First Review of the Regional Technical Statements for North Wales and South Wales. (Welsh Government, 2013 – 2014). 15-month review and revision of the Regional Technical Statements for the North Wales and South Wales Regional Aggregate Working Parties. The final ‘First Review’ documents were issued for political endorsement by elected Members in March 2014 and will be available on the Cuesta Website in April.

West Sussex Wharves & Railheads Study. (West Sussex County Council, 2013). Working in conjunction with Land Use Consultants to advise the Mineral Planning Authority on the capacity requirements for safeguarding wharves and railheads, based on an assessment of future aggregates demand within the County.

Monmouthshire Local Development Plan Examination. (Monmouthshire County Council, 2013). Provision of evidence regarding the safeguarding of aggregate resources within Monmouthshire, at the Minerals and Waste session of the LDP Examination, June 2013.

Torfaen Local Development Plan Examination. (Torfaen County Borough Council, 2013). Attendance at the Minerals and Waste session of the LDP Examination, in May 2013, to support the Council’s reliance on Cuesta’s previous (2009) report on aggregate safeguarding.

Preferred Area for Limestone Extraction at Trefil, Blaenau Gwent (Gryphonn Quarries Limited, 2012). Evidence was provided to support the inclusion of a Preferred Area for future mineral extraction adjacent to the existing Trefil Quarry in Blaenau Gwent. Evidence was presented at the LDP Examination and the Preferred Area was approved by the Inspector.

Assessing the Impact of Aggregate Extraction on the Historic Environment of Cumbria (Oxford Archaeology North / English Heritage, 2012 - 2014). Specialist minerals and geological input to this 18-month project for English Heritage. Advice was given on the priorities for archaeological investigation ahead of future mineral extraction.

Mountsorrel Quarry Planning Application and Environmental Statement (Lafarge Tarmac 2011 - 2013). Evidence prepared regarding the strategic need for further permitted reserves at this major, rail-linked granite quarry in Leicestershire. Mountsorrel supplies high quality concreting aggregate by rail into Eastern England, London and the South East.

South Downs National Park - Soft Sand Study (SDNPA, 2012). Technical Director for this study which provided information to support the development of new apportionments for soft sand provision between the newly-created South Downs National Park Authority and the adjoining MPAs of East Sussex, West Sussex and Hampshire.

Managing Landscape Change resulting from Mineral Extraction in North Yorkshire (North Yorkshire County Council and English Heritage, 2011 - 2012). Technical Director for this innovative project which covered the whole of North Yorkshire, excluding the National Parks, and provided an evidence base on the sensitivities to landscape change likely to be associated with future quarrying activity.

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Torr Quarry Environmental Statement *(Aggregate Industries, 2009 - 2010).* Assessment of the need for further mineral extraction and a review of alternatives at this strategically important, rail-linked limestone quarry in the eastern Mendips. The quarry supplies crushed rock aggregate by rail to depots throughout the South East.

South West Sub-Regional Apportionment Options for Future Aggregates Supply *(South West Councils, 2009 - 2010).* Technical Director for this follow-up to Capita Symonds’ 2004 - 2005 study for the former South West Regional Assembly. Advice was given relating to contributions to future supply from various different aggregate types and resource blocks.

Hard Rock and Sand & Gravel Safeguarding Areas in Ynys Môn *(Isle of Anglesey Council, 2009 - 2010).* Identification of Hard Rock and Sand & Gravel Safeguarding Areas for inclusion within the Ynys Môn Local Development Plan.

Minerals Planning Application – Reach Lane Quarry *(Central Bedfordshire Council, 2009).* Independent technical review of an application for the extraction of silica sands, focusing on the specific characteristics of the various sand units in relation to end-use specifications.

The Restoration and Aftercare of Coal and Aggregates Workings in Wales *(Welsh Assembly Government, 2009).* Rapid review of the extent and adequacy of restoration and aftercare at opencast coal and aggregate minerals sites in Wales which had ceased working, either permanently or temporarily, within the preceding 10 year period.

An Ecosystems Approach to Long Term Minerals Planning in the Mendip Hills *(Defra/Natural England / Somerset County Council, 2008 - 2010).* Two-stage project which demonstrated how the Ecosystems Approach could be used to develop an innovative, strategic and holistic framework for planning the long term future of sustainable aggregate extraction and restoration in the Mendip Hills of Somerset.

Mineral Allocations and Safeguarding of Aggregate Resources in SE Wales *(Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent, Newport & Monmouthshire Councils, 2008 - 2009).* Cuesta was appointed jointly by the four unitary authorities in 'former Gwent' to advise on limestone, sandstone and sand & gravel aggregate resources for safeguarding in their Local Development Plans.

Bedfordshire & Luton Minerals Development Framework: Silica Sand Technical Study *(Bedfordshire County Council, 2007 - 2008).* Follow-up study to Cuesta’s earlier work on aggregate landbanks within the County, focusing on the specialist uses of and requirements for silica sand.

