

Application of Shallow Seismic Refraction To Detect Engineering Problems, Madinaty City, Egypt.

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ABSTRACT

Applied geophysical techniques in engineering investigation are of growing interest in Egypt now, especially after the October 1992 earthquake and **property damage in** Manshiet Naser August 2008 and its destructive impact on some buildings in **new cities**. Finding the exact depth to the bedrock and its lithological type, the depth to the groundwater, the lateral changes in lithology, and detecting faults, fissures, or demerits are the main objectives to achieve engineering sites. Shallow seismic refraction surveys taken at two selected sites **in the study area**, to determine their characteristics before carrying out any constructions. **Twenty-four seismic refraction profiles taken along the study area in preliminary procedure. Subsurface geological features that make construction problems identified, such as geologic structures and clay layers. Engineering properties of subsurface strata studied. Three geoseismic layers, ranging between (827 and 848.7 m/s), (829 and 848.7 m/s) and (860 and 1553.7 m/s), have been indicated using seismic primary wave velocity distribution. The shear wave velocity distribution in three geoseismic layers are ranging between (436.1 and 446.9 m/s), (437.1 and 446 m/s) and (452.6 and 6-799.4 m/s). The obtained results indicate that the surface layer indicate weathered limestone with sand and gravel, and the first layer composed of limestone, while the second layer is represented by the dolomitic limestone. The estimated thicknesses of three layers vary laterally, ranging from 0.50 m to 1 m for the surface layer, from 9 m to 14 m for the first layer, and up to 14 m for the second layer. Different parameters such as shear wave velocity, rock density, and material indices, which are represented by the N-value, Poisson's ratio, material**

index and stress ratio have been calculated using a fundamental equation. The description of materials that found within the study area are competent materials and rated as moderate to good competent materials.

Keywords: Seismic refraction profiles, Primary wave velocity, Shear wave velocity and Poisson's ratio.

INTRODUCTION

Today, shallow geophysical techniques are considered as one of the most accurate and cost effective methods used in engineering, environmental investigations and archaeological studies. This achievements because of the expanding the interpretive skills of the geophysists and increasing the capabilities of the engineer and geologists through the use of basic geophysical principles. Seismic refraction technique, in especial, has faced during the 30 years an increased application in the study of engineering site selected. This includes major projects such as delineating solution cavities in foundation rocks, construction of hydroelectric power plants, subways, road, and tunnels. A seismic method has been coming out as a commanding implements in computing the elastic moduli from which their elastic deformation can be estimated for civil engineering projects (Stumpel et.al 1984; Harden and Drnevich 1972; David and Taylor Smith 1979).

The interpretation of dynamic elastic moduli determined from the velocity measurements of the foundation rock shown in the natural (earthquake) and the artificial (machine) cyclic dynamic loading creates additional load, which is added to the building load which exceeds the ultimate bearing capacity of the rock materials (Bowles 1984). Soil competence scales are not enough for site machine foundation assessment in both quiet and earthquake active areas. From the view engineering point, soil is defined as “the material overlying the bedrock produced by rock weathering”. Soil is the unconsolidated material of the earth's crust used to build upon or used as a construction material. The soil mechanical properties depend on the elastic properties of the rock materials, which may be evaluated from the conventional techniques or from the geophysical measurements (Sjorgren et.al 1979; Dutta 1984; Abed Elrhman et.al 1991&1992). The Madinaty City is using the shallow seismic refraction measurements (Compressional and Shear wave's velocity). Madinaty City was intensively investigated by many scientists A.M.E. Mohamed et al., 2013 and many others. In the present study, seismic refraction survey was

considered a suitable tool to solve engineering site problems and delineate subsurface layering and velocities.

The site response (transfer function) is evaluated through the Geotechnical parameters (layer thicknesses, densities, P-wave velocities, shear wave velocities and damping factor of layers), that are obtained from both the available Geotechnical boreholes and the seismic surveys (Mohamed, 2003, 2009; and Mohamed *et al.*, 2008). The P-wave velocity is obtained from the seismic refraction survey and the S-wave velocity is deduced from the Multi-channel Analysis of Surface Waves (MASW) survey. Prediction of ground shaking response at soil sites requires the knowledge of stiffness of the soil, expressed in terms of shear wave velocity (V_s). This property is useful for evaluating the site amplification (Borcherdt, 1994). The shear wave velocity of each layer can be considered as a key element, so the determination of shear wave velocity is a primary task of the current study of the considered area (Madinaty City), **Figure (1)**.

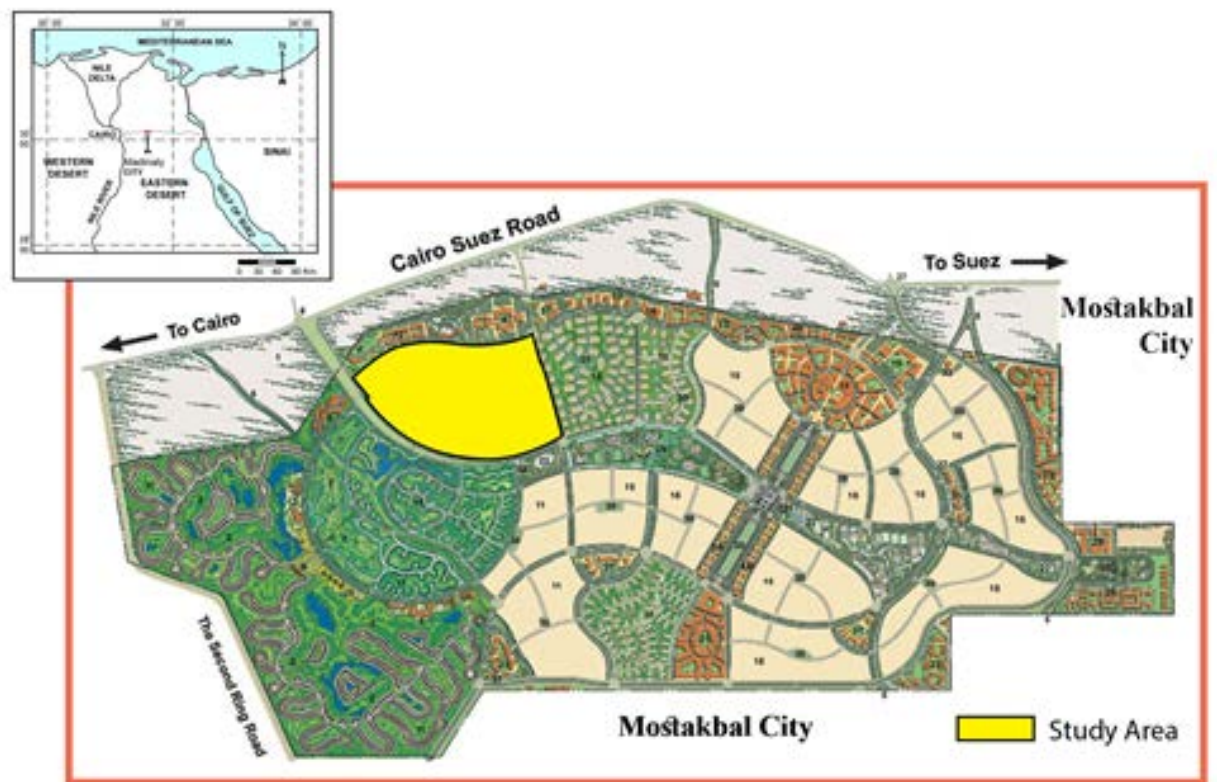


Figure (1): Location map of the study area at Madinaty City.

GEOLOGIC SETTING

The surface geology in and around the studied area Figure (2) reveals that, the older rocks are have been subdivided into two main rock units by (Said, 1962). The oldest unit is made up of sands and gravels and was named by (Shukri, 1954) as the “Gebel Ahmar Formation” to refer to the Early Oligocene period. The youngest rock unit is composed of basalt flows and referred to Late Oligocene- Early Miocene period.

The younger rocks are the Upper Miocene beds at the southern side of Wadi Hagul along the Gulf of Suez (Abdullah and Abdelhady, 1966). In the study area, the Hagul Formation is made up of loose sand with small rounded flint pebbles and fossil wood.

