

Lecture following the IESF British Section AGM
On Monday 27th January 2025

“Unusual tunnel collapses - the role of geotechnical engineering”
Professor Lord Robert Mair CBE FREng FICE FRS NAE

Telford Lecture Theatre, The Institution of Civil Engineers, One Great George
Street · London, SW1
Tea and coffee served from 17:15 hrs
AGM 18:00, lecture at 18:10

To book your place at the lecture please email events@iesf.co.uk

Synopsis

Tunnel collapses are usually catastrophic, with serious consequences. In this lecture Professor Lord Mair will explain the key role played by geotechnics, and how tunnel collapses are generally either caused by ground instability at the tunnel face during construction or by tunnel lining failure caused by ground forces. Historical and more recent examples will be shown and the lessons learned will be highlighted.

Speaker

Lord Robert Mair is the Founding Head of the Centre for Smart Infrastructure and Construction (CSIC) at Cambridge University and Emeritus Sir Kirby Laing Professor of Civil Engineering. After working full-time in industry for 27 years, in 1998 he was appointed Professor of Geotechnical Engineering at Cambridge and Head of Civil Engineering. He was Master of Jesus College 2001-11. He is one of the founding Directors of the Geotechnical Consulting Group (GCG), an international consulting company based in London, and has extensive experience of design and construction for a wide variety of civil engineering projects in many countries, particularly those involving geotechnical issues and underground construction.



He was President of the Institution of Civil Engineers 2017-18 and until recently Chairman of the Department of Transport's Science Advisory Council. He is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering and of the Royal Society, and he is a Foreign Member of the US National Academy of Engineering. He was appointed an independent crossbencher in the House of Lords in 2015, and has been a member of its Select Committees on Science and Technology, Risk Assessment and Risk Planning, and Education for 11 to 16-year olds; he is currently a member of the Select Committee on the Built Environment.