

**Environmental
Geotechnical
Specialists**



COAL RISK ASSESSMENT

job number C1653/21/E/2562	date 23/04/2021
site address Berry Moor Farm	
Silkstone Common	
Barnsley	
S75 4RF	
written by C. R. Campion	checked by R. A. Palmer
issued by C. R. Campion	

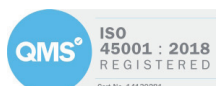
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Report on a Coal Mining Risk Assessment

Location: **Berry Moor Farm**
Silkstone Common, Barnsley, S75 4RF

For: Gary Hensby

Consultants:

Report No. C1653/21/E/2562

Report date: April 2021

For and on behalf of **Rogers Geotechnical Services Ltd**

Charlotte Campion MGeoSci FGS
Geo-environmental Engineer

Rob Palmer MSc FGS ACIEH
Senior Geo-environmental Engineer

1. Introduction

It is understood that as part of the planning application at the site, a Coal Mining Risk Assessment has been requested by the planning authority. Consequently, a desktop study was commissioned in order to assess the risk to the development from coal mining. This report presents the findings of the study.

2. Geological Desk Study

The geological desk study has been undertaken using the following sources of information.

- British Geological Survey map sheet¹.
- British Geological Survey *Geology of Britain Viewer*².
- Coal Authority Consultants Coal Mining Report³.
- British Geological Survey *Borehole Records*⁴.

¹ Sources: British Geological Survey (NERC) Map Sheet 87; Barnsley Solid and Drift Editions

² Sources: British Geological Survey (NERC) *Geology of Britain Viewer* [online resource from www.bgs.ac.uk]

³ Coal Authority Reference: 51002453814001 dated 1st April 2021.

⁴ Sources: British Geological Survey (NERC) *Borehole Records* [online resource from <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/>]



2.1 British Geological Survey Maps and Viewer

The appropriate map sheet for the site and the geology viewer has been examined and the following table presents the indicated geology:

Table 1: Geological Data for the Site

Strata Type	Strata Name ⁵	Previous Name ⁶	Description ³
Superficial Geology	None recorded	-	-
Solid Geology	Silkstone Rock	-	Sandstone unit of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation.

On the geological map, there are no dip indicators relevant to the site (i.e. within 500m of the site or within the same fault block). However, the outcrops recorded on the geological map indicate that the strata underlying the site dips towards the north east at an unknown angle, albeit relatively shallow.

There is one ironstone bed and one coal seam that are shown to outcrop within the local area and are anticipated to underlie the site at shallow depth (<30m depth). These seams are summarised as follows:

Table 2: Summary of Coal Seams Within the Vicinity of the Site.

Seam Name	Seam thickness ^{5*}	Outcrop distance from site ^{5*}	Anticipated depth below site
Claywood Ironstone	2m to 4m ⁷	30m SW	At or near to surface.
Silkstone Coal	0.1m to 2.3m	110m SW	18m ⁺

*All distances are given as approximations only. It should be noted that coal seam thicknesses vary over relatively short distances

*According to CA Consultants Coal Mining Report.

In light of the above and taking into account the regional structural geology and the topography of the area, the Claywood Ironstone and Silkstone Coal seam are anticipated and recorded to be present at depths of less than 30m below the surface of the site.

⁵ Sources: British Geological Survey (NERC) Map Sheets 87; Barnsley; Solid and Drift Edition, and Geology of Britain Viewer [online resource from www.bgs.ac.uk]

⁶ Sources: British Geological Survey (NERC) Lexicon of Named Rock Units [online resource from www.bgs.ac.uk]

⁷ Sources: British Geological Survey (NERC) 2006 Geology & Landscape Southern Britain Programme Internal Report IR/06/135. Author: R. D. Lake. Editor: E. Hough.