Gebel Ahmer Formation of Early Oligocene age followed unconformably by basaltic intrusions of Late Oligocene age. Basaltic flows of Oligocene age followed unconformably by non marine loose sand represented by Hagoul Formation of upper Miocene

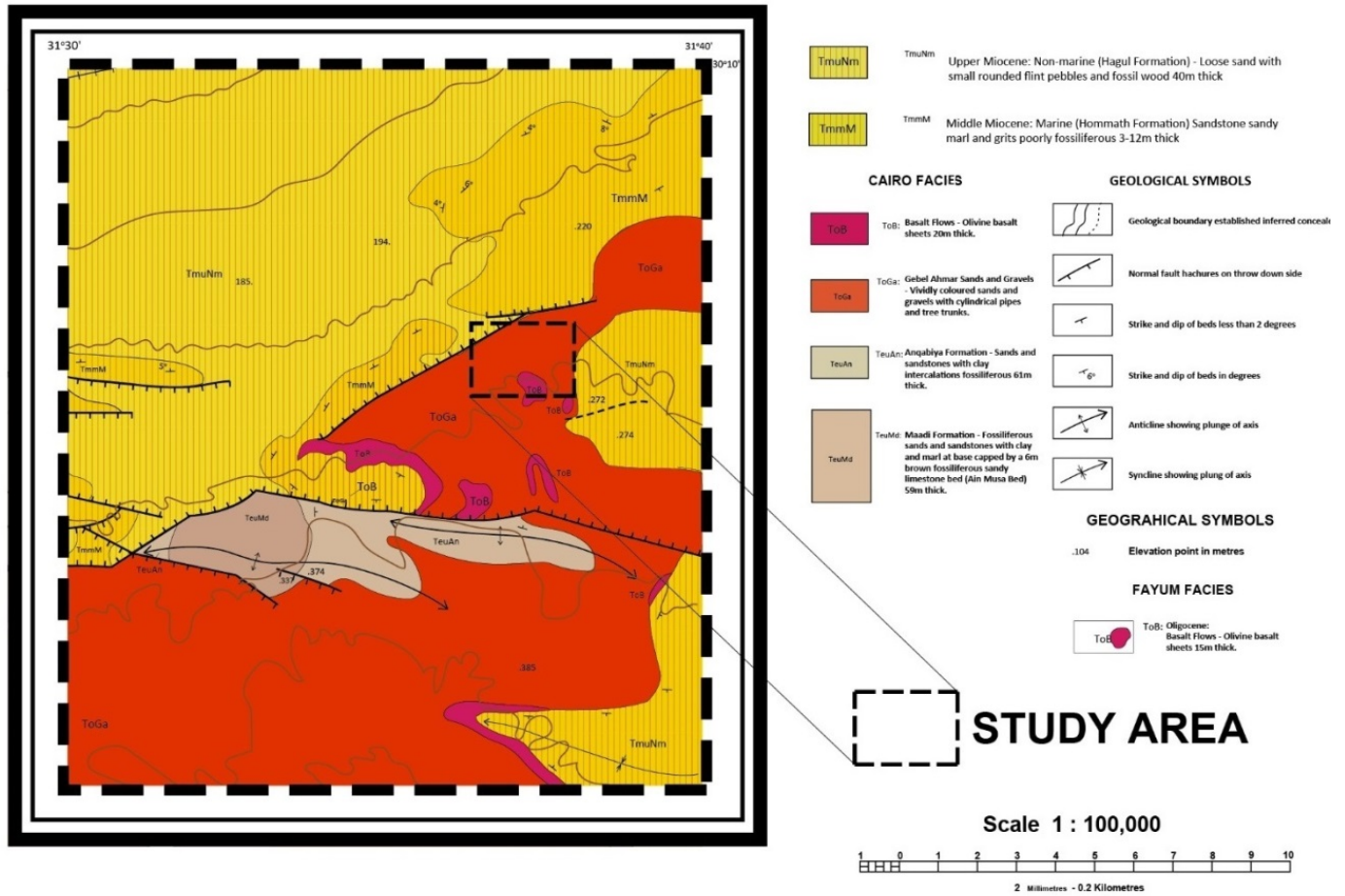


Figure (2): Geological map of the New Cairo City and the study area (after EGSM,1983)

METHODOLOGY AND DATA ACQUISITION

The seismic refraction survey was carried out through applying the forward, inline, midpoint and reverse shootings to create the compressional waves (P-waves). The ground refraction field work is executed in the interested area of the Twenty-four seismic refraction profiles Figure (3).

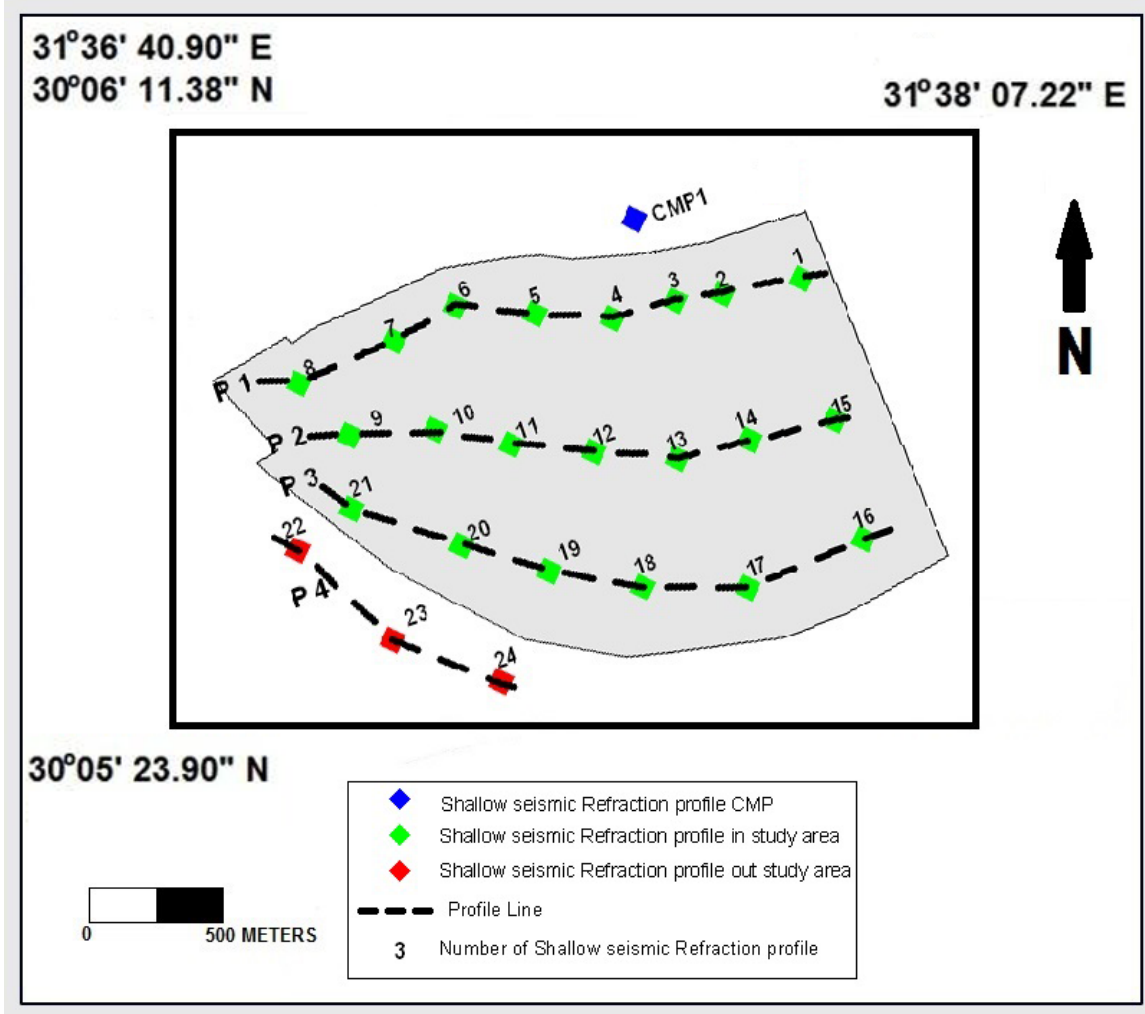


Figure (3): Location map of seismic refraction spreads at the Madinaty City.

The P-waves are acquired by generating seismic energy using an energy source, sending the created seismic waves inside the earth. The direct (head) and refracted (diving) waves are detected through vertical geophones of 20 Hz and recorded using 24 channels signal enhancement seismograph “Strata-View” as data logger. Most of the surveyed Twenty-four seismic refraction profiles have a 100 meter long spread. The geophones, which were firmly coupled to the ground, had 5 m fixed geophone spacing. The overall setup of compressional waves is illustrated in Figure (4). The 24 channels signal enhancement seismograph “StrataView” of Geometrics Inc., USA, was employed for data acquisition along Twenty-four seismic refraction profiles. Our main task is to estimate the shear wave velocity of the subsurface

layers down to at least 30 m, so the frequency content of the records had to be low enough to obtain the phase velocities at longer wavelengths. The most important parts of the field configurations are the geophone spacing and the offset range. The planar characteristics of surface waves evolve only after a distance greater than the half of the maximum desired wavelength (Stokoe et al., 1994).

