

# Secugrid® - Bridging of mining voids at Day-Care Centre "Albrecht-Dürer-Straße" - Germany

## Bridging of Mining Voids

- **Project Name**  
Bridging of mining voids at Day-Care Centre  
"Albrecht-Dürer-Straße", Halle (Saale), Germany
- **Designer**  
LA21 Landschaftsarchitektur, Nordhausen, Germany
- **Design geogrid reinforcement**  
BBG Bauberatung Geokunststoffe GmbH & Co. KG, Espelkamp, Germany
- **Main contractor**  
Goldbeck Nordost GmbH, Leipzig, Germany
- **Geotechnical engineer and consulting**  
Baugrundbüro Klein, Beratende Ingenieure,  
Halle (Saale), Germany
- **Detailed planning and structural analysis for geogrid installation**  
G.E.O.S. Ingenieurgesellschaft mbH, NL Halle (Saale), Germany
- **Product**  
Secugrid® 200/40 R6





## Challenge

The new day-care centre “Albrecht-Dürer-Strasse” in Halle (Saale), Germany will provide room for 200 kids and is part of a municipal investment programme. The site is located on the edge of a 150-year-old mine. A special underground mining technique called “room and pillar caving” was used to extract brown coal. This method does not fill the created cavities after extraction of the coal. As a result, the overlying rock layers settle after the mining operations and fill the cavities. It can, however, not be precluded that residual cavities may cause subsidence at the surface of the terrain. Based on these findings, safety measures had to be taken in the area of the open space of the day-care centre.

## Solution

During the previous use of the day-care centre’s open space as a primary school sports field, repeated sinkholes appeared in the years 1989-2011, which indicated the described subsidence risks.

Based on ground investigations, mining voids with diameters of up to 3m had to be considered in the foundation design for the open space of the day-care centre.

For the entire outdoor area, a geogrid solution was recommended to bridge any future mining void safely.

The design of the required geogrid reinforcement was carried out using the BGE method according to the German (EBGEO) design guideline. Considering a soil coverage height of 1m above the reinforcement and a maximum surface deflection of 32cm, a biaxial spanning of the area at risk with a uniaxial Secugrid® geogrid was finally proposed. In the main stress direction (longitudinal direction), the geogrids were horizontally anchored with a length of 2.6m outside the potential subsidence area. In the transverse direction, a 50cm wide overlap of the geogrid panels was required. Since the area at risk of collapsing extended into a zone directly facing the buildings, horizontal anchorage of the geogrid with the required length was not possible. Alternatively, the 1st geogrid layer was anchored with its main stress direction to the building foundation using a terminal strip in combination with anchor bolts. After installing the longitudinal and transverse re-inforcement layers, a 30cm cover of well-graded aggregate followed by a 50cm thick layer of fill and a final 20cm thick topsoil layer covered the Secugrid® geogrids. The chosen geosynthetic solution allowed a fast and cost-effective solution to protect the open area of the day-care centre against future sinkholes.