2.2 Coal Authority Mines Report

As part of this study a Coal Authority Consultants Coal Mining Report has been obtained. The report is presented as Appendix 2 and for the purposes of discussion has been summarised below:

Table 3: Summary of the Consultant's Coal Mining Report

Has the report highlighted evidence or potential of:			
Ref	Mining Feature	Yes/No	Comments
1	Underground Coal Mining	Yes	Silkstone Coal – 18m depth – Beneath site – 1.47m thickness – last worked 1926. Whinmoor Coal – 68m depth – Beneath Site – 0.86m thickness – last worked 1961.
2	Probable Unrecorded Shallow Workings	No	No probable unrecorded shallow workings.-
3	Spine Roadways at Shallow Depth	No	No spine roadway recorded at shallow depth.
4	Mine Entries	No	None recorded within 100m of the enquiry boundary.
5	Abandoned mine plans	Yes	Plans of abandoned mine workings below the site are suggested to be available by the Coal Authority.
6	Outcrops	No	No outcrops recorded.
7	Geological Faults	No	No faults, fissures or breaklines recorded.
8	Opencast Mines	Yes	Two opencast sites, one to the north west and one to the north east, are recorded within 500 metres of the enquiry boundary.
9	Coal Authority Managed Tips	No	None recorded within 500 metres of the enquiry boundary.
10	Site Investigations	No	None recorded within 50 metres of the enquiry boundary
11	Remediated Sites	No	None recorded within 50 metres of the enquiry boundary.
12	Coal Mining Subsidence	No	The Coal Authority has not received a damage notice or claim for the subject property, or any property within 50 metres of the enquiry boundary, since 31st October 1994. There is no current Stop Notice delaying the start of remedial works or repairs to the property. The Coal Authority is not aware of any request having been made to carry out preventive works before coal is worked under section 33 of the Coal Mining Subsidence Act 1991.
13	Mine Gas	No	None recorded within 500 metres of the enquiry boundary.
14	Mine Water Treatment Schemes	No	None recorded within 500 metres of the enquiry boundary.
15	Future underground mining	No	For further information please see section 3 of the Consultant's Coal Mining Report (ref 51002453814001).
16	Coal mining licensing	No	
17	Court orders	No	
18	Section 46 notices	No	
19	Withdrawal of support notices	No	
20	Payments to owners of former copyhold land	No	

2.3 Geological Survey Borehole Records

The British Geological Survey (NERC) keeps borehole records from across Britain which are available for public viewing through their website⁷. As part of this study, the records in the area around the site have been reviewed in order to assist in establishing the geological conditions.



Unfortunately, in this instance, there are no borehole scans available within the vicinity of the site that will assist with this assessment. Whilst one borehole scan is present within 500m to the south west, this borehole is situated in a different faulted block where different stratigraphy is recorded. Therefore, these seams are not present within these boreholes.

3. Risk Assessment

The risk to the stability of the proposed development has been evaluated from the data obtained and with reference to the following ratings and definitions:

- Low - The possibility of instability is unlikely therefore no further action is necessary.
- Moderate - The possibility of instability is likely and further investigation or remedial action may be required.
- High - The possibility of instability is highly likely and further investigation or remedial action will be necessary.

Table 4: Development Specific Risk Assessment

Item	Risk attributed to	Coal / ironstone Seam(s) Considered	Risk Rating
3.1	Shallow coal workings	Claywood Ironstone	High
		Silkstone Coal	Moderate to high
3.2	Coal workings at depth	The Coal Authority report indicates that the property is not within a surface area that could be affected by past underground mining.	Low
3.3	Mine gas	Shallow coal workings	Moderate

3.1 Risks Posed by Shallow Coal Workings

On the basis of all of the information provided above, one ironstone bed and one coal seam is anticipated to be present within 30m of the surface at the site.

In the absence of nearby representative BGS borehole scans, the depth to competent rock and the thickness of made ground, superficial deposits and the weathered zone is unknown. In the case of the Claywood Ironstone, the depth, thickness and condition of the bed is unknown. Therefore, the potential for unrecorded shallow illicit workings within the Claywood Ironstone cannot be ruled out. Indeed, the site is recorded to be underlain by the Silkstone Rock sandstone unit. Such a sandstone unit would likely have provided a suitable roof rock, thereby allowing easier extraction of such a commodity (the ironstone) using informal methods (e.g. bell pits, day holes).

