

ANALYSIS OF SUBGRADE STRUCTURE SETTLEMENT ON THE JAKARTA BANDUNG HIGH-SPEED RAILWAY PROJECT

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ABSTRACT: The construction of the Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway in Indonesia faces significant challenges due to high settlement rates. Geodetic studies conducted by the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) reveal that Bandung experiences some of the fastest and most extensive land subsidence globally, with rates varying from 8 to 23 cm per year across the region. These substantial subsidence rates critically affect the stability of subgrade structures along the railway route, necessitating a comprehensive analysis of foundation performance to predict settlement during construction and operational phases. This study employs PLAXIS software to simulate settlement under three foundation scenarios: CFG pile foundation, spun pile foundation, and without foundation. Settlement results are also compared against abutment construction using a bored pile foundation. The analysis indicates that the spun pile foundation achieves the lowest settlement rate and total settlement. These findings provide a valuable reference for mitigating structural subsidence and optimizing foundation design in high-subsidence areas.

Keywords: Settlement, Bandung Region, PLAXIS Software, Soil and Ground Treatment, Consolidation

1. INTRODUCTION

The Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway spans 141 km and comprises two primary structural types: bridges and subgrades. To accelerate bridge construction, girder erection is facilitated using specialized erector and transporter equipment, which transfers girders from production facilities to erection sites. These routes traverse both bridge and subgrade structures, potentially causing structural subsidence. It is imperative to assess this subsidence to identify and mitigate significant variations that could compromise the integrity and safety of the railway system.

The Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway (HSR) adheres to stringent construction standards and technical requirements. Track smoothness is a critical determinant of operational speed, passenger comfort, and safety, all of which are essential for the project's success. Excessive settlement following track installation can disrupt the smoothness, leading to noncompliance with technical specifications and incurring repair costs that are often prohibitive or impractical. Consequently, analyzing and predicting settlement behavior during construction and operational phases is essential, necessitating a systematic evaluation of settlement and deformation prior to project implementation.

This study focuses on the geotechnical evaluation of subgrade #54, a section experiencing severe land subsidence located between STA 129+667 and STA 130+967. This section employs a spun pile foundation. The analysis also includes the abutment at STA 131+000, supported by a bored pile foundation. The bearing capacity evaluation relies on

detailed engineering designs and soil investigation data to inform the analysis and ensure the structural integrity of the railway.

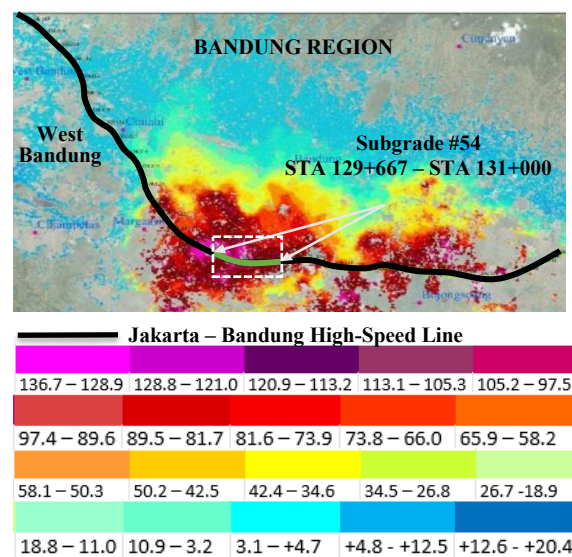


Fig.1 Settlement Map Monitored by InSAR (October 2014 – April 2017)

This study employs PLAXIS software to simulate soil conditions and properties using the E50 modulus approach, derived from soil investigation data detailing the characteristics and stratification of each analyzed section. The loading analysis includes calculations of dead loads exerted by structural components, beginning with the retaining walls, soil layers, and aggregates, and extending to simulations of the erector load and the operational load of the rail

and locomotive. Simulations are conducted for each cross-sectional area following the determination of relevant soil parameters.

