

Whatley Quarry ARC (Now Hanson)

Hanson's super-quarry at Whatley, Somerset works the Carboniferous Limestone and is one of the largest quarries in the UK. Entec has been retained as consultants to Hanson since 1989 advising on many aspects of the water management of the quarry. Initially Entec was commissioned to produce the hydrological / hydrogeological component of the environmental assessment prepared in support of a planning application for an extension to the quarry.

Entec carried out investigations into the claimed derogation of river flows, groundwater abstractions and local springs due to historic dewatering associated with the quarry. The results of these investigations were presented as evidence at a public inquiry in 1992 for which Entec provided a number of expert witnesses. Hanson challenged the Secretary of State's decision against the application and Entec prepared a supporting submission for a High Court hearing although the decision was withdrawn by the Secretary of State before the case went to court. Hanson submitted a modified planning application in 1995 for which Entec prepared a second environmental statement. Following this application Entec was involved in extensive negotiations with the Environment Agency and others to agree the technical basis for a series of Section 106 Agreements to support the application and ensure protection of local hydrogeological features.

The Section 106 Agreements were signed and planning permission was granted in July 1996.

Extensive investigations and negotiations lead to planning permission for super-quarry extension

