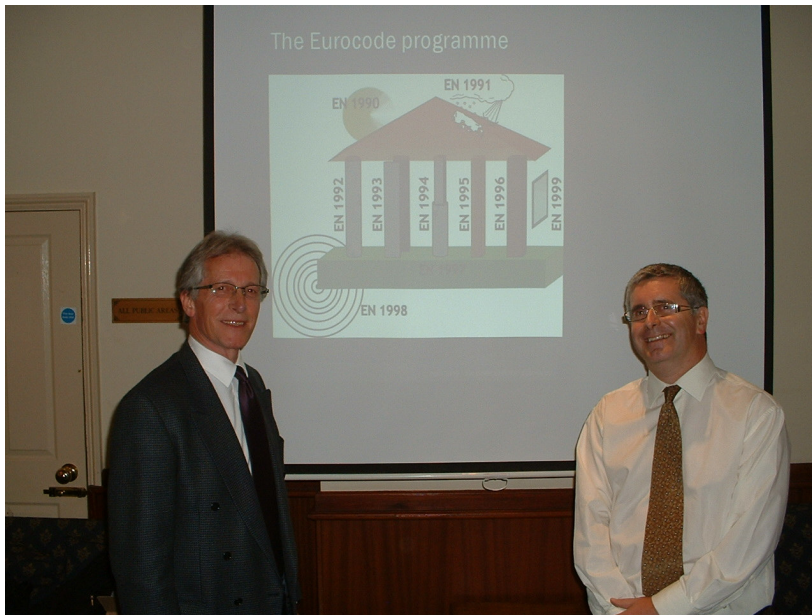


PETERBOROUGH SECTION
EVENING MEETING 15 OCTOBER 2009
APRIL 2010 THE DEATH OF BRITISH STANDARDS
ORTON HALL HOTEL
PETERBOROUGH

Our first technical evening meeting was on the Eurocode 7 and its associated national annexes. Dr Andrew Bond, Managing Director of Geocentrix gave us an insight into this new code. As one of the UK's representatives on the Eurocode 7 committee, he played a major role in its production and the production of the associated national annex.



Andrew Bond (on right) with the current Peterborough ISE Chairman, Bruce Edward

Andrew Bond started his talk by giving a general update of Eurocode Publications. It is clear that we now have almost a full suite of Eurocodes to allow Structural Engineers to design and detail. Following his basic introduction, Andrew explained that EC7 was the first time British Engineers will have to deal with ultimate limit state analysis of soils. It became clear that EC7 was a difficult code to formulate and that it has resulted in THREE methodologies to be included in the one code. Each European Country is able to state which METHOD they require to be use in their respective national annexes. Andrew explained the problem with the geotechnical codes is that soil is very varied which makes it very difficult to classify.

Andrew explained that the Eurocodes adopt, for all civil and building engineering materials and structures, a common design philosophy based on the use of separate limit states and partial factors, rather than 'global' factors (of safety); this is a substantial departure from much traditional geotechnical design practice. The geotechnical design Eurocode (EN 1997-1) provides one, unified methodology for all geotechnical design problems; an advantage of EN 1997-1 is that its design methodology is largely identical

with that for all of the structural Eurocodes, making the integration of geotechnical design with structural design more rational.

Eurocode 7 consists of two Parts: Part 1 (BS EN 1997-1) -*Geotechnical design – General rules* and Part 2 (prEN1997-2) -*Ground investigation and testing*. Part 1 lays down the design principles and rules generally to be adopted. Both parts have now been published by BSI.

Andrew stressed that it is important to understand that not all of the documentation covering geotechnical engineering in the EU Member States is included in the two Parts of BS EN 1997. There are or will be Standards for the field investigation and testing, and laboratory testing, of the ground and for the 'execution of special geotechnical works'; these are being produced by different CEN Technical Committees from those that wrote EN 1997. There are also Standards for ground identification and classification written by an ISO Technical Committee which are being brought into the CEN system.

Two publications which deal with Eurocode 7 are



The talk was well received and we had an attendance of 23 Structural and Geotechnical Engineers. On behalf of the committee, we wish to express our thanks to Andrew for a very interesting talk.

Report by Mark Palmer

Peterborough Section Committee Member