The structural response is evaluated under loading conditions during both construction and operational phases, incorporating three different foundation scenarios. Comparative settlement analyses are performed across cross-sections to identify differential settlement values. The foundation option yielding the lowest settlement magnitude and rate is deemed optimal. These findings inform the selection of a foundation type that effectively minimizes settlement while ensuring structural integrity.

2. RESEARCH SIGNIFICANCE

This study serves as a reference for determining foundation structure models based on the geographical soil conditions characterized by extremely high settlement levels. This concern arises from the significant potential for differential settlement spanning STA 129+667 to STA 131+000. Given the maximum train speed of 350 km/h, differential settlement of the high-speed rail structure poses substantial risks. The primary objective of this study is to predict the rate and total settlement up to the operational period, which can be utilized as an early warning system and a basis for future remedial actions.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Soil Classification

This study examines subgrade #54, located between STA 129+786 and STA 130+967, along with the abutment at STA 131+000. Soil testing points are strategically distributed at 100-meter intervals within the construction area to provide comprehensive geotechnical data, ensuring a thorough understanding of the soil's properties and behavior across the project site. Transition modeling for the abutment at STA 131+000 is informed by test results from STA 130+969, ensuring accuracy in the analysis and helping to predict potential settlement behavior in the transition zone.

Settlement analysis uses PLAXIS 2D V.20 software, utilizing parameters derived from laboratory-calculated N-SPT (Standard Penetration Test) values. To streamline the PLAXIS soil structure modeling process, the original N-SPT data is simplified by consolidating similar soil types into single layers with uniform properties. Additionally, soil layers with a thickness of less than 1 meter are integrated into adjacent layers, as their impact on settlement is deemed negligible. This approach significantly enhances the efficiency and accuracy of the settlement predictions, thereby facilitating better decision-making during the design and construction

phases.

3.2 Load Classification

The loading analysis is based on the dimensions of the girder transporter (erector), which is used to transport girders with a length of 32.7 meters during the erection phase. The loading process is divided into two stages: construction and operation. The construction stage represents the load applied to the subgrade and Spun Pile foundations during the building phase.

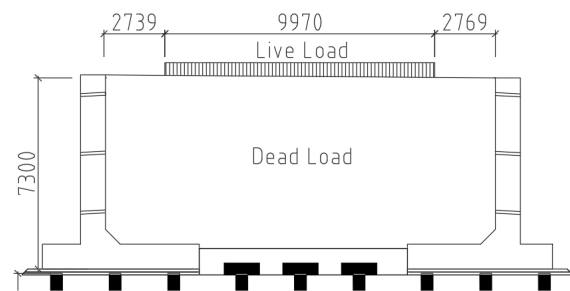


Fig.2 Force diagram of train live load

3.3 Operational Structural Requirements for High-Speed Railway

Ensuring safety aspects is important during operations, including structural degradation, both in general and differential settlement. Below are the requirements for the settlement of high-speed railway structures.

Table 1. Criteria on control over the post-construction settlement of ballasted track subgrade

Design speed (km/h)	General section (mm)	Transition section (mm)	Settlement rate (mm/y)
200	≤150	≤80	≤40
250	≤100	≤50	≤30
300, 350	≤50	≤30	≤20

Source: B 10001-2016 Code for Design of Earthworks and Track Bed for Railway.

Table 2. Criteria on control over post-construction settlement of bridge pier (abutment) foundation

Design speed (km/h)	Ballasted track (mm)		Ballast less track (mm)
	200km/h	250-250km/h	
Uniform settlement of pier (abutment)	≤50	≤30	≤20
Differential settlement between adjacent piers (abutments)	≤20	≤15	≤5

Source: B 10001-2016 Code for Design of Earthworks and Track Bed for Railway.

4 RESEARCH PROCEDURE

4.1 Soil Formation and PLAXIS Parameters

The soil layers and groundwater levels obtained from laboratory results are simplified and arranged in sequence according to their respective depths.

