	-0.00182274	-1.82274	
						8.725	-0.00318343	-3.46478	8.725	-0.00201523	-2.01523	8.725	-0.00201523	-2.01523	
						9.1	-0.00326233	-3.59992	9.1	-0.00212486	-2.2486	9.1	-0.00212486	-2.2486	
						9.375	-0.00336868	-4.29228	9.375	-0.002223	-2.23	9.375	-0.002223	-2.23	
						9.75	-0.00411275	-4.50458	9.75	-0.00236969	-2.36969	9.75	-0.00236969	-2.36969	
						10.025	-0.00399422	-4.36292	10.025	-0.00233927	-2.33927	10.025	-0.00233927	-2.33927	
						10.4	-0.0036115	-3.94276	10.4	-0.00221777	-2.21777	10.4	-0.00221777	-2.21777	
						10.675	-0.0032993	-3.6236	10.675	-0.00206852	-2.06852	10.675	-0.00206852	-2.06852	
						11.05	0.00018879	-0.09769	11.05	0.00018152	0.18152	11.05	0.00018152	0.18152	
						11.325	-0.00256073	-2.5178	11.325	-0.00160157	-1.60157	11.325	-0.00160157	-1.60157	
						11.7	-0.00211745	-2.2523	11.7	-0.00131415	-1.31415	11.7	-0.00131415	-1.31415	
						11.975	-0.0018385	-1.93651	11.975	-0.0011348	-1.1348	11.975	-0.0011348	-1.1348	
						12.35	-0.00146142	-1.51666	12.35	-0.00086298	-0.86298	12.35	-0.00086298	-0.86298	
						12.625	-0.00112625	-1.25901	12.625	-0.000625	-0.625	12.625	-0.000625	-0.625	
						13	-0.00092843	-0.92887	13	-0.0005005	-0.5005	13	-0.0005005	-0.5005	
						13.275	-0.00074368	-0.74368	13.275	-0.00037532	-0.37532	13.275	-0.00037532	-0.37532	
						13.65	-0.00052177	-0.48553	13.65	-0.00023096	-0.23096	13.65	-0.00023096	-0.23096	
						13.925	-0.0003848	-0.3878	13.925	-0.0001431	-0.1431	13.925	-0.0001431	-0.1431	
						14.3	-0.00029378	-0.29378	14.3	-0.00009293	-0.09293	14.3	-0.00009293	-0.09293	
						14.575	-0.00013441	-0.07778	14.575	0.00000109	0.01019	14.575	0.00000109	0.01019	
						14.95	-0.00003419	0.02292	14.95	0.000006884	0.06884	14.95	0.000006884	0.06884	
						15.225	0.00002706	0.08349	15.225	0.00001003	0.1003	15.225	0.00001003	0.1003	
						15.6	0.00004868	0.13753	15.6	0.000012992	0.12992	15.6	0.000012992	0.12992	
						15.875	0.00001928	0.1692	15.875	0.00001928	0.1928	15.875	0.00001928	0.1928	
						16.25	0.000014575	0.1898	16.25	0.000015242	0.15242	16.25	0.000015242	0.15242	
						16.525	0.00001616	0.20087	16.525	0.000015351	0.15351	16.525	0.000015351	0.15351	
						16.9	0.000016544	0.19895	16.9	0.000014915	0.14915	16.9	0.000014915	0.14915	
						17.175	0.000016731	0.19626	17.175	0.000014249	0.14249	17.175	0.000014249	0.14249	
						17.5	0.000015725	0.1805	17.5	0.000013785	0.13785	17.5	0.000013785	0.13785	
						17.825	0.000015036	0.16929	17.825	0.000011919	0.11919	17.825	0.000011919	0.11919	
						18.2	0.000013185	0.14587	18.2	0.000010285	0.10285	18.2	0.000010285	0.10285	
						18.475	0.000011991	0.13045	18.475	0.000009023	0.09023	18.475	0.000009023	0.09023	
						18.85	0.000009739	0.10418	18.85	0.000007303	0.07303	18.85	0.000007303	0.07303	
						19.125	0.000008338	0.08785	19.125	0.000006081	0.06081	19.125	0.000006081	0.06081	
						19.5	0.00000672	0.06196	19.5	0.000004564	0.04564	19.5	0.000004564	0.04564	
						19.775	0.00004651	0.04658	19.775	0.000003617	0.03617	19.775	0.000003617	0.03617	
						20.15	0.00002528	0.02546	20.15	0.00000254	0.02544	20.15	0.00000254	0.02544	
						20.425	0.0000132	0.01226	20.425	0.000001195	0.01195	20.425	0.000001195	0.01195	
						20.8	0	0	20.8	0.000001932	0.01932	20.8	0.000001932	0.01932	