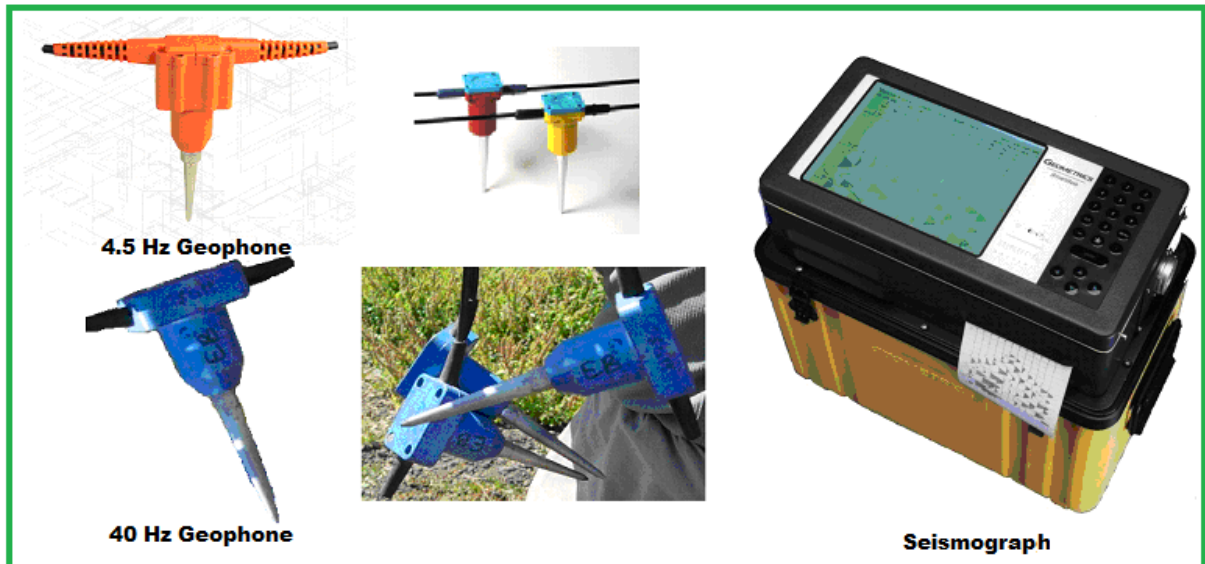


Figure (4): A seismograph model Strata View that used for data acquisition.

SEISMIC DATA PROCESSING AND RESULTS

The obtained results that the surface layer show withered sand and gravels, and show that the velocity values of first layer indicate loose sand, while the second layer is represented by the sands and gravels with some basalt flow, Figure (5a,b and c) show Time-Distance curve, Geoseismic cross-section along profiles No. 2 as an example for all parts of the study area and outcrop of the surface and first layers in the study area, where the results of the interpretation for all spreads reveal three layers model almost like each other.

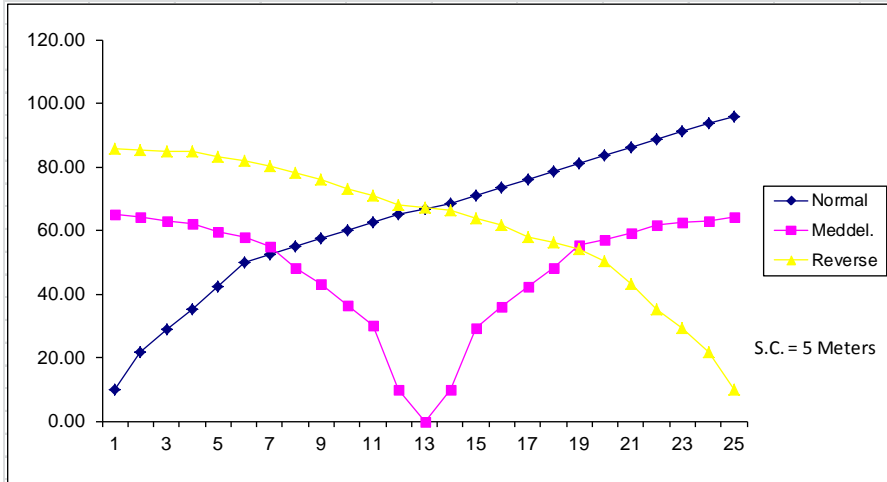


Figure (5a): Time-Distance curves along profile “2”.

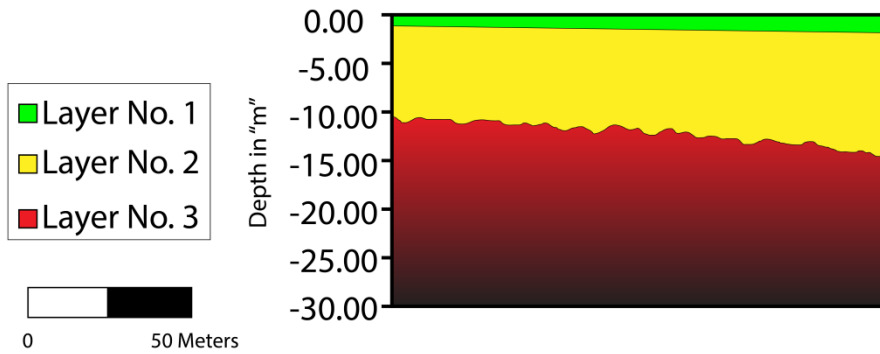


Figure (5b) Geoseismic cross section No. “11” along profile “2”.



Figure (IV- 5c): Outcrop of the surface and first layers in the study area.

SEISMIC VELOCITIES

The velocities of the layers are determined by the reciprocal of the slope of each segment of the time-distance curve. The P-wave and SH-wave velocities are determined in the four layers for the 24 seismic sites of the studied area, Figures (6 and 7) show the P-wave and SH-wave velocities distribution maps of the surface layers of the considered subsurface section. The seismic primary wave velocity distribution indicated that there are three geoseismic layers ranging between (827 and 848.7 m/s), (829 and 829-848.8 m/s) and (860 and 1553.7 m/s). The shear wave velocity distribution are three geoseismic layeres ranging between (436.1 and 446.9 m/s), (437.1 and 446 m/s) and (452.6 and 799.4 m/s).

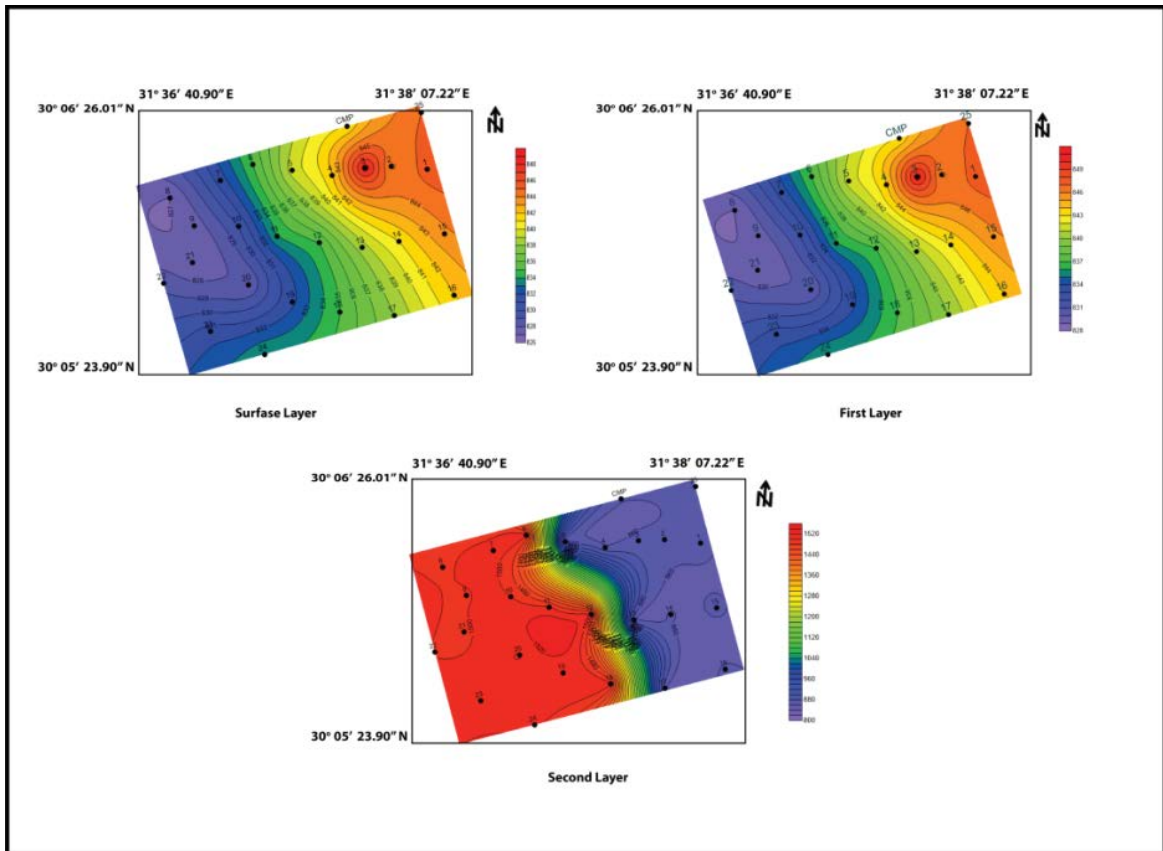


Figure (6): P-wave velocity distribution maps of the study area.