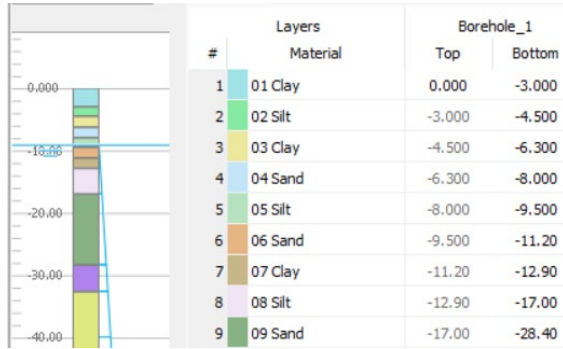


Fig.3 The soil formation and groundwater table STA 130+980

Meanwhile, the soil parameter used is E_{ref50} , which is calculated from the N-SPT values using the following equation:

$$E_{oed} = E_{oed}^{ref} \left(\frac{c \cot \varphi + \sigma_1}{c \cot \varphi + p^{ref}} \right)^m \quad (1)$$

$$E_{50} = E_{50}^{ref} \left(\frac{ccos(\varphi) - \sigma_3 \sin(\varphi)}{ccos(\varphi) - p^{ref} \sin(\varphi)} \right)^m \quad (2)$$

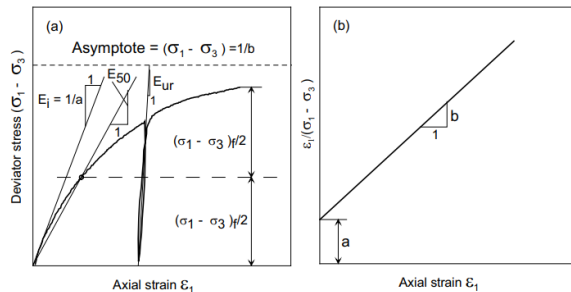


Fig.4 (a) Hyperbolic Stress-Strain Curve and (b) transformed hyperbolic stress-strain curve (Source: Hans-Georg Kempfert and Berhane Gebreselassie “Excavation and Foundation in Soft Soils”)

4.2 Structure and Loading

After modeling the soil formation and defining the parameters, the next step is to consider the structural components, such as Cement-Fly Ash Gravel (CFG) piles, spun piles, and pile caps, for soil reinforcement. The CFG pile utilizes a material with a compressive strength (f_c') of 40 MPa, with a diameter of 40 cm and a length adjusted to the required design depth. The spun pile also has a 40 cm diameter, with a standard length of 8 meters. For design depths exceeding 8

meters, the spun piles are connected by welding to achieve the necessary depth.

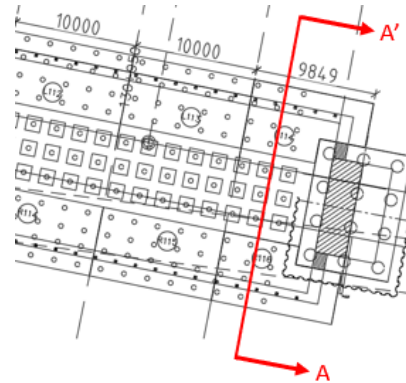


Fig.5 The Arrangement of Spun Piles and Pile Caps for Subgrade #54 at STA 130+962

Figure 5 shows a spun pile formation layout from the general drawing of the subgrade at STA 130+900 - STA 130+967 (Abutment). A cross-sectional image (A-A') is made at the intersection between the subgrade and the abutment as follows.

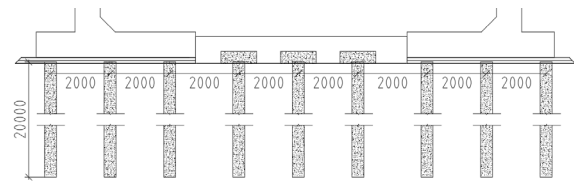


Fig.6 Cross Section A – A' 20 meters depth of the Spun Pile or CFG Pile with a spacing of 2 m

Table 3. Spun pile specifications

Specifications	
Size (mm)	400
Thickness (mm)	75
Cross Section (cm ²)	765.76
Unit Weight (kg/m)	191
Class	A2
Crack* (ton.m)	5.50
Break (ton.m)	8.25
Allowable Compression (ton)	121.10
Decompression Tension (ton)	38.62
Length of Pile (m)	6 – 14

(Source: Spun pile WIKA Beton catalogue)

The end bearing and side friction resistance of the Spun Pile are calculated by using the following table, which incorporates soil properties and pile dimensions.