Geogrid deflection (mm)				Geogrid stress (MPa)				Rail deflection (mm)				Formation deflection (mm)			
x	y	z	1000	x	y	z	1000	x	y	z	1000	x	y	z	1000
0	-0.00030693	-0.3061	0	0	1.1297512	0	0.00021864	0.21864	0	0.0001364	0.1364	0	0.0001364	0.1364	
0.4166667	-0.00035515	-0.35515	0	0.4166667	1.08179078	0	0.0002189	0.2189	0.275	0.0001381	0.1381	0.275	0.0001381	0.1381	
0.8333333	-0.0004044	-0.4044	0	0.8333333	1.00062516	0	0.00022019	0.22019	0.65	0.00014077	0.14077	0.65	0.00014077	0.14077	
1.25	-0.000475076	-0.475076	1.25	1.25	1.12784329	0.925	0.00021999	0.21999	0.925	0.00014312	0.14312	0.925	0.00014312	0.14312	
1.6666667	-0.001070938	-1.070938	1.6666667	1.6666667	1.23180739	1.3	0.0002216	0.2216	1.3	0.00014547	0.14547	1.3	0.00014547	0.14547	
2.0833333	-0.00138766	-1.3887	2.0833333	2.0833333	0.45793302	1.575	0.00021959	0.21959	1.575	0.00014784	0.14784	1.575	0.00014784	0.14784	
2.5	-0.001661503	-1.6615	2.5	2.5	0.62762311	1.95	0.00021857	0.21857	1.95	0.00015021	0.15021	1.95	0.00015021	0.15021	
2.9166667	-0.00228672	-2.2869	2.9166667	2.9166667	4.43207474	2.225	0.00021201	0.21201	2.225	0.00015258	0.15258	2.225	0.00015258	0.15258	
3.3333333	-0.00302629														

Reference model		
x	Rail deflection (mm)	
0	0.00006433	0
0.275	0.00006478	0.06478
0.65	0.00006699	0.06699
0.925	0.00006892	0.06892
1.3	0.00007375	0.07375
1.575	0.00007673	0.07673
1.95	0.00008326	0.08326
2.225	0.00008631	0.08631
2.6	0.00009284	0.09284
2.875	0.00009435	0.09435
3.25	0.00009819	0.09819
3.525	0.00009582	0.09582
3.9	0.00009304	0.09304
4.175	0.00008353	0.08353
4.55	0.00006867	0.06867
4.825	0.00004773	0.04773
5.2	0.00001364	0.01364
5.475	-0.000024	-0.024
5.85	-0.00008618	-0.08618
6.125	-0.00014655	-0.14655
6.5	-0.00024691	-0.24691
6.775	-0.00033615	-0.33615
7.15	-0.00048501	-0.48501
7.425	-0.00060816	-0.60816
7.8	-0.00081442	-0.81442
8.075	-0.00097382	-0.97382
8.45	-0.00124277	-1.24277
8.725	-0.00143353	-1.43353
9.1	-0.00175227	-1.75227
9.375	-0.00194435	-1.94435
9.75	-0.0021752	-2.1752
10.025	-0.002058	-2.058
10.4	-0.00175226	-1.75226
10.675	-0.00154912	-1.54912
11.05	-0.00124182	-1.24182
11.325	-0.00105932	-1.05932
11.7	-0.00081338	-0.81338
11.975	-0.00066702	-0.66702
12.35	-0.00048363	-0.48363
12.625	-0.00037387	-0.37387
13	-0.00024534	-0.24534
13.275	-0.00016813	-0.16813
13.65	-0.00008444	-0.08444
13.925	-0.00003404	-0.03404
14.3	0.00001529	0.01529
14.575	0.00004516	0.04516
14.95	0.00006982	0.06982
15.225	0.00008492	0.08492
15.6	0.00009301	0.09301
15.875	0.00009815	0.09815
16.25	0.00009596	0.09596
16.525	0.00009489	0.09489
16.9	0.00008699	0.08699
17.175	0.00008243	0.08243
17.55	0.00007193	0.07193
17.825	0.00006575	0.06575
18.2	0.00005464	0.05464
18.475	0.00004806	0.04806
18.85	0.00003753	0.03753
19.125	0.00003132	0.03132
19.5	0.00002202	0.02202
19.775	0.00001665	0.01665
20.15	0.00000888	0.00888
20.425	0.00000455	0.00455
20.8	0	0