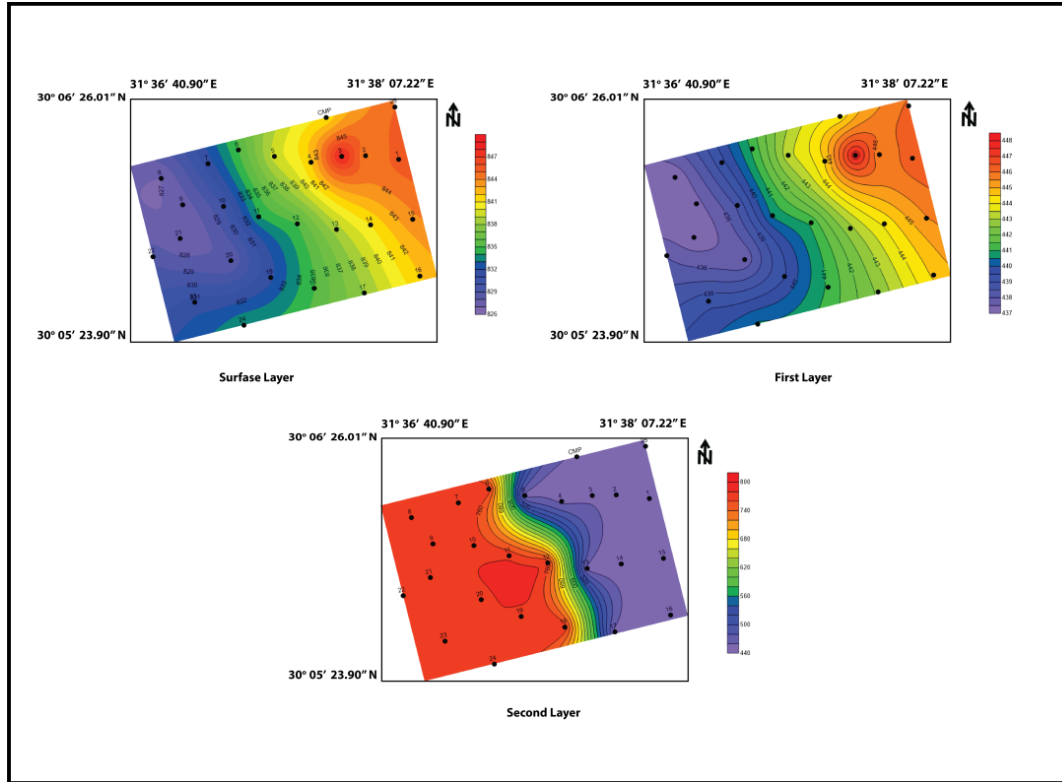


Figure (7): S-wave velocity distribution maps of the study area.

GEOTECHNICAL CHARACTERISITICS OF THE FOUNDATION MATERIAL

This study makes a view on the foundation rock in the study area using the shallow seismic refraction measurements (Compressional and Shear wave's velocity).

ELASTIC MODULI

Poisson's Ratio (σ):

The Poisson's ratio of the three layers are shown in Figure (8). this ratio ranges between 0.3074 and 0.3081. Poisson's ratio (σ) of the surface layer reveals that the lowest value is located in the western part and the northeastern part have higher values, also the first layer reveals that lowest Poisson's ratio (0.3074) is located in the western part, while the northeastern part have a higher values (0.3082), the second layer reveals that lowest Poisson's ratio (0.308) is located in the eastern part while the western part have a higher value (0.31995).

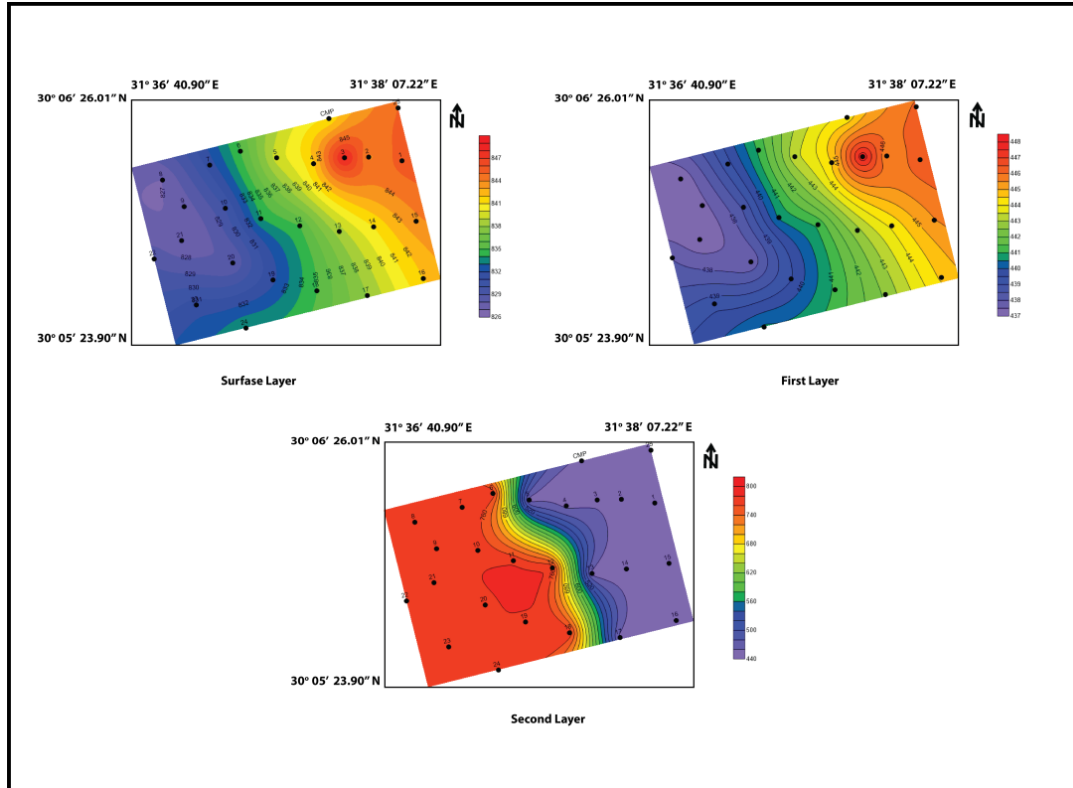


Figure (8): Poisson's Ratio (σ) maps of the study area.

Kinetic Rigidity Modulus (μ):

Figure (9) shows the calculated rigidity modulus of the layers where the surface layer (Withered sand and gravel) in the study area. The rigidity values of the surface layer range between 376.6 dyn/cm^2 and 416.2 dyn/cm^2 . The minimum values are characterize the western, these values increase gradually to the northeastern part of the area.

The rigidity values of the first layer range between 380.2 dyn/cm^2 and 416 dyn/cm^2 . The minimum values are characterizing the western parts, these values increase gradually to the northeastern part of the area too.

The rigidity modulus of the second layer in the study area. These values range between 437.8 dyn/cm^2 and 4360 dyn/cm^2 . The low values are observed in the eastern part where the less competent and low rigidity materials. The low competent or more floppy materials are experiential in the eastern parts of the study area. These values increase gradually to the western parts of the study area.

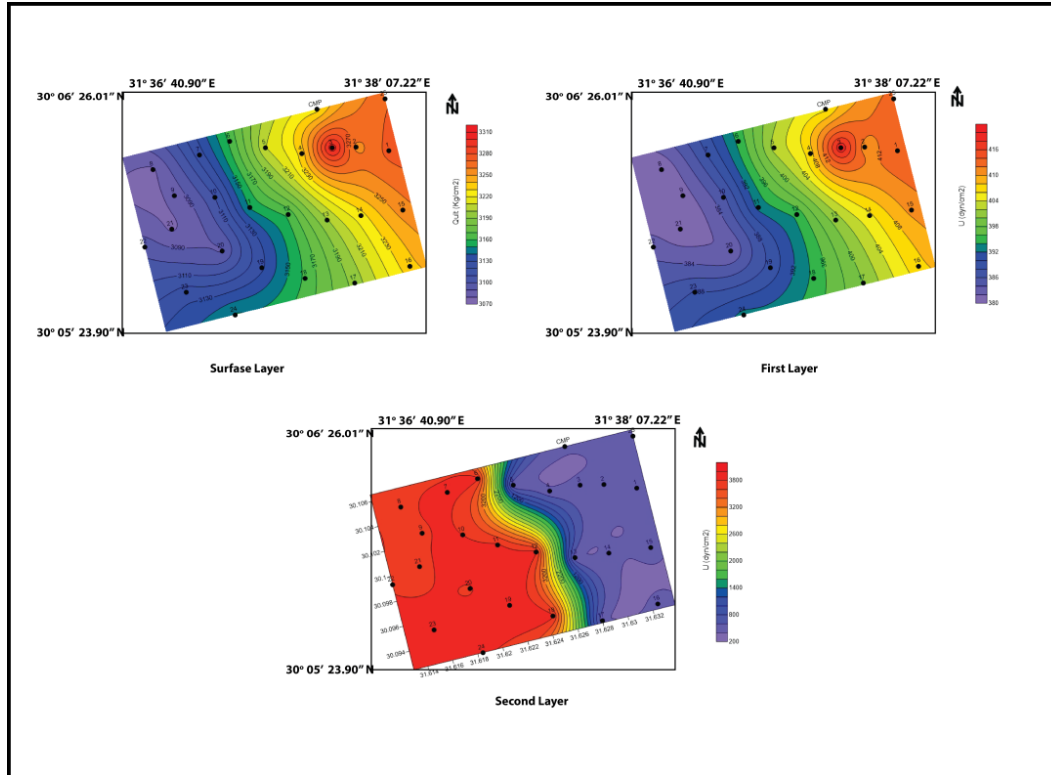


Figure (9): Kinetic Rigidity Modulus (μ) maps of the study area.