Table 4. End Bearing Capacity Calculations of Spun Pile

End Bearing Capacity	
fc' (MPa)	52
E (kN/m ²)	4700 (fc') ^{1/2} 33892181.99
D (m)	0.4
Fmax (kN)	1187.991

Table 5. Axial Skin Resistant Parameter Spun Pile

Axial Skin Resistant Myerhoff (1976)	
Pa	(qc x Ap)/ SF1 + Σi (li x fi x Ast)/SF2
qc (N)	End bearing resistance
Ap (m)	Cross-sectional perimeter
li (m)	Length of the segment
fi (t/m)	Shear force on the pile

Table 6. Parameter of qc, fi, safety factor 1 and 2

	Sand	Clay
qc (N)	40	25
fi (t/m)	10	12
SF 1		3
SF 2		5

Meanwhile, the CFG Pile's end-bearing capacity is calculated using the following table.

Table 7. End Bearing Capacity of CFG Pile Calculations

End Bearing Capacity of CFG Pile	
fc'	40 MPa
E	4700 (fc') ^{1/2} MPa 29725.41001 MPa 29725410.01 kN/m ²
d	0.4 m
Fmax	902.52 kN

The pile cap on the subgrade has the exact dimensions, 1.2 m x 1.2 m, with a thickness of 0.4 m at each end of the Spun Pile. There are connectors between the ends of the Spun Pile and the pile cap to ensure that the structure can withstand longitudinal loads during train operation. The calculation of bending stiffness (EI) and axial stiffness (EA) can be calculated in the following table.

Table 8. Flexural Stiffness and Normal Stiffness Calculations of Spun Pile.

EI and EA of Spun Pile		
c	25	MPa
E	23500000	kN/m ²
h	0.4	m
b	1.2	m
EI	E x (h ³ x b) / 12 150400	
EA	; E x h x b 11280000	

The abutment structure comprises bored piles, pile caps, abutment bodies, and girders. It features a bored pile foundation with a diameter of 100 cm and a depth of 35.5 meters. The pile cap supporting the abutment is 10.4 meters by 7.4 meters and 2 meters thick. It is supported by 10 bored piles spaced at 2.8-meter intervals.

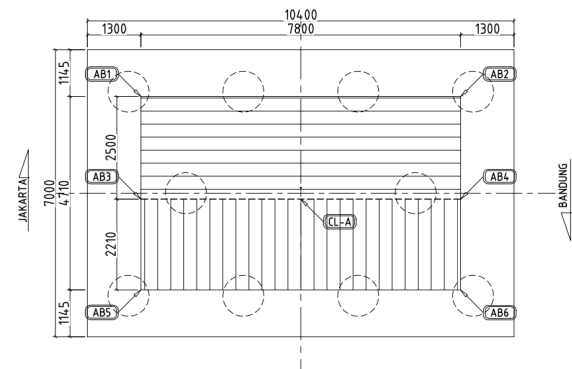


Fig.7 Layout Design for Abutment STA 131+000 (Source: General drawing of bridge and abutment structure)

Due to the lack of axial side resistance in bored piles, only the bored pile's end-bearing resistance (cone resistance) is calculated.

Table 9. End Bearing Capacity of Bored Pile Calculations

End Bearing Capacity of Bored Pile		
fc'	40	MPa
E	4700 (fc') ^{1/2}	MPa 29725.41 kN/m ²
d	1	m
Fmax	8605.41	kN

Table 10. Flexural Stiffness and Normal Stiffness Calculations of Pile Cap

EI and EA of Pile Cap		
fc'	45	MPa
E	3.20E+07	kN/m ²
h	2	m
b	10.4	m
EI	E x (h ³ x b) / 12	
	2.20E+08	
EA	E x h x b	
	6.60E+08	

4.3 Loading

In PLAXIS, the loading calculation is modeled based on the structure supported by the foundation and subgrade. For the abutment, the model includes the pile cap, abutment body, girder, track, and train. Conversely, the subgrade consists of the pile cap, retaining wall, filling materials (soil types A, B, and C), graded crushed stone, track, ballast, and train. During the construction phase, the dead load comprises all structural components above the subgrade, excluding the track and train. The live load during construction includes the erector and the girder being transported.

