

SOIL STABILISATION

Metropolitan Police Air Support Unit Lippitts Hill

Lippitts Hill is home to the Metropolitan Police Air Support Unit – the ‘Sky Cops’, as featured on the BBC programme of the same name. The two Eurocopter EC145 choppers patrol the air over London, providing assistance to the ground patrols.

Each time they take off, the helicopter pilot has to perform a number of checks to ensure that the aircraft is fully operational. These checks have to be done whilst hovering above the relatively small take off pad.

Beach was called in to assist with the construction of a brand new ‘runway’ that the pilots could land safely on in the event of an emergency.

The material on site was silty sandy clay but, whilst it had reasonable strengths, an elevated sulphate spike in one of the trial holes meant the Engineers, Scott Wilson, trialled the material with Quicklime and GGBS (Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag). The results proved positive and a mix design of 3% Quicklime and 3% GGBS agreed.

In order for the full depth of the runway to be treated, Beach suggested to the Client that the entire formation be dug and placed in 3 separate treatment areas adjacent to the new runway. This enabled us to increase production outputs as the earthworks plant were able to pick up the treated material and place it in the areas that had been bench cut, without having to avoid stabilisation plant and vice versa! Working for Tom Blackwell Contractors of Essex, Beach successfully carried out the stabilisation of 6,500m³ of material, exceeding the Clients’ expectations. Testing was carried out in accordance with SHW Series 800 Earthworks, Class 9G.



SSTG Meeting - Melton Ross

On the 16th July 2009 the Britpave Soil Stabilisation Task Group (SSTG) met at the offices and works of Singleton Birch Limited at Melton Ross. The meeting itself followed its familiar robust sets of discussions, but importantly it was agreed that Britpave SSTG Contractors should affirm they work to the Britpave SSTG Guidelines for Best Practice and that this will be recognised on the www.soilstabilisation.org.uk website.

It was also noted that there are significant developments concerning standardisation, in particular EN 459 Building Lime is to be revised to specifically include lime for soil stabilisation, and BS 6031 Code of Practice for Earthworks is out for public comment.

After the meeting members of the SSTG were treated to an informative guided tour around the lime works, lead by Singleton Birch’s Lime Sales Manager Steve Foster. The tour included everything from the quarry face, the four impressive Maerz kilns themselves and then product despatch either in bulk or bags.

1. Melton Ross Quarry
2. Four Maerz kilns
3. Packed materials awaiting despatch
4. Britpave SSTG Members John Ferguson (Balfour Beatty), Alex Kidd (Highways Agency), Eddie Ronald (CJ Haughey), Al McDermid (Beach Soil Stabilisation and SSTG Chairman) and Steve Foster (Singleton Birch).



John Ferguson, Alex Kidd, Eddie Ronald, Al McDermid, Steve Foster

