

## Coal: opencast coal mining statistics 2007

The results of the Opencast Coal Survey for 2007 are now available.

[Follow this link](#) to view the archive of previous years.

Comprehensive statistics on opencast coal have, in the past, been collected and published by the Planning Officers' Society. This series ceased in 1999. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Scottish Executive agreed that it would be valuable for a summary of opencast coal statistics to be continued. The BGS has been asked to undertake this collation in collaboration with the [Coal Authority](#) and planning authorities with opencast coal resources in their areas. In addition to dissemination on [www.mineralsUK.com](#), the information will be summarised in the annual [United Kingdom Minerals Yearbook](#), also produced by BGS.

The survey has the support of the Planning Officers' Society, the Coal Authority and the Confederation of UK Coal Producers ([CoalPro](#)). The BGS would like to acknowledge the help of the Coal Authority and the relevant Mineral Planning Authorities in England, Scotland and Wales for their invaluable assistance in collecting the information for this survey. It will provide a vital input to monitoring Government policies for the development of the nation's shallow coal resources.

This annual survey covers individual Mineral Planning Authorities in England, Scotland and Wales. The following tables summarise the data (click links for data):

- [Table 1. Great Britain: saleable opencast coal production in 2006–2007](#)
- [Table 2. Great Britain: permitted reserves of opencast coal remaining in sites in production at 31st December 2006 and 2007](#)
- [Table 3. Great Britain: permitted reserves of opencast coal in sites not yet in production at 31st December 2006 and 2007](#)
- [Table 4. Great Britain: applications for opencast coal which have been granted planning permission during 2007](#)
- [Table 5. Great Britain: applications for opencast coal which have been refused planning permission during 2007](#)
- [Table 6. Great Britain: details of opencast coal sites granted planning permission during 2007](#)
- [Table 7. Great Britain: details of opencast coal sites refused planning permission during 2007](#)
- [Table 8. Great Britain: opencast coal sites ceasing operations due to exhaustion of reserves during 2007](#)
- [Table 9. Great Britain: number of opencast coal sites ceasing operations due to exhaustion of reserves during 2007](#)

To view information on longer term trends in opencast coal production, graphs by financial year to the end of March for England, Scotland and Wales for the period 1985 to 2007 are presented here:

- [Figure 1. England: opencast coal production, 1985–2007](#)
- [Figure 2. Scotland: opencast coal production, 1985–2007](#)
- [Figure 3. Wales: opencast coal production, 1985–2007](#)

**Note:** The data may not be totally comprehensive because not all planning authorities have made a return (11 MPAs yet to reply at 31st July, 2007 out of a total of 63). The tables will be updated if new information is received.

**TABLE 1: GREAT BRITAIN: SALEABLE OPENCAST COAL PRODUCTION IN 2006-2007**

Mineral Planning Authority	2006		2007	
	Tonnes	Operational sites	Tonnes	Operational sites
Derbyshire	0	0	12 711	1
Leicestershire	34 239	1	0	0
<b>East Midlands Total</b>	<b>34 239</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12 711</b>	<b>1</b>
Shropshire	24 216	1	463	1
<b>West Midlands Total</b>	<b>24 216</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>1</b>
Durham	82 523	1	142 752	1
Newcastle upon Tyne	119 242	1	25 061	1
Northumberland	665 866	3	1 246 178	3
<b>North East Total</b>	<b>867 631</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1 413 991</b>	<b>5</b>
Bolton	0	0	143 906	1
St Helens	11 403	1	0	0
<b>North West Total</b>	<b>11 403</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>143 906</b>	<b>1</b>
Barnsley	0	0	0	0
Calderdale	0	0	735	1
Kirklees	0	0	12 469	1
Leeds	0	0	0	0
Rotherham	28 898	1	0	0
Wakefield	0	0	34 934	1
<b>Yorkshire &amp; the Humber Total</b>	<b>28 898</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>48 138</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ENGLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>966 387</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1 619 209</b>	<b>11</b>
Carmarthenshire	32 117	1	23 524	1
Merthyr Tydfil			0	1
Neath Port Talbot	822 191	5	665 790	5
Powys	402 765	1	370 359	1
Wrexham	0	0		
<b>WALES TOTAL</b>	<b>1 257 073</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1 059 673</b>	<b>8</b>
Dumfries and Galloway			829 366	1
Clackmannanshire	0	0	0	0
East Ayrshire	3 573 007	8	3 349 770	8
Falkirk	53 094	1	0	0
Fife	1 200 146	5	815 533	3
Midlothian	267 117	1	83 989	1
North Lanarkshire	0	1	0	0
South Lanarkshire	880 675	4	765 740	4
West Lothian	512 596	1	343 696	1
<b>SCOTLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>6 486 635</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>6 188 094</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>8 710 095</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>8 866 976</b>	<b>37</b>