During the operational phase, the dead load is augmented by the track and ballast, which contribute 20.53 kN/m². The live load during operation consists of the train load, which is 4 x 250 kN.

4.4 Staged Construction

The calculation process is carried out in 4 phases: existing conditions, CFG Pile or spun pile, and pile cap installation; the construction period for the erection process lasts 180 days, and the last is operational loading.

5 RESEARCH DISCUSSION

5.1 PLAXIS Parameters

The determination of PLAXIS parameters requires calculations to obtain E^{ref}_{50} using the following equation:

Table 11. PLAXIS parameters

Soil	SPT	CPT
Sand (normally consolidated)	Es = 500(N+15) 7000 √N	Es = (2-4)qu 8000 √qu
	6000N	

Clayey sand	Es = 320(N+15)
N55 =	70/55 x N70
N70 =	N x μ1 x μ2 x μ3 x μ4
μ1 =	Average Energy Ratio (Er)
μ2 =	Rod Length Correction
μ3 =	Sampler Correction
μ4 =	Borehole Diameter Correction
Es =	500 (N55 + 15)
q =	e1 x Es
	0.001 x Es

$$-q_f = (ccot(\varphi) - \varphi_3) \frac{2\sin(\varphi)}{1 - \sin(\varphi)}$$

$$q_a = \frac{q_f}{R_f}$$

$$-\varepsilon_1 = \frac{1}{E_i} \frac{q}{1 - q/q_a} \text{ for } : q < q_r$$

$$E_i = \frac{2E_{50}}{2 - R_f}$$

q_f = Ultimate Deviatoric Stress

q_a = Asymptotic Value of The Shear Strength

R_f = Failure Ratio q_f/q_a (default $R_f = 0.9$)

The calculation results show the parameters for the soil segments at STA 129+786, STA 129+886, and STA 130+769.

Table 12. Soil parameter of STA 129+786

Depth (m)	General section (mm)	E (Kpa) Undrained	E (Kpa) Drained
0 – 17.5	Clay	8207	
17.5 – 18.7	Sand		19968
18.7 – 25	Clay	9036	
25 – 25.9	Sand		16978
25.9 – 33.4	Clay	5574	
33.4 – 54.8	Sand		10384
54.8 – 60.4	Clay	8818	

Table 13. Soil parameter of STA 129+886

Depth (m)	General section (mm)	E (Kpa) Undrained	E (Kpa) Drained
0 – 5.4	Clay	6262	
5.4 – 7.5	Sand		15598
7.5 – 16.9	Clay	8523	
16.9 – 20	Sand		19641
20 – 21.6	Clay	8050	
21.6 – 22.5	Sand		16025
22.5 – 23.9	Clay	8374	
23.9 - 25	Sand		17316
25 – 33.9	Clay	17669	
33.9 - 45	Sand		12586

Table 14. Soil parameter of STA 130+967

Depth (m)	General section (mm)	E (Kpa)	
		Undrained	Drained
0 – 3	Clay	6458	
3 – 4.5	Silt	11491	
4.5 – 6.3	Clay	6063	
6.3 – 8	Sand		17216
8 – 9.5	Silt	8506	
9.5 – 11.2	Sand		27742
11.2 – 12.9	Clay	6694	
12.9 - 17	Silt	8309	
17 – 28.4	Sand		11494
28.4 – 32.7	Silt		
32.7 – 46.9	Sand		9712
46.9 – 48	Clay	4062	
48 – 52.5	Silt	6532	
52.5 – 61.4	Clay	5968	
61.4 – 76.2	Sand		8145
76.2 – 80.45	Clay	3627	

5.2 Load Calculation

The structure's loading calculation is based on its volume and density. In PLAXIS, loads are represented as pressure (kN/m²), meaning the load applied to the foundation is distributed over its area. For the subgrade, the area is determined based on the dimensions of the erector (19 m x 32.7 m), while for the abutment, the area is calculated based on the dimensions of the pile cap (10.7 m x 7 m).

