Piling 2020 Conference Proceeding
Publication Ethics and Publication Malpractice Statement

The Proceedings of the Piling 2020 Conference were prepared based on the professional standards expected by the British Geotechnical Association (BGA).

The points included below relate to the Piling 2020 Conference Proceedings and the ethical standards expectations during the review and publication of the Conference Proceedings.

Duties of Editors

*Fair play and editorial independence*

The editors evaluated submitted manuscripts exclusively on the basis of their merit and relevance to the Piling 2020 conference and the Conference Proceedings, without regard to the authors’ race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, citizenship, religious belief, political philosophy or institutional affiliation. Decisions to publish are not determined by the policies of any other agencies outside of the Conference itself. The Editors have full authority over the entire editorial content of the Conference Proceedings.

*Confidentiality*

Editors and Technical Theme Leaders will not disclose any information about a submitted manuscript to anyone other than the corresponding author, reviewers, potential reviewers, other editorial advisers, and the publisher, as appropriate.

*Disclosure and conflicts of interest*

Editors, Technical Theme Leaders and Reviewers will not use unpublished information disclosed in a submitted manuscript for their own purposes. Privileged information or ideas obtained by editors as a result of handling the manuscript will be kept confidential and not used for their personal advantage. Editors and Technical Theme Leaders will recuse themselves from considering manuscripts in which they have conflicts of interest resulting from competitive, collaborative, or other relationships/connections with any of the authors, companies or institutions connected to the papers; instead, they will ask another member of the editorial board to handle the manuscript.

*Publication decisions*

All submitted manuscripts being considered for publication undergo peer-review by at least one reviewer who is expert in the field. The Technical Theme Leaders are responsible for deciding which of the manuscripts are submitted to the conference and published in Conference Proceedings.

*Involvement and cooperation in investigations*

Editors (in conjunction with the publisher and/or society) will take responsive measures when ethical concerns are raised with regard to a submitted manuscript or published paper. Every reported act of unethical publishing behaviour will be looked into.

Duties of Reviewers

*Contribution to editorial decisions*

All manuscripts for the conference are peer reviewed; this assists Technical Theme Leaders in managing this process and making decisions. The peer review process also assists authors in improving their manuscripts.
**Promptness and Confidentiality**
Manuscripts received for review are confidential documents.

Any invited referee who feels unqualified to review the research reported in a manuscript or knows that its prompt review will be impossible should immediately notify the editors and decline the invitation to review.

**Standards of objectivity**
Reviews should be conducted objectively and observations formulated clearly with supporting arguments so that authors can use them for improving the manuscript.

**Disclosure and conflicts of interest**
Any invited referee who has conflicts of interest resulting from competitive, collaborative, or other relationships or connections with any of the authors, companies or institutions connected to the manuscript and the work described therein should immediately notify the Technical Theme Leader to declare their conflicts of interest and decline the invitation to review so that alternative reviewers can be contacted.

**Duties of Authors**

**Reporting standards**
Authors of original research should present an accurate account of the work performed and the results, followed by an objective discussion of the significance of the work. The manuscript should contain sufficient detail and references to permit others to replicate the work.

**Originality and plagiarism**
Authors should ensure that they have written and submit only entirely original works, and if they have used the work and/or words of others, that this has been appropriately cited. Publications that have been influential in determining the nature of the work reported in the manuscript should also be cited.

**Multiple, duplicate, redundant or concurrent submission/publication**
Papers describing essentially the same research should not be published in more than one once. Hence, authors should not submit for consideration a manuscript that has already been published.

**Authorship of the manuscript**
Only persons who made a significant contribution to the manuscript should be listed as authors and all authors should have reviewed the final draft of the manuscript prior to submission. All authors must have approved the final version of the manuscript and agreed to its submission for publication.

**Acknowledgement of sources**
Authors should ensure that they have properly acknowledged the work of others, and should also cite publications that have been influential in determining the nature of the reported work.

**Hazards and human or animal subjects**
If the work involves chemicals, procedures or equipment that have any unusual hazards inherent in their use, the authors must clearly identify these in the manuscript.

**Peer review**
Authors are obliged to participate in the peer review process and cooperate fully by responding promptly to the Technical Theme Leaders requests and clarifications.