It may be noted that guidance available from both the NHBC and the CIRIA publication, SP32 - *construction over abandoned mine workings*, suggests that competent overburden thickness above a coal seam should be greater than 10 times the thickness of a seam plus seam thickness in order that the collapse of workings would pose a low risk to surface structures.

On this basis, assuming a maximum thickness of the ironstone and coal seams, the table below suggests the thickness of competent overburden required above each seam to mitigate instability at the surface.

**Table 5: Required Thickness of Competent Overburden**

Seam Name	Seam thickness (m)	Anticipated depth below site (m)	Required thickness of competent overburden.
Claywood Ironstone	2.0 – 4.0	0m to 10m	44m
Silkstone Coal	1.47	18	16.17m
Whinmoor Coal	0.86	68	9.46m

Based on the above information, it is considered that there will not be a sufficient thickness of competent overburden above the Claywood Ironstone, if worked, in order to prevent the risk of instability posed by the presence of any informal workings. Therefore, a high risk rating has been placed on this seam, and further investigation is recommended to prove or disprove the presence of illicit mining activity.

In the case of the Silkstone Coal, the depth of competent strata and thickness of the weathered zone is unknown, as such the presence of sufficient competent cover cannot be guaranteed and the risk to surface structures is considered moderate to high and further investigation is recommended to fully assess the risk.

3.2 Risks Posed by Coal Workings at Depth

In regard to deeper mining of the Whinmoor Coal, sufficient competent overburden is considered to be present and the risk to surface structures is considered low. The site is not recorded to be within a surface area that could be affected by any other past underground mining, not discussed above.

3.3 Risks Posed by Mine Gas

This assessment has identified that there is potential for shallow mine workings to be present beneath the proposed development. Whilst the Consultants Coal Mining Report has not reported any incidents of mine gas within the vicinity of the development, shallow mining activity represents a credible source of ground gas. As such, a moderate risk rating has been assigned, and further assessment may be required.

Should evidence of workings be proven via further intrusive works, it is strongly recommended that a detailed gas risk assessment is undertaken in accordance with relevant guidance. The risk assessment should take into consideration the current site conditions, and should be subject to reassessment after the formulation and/or completion of any remedial measures and proposed foundation solution. These documents should be prepared by a suitably experienced and qualified specialist.



4. Conclusions

In light of the potential risks of instability at the site from the working of shallow coal and ironstone, it cannot be recommended that development takes place without further investigation to conclusively determine the presence of such workings. This work should include physical drilling methods to explore the ground conditions.

General practice is to undertake rotary openhole boreholes at three locations across the site to mitigate against the potential for drilling through intact columns associated with pillar and stall workings. Furthermore, it is normal to investigate the ground to 30m below ground level; any workings below this depth are unlikely to result in significant instability. However, in this case, the risk of instability is due to shallow workings, therefore, drilling to these depths may not be necessary and the objective should be to ensure that the shallow seams are un-worked or have sufficient competent cover. It may therefore be possible, in the first instance, to undertake one borehole to 30m below the top of the rockhead, with the remaining boreholes proving the depth and continuity of the coal seam(s). In any event, it is considered that approval should be sought with the Local Authority as to the efficacy of this approach.

It is of note that Rogers Geotechnical Services would be happy to assist in any further intrusive investigation that may be required.

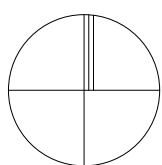


Appendix 1

Site Plan

General Notes

NORTH



THIS DRAWING HAS BEEN PREPARED FROM SURVEY INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY OTHERS AND IS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY. DO NOT SCALE FROM DRAWING. USE FIGURED DIMENSIONS ONLY.

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ALL DIMENSIONS MUST BE CHECKED AND VERIFIED ON SITE PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF WORK AND ARCHITECT TO BE NOTIFIED OF ANY DISCREPANCIES.