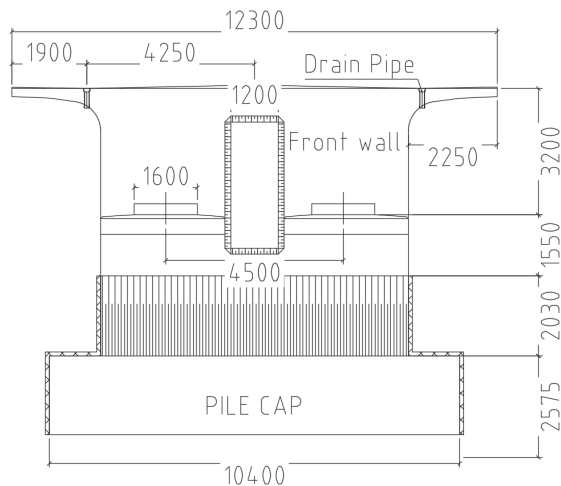


Fig.8 Front View of Abutment STA 131+000

Figure 8 shows the front view of the abutment structure. The calculation of the abutment dead load is based on the density and volumetric mass and the components contained in the abutment, such as piping, embedded stairs, and settlement monitoring. Figure 9 shows the side view of the abutment.

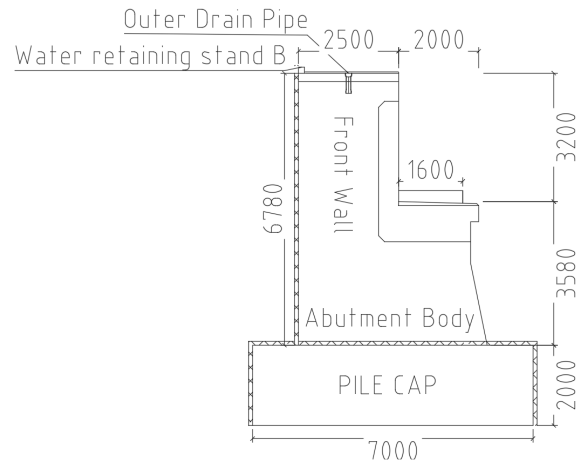


Fig.9 Side View of Abutment STA 131+000

Table 15. calculation of the load received by the abutment by the transporter and girder

Abutment Calculations		
Concrete Density	2548.42	kg/m ³
Pile cap		
T	2	m
L	10.18	m
W	7	m
Volume	142.52	m ³
Body		
Area	21.5286	m ²
L	7.8	m
Volume	167.9231	m ³
Volume total	310.4431	m ³
Weight Abutment	791139.3	kg
Girder	1027.46	kg
W total	792166.8	kg
Area	36.738	m ²
Load	211.5291	kN/m ²
Track	20.5	kN/m ²
DL	232	kN/m ²
Transporter	900	ton
Girder	1027.46	ton
	963.73	ton
Area	32.448	m ²
LL	291.4	kN/m ²
Y /sat	17	kN/m ³
Y concrete	25	kN/m ³
w	16	kN/m ³
v	0.15	

Table 16. Calculation of the load received by the subgrade section per 32.7 m by the transporter and girder

Subgrade Calculations		
Concrete Density	2400	kg/m ³
Gravel Density	1920	kg/m ³
Cantilever Wall Area	18.73	m ²
Cantilever Length	32.7	m
Concrete Weight	1469.9304	ton
Y /sat	17	kN/m ³
Y concrete	24	kN/m ³
w	2.8	kN/m ³
Cantilever Wall	1469.93	ton
Pilecap	70.5	ton
Group A, B, C	2526.62	ton
Group A, B	1771	ton
Graded Crushed Stone	572.78	ton
	6410.83	ton
Transporter	900	ton
Girder	967.62	ton
	1867.62	ton
Area	618.03	m ²
DL	101.76	kN/m ²
LL	29.64	kN/m ²