Tir Pentwys Minerals Planning Application *(Torfaen County Borough Council, 2007 - 2008).* Technical advice in relation to the determination of a planning application to extract high specification aggregates from the spoil tip of a former opencast coal mining operation.

Evaluation of the Regional Aggregate Working Parties (RAWPs) in Wales *(Welsh Assembly Government, 2007 - 2008).* Research to examine the workings of the managed aggregate supply system in Wales, over the period since devolution.

For further details, visit: www.cuesta-consulting.com
Ghyll Scaur Quarry Environmental Statement *(Aggregate Industries, 2007).* Project Director for Capita Symonds’ input to this major planning application and Environmental Statement seeking a time extension of the existing planning permission at this strategically important high specification aggregates quarry in Cumbria.

Reasons for the Decline in Aggregate Reserves in England *(Department of Communities and Local Government and MIRO, 2007 - 2008).* Technical Director of this project which examined the reasons for the observed decline in permitted reserves of sand & gravel and crushed rock aggregate reserves in England.


Bedfordshire & Luton Minerals and Waste Development Framework: Aggregates Landbank Study *(Bedfordshire County Council, 2005 - 2006).* Detailed assessment of the availability of concreting aggregate, building sand and specialist silica sand reserves within the County and advice on maintaining separate landbanks for each mineral type.

ALSF Science Co-ordinator - Land Based Aggregates *(Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 2005 - 2007).* Appointed by Defra to co-ordinate environmental and technical research on land-based aggregates funded by the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF), for the period from January 2005 to March 2007.


Managing the Interface between Planning and Licensing with respect to Quarry Dewatering *(DCLG, the Environment Agency and MIRO, 2004 - 2007).* Development of a procedural framework for managing the interface between the planning and licensing regimes when the present licensing exemptions on quarry dewatering are lifted.

Expert Witness on Geology and Geomorphology at the South Downs National Park Public Inquiry. *(Countryside Agency, 2004).* Expert Witness on geological and geomorphological issues, focusing on the unifying links between areas of contrasting bedrock types. Evidence was presented to the Inquiry in December 2004.


Optimising the Efficiency of Recharge Features as a Mechanism for Mitigating the Impacts of Quarry Dewatering. (MIRO, Environment Agency, Tarmac Southern, Lafarge Aggregates, RMC Aggregates UK, & Hanson, 2003 - 2004). 18-month research project involving documentation of case study information and developing and monitoring a number of innovative experimental sites over a 12 month period.

The Influence of Aggregate Quarrying in River Floodplains on Flood Risk and Biodiversity (MIRO, Lafarge Aggregates & RMC Aggregates UK, 2003 - 2004). Production of a research report on minimising the adverse effects of quarrying on flood risk and biodiversity in river floodplains, and on maximising the associated potential benefits.


Comparative Environmental Assessment of Land and Marine Sand and Gravel. (Welsh Assembly Government, 2001 - 2002). Detailed follow-up to the earlier work by Symonds Group on land-based sand and gravel resources, this work examined the relative sustainability implications of alternative scenarios for the supply of aggregates focusing, in particular, on the comparison between marine dredging and land-based extraction.

Woburn Fuller’s Earth Public Inquiry (Bedfordshire County Council, 2001). Successfully argued Bedfordshire County Council’s case that there was no over-riding need for fuller’s earth extraction at Woburn, at a Public Inquiry following an appeal by Steetley Woburn Bentonite Limited.

Torr Quarry Environmental Statement. (Foster Yeoman Ltd, 1999). Work included analysis of the strategic importance of Torr in supplying aggregates by rail to southeast England; restoration design; traffic and transportation; and a review of alternatives.

Appraisal of Land-Based Sand & Gravel Resources in SE Wales (National Assembly for Wales). Detailed appraisal of potential sand and gravel resources across the whole of industrial South Wales and the Brecon Beacons. Work also included an assessment of alternative supply options, including secondary, recycled and imported aggregates.

Reducing the Effects of Surface Mineral Workings on the Water Environment. (DETR, 1996 - 1998). Principal author of a Guide to Good Practice based on this 2 year review of the effects of surface mineral workings on all aspects of the water environment, and of the methods and effectiveness of different ways of monitoring and mitigating such effects.

High Specification Aggregates for Road Surfacing Materials (Department of the Environment, 1992 - 1993). Project Manager of this major research project, investigating all existing and potential new resources of skid-resistant road surfacing aggregates throughout the UK. Lead author of final report.

Sand & Gravel Resource Assessments for the former Department of the Environment. Research Associate in Engineering Geology Unit at Liverpool University, acting as full time project geologist on sand and gravel resource assessment contract in Warwickshire. Also involved in similar, earlier assessments of sand and gravel resources in Shropshire and Gwynedd.

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