THE PARTY WALL ETC ACT 1996 CAME INTO FORCE ON 1ST JULY 1997 THROUGHOUT ENGLAND & WALES. IF YOU INTEND TO CARRY OUT BUILDING WORK WHICH INVOLVES ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:
• WORK ON AN EXISTING WALL OR STRUCTURE SHARED WITH ANOTHER PROPERTY (SECTION 2 OF THE ACT)
• BUILDING A FREE STANDING WALL OR WALLS OF A BUILDING UP TO OR AT THE BOUNDARY WITH A NEIGHBOURING PROPERTY (SECTION 1 OF THE ACT)
• EXCAVATING NEAR A NEIGHBOURING BUILDING (SECTION 6 OF THE ACT)
YOU MUST FIND OUT WHETHER THAT WORK FALLS WITHIN THE ACT (YOUR PROJECT MANAGER WILL BE ABLE TO ADVISE YOU ON THIS). IF IT DOES, YOU MUST NOTIFY ALL AFFECTED NEIGHBOURS. A NOTICE MUST BE GIVEN EVEN WHERE THAT WORK WILL NOT EXTEND BEYOND THE CENTRE LINE OF A PARTY WALL.

ALL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, COMMERCIAL OR DOMESTIC, ARE SUBJECT TO THE CDM REGULATIONS (2015). IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CLIENT TO ENSURE THAT WHERE MORE THAN ONE CONTRACTOR IS INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT THAT A 'PRINCIPAL DESIGNER' IS APPOINTED TO UNDERTAKE CDM RESPONSIBILITIES ON THEIR BEHALF. ANY PROJECT REQUIRING MORE THAN 30 DAYS WORK AND 20 OR MORE WORKERS ON SITE SIMULTANEOUSLY AT ANY GIVEN TIME, OR WHICH REQUIRES MORE THAN 500 WORKING MAN HOURS MUST BE NOTIFIED BY THE CLIENT TO THE HSE USING AN F10 NOTIFICATION PRIOR TO WORK COMMENCING ON SITE.

BEFORE STARTING WORK YOU NEED TO CHECK IF ANY ASBESTOS IS PRESENT. IN COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES THERE SHOULD BE A PLAN/REGISTER ASK TO SEE IT. YOU NEED TO CHECK THAT THE PLAN COVERS THE AREA OF THE BUILDING THAT YOU WILL BE WORKING IN AND IF YOU ARE DOING REFURBISHMENT WORK THAT IT INCLUDES A SURVEY THAT TELLS YOU WHAT TYPES OF ASBESTOS IS PRESENT AND ITS CONDITION. IF THERE IS NO REGISTER OR SURVEY OR THE REPORT IS NOT CLEAR DO NOT START WORK.

NO WORKS ARE TO START ON SITE PRIOR TO DISCHARGE OF ANY / ALL PRE-START PLANNING CONDITIONS.

THE CLIENT IS AT RISK IF ANY WORKS ARE STARTED PRIOR TO APPROVAL BY APPOINTED BUILDING CONTROL BODY.

Key Plan

Revisions

Rev	Description	Drw	Chk	Date
Drawing Status:				
Client:				
MR & MRS HENSBY.				
Project:				
BERRY MOOR FARM, SILKSTONE COMMON, S75 4RF				
Drawing:				
EXISTING SITE PLAN.				
Project No:		Drawing No:		
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Scale:		Date:	Drawn by:	Checked by:
1:200		FEB '21	TH	—