Kinetic Young's Modulus (E):

Figure (10) illustrates the Young's modulus distribution where the surface layer values range between 984.9 dyn/cm^2 and 1088.9 dyn/cm^2 where the minimum values are observed in the western sides of the study area. These values increase to the northeastern and eastern sides of the study area. The Young's modulus distribution of the first layer values ranges between 994.2 dyn/cm^2 and 1089 dyn/cm^2 . The low values are observed in the western parts of the study area; these values increase gradually to the northeastern. The Young's modulus distribution of the second layer values ranges between 1145.9 dyn/cm^2 and 11510 dyn/cm^2 . The low values are observed in the eastern part of the study area; these values increase gradually to western corner of the study area.

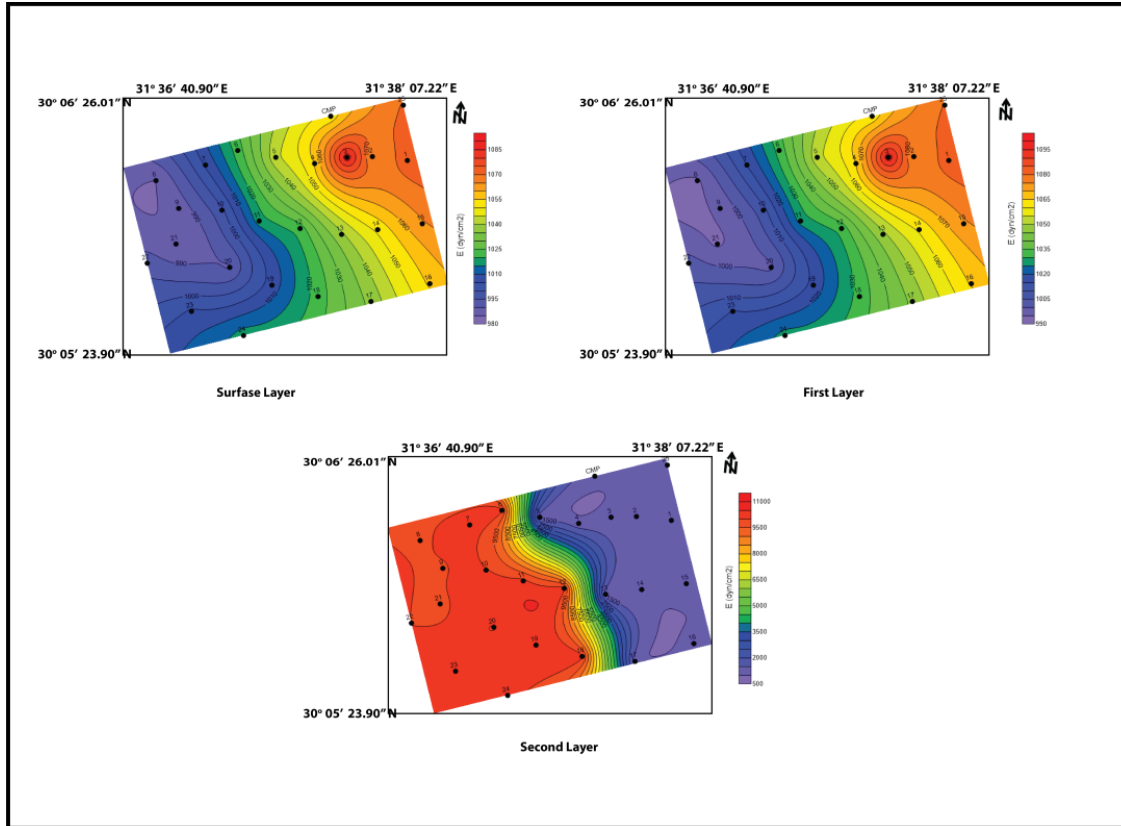


Figure 10: Kinetic Young's Modulus (E) maps of the study area.

Kinetic Bulk Modulus (K):

The distribution of the Bulk modulus is shown in Figure (11). These values of the surface layer range between about 852.3 dyn/cm² and 945.8 dyn/cm². The minimum values of Bulk modulus are observed in the western parts of the study area. While the maximum values are observed in the northeastern corner of the study area. and the first layer; this modulus varies from about 860.6 dyn/cm² to 945.7 dyn/cm². The low values of this modulus are observed in scattered sites as in the western parts, while the high values occupied in the northeastern part of the area. The Young's modulus distribution of the second values ranges between 997 dyn/cm² and 10655 dyn/cm². The low values are observed in the eastern parts of the study area; these values increase gradually to western.

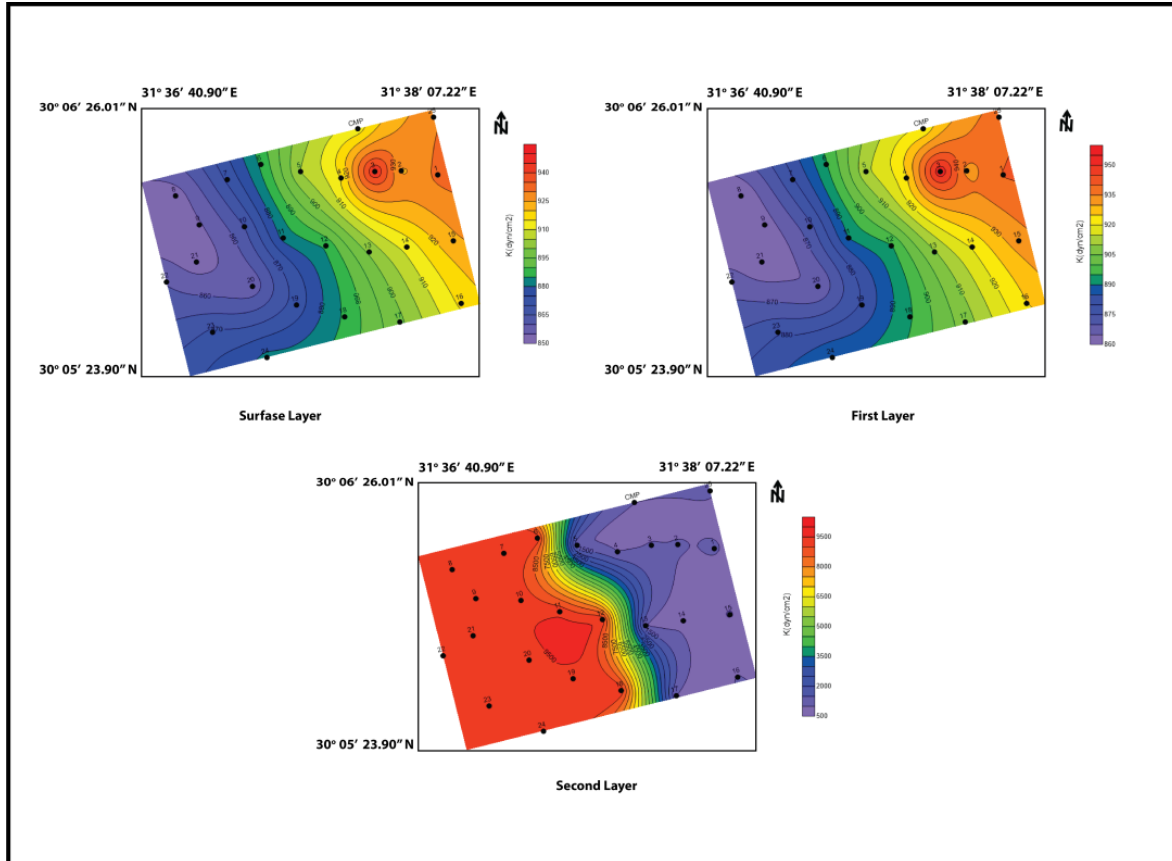


Figure 11: Kinetic Bulk Modulus (K) maps of the study area.

STANDERD PENETRATION TEST (SPT) [N-VALUE]:

Figure (12) shows the distribution of the N-values .The surface layer values range between 102.6 and 110.3.The N-values of the first layer varies from 103.3 to 110.4; the minimum values in western part of the study area reflect hard and dense competent soil. These values gradually increase towards the northeastern parts. The distribution of the N-values of the second layer values range between 114.4 dyn/cm² and 606.9 dyn/cm². The low values are observed in the eastern part of the study area; these values increase gradually to western parts of the study area.

