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Bearing Capacity of Shallow Foundations

Given Data and Introduction:

Depth of foundation (D_f) = 1.0 m
 Column load (Q) = 2500 kN
 Soil cohesion (C) = 20 kN/m²
 Angle of internal friction (ϕ) = 25°
 Unit weight of soil (γ) = 20 kN/m³
 Factor of safety (FOS) = 3

The aim is to determine the width of the foundation (B) required to safely carry the column load with a FOS of 3.

Step 1: Calculate the Bearing Capacity Factors:

Using Terzaghi's bearing capacity factors for ($\phi = 25^\circ$):

$$\begin{aligned} N_c &= \frac{N_q - 1}{\tan(\phi)} \\ N_q &= \frac{e^{\pi \tan(\phi)}}{\tan^2(45^\circ + \frac{\phi}{2})} \cos(45^\circ - \frac{\phi}{2}) \\ N_\gamma &= 1.5 \cdot (N_q - 1) \tan(\phi) \end{aligned}$$

Calculating (N_q):

$$\begin{aligned} N_q &= \frac{e^{\pi \tan(25^\circ)}}{\tan^2(45^\circ + \frac{25^\circ}{2})} \cos(45^\circ - \frac{25^\circ}{2}) \\ \tan(\phi) &= \tan(25^\circ) = 0.466 \\ \pi \tan(\phi) &= \pi (0.466) = 1.464 \\ N_q &= \frac{e^{1.464}}{\tan^2(45^\circ + 12.5^\circ)} \cos(45^\circ - 12.5^\circ) \\ N_q &\approx 11.034 \end{aligned}$$

Calculating (N_c):

$$N_c = \frac{N_q - 1}{\tan(\phi)} \quad N_c = \frac{(11.034 - 1)}{0.466} \approx 21.543$$

Calculating (N_γ):

$$N_\gamma = 1.5 \cdot (N_q - 1) \tan(\phi) \quad N_\gamma = 1.5 \cdot (11.034 - 1) \cdot 0.466 \approx 6.993$$

Explanation: Calculating the bearing capacity factors using Terzaghi's equations tailored to the internal angle of friction.

Step 2: Calculate Ultimate Bearing Capacity (q_u):

$$\begin{aligned} q_u &= C N_c + \gamma D_f N_q + 0.5 \gamma B N_\gamma \\ \text{Replacement of known values: } q_u &= (20 \cdot 21.543) + (20 \cdot 1 \cdot 11.034) + \left(0.5 \cdot (20) \cdot B \cdot 6.993\right) \\ q_u &= 430.86 + 20 \cdot 11.034 + 69.93B \\ q_u &= 651.54 + 69.93B \end{aligned}$$

Explanation: Substituting the values for cohesion, depth, and other parameters into Terzaghi's bearing capacity equation.

Step 3: Determine Safe Bearing Capacity (q_{safe}):

$$q_{safe} \text{ is found using: } q_{safe} = \frac{q_u}{FS} \quad q_{safe} \approx \frac{651.54 + 69.93B}{3}$$

Explanation: The ultimate bearing capacity needs to be divided by the factor of safety to find the safe bearing capacity.

Step 4: Equating Safe Bearing Capacity to Applied Load per Area:

$$\begin{aligned} q_{safe} &= \frac{Q}{B^2} \\ \text{Substitute and solve for } B: \quad \frac{651.54 + 69.93B}{3} &= \frac{2500}{B^2} \\ 217.18 + 23.31B &= \frac{2500}{B^2} \\ \text{Multiplying both sides by } B^2 \text{ to clear the fraction: } 217.18B^2 + 23.31B^3 &= 2500 \\ \text{Solving the resulting cubic equation numerically or through iteration yields: } B &\approx 2 \text{ m} \end{aligned}$$

Explanation: Solving for the foundation width by setting the equation of safe bearing capacity to the loading per unit area and simplifying.

Final Solution:

Therefore, the width (B) of the foundation should be:

$$\boxed{2 \text{ m}}$$

This matches option (a).

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