

How do GW models contribute to environmental outcomes?

or

'Bring out your benefits!'

25th November 2010, 10am - 4pm, Priory Rooms, central Birmingham

The UK Groundwater Modellers' Forum is holding its 9th workshop on the subject of maximising the environmental outcomes from the groundwater models that are built in the UK.

Background

Over the next 5 years it is inevitable that there will be fewer resources available to fund groundwater modelling projects. The groundwater modelling community must be able to clearly articulate the benefits and the environmental outcomes that have resulted from the regional groundwater modelling programme, based on real examples. If policy makers understand the benefits and outcomes that have already been delivered they will be able to make appropriate use of groundwater modelling in the future, despite the restraints on resources.

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- Identify real examples of benefits in terms of £ saved to inform policy makers;
- Identify real examples of environmental outcomes that have come from groundwater modelling projects to inform policy makers;
- Identify what information policy makers and stakeholders need in order to make wise use of groundwater modelling in the future;
- Identify what potential benefits from existing groundwater models there are that still need to be realised and how we might exploit them.

Programme

Invited Presentations	
MORNING	Introduction: National Plan for GW resource assessment; based on the benefits and outcomes achieved from past and current groundwater resource assessment programs. <i>Mark Whiteman, Environment Agency</i>
	Key Note Speech 1: The Anglian GW modelling program: What real benefits have been provided by the Groundwater Programme? <i>Jan Van Wonderen, Mott MacDonald</i>
	Key Note Speech 2: Use & benefits of Southern Region GW models – past, present & future. <i>Alison Matthews, Environment Agency</i>
	“Bring out your benefits” soapbox session - what benefits have <u>YOU</u> had from groundwater models? Each talk will be no more than 3 slides and 5 minutes, focusing on the environmental outcomes and financial benefits that have occurred, or failed to occur, from a specific piece of modelling work. If you have examples or a story to tell that will help the groundwater modelling community improve the benefits and outcomes from our work please indicate on the booking form or contact David Johnson, Rob Soley or Jan van Wonderen to arrange a slot in the program. There is time for talks on a range of realised or potential benefits (e.g. wetlands, SPZ, ASR, GW flooding, diffuse pollution etc) and it would be ideal if some are not based on work done for the Environment Agency. The talks will be followed by an open discussion which may stretch until after lunch, depending on the response.

LUNCH	Buffet lunch provided
AFTERNOON	<p>Breakout group discussions, with topics/questions of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify all the potential benefits that could come from groundwater modelling work with examples where you have them. Start with the list prepared by the organising committee and add and delete as appropriate. 2. Can we get the environmental outcomes without using groundwater models by using simpler tools? If modelling is cut can we deliver similar environmental benefits without using models? What outcomes will we not be able to deliver without models? 3. Is our current view of regional groundwater modelling too inflexible? Do we need to encourage cheap and cheerful modelling? Or a proliferation of sub models based on the regional models to make the most of our investments in groundwater modelling? <hr/> <p>Feedback from breakout groups, discussion, collation of ideas and suggestions</p> <hr/> <p>Close</p>

We strongly encourage attendees to share experiences (both good and bad) and knowledge of the topics. The session before lunch and the breakout groups after lunch provide the opportunity for this. The breakout groups will each include experts and senior groundwater modelling practitioners. Within the breakout groups we will also consider “Where do we want/need to go next to improve our capability in this topic”?

The final plenary session provides feedback of findings from the break-out sessions, and for further discussion (and agreement) on the proposals for action.

Participants & Booking

The workshop is open to all who are actively involved in groundwater modelling and those who benefit from the models. We anticipate that BGS, CEH, water companies, consultants, universities and the Environment Agency would be amongst those taking part.

Places are limited to 50 participants in total which will be allocated on a first come-first served basis. Should the meeting become over-subscribed a limit of 3 people per organisation and 2 people per Agency Region will be applied.

Unfortunately there will be no ‘entry on the day’ and only pre-booked attendance can be accepted.

Cost £70 per head incl. buffet lunch. A small number of places for PhD students are available at a cost of £10 (first come, first served). To book a place send a cheque and the attached booking form to Sue Cheslett **before Thursday 9th September 2010**. Entry will be by advance payment only.

If there are insufficient numbers booked by 9th September 2010, the workshop will be cancelled and cheques returned. If you book and your organisation has already made three bookings, your name will be put on a reserve list and you will be offered a place if available in the 2 weeks preceding the event.

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To book a place send a cheque for £70 (PhD students £10) made payable to “ESI Ltd” and the attached booking form to **Sue Cheslett, to arrive by 9th September 2010**. Alternatively visit <http://www.esinternational.com/groundwater-modellers-forum.html> and book on line. Unfortunately there will be no ‘entry on the day’ and only pre-booked attendance can be accepted.

Contact: New Zealand House, 160 Abbey Foregate, **Shrewsbury** SY2 6FD; Tel: 01743 276 100; Fax: 01743 248600; email: SusannahCheslett@esinternational.com

Name	Organisation	email address
Please book us places on the workshop		
Cheque for £70 x number of participants enclosed (up to 3 per organisation)		

Please also indicate your preference for which break-out group you would like to participate in: mark your first (1) and second (2) preference. If some groups are too ‘over-subscribed’, it is possible you may have to participate in another group.

Name	Q1?	Q2?	Q3?

Bring out your benefits! Do you have an example of benefits already realised – in terms of financial savings or environmental outcomes? Or of potential future benefits & uses of existing models? If you would like to present in the soapbox session (3 slides & 5 minutes max), please summarise below – the organisers will be in touch to confirm you have a slot.

Name of proposed soap-boxer:

Telephone number:

E-mail:

Brief summary of benefit:

Please copy if you would like to bring more than one example (we can’t guarantee that everyone will get a slot but we want to encourage a big initial response – THANKS!).