CLAIMS:

1. An explosive composition for soft and wet ground comprising:

   an explosive comprising an oxidiser component in the aqueous phase of a water in oil emulsion or a water gel; and

   a bulking agent comprising discrete particles of a water-soluble combustible substance;

   wherein the open cup density of the explosive composition is less than 1.15 g/cm^3; and

   migration of the water-soluble combustible substance from the discrete particles to the oxidiser component is inhibited.

2. The explosive composition of claim 1, wherein the water-soluble combustible substance has a negative oxygen balance.

3. The explosive composition of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the water-soluble combustible substance is an agricultural substance.

4. The explosive composition of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the water-soluble combustible substance is a fertiliser selected from the group consisting of urea, ammonium sulphate, diammonium phosphate, monoammonium phosphate, calcium ammonium nitrate, zinc sulphate, ammonium sulphate nitrate and mixtures thereof.

5. The explosive composition of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the bulking agent is provided in the form of discrete particles having smooth outer surfaces.

6. The explosive composition of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the bulking agent is provided in the form of prills or granules.

7. The explosive composition of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the discrete particles of bulking agent have a rounded shape and an average particle size of between about 1 mm and about 4 mm.

8. The explosive composition of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the discrete particles of bulking agent are solid.

9. The explosive composition of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the discrete particles of bulking agent have a density of between about 0.7 and about 1.4 g/cc.

10. The explosive composition of any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the oxidiser component comprises a supersaturated solution of an oxidiser.

11. The explosive composition of any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the oxidiser component comprises an oxidiser which is selected from the group consisting of ammonium nitrate, sodium nitrate, calcium nitrate, ammonium perchlorate and mixtures thereof.

12. The explosive composition of any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the composition comprises between about 50% and about 99% (by weight) of the explosive.

13. The explosive composition of any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the composition comprises between about 1% and about 50% (by weight) of the bulking agent.

14. The explosive composition of any one of claims 1 to 13, further comprising a sensitising agent, wherein the sensitising agent is a density reducing agent.

15. The explosive composition of claim 14, wherein the density reducing agent is a chemical gassing agent comprising a salt of an alkali metal nitrite and an acid, whereby nitrogen gas is generated upon combination of the salt and acid.

16. The explosive composition of claim 1, wherein the open cup density of the explosive composition is between 0.9 – 1.15 g/cm^3.

17. The explosive composition of any one of claims 1 to 16 when used in soft wet ground.

18. A method for delivering an explosive composition to a borehole, the method comprising the steps of:

mixing an explosive comprising an oxidiser component in a water in oil emulsion or a water gel with a bulking agent comprising discrete particles of a combustible and water soluble substance, to form an explosive composition with an open cup density less than 1.15 g/cm^3; and

delivering the explosive composition to the borehole.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the explosive composition is sensitised by adding a sensitising agent to the explosive before it is mixed with the bulking agent and delivered to the borehole.

20. The method of claim 18 or claim 19, wherein the explosive and the discrete particles of bulking agent are stored before mixing in separate compartments of a mobile processing unit, wherein the discrete particles of bulking agent are stored in a compartment of the mobile processing unit typically reserved for ammonium nitrate prills.

21. A method of reducing post-blast fume, the method comprising the step of delivering an explosive composition to a borehole;

wherein the explosive composition comprises discrete particles of a water-soluble combustible substance having a negative oxygen balance;

the discrete particles are distributed throughout a water-in-oil emulsion or a water gel; and

the open cup density of the explosive composition is less than 1.15 g/cm^3.

22. The method of any one of claims 18 to 21, wherein the explosive composition is the explosive composition of any one of claims 1 to 17.