1000

Reference model with reinforcement		
x	Rail deflection (mm)	
0	0.000064342	0
0.275	0.000064784	0.064784
0.65	0.000066992	0.066992
0.925	0.000068921	0.068921
1.3	0.000073756	0.073756
1.575	0.000076733	0.076733
1.95	0.000083263	0.083263
2.225	0.000086307	0.086307
2.6	0.000092827	0.092827
2.875	0.000094341	0.094341
3.25	0.00009817	0.09817
3.525	0.000095802	0.095802
3.9	0.000093008	0.093008
4.175	0.000083495	0.083495
4.55	0.000068628	0.068628
4.825	0.000047694	0.047694
5.2	0.000013593	0.013593
5.475	-2.4043E-05	-0.024043
5.85	-8.6222E-05	-0.086222
6.125	-0.00014659	-0.14659
6.5	-0.00024695	-0.24695
6.775	-0.00033618	-0.33618
7.15	-0.00048503	-0.485027
7.425	-0.00060816	-0.608157
7.8	-0.00081439	-0.814391
8.075	-0.00097377	-0.973768
8.45	-0.00124268	-1.242678
8.725	-0.00143341	-1.433409
9.1	-0.00175211	-1.752108
9.375	-0.00194417	-1.944168
9.75	-0.002175	-2.175
10.025	-0.00205781	-2.057808
10.4	-0.00175209	-1.752094
10.675	-0.00154898	-1.548983
11.05	-0.00124173	-1.241732
11.325	-0.00105926	-1.059259
11.7	-0.00081336	-0.813355
11.975	-0.00066701	-0.667014
12.35	-0.00048364	-0.483644
12.625	-0.0003739	-0.373899
13	-0.00024534	-0.245342
13.275	-0.00016817	-0.168171
13.65	-8.4482E-05	-0.084482
13.925	-3.4088E-05	-0.034088
14.3	0.000015246	0.015246
14.575	0.000045114	0.045114
14.95	0.00006978	0.06978
15.225	0.000084883	0.084883
15.6	0.00009298	0.09298
15.875	0.000098129	0.098129
16.25	0.000095945	0.095945
16.525	0.000094876	0.094876
16.9	0.000086981	0.086981
17.175	0.000082418	0.082418
17.55	0.000071928	0.071928
17.825	0.000065744	0.065744
18.2	0.000054643	0.054643
18.475	0.000048059	0.048059
18.85	0.00003753	0.03753
19.125	0.000031319	0.031319
19.5	0.000022026	0.022026
19.775	0.000016652	0.016652
20.15	0.000008883	0.008883
20.425	0.000004555	0.004555
20.8	0	0

1000

Reference model with void and reinforcement		
x	Rail deflection (mm)	
0	0.00022099	0.22099
0.275	0.00022152	0.22152
0.65	0.00022425	0.22425
0.925	0.00022586	0.22586
1.3	0.00023085	0.23085
1.575	0.00023198	0.23198
1.95	0.000236	0.236
2.225	0.00023358	0.23358
2.6	0.00023125	0.23125
2.875	0.00022063	0.22063
3.25	0.00020425	0.20425
3.525	0.00017919	0.17919
3.9	0.00013863	0.13863
4.175	0.00009129	0.09129
4.55	0.00001404	0.01404
4.825	-0.00006474	-0.06474
5.2	-0.00019317	-0.19317
5.475	-0.00031324	-0.31324
5.85	-0.00050823	-0.50823
6.125	-0.00067898	-0.67898
6.5	-0.00095481	-0.95481
6.775	-0.00118298	-1.18298
7.15	-0.00154909	-1.54909
7.425	-0.00183476	-1.83476
7.8	-0.00228821	-2.28821
8.075	-0.00261754	-2.61754
8.45	-0.0031287	-3.1287
8.725	-0.00346478	-3.46478
9.1	-0.00395992	-3.95992
9.375	-0.00422928	-4.22928
9.75	-0.00450458	-4.50458
10.025	-0.00436292	-4.36292
10.4	-0.00394276	-3.94276
10.675	-0.0036236	-3.6236
11.05	-0.00309769	-3.09769
11.325	-0.00275178	-2.75178
11.7	-0.00225323	-2.25323
11.975	-0.00193651	-1.93651
12.35	-0.00151666	-1.51666
12.625	-0.00125391	-1.25391
13	-0.00092687	-0.92687
13.275	-0.00072403	-0.72403
13.65	-0.00048553	-0.48553
13.925	-0.00033878	-0.33878
14.3	-0.00017663	-0.17663
14.575	-0.00007778	-0.07778
14.95	0.00002292	0.02292
15.225	0.00008349	0.08349
15.6	0.00013753	0.13753
15.875	0.0001692	0.1692
16.25	0.0001898	0.1898
16.525	0.00020087	0.20087
16.9	0.00019895	0.19895
17.175	0.00019626	0.19626
17.55	0.00018038	0.18038
17.825	0.00016929	0.16929
18.2	0.00014587	0.14587
18.475	0.00013045	0.13045
18.85	0.00010418	0.10418
19.125	0.00008755	0.08755
19.5	0.00006196	0.06196
19.775	0.00004658	0.04658
20.15	0.00002446	0.02446
20.425	0.00001226	0.01226
20.8	0	0

1000

