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## Geology of London : special memoir for 1:50000 geological sheets 256 (north London), 257 (Romford), 270 (south London), and 271 (Dartford) (England and Wales)

**Ellison, R.A.; Woods, M.A.; Allen, D.J.; Forster, A.; Pharaoh, T.C.; King, C..** 2004 *Geology of London : special memoir for 1:50000 geological sheets 256 (north London), 257 (Romford), 270 (south London), and 271 (Dartford) (England and Wales)*. Nottingham, UK, British Geological Survey (Memoir (Sheet) British Geological Survey (England & Wales)).

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### Abstract/Summary

This book brings together information that results from research on the ground beneath the streets of London. It describes how they came to be there, and how they impinge on the life of those who live and work in the city, in its maintenance and development. The development of London is intimately tied to the ground conditions. The original settlement was originally a crossing point on the River Thames in an area of dry land where sand and gravel banks were surrounded by rather boggy ground. A supply of gravel and brick clay helped with the early infrastructure development, and much later the extensive underground sewerage system grew because of the ease of excavating the London Clay. Water was always readily available, initially from riverside springs and wells, and later from underground Chalk. This explanation of the strata that underlie London gives an insight into the geological history of the city over the last million years. Over the past 200 years, boreholes have explored the deeper layers and countless geologists have systematically investigated the near-surface strata in quarries and excavations. The geological history includes periods of earth movement, inundation and the development of coastal mudflats and the effects of great ice ages. Exploration for oil and gas in the North Sea has benefited from a better understanding of the rocks beneath London, and their geological history. Effective use of water resources, efficient ground engineering for buildings and infrastructure, and sustainable planning and development are all founded on the use of information about the structure of the ground. This book provides the background information for the maintenance of good practice in these areas. Some aspects of the ground that have in the past caused difficulties. Environmental concerns such as the legacy of contamination and the recycling of water are issues that will increase in importance in this century. The fundamental for dealing with these concerns are presented in this book, and on the associated 1:50 000 scale geological maps.

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