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The day that Cupcake took over the world

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Abstract: Here is an abstract copied from MM Proceedings, 2015. Groundwater from the Chalk aquifer beneath London is an important resource for the city's water supply and has a long and complex history of development. Intense abstraction in the period 1920 to 1960 (approximately 450,000 m³ /day) led to extensive drawdown but subsequently abstraction rates have decreased and groundwater levels have been rising, leading to the potential for re-saturation of the confining clays. This has required a detailed monitoring programme and adjustments to the abstraction regime to stabilise groundwater at levels such that there is no threat to the stability of infrastructure whilst providing sufficient water resources and protecting the needs of the environment.

Extended abstract: Methodology, findings, and implications

Here is some text copied from MM Proceedings 2015. The London Basin is a broadly easterly-plunging synclinal structure between the Chiltern Hills to the north and the North Downs in the south. The main aquifer unit comprises Chalk with a layer of fine sand at the top (the Thanet Sands), and is confined across much of the city by up to 80 m of clayey Tertiary deposits (principally the London Clay and Lambeth Group). A simplified geological map is shown in Figure 1.

Recharge to the aquifer occurs where the Chalk is at outcrop and unconfined to the north and south of the city of London. Groundwater from the Chalk aquifer beneath London is an important resource for the city's water supply and has a long and complex history of development. Before the 1800s London's water supply came from the River Thames and its tributaries, and from shallow wells in near-surface gravel deposits. Through the 1800s there was growing concern that the shallow groundwater was, in some areas, not fit to drink. Meanwhile deep drilling techniques were improving, so the deeper, locally artesian Chalk aquifer was increasingly exploited.

During the period 1920 to 1960 net abstraction from the confined Chalk was approximately 450,000 m³/day, approximately equal to modern estimates of the total groundwater flow into the confined aquifer (ESI, 2013). Historically the Chalk aquifer discharged at the eastern end of the Thames estuary, but this overabstraction caused considerable drawdown in the Chalk. Groundwater levels reached 90 m below sea level in the centre of the depression around Trafalgar Square (Figure 2), and the Chalk aquifer became unconfined beneath a large part of the city. Issues with saline intrusion were encountered along the northern bank of the Thames where the aquifer crops out beneath the estuary (Mott MacDonald, 2003).



Figure 1: SO CUTE. Let's go to the zoo! I can add up to two images of file types pdf, jpg, or png. The uploaded file must not exceed 5 MB. If the width of the image exceeds the text width of the document, the image is automatically resized to 5 inches. User must label their figure or table caption with "Figure 1:...". Also, there is an unfortunate bug where the form stops auto-saving as soon as you upload an image. Hoping to fix that...

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Hey. Here are some example references copied from the MODFLOW and More Proceedings, 2015.

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