

minerals



CAPITA SYMONDS

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environmental & engineering services to the UK quarrying industries

Recent and emerging legislation, from the European Water Framework and Mining Waste Directives to the Water Act 2003 and the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, have created a completely new environmental 'landscape' for the UK quarrying industry. Increasingly stringent requirements for new proposals have to be supported by robust evidence regarding potential impacts and the need for mineral extraction.

Capita Symonds (formerly Travers Morgan) has been at the forefront of government-funded research in these areas since 1992, but has equally long-standing practical experience in assisting mineral operators to comply with changing regulatory requirements and to achieve environmental improvements as an integral part of their business.

abstraction licence applications

biodiversity, ecology and hydroecology

environmental impact assessments

expert witness services

flood risk assessments

geodiversity audits

geotechnical assessments

groundwater & surface water monitoring

groundwater modelling

habitat surveys

highways, rail & infrastructure engineering

hydrogeological impact appraisals

landscape & quarry restoration design

mineral planning applications

mineral resource assessments

noise, dust, air quality

practical mitigation options and strategies

quarry dewatering

transport planning

water feature surveys

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Torr Quarry Environmental Statement

We provided specialist input on strategic need, quarry restoration, transport and relative sustainability compared to alternative options for this successful planning application and environmental statement for the extension of England's largest limestone quarry at Torr Works in Somerset.



Stonecastle Farm & Postern Park Groundwater Modelling

Working for Lafarge Aggregates and CEMEX UK, we developed a comprehensive groundwater model of a length of the River Medway floodplain in Kent, in order to demonstrate the likely effects of dewatering at these quarries on a public water supply source located in between.

Geodiversity and Geological/Geomorphological Conservation

We have recently provided geodiversity input to an environmental statement for the extension of Aggregate Industries' Cambusbeg Quarry in Scotland, and have undertaken geodiversity audits at numerous hard rock and sand & gravel sites throughout England, for Tarmac, Hanson, Smiths Bletchington and other operators.



Geotechnical Assessments (Quarries Regulations 1999)

We have undertaken numerous geotechnical assessments for sand and gravel sites in south east England operated by Lafarge Aggregates and CEMEX UK. This work has ranged from simple desk studies and field observations to site investigations of potentially significant hazards.

Mineral Resource Assessment

We have experience in the design, supervision and interpretation of mineral resource investigations, such as this example of core drilling for a potential new high PSV gritstone quarry in South Wales. At a more strategic level we have undertaken two national surveys of high PSV aggregate resources, in 1992/93 and 2003/04.



Transport, Traffic and Highway Engineering

Since 1989 we have worked closely with Hanson (formerly ARC) at Whatley Quarry to provide a wide range of environmental services. After preparing the environmental statement for a major extension of the quarry we have continued to assist with local traffic and highway issues, including the closure of a minor road to allow the extension to be implemented.

Minerals and the Water Environment Research

Our recent research in this area has led to the publication of an updated Guide to Good Practice and recommendations for government policy on the subject, together with protocols for managing the interface between planning and licensing for quarry dewatering, and practical guidance on the design and use of mitigation measures.



Quarrying, Flood Risk & Biodiversity

This smaller, ALSF funded research project provided a timely demonstration of our ability to integrate a wide range of closely allied in-house skills from state of the art flood modelling and a practical understanding of quarry design principles to specialist expertise in ecology, hydro-ecology and biodiversity.

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