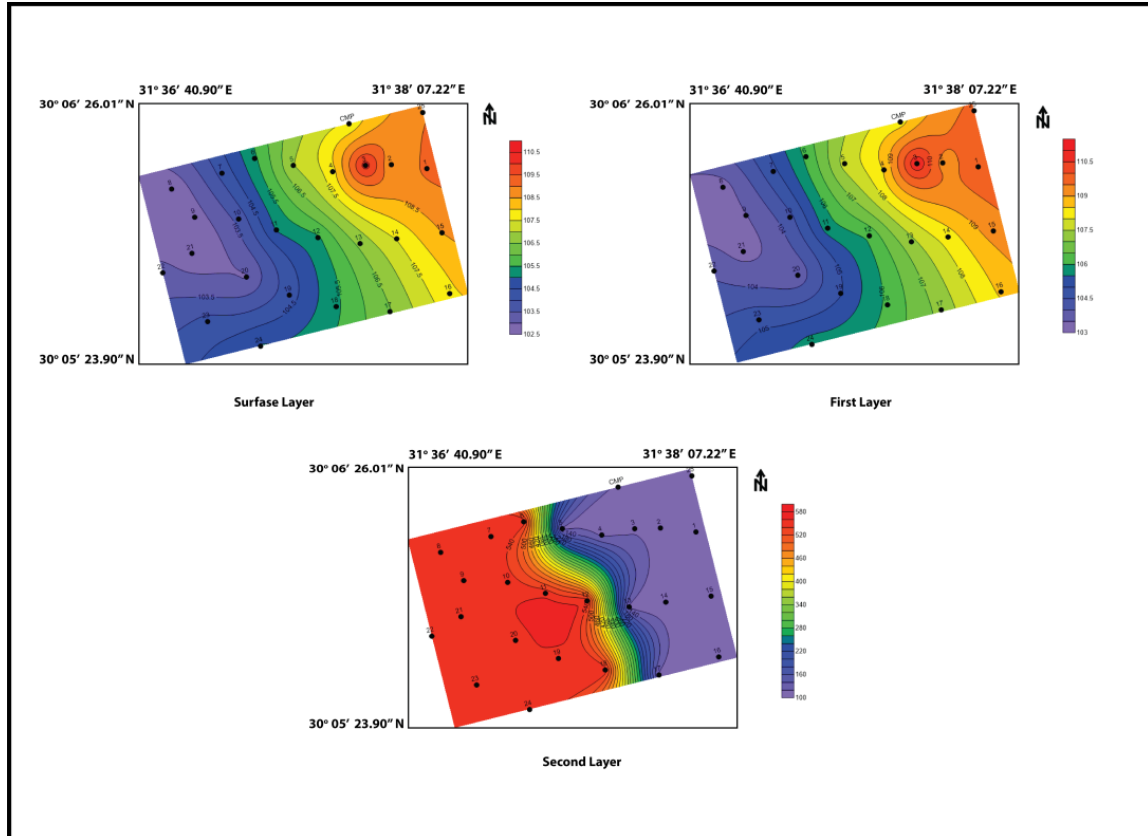


Figure 12: N-values maps of the study area.

MATERIAL COMPETENCE SCALES:

The Material Index (v):

The distribution of the material index of the surface layer in the study area is shown in Figure (13), these values range from (-0.2296) to (-0.2324). These values of the material index in the northeastern part, while these values increase towards the northeastern parts. The material index in these parts indicate that the fairly to moderately Competent materials are located.

Figure (13) illustrates the distribution of the material index of the first layer in the study area. The material index values range between (-0.2299) to (-0.2325). the maximum values are located at the northwestern parts while the minimum values are located at the eastern and northeastern parts .

The distribution of the material index of the second layer in the study area is shown in Figure (13). The material index values range between (-0.233) to (-0.27981). the maximum

values are located at the northeastern and eastern parts while the minimum values are located at the northwestern part of the study area.

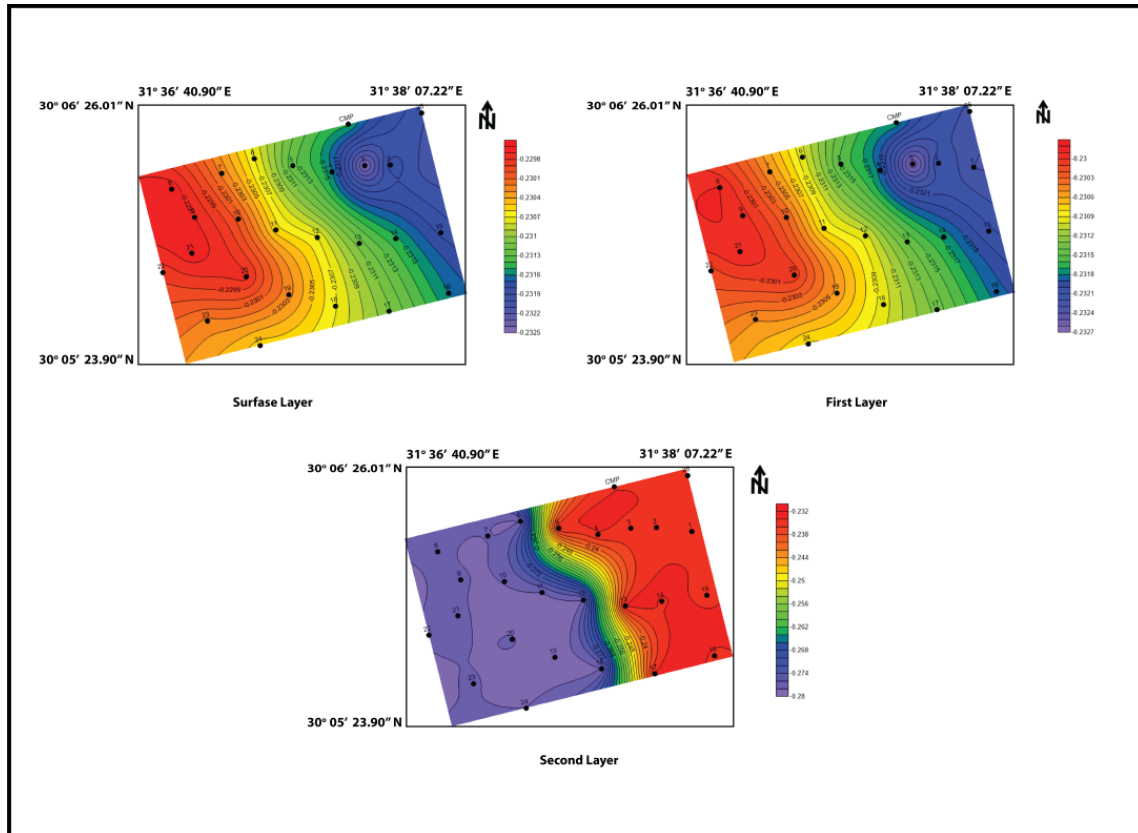


Figure 13: The Material Index (v) maps of the study area.

Concentration Index (Ci):

The distribution of the concentration index of the first layer is shown in Figure (14). This index varies from 4.2455 to 4.2530. The low values are practicable in the eastern and northeastern parts of the study area, these values indicate to relatively low competent to moderately competent material. While the high values tend to appear in the western portion of the study area, they indicate moderately competent to competent materials. Figure (14) shows that the values of the concentration index in the first layer of the study area, these values show range between 4.2448 and about 4.310245. The low values are observed especially in the eastern and northeastern corners and increases gradually to the western part. These values indicate as fairly to moderately competent materials. Figure (14) illustrates that the distribution of concentration index of the second layer in the study area. The concentration index values range

between 4.12 and 4.1274 the maximum values are located at the eastern part while the minimum values are located at the western part of the study area.

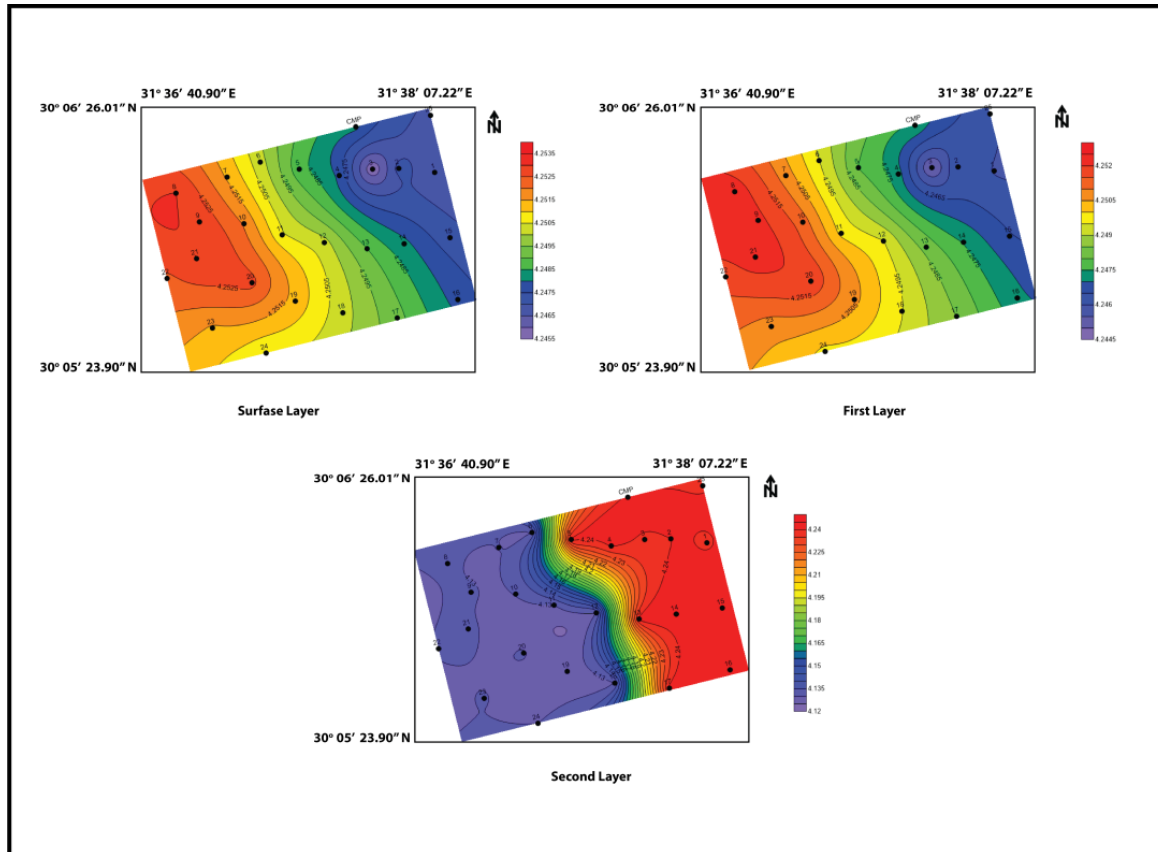


Figure 14: Concentration Index (Ci) maps of the study area.