Site Plan



Appendix 2

Coal Authority Report



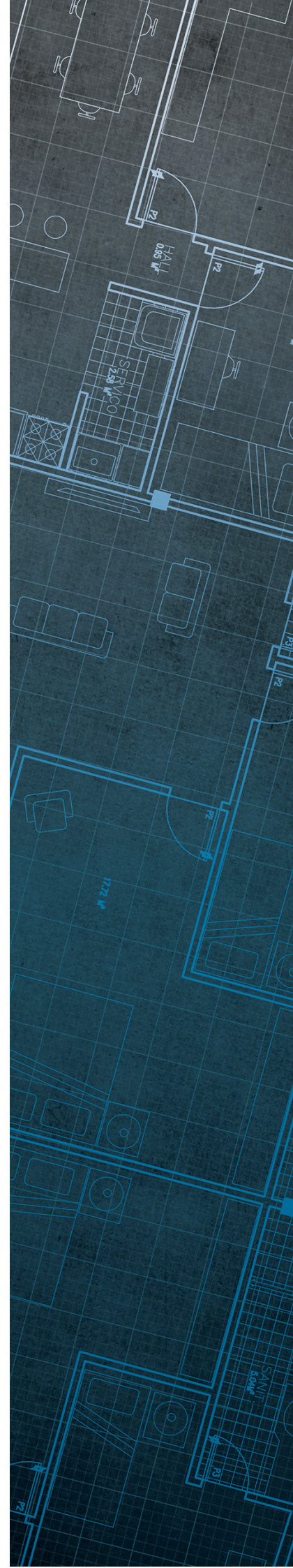
The Coal
Authority

Consultants Coal Mining Report

Berry Moor House Farm
Pinfold Hill Lane
Silkstone Common
Barnsley
S75 4RF

Date of enquiry:	1 April 2021
Date enquiry received:	1 April 2021
Issue date:	1 April 2021

Our reference:	51002453814001
Your reference:	C/1653/21/E/2562



Consultants

Coal Mining Report

This report is based on and limited to the records held by the Coal Authority at the time the report was produced.

Client name

ROGERS GEOTECHNICAL SERVICES LTD

Enquiry address

Berry Moor House Farm
Pinfold Hill Lane
Silkstone Common
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S75 4RF

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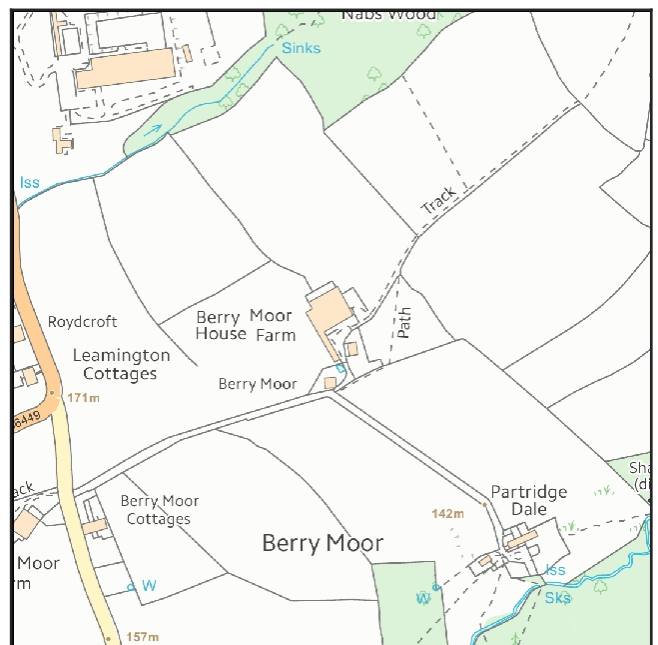
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 /thecoalauthority

 /thecoalauthority



Approximate position of property



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Section 1 – Mining activity and geology

Past underground mining

Colliery	Seam	Mineral	Coal Authority reference	Depth (m)	Direction to working	Dipping rate of seam worked (degrees)	Dipped direction of seam worked	Extraction thickness (cm)	Year last mined
CLARKES	SILKSTONE	Coal	6ZNG	18	Beneath Property	5.6	North-East	147	1926
unnamed	WHINMOOR	Coal	6ZNV	68	Beneath Property	5.7	East	86	1961

Probable unrecorded shallow workings

None.

Spine roadways at shallow depth

No spine roadway recorded at shallow depth.

Mine entries

None recorded within 100 metres of the enquiry boundary.

Abandoned mine plan catalogue numbers

The following abandoned mine plan catalogue numbers intersect with some, or all, of the enquiry boundary:

14458	NE439	NE831
SY168	PO0	8659
16514	M226	

Please contact us on 0345 762 6848 to determine the exact abandoned mine plans you require based on your needs.

Outcrops

No outcrops recorded.

Geological faults, fissures and breaklines

No faults, fissures or breaklines recorded.

Opencast mines

Please refer to the “Summary of findings” map (on separate sheet) for details of any opencast areas within 500 metres of the enquiry boundary.

Coal Authority managed tips

None recorded within 500 metres of the enquiry boundary.

Section 2 – Investigative or remedial activity

Please refer to the 'Summary of findings' map (on separate sheet) for details of any activity within the area of the site boundary.

Site investigations

None recorded within 50 metres of the enquiry boundary.

Remediated sites

None recorded within 50 metres of the enquiry boundary.

Coal mining subsidence

The Coal Authority has not received a damage notice or claim for the subject property, or any property within 50 metres of the enquiry boundary, since 31 October 1994.

There is no current Stop Notice delaying the start of remedial works or repairs to the property.

The Coal Authority is not aware of any request having been made to carry out preventive works before coal is worked under section 33 of the Coal Mining Subsidence Act 1991.

Mine gas

None recorded within 500 metres of the enquiry boundary.

Mine water treatment schemes

None recorded within 500 metres of the enquiry boundary.

Section 3 – Licensing and future mining activity

Future underground mining

None recorded.

Coal mining licensing

None recorded within 200 metres of the enquiry boundary.

Court orders

None recorded.

Section 46 notices

No notices have been given, under section 46 of the Coal Mining Subsidence Act 1991, stating that the land is at risk of subsidence.

Withdrawal of support notices

The property is not in an area where a notice to withdraw support has been given.

The property is not in an area where a notice has been given under section 41 of the Coal Industry Act 1994, cancelling the entitlement to withdraw support.

Payments to owners of former copyhold land

The property is not in an area where a relevant notice has been published under the Coal Industry Act 1975/Coal Industry Act 1994.

Section 4 – Further information

The following potential risks have been identified and as part of your risk assessment should be investigated further.

Development advice

The site is within an area of historical coal mining activity. Should you require advice and/or support on understanding the mining legacy, its risks to your development or what next steps you need to take, please contact us.

For further information on specific site or ground investigations in relation to any issues raised in Section 4, please call us on 0345 762 6848 or email us at groundstability@coal.gov.uk.

Section 5 – Data definitions

The datasets used in this report have limitations and assumptions within their results. For more guidance on the data and the results specific to the enquiry boundary, please **call us on 0345 762 6848** or **email us at groundstability@coal.gov.uk**.

Past underground coal mining

Details of all recorded underground mining relative to the enquiry boundary. Only past underground workings where the enquiry boundary is within 0.7 times the depth of the workings (zone of likely physical influence) allowing for seam inclination, will be included.

Probable unrecorded shallow workings

Areas where the Coal Authority believes there to be unrecorded coal workings that exist at or close to the surface (less than 30 metres deep).

Spine roadways at shallow depth

Connecting roadways either, working to working, or, surface to working, both in-seam and cross measures that exist at or close to the surface (less than 30 metres deep), either within or within 10 metres of the enquiry boundary.

Mine entries

Details of any shaft or adit either within, or within 100 metres of the enquiry boundary including approximate location, brief treatment details where known, the mineral worked from the mine entry and conveyance details where the mine entry has previously been sold by the Authority or its predecessors British Coal or the National Coal Board.

Abandoned mine plan catalogue numbers

Plan numbers extracted from the abandoned mines catalogue containing details of coal and other mineral abandonment plans deposited via the Mines Inspectorate in accordance with the Coal Mines Regulation Act and Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act 1872. A maximum of 9 plan extents that intersect with the enquiry boundary will be included. This does not infer that the workings and/or mine entries shown on the abandonment plan will be relevant to the site/property boundary.

Outcrops

Details of seam outcrops will be included where the enquiry boundary intersects with a conjectured or actual seam outcrop location (derived by either the British Geological Survey or the Coal Authority) or intersects with a defined 50 metres buffer on the coal (dip) side of the outcrop. An indication of whether the Coal Authority believes the seam to be of sufficient thickness and/or quality to have been worked will also be included.

Geological faults, fissures and breaklines

Geological disturbances or fractures in the bedrock. Surface fault lines (British Geological Survey derived data) and fissures and breaklines (Coal Authority derived data) intersecting with the enquiry boundary will be included. In some circumstances faults, fissures or breaklines have been known to contribute to surface subsidence damage as a consequence of underground coal mining.

Opencast mines

Opencast coal sites from which coal has been removed in the past by opencast (surface) methods and where the enquiry boundary is within 500 metres of either the licence area, site boundary, excavation area (high wall) or coaling area.

Coal Authority managed tips

Locations of disused colliery tip sites owned and managed by the Coal Authority, located within 500 metres of the enquiry boundary.

Site investigations

Details of site investigations within 50 metres of the enquiry boundary where the Coal Authority has received information relating to coal mining risk investigation and/or remediation by third parties.

Remediated sites

Sites where the Coal Authority has undertaken remedial works either within or within 50 metres of the enquiry boundary following report of a hazard relating to coal mining under the Coal Authority's Emergency Surface Hazard Call Out procedures.

Coal mining subsidence

Details of alleged coal mining subsidence claims made since 31 October 1994 either within or within 50 metres of the enquiry boundary. Where the claim relates to the enquiry boundary confirmation of whether the claim was accepted, rejected or whether liability is still being determined will be given. Where the claim has been discharged, whether this was by repair, payment of compensation or a combination of both, the value of the claim, where known, will also be given.

Details of any current 'Stop Notice' deferring remedial works or repairs affecting the property/site, and if so the date of the notice.

Details of any request made to execute preventative works before coal is worked under section 33 of the Coal Mining Subsidence Act 1991. If yes, whether any person withheld consent or failed to comply with any request to execute preventative works.

Mine gas

Reports of alleged mine gas emissions received by the Coal Authority, either within or within 500 metres of the enquiry boundary that subsequently required investigation and action by the Coal Authority to mitigate the effects of the mine gas emission.

Mine water treatment schemes

Locations where the Coal Authority has constructed or operates assets that remove pollutants from mine water prior to the treated mine water being discharged into the receiving water body.

These schemes are part of the UK's strategy to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. Schemes fall into 2 basic categories: Remedial – mitigating the impact of existing pollution or Preventative – preventing a future pollution incident.

Mine water treatment schemes generally consist of one or more primary settlement lagoons and one or more reed beds for secondary treatment. A small number are more specialised process treatment plants.

Future underground mining

Details of all planned underground mining relative to the enquiry boundary. Only those future workings where the enquiry boundary is within 0.7 times the depth of the workings (zone of likely physical influence) allowing for seam inclination will be included.

Coal mining licensing

Details of all licenses issued by the Coal Authority either within or within 200 metres of the enquiry boundary in relation to the under taking of surface coal mining, underground coal mining or underground coal gasification.

Court orders

Orders in respect of the working of coal under the Mines (Working Facilities and Support) Acts of 1923 and 1966 or any statutory modification or amendment thereof.

Section 46 notices

Notice of proposals relating to underground coal mining operations that have been given under section 46 of the Coal Mining Subsidence Act 1991.

Withdrawal of support notices

Published notices of entitlement to withdraw support and the date of the notice. Details of any revocation notice withdrawing the entitlement to withdraw support given under Section 41 of the Coal Industry Act 1994.

Payment to owners of former copyhold land

Relevant notices which may affect the property and any subsequent notice of retained interests in coal and coal mines, acceptance or rejection notices and whether any compensation has been paid to a claimant.

The map highlights any specific surface or subsurface features within or near to the boundary of the site.

Key

Approximate position of the enquiry boundary shown 

Unlicensed opencast site 

How to contact us

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+44 (0)1623 637 000 (International)
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