CLAIMS:

1. A downhole expandable apparatus (10) for restricting ingress of solids in a wellbore (50), comprising:

a base pipe (26), wherein the base pipe (26) comprises at least one aperture (30) in a wall thereof;

an open-cell fluid permeable expandable foam material (28) mounted directly on the base pipe (26) configurable between a non-expanded and an expanded configuration, wherein the fluid permeable expandable foam material (28) extends across the at least one aperture (30) of the base pipe (26); and

a degradable sleeve (14) configurable between a first configuration in which the degradable sleeve (14) retains the expandable foam material (28) in the non-expanded configuration, and a second configuration in which the degradable sleeve (14) has been at least partially degraded to permit the expandable foam material (28) to radially expand towards the expanded configuration and into engagement with a surface in the wellbore (50), wherein the degradable sleeve (14) comprises a textile material.

2. The downhole expandable apparatus (10) of claim 1, wherein the degradable sleeve (14) is configured to at least partially degrade by at least on of corrosion, melting, biodegradation, hydrolysis and dissolution of the degradable sleeve.

3. The downhole expandable apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein the at least partial degradation of the degradable sleeve (14) is initiated by at least one of a wellbore fluid and a fluid provided from a source external to wellbore (50).

4. The downhole expandable apparatus (10) of any preceding claim, wherein the apparatus (10) is provided with a fluid volume configured to hold a fluid configured to at least partially degrade the degradable sleeve (14).

5. The downhole expandable apparatus (10) of any preceding claim, wherein the material is a woven material;

or wherein the material is a non-woven material.

6. The downhole expandable apparatus (10) of any preceding claim, wherein the material comprises at least one of polylactic acid (PLA), polyglycolic acid (PGA),

poly(lactic-glycolic) acid (PLGA), polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), polyhydroxyalkanoate (PHA), polybutylene adipete terephthalate (PBAT) and polybutylene succinate (PBS), and their derivatives, or a combination thereof.

7. The downhole expandable apparatus (10) of any preceding claim, wherein the degradable sleeve (14) is formed of or comprises a plurality of layers.

8. The downhole expandable apparatus (10) according any preceding claim, wherein the base pipe (26) comprises a plurality of apertures (30) in a wall thereof, and the plurality of apertures (30) are substantially evenly spaced along the base pipe (26);

wherein optionally at least one of the plurality of apertures (30) is a louvered aperture.

9. The downhole expandable apparatus (10) of any preceding claims, wherein the at least one aperture (30) comprises an inflow control device;

wherein optionally the inflow control device is an autonomous inflow control device.

10. The downhole expandable apparatus (10) of any preceding claim, wherein the degradable sleeve (14) is fluid permeable;

or wherein the degradable sleeve (14) is non-permeable to fluids.

11. The downhole expandable apparatus (10) of any preceding claim, configured to form part of a completion string (58).

12. A method for restricting ingress of solids in a wellbore (50), comprising:

positioning the downhole expandable apparatus (10) of any preceding claim in a wellbore;

at least partially degrading the degradable sleeve (14) of the downhole expandable apparatus (10) to allow the expandable foam material (28)to radially expand towards an expanded configuration and into engagement with a surface in the wellbore (50).

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising providing a fluid downhole to at least partially degrade the degradable sleeve (14), and thereby allow expansion of the expandable foam (28);

optionally comprising providing a fluid downhole to at least partially degrade the degradable sleeve (14) by releasing a fluid from a fluid volume provided on the downhole expandable apparatus (10);

and/or comprising degrading the degradable sleeve (14) with a fluid present within the wellbore (50).

14. A method for repairing/plugging a defect in a sand screen or tubular, comprising:

positioning a downhole expandable apparatus (10) in a wellbore (50) adjacent a defect, the expandable apparatus (10) comprising a base pipe (26) comprising at least one aperture in a wall thereof, and an open-cell expandable foam material (28) mounted directly thereon, wherein the fluid permeable expandable foam material (28) extends across the at least one aperture (30) of the base pipe (26), the expandable foam material (28) being retained in a non-expanded configuration by a degradable sleeve (14), wherein the degradable sleeve (14) comprises a textile material;

at least partially degrading the degradable sleeve (14) of the downhole expandable apparatus (10) to configure the expandable foam material (28) to an expanded configuration, in which the expandable foam material (28) is expanded so as to contact the defect.

15. A method for stabilising a subsurface formation, comprising:

positioning a downhole expandable downhole apparatus (10) in a wellbore (50) adjacent a subsurface formation, the expandable apparatus (10) comprising a base pipe (26), wherein the base pipe comprises at least one aperture (30) in a wall thereof, and an open-cell expandable foam material (28) mounted directly thereon, wherein the expandable foam material (28) extends across the at least one aperture (30) of the base pipe (26), the expandable foam material (28) being retained in a non-expanded configuration by a degradable sleeve (14), wherein the degradable sleeve (14) comprises a textile material;

at least partially degrading a degradable sleeve (14) of the downhole apparatus (14) to configure the expandable foam material (28) to an expanded configuration, in which the expandable foam material (28) is expanded so as to contact the subsurface formation.