Stress Ratio (Si):

Figure (15) shows the distribution of stress ratio of the surface layer. This value varies between 0.4438 and 0.4453, the low values occupied the western parts, indicating as fairly to moderate compact materials, while the high values are observed in the northeastern part of the study area, reflecting relatively less-compact to fairly moderate materials. The division of the stress ratio of the first layer along the study area is illustrated in Figure (15). The values of this ratio show range between 0.44545 and 0.44665 the low values dominant are observed in the western part of the study area. These values increase gradually to the northeastern. These low values indicate fairly moderate materials.

Figure (15) illustrates that the distribution of stress ratio of the second layer in the study area. The stress ratio values range between 0.446 and 0.4704 the maximum values are located at the western part while the minimum values are located at the eastern part of the study area.

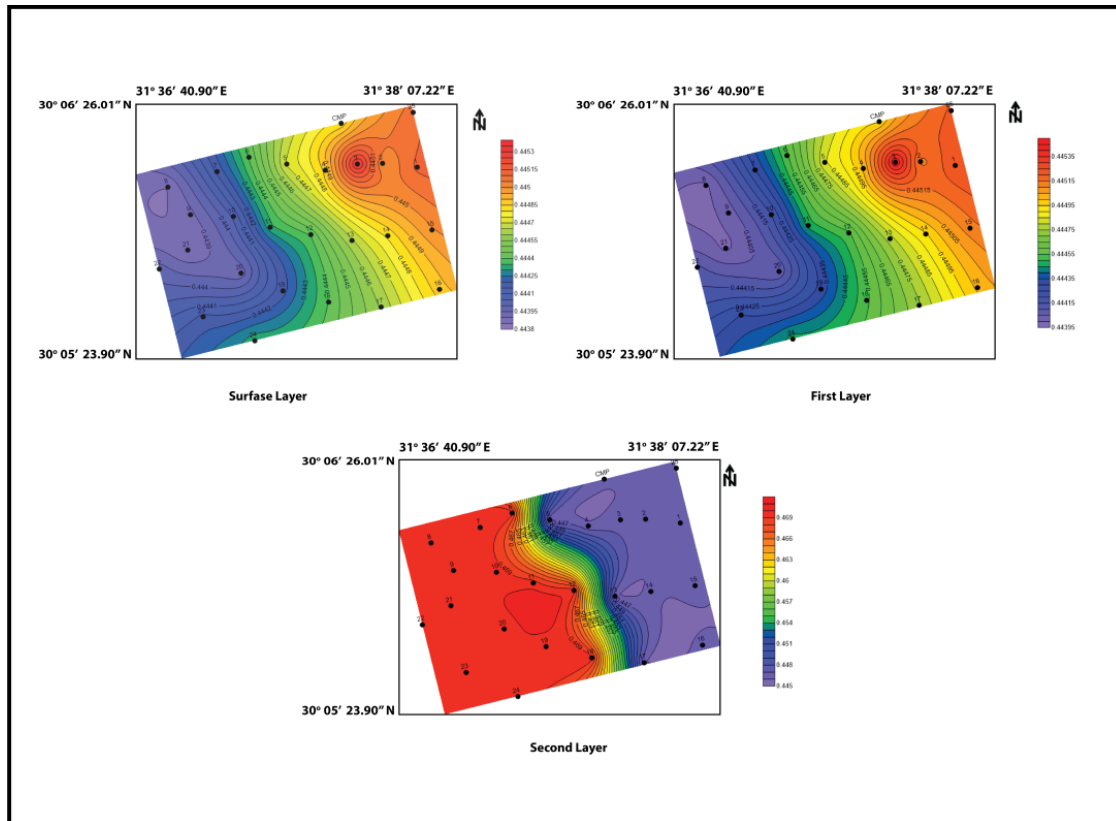


Figure 15: Stress Ratio (S_i) maps of the study area.

Density Gradient (ρ):

The distribution of the density gradient in the surface layer has been shown in Figure (16) this figure shows little varies in the density gradient values from 0.0019 to 0.0020 . The relatively low values are observed in the western parts of the study area, which indicate the relatively moderate competent material. While the high values are observed in the northeastern part of the study area, they reflect the fairly moderate competent materials in this part of the study area.

Figure (16) shows the density gradient distribution in the first layer of the study area. This map shows variation of the value ranges between about 0.0019 and about 0.0020 the very low values are observed in the western parts of the study area reflecting moderate competent material; while the values that indicate the high competent materials are observed in the northeastern part of the study area that reflecting fairly to moderate competent materials.

Figure (16) illustrates that the distribution of density gradient of the second layer in the study area. The density gradient values range between 0.0021 and 0.0068 the maximum values are located at the western part while the minimum values are located at the eastern part of the study area.

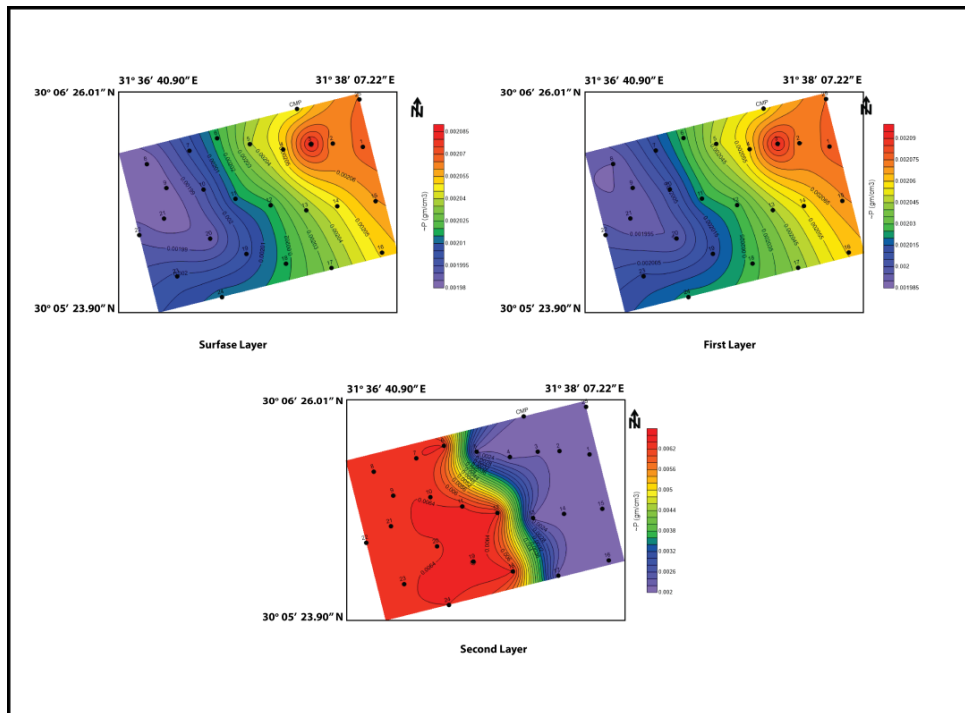


Figure 16: Density Gradient (D_i) maps of the study area.

FOUNDATION MATERIALS BEARING CAPACITY

Ultimate Bearing Capacity (Q_{ult}):

Figure (17) shows the calculated ultimate bearing capacity of the surface layer where the values are generally moderate and ranged between 3078.5 K.Pa. and 3309.1 K.Pa. The relatively low ultimate bearing capacity values are observed in the western parts of the study area that

indicates to low ultimate bearing capacity material. The high values of this parameter are occupied in the eastern and northeastern parts of the study area, which indicate the moderate ultimate bearing capacity material.

The distribution of the ultimate bearing capacity in the first layer is shown in Figure (17). This parameter's values ranged from 3099.2 K.Pa to 3309 K.Pa, Where the relatively moderately values of this parameter are observed in the western part of the study area, which may reflect the moderately ultimate bearing capacity materials. The highest values of this parameter noted in the northeastern part of the study area reflect the high ultimate bearing capacity materials.

Figure (17) illustrates that the distribution of ultimate bearing capacity of the second layer in the study area. The ultimate bearing capacity values range between 3432 and 18207 the maximum values are located at the western part while the minimum values are located at the eastern part of the study area.