Thus, the dead load value at section STA 129+780 is 101.76 kN/m², and the live load during construction is 29.64 kN/m². By using the formulas and equations provided, the results for each cross-section are as follows:

Table 17. Loading for each section

Load (kN/m ²)	STA 129+780	STA 129+880	STA 130+960	STA 131+000
Dead Load	101.76	85.78	130.10	232.0
Live Load	29.64	30.53	28.43	291.4

Source: Code for Design of Earthworks and Track Bed for Railway, National Railway Administration, Beijing. 2016

5.3 Spun Pile Bearing Capacity

The characteristics and soil structure in the Bandung area necessitate soil reinforcement through the use of spun piles and pile caps. The spun piles employed have a diameter of 40 cm, with a design length ranging from 8 to 20 meters. This variation in length depends on the load the piles are designed to support, as well as the soil's end-bearing capacity and frictional resistance. These reinforcement measures are critical to ensuring the stability and performance

of the structures in the region.

Table 18. The axial skin resistance (ASR) of the spun pile at STA 129+780

Depth (m)	Soil Classification	N-SPT	Pa (ton)	ASR (kN/m)
0 – 2.4	Clay	125	7.17	70.36
2.4 – 5.4	Clay	400	11.72	114.98
5.4 – 7.5	Sand	525	15.89	155.92
7.5 – 10	Clay	745	24.38	239.17
10 – 11	Clay	650	25.71	252.18
11 – 16.9	Clay	792	41.67	406.79

Table 19. The ASR of the spun pile in each section

Section	Depth (m)	ASR (kN/m)
STA 129+760	0 - 3.1	95.16
	3.1 - 4	127.44
	4 - 6.7	224.27
	6.7 - 11.4	305.82
	11.4 - 13.5	362.19
STA 129+880	14.9	472.76
	0 - 2.4	70.36
	2.4 - 5.4	114.98
	5.4 - 7.5	155.92
	7.5 - 10	239.17
STA 130+960	10 - 11	252.18
	11 - 16.9	406.79
	0 - 3	92.8
	3 - 4.5	200.2
	4.5 - 6.3	173.3
	6.3 - 8	292.6
	8 - 9.5	286.3
9.5 - 11.2	472.1	
STA 131+000	11.2 - 12.9	334.7
	12.9 - 17	467.3

5.4 Settlement Calculation

The structure's settlement is calculated and compared with and without soil reinforcement, including spun piles or CFG piles and pile caps in the subgrade structure. Significant settlement is observed when foundation reinforcement and pile caps are not used, leading to considerable elevation differences and potential long-term instability in the foundation. This results in dangerous differential settlement at the transition points, which can affect the overall performance of the structure. The maximum settlement and the variations in settlement across the structure are presented in the table below, offering crucial insights for further analysis and decision-making in the design process.

Table 21. The Value of Settlement for Each Section

Settlement Condition (mm)	STA 129+760	STA 129+860	STA 130+960	STA 131+000
Without Foundation	125.2	62.38	293.5	
CFG Pile	53.12	30.5	123	
Spun Pile	42.37	26.41	95.12	
Bored Pile				133.5

Table 22. The Value of Differential Settlement for All Sections

Differential Settlement (mm)	STA 129+760 – STA 129+860	STA 130+960 – Abutment STA 131+000
Without Foundation	62.82	160
CFG Pile	22.62	10.15
Spun Pile	15.96	38.38

6 CONCLUSION

Based on the settlement results simulated by PLAXIS, it is concluded that the settlement values are drastic and highly variable when no foundation reinforcement, such as spun piles or pile caps, is applied to the subgrade structure. This leads to substantial differential settlement, with values exceeding the maximum allowable limit of 80 mm according to the standards for high-speed trains, posing significant risks during train operations. Therefore, soil reinforcement using Spun Piles or CFG Piles is essential. The lowest settlement value is observed with the use of Spun Piles. Consequently, Spun Pile foundations are selected for the subgrade structure to reduce drastic settlement and significant elevation differences in the transition structure (abutment), ultimately minimizing the risk of future repairs during operations.

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