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

**TABLE 2: GREAT BRITAIN: PERMITTED RESERVES OF OPENCAST COAL REMAINING IN OPERATIONAL SITES AT 31ST DECEMBER 2006 AND 2007**

Mineral planning authority	2006		2007	
	Tonnage remaining	Number of sites	Tonnage remaining	Number of sites
Durham	174 565	1	0	0
Newcastle upon Tyne	66 742	1	0	1
Northumberland	1 876 022	3	1 790 307	3
<b>North East Total</b>	<b>2 117 329</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1 790 307</b>	<b>4</b>
Bolton	0	0	816 096	1
<b>North West Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>816 096</b>	<b>4</b>
Shropshire	320 760	1	320 297	1
<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>320 760</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>320 297</b>	<b>1</b>
Calderdale	8 700	1	7 965	1
Kirklees	0	0	42 531	1
Rotherham*	19 411	1	0	0
Wakefield	0	0	187 327	1
<b>Yorkshire &amp; the Humber Total</b>	<b>28 111</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>237 823</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ENGLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>2 466 200</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3 164 523</b>	<b>9</b>
Bridgend	0**	1	0**	1
Carmarthenshire	24 386	1	0	1
Merthyr Tydfil	0	0	10 791 317	1
Neath Port Talbot	3 587 406	5	1 163 590	5
Powys	2 032 787	1	2 646 020	1
<b>WALES TOTAL</b>	<b>5 644 579</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14 600 927</b>	<b>8</b>
Dumfries and Galloway	0	0	2 428 956	1
East Ayrshire	11 080 490	7	8 331 681	7
Fife	842 385	4	1 235 659	2
Midlothian	37 155	1	400 270	1
South Lanarkshire	8 631 218	4	8 299 166	4
West Lothian	241 486	2	0	1
<b>SCOTLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>20 832 734</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20 695 732</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>28 943 513</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>38 461 182</b>	<b>33</b>

\* Includes sites in care & maintenance at end Dec 2007.

\*\* Reserve for Bridgend included in total for Neath Port Talbot as one site covers both MPAs.

Source: *The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities*

**TABLE 3: GREAT BRITAIN: PERMITTED RESERVES OF OPENCAST COAL IN SITES NOT YET WORKING AT 31ST DECEMBER 2006 AND 2007**

Mineral planning authority	2006	2007
	Reserves tonnes	Reserves tonnes
Bolton	964 000	0
Derbyshire	0	994 340
Kirklees	55 000	0
Leicestershire	725 000	725 000
Northumberland		3 359 564
<b>ENGLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>1 744 000</b>	<b>5 078 904</b>
Merthyr Tydfil	10 800 000	0
Neath Port Talbot	2 130 000	2 230 000
<b>WALES TOTAL</b>	<b>12 930 000</b>	<b>2 230 000</b>
Dumfries & Galloway	3 287 949	0
East Ayrshire	496 527	920 000
Falkirk	214 000	190 767
Fife	25 000	2 000 000
North Lanarkshire	<i>no data</i>	0
Scottish Borders	0	450 000
South Lanarkshire	4 720 000	5 470 000
<b>SCOTLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>8 246 949</b>	<b>9 030 767</b>
<b>GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>23 417 476</b>	<b>16 339 671</b>