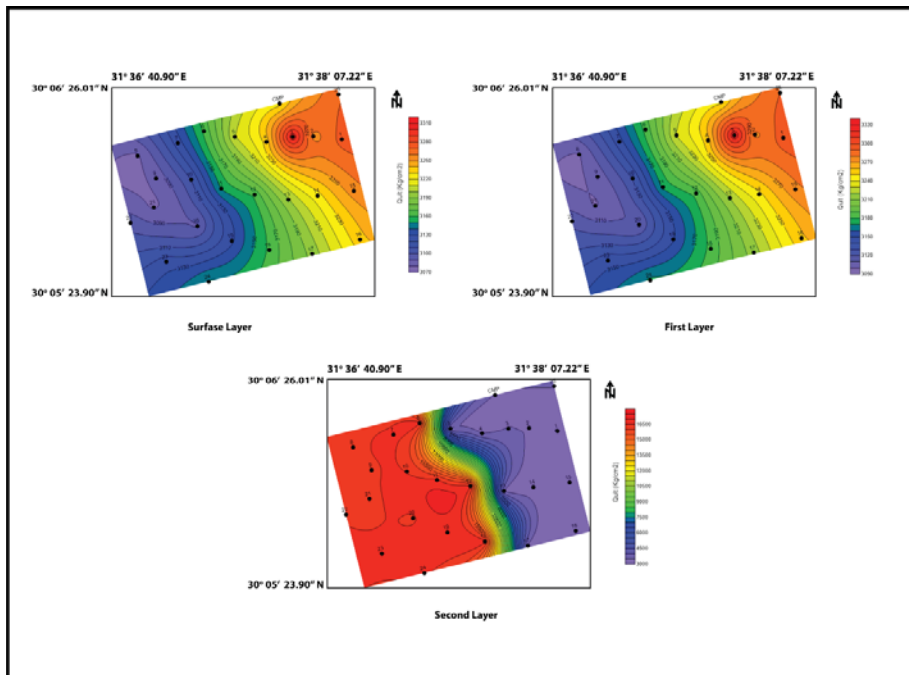


Figure 17: Ultimate Bearing Capacity (Qult) maps of the study area.

Allowable Bearing Capacity (Qa):

The distribution of the allowable bearing capacity (Qa) of the surface layer is shown in Figure (18) this parameter values show range between 1539.2 K.Pa. and 1654.5 K.Pa., where the relatively low values are observed in the western sides of the study area. These values increase

gradually to the northeastern part that reflect the highest allowable bearing capacity materials in the study area.

Figure (18) shows the distribution of the allowable bearing capacity of the first layer on the study area. This parameter gives range from 1549.6 K.Pa to 1655.1 K.Pa. The noted relatively low values of this parameter are observed in the western sides of the study area that reflects moderately allowable bearing material. These values increase gradually to the northeastern.

Figure (18) illustrates that the distribution of allowable bearing capacity of the second layer in the study area. The allowable bearing capacity values range between 1716 and 9103 the maximum values are located at the western part while the minimum values are located at the eastern parts of the study area.

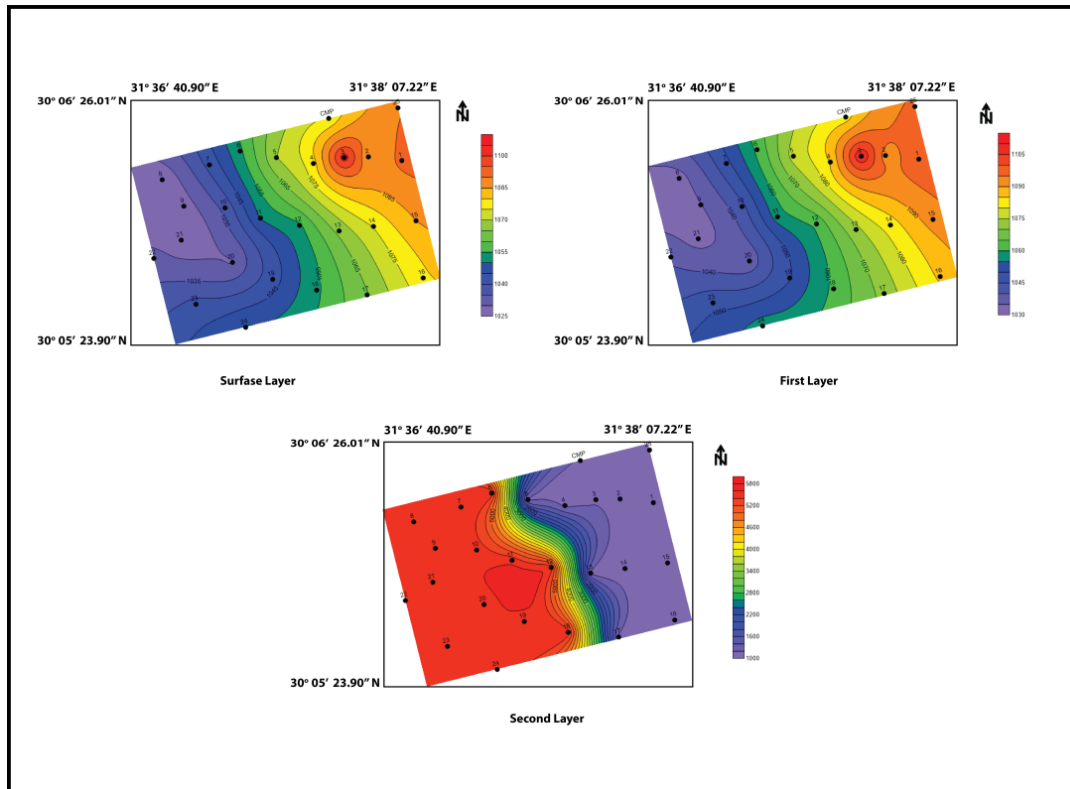


Figure 18: Allowable Bearing Capacity (Q_a) maps of the study area.

The following table (1) summarized all the estimated elastic moduli, material competence, and foundation materials bearing capacity.

Table (1) summarizing all the estimated elastic moduli, material competence, and foundation materials bearing capacity.

Types of Layers		Withered sand and gravels	Loose Sand with small Pebbles	Sands and Gravels with some Basalt flow
Depth of Layer		Surface layer	Depth 9m –Depth 15m	Depth 22m - Depth30m
GEOTECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS	P-Waves	827-848.7	829-848.8	860-1553.7
	S-wave	436.1 -446.9	437.1- 446	452.6-799.4
	Poisson’s Ratio (σ)	0.3074-0.3081	0.3074-0.3082	0.308-0.31995
	Density gradient (ρ)	0.0019-0.0020	0.0019-0.0020	0.0021-0.0068
	Kinetic Rigidity Modulus (μ)	376.6-416.2	380.2-416	437.8-4360
	Kinetic Young’s Modulus (E)	984.9-1088.9	994.2-1089	1145.9-11510
	Kinetic Bulk Modulus (K)	852.3-945.8	860.6-945.7	997-10655
	N-values	102.6-110.3	103.3-110.4	114.4-606.9
	Material Index (ν)	-0.2296- -0.2324	-0.2299- -0.2325	-0.233- -0.27981
	Concentration Index (Ci)	4.2455-4.2530	4.2448-4.310245	4.12-4.1274
	Stress Ratio (Si)	0.4438-0.4453	0.44545-0.44665	0.446-0.4704
	Ultimate Bearing Capacity (Qult)	3078.5-3309.1	3099.2-3309	3432-18207
	Allowable Bearing Capacity (Qa)	1539.2-1654.5	1549.6-1655.1	1716-9103

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

. The results obtained from the shot records and their interpretation indicate that, the P-wave velocities are determined as follows: 1) very highly weathered Sand and Gravels at the top having P-wave velocity range of (V_{p1} =827 - 848.7 m/s), in which the thickness of this layer is ranged from 1m to 2 m.) The first layer velocity range of (V_{p2} =829-848.8 m/s), corresponds to Loose sand with small rounded flint pebbles and fossil wood and the thickness of this layer from 9 m to 14 m), the second layer is characterized by a high seismic velocity range of (V_{p3} =860-1553.7 m/s), that layer corresponds to Sands and gravels with some basalt flows. The Shear wave velocities are illustrated in the velocity distribution maps. The surface layer is a thin layer must be removed it, where the foundation level depth should be below it as well as being a less competence layer where the velocity of the surface layer varies from (436.1 and 446.9 m/s). Also

the velocity of the first layer is ranged from (437.1 and 446 m/s)), where this layer is less competence materials, this layer must be removed before putting the foundations for the buildings which increase about 450 dyne/cm^2 which can be used in entertainment facilities such as swimming pools and similar. The velocity of the second layer is ranged from (452.6 and 799.4 m/s) where this layer has been bearing capacity for buildings ranging between 750 dyne/cm^2 to 1200 dyne/cm^2 . Using the fundamental equations, the following parameters such as: shear wave velocity, rock density and material indices, which are represented by N-value, Poisson's ratio, material index and stress ratio can be calculated. This study suggests a classification to foundation rock material in the study area for engineering purposes based on all the calculated moduli and parameters.

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