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

**TABLE 4: GREAT BRITAIN: APPLICATIONS FOR OPENCAST COAL WHICH HAVE BEEN GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2007**

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Applications approved</b>	<b>Total hectares</b>	<b>Total reserves tonnes</b>
Derbyshire	2	129.1	1 014 110
Northumberland	3	420.8	4 100 000
Wakefield	1	60	413 000
<b>ENGLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>609.9</b>	<b>5 527 110</b>
East Ayrshire	3	65.8	710 000
Fife	1	181	2 000 000
Midlothian	1	114.2	550 000
Scottish Borders	1	173	450 000
South Lanarkshire	1	386	570 000
<b>SCOTLAND</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>4 280 000</b>
Neath Port Talbot	1	18	100 000
<b>WALES TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100 000</b>
<b>GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1 547.9</b>	<b>9 907 110</b>

**TABLE 5: GREAT BRITAIN: APPLICATIONS FOR OPENCAST COAL WHICH HAVE BEEN REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2007**

Authority	Applications declined	Total hectares	Total reserves (tonnes)
ENGLAND TOTAL	0	0	0
Authority	Applications declined	Total hectares	Total reserves (tonnes)
WALES TOTAL	0	0	0
Authority	Applications declined	Total hectares	Total reserves (tonnes)
SCOTLAND TOTAL	0	0	0
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL	0	0	0

**TABLE 6: GREAT BRITAIN: DETAILS OF OPENCAST COAL SITES GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2007 ENGLAND**

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves	Granted hectares	EIA	Granted after appeal
Derbyshire	Lodge House	Smalley	New operation	1 000 000	122	Yes	Yes
Derbyshire	Oxcroft Stoking Ground	Shuttlewood Nr. Bolsover	New operation	14 110	7.1	No	No
Northumberland	Shotton	Cramlington	New operation	3 400 000	342	Yes	Yes
Northumberland	Delhi	Blagdon	Extension - Lateral and Vertical	350 000	9.8	No	No
Northumberland	Steadsburn	Widdrington	New operation	350 000	69	No	No
Wakefield	Former Sharlston Colliery	High St, New Sharlston	New operation	413 000	60	No	No

**WALES**

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves	Granted hectares	EIA	Granted after appeal
Neath Port Talbot	Forest Quarry Open Cast	Aberpergwm Forest Glynneath	New operation	100 000	18	Yes	No

**SCOTLAND**

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves	Granted hectares	EIA	Granted after appeal
East Ayrshire	Chalmerston North/Pennyvenie	Off A713 Public Road by Dalmellington, KA6 7PN	Extension lateral	90 000	7.9	No	No
East Ayrshire	Grievehill OCCS	Pathhead Road, New Cumnock, KA18 4PW	Extension lateral	370 000	48	No	No
East Ayrshire	Spireslack/Grasshill OCCS	Glenbuck by Muirkirk, KA18 3SB	Extension lateral	250 000	9.9	No	No
Fife	Muir Dean	Inverkeithing Rd, Crossgates	New operation	2 000 000	181	Yes	Yes
Midlothian	Shewington	Shewington, Rosewell, Midlothian	New operation	550 000	114.2	Yes	No
Scottish Borders	Auchencorth Moss	Deepsyke Forest, Penicuik	Extension lateral	450 000	173	Yes	Yes
South Lanarkshire	Poniel OCS	by Douglas	New operation	570 000	386	Yes	Yes

**TABLE 7: GREAT BRITAIN: DETAILS OF OPENCAST COAL SITES REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2007**

**ENGLAND- NONE**

**WALES - NONE**

**SCOTLAND- NONE**

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**TABLE 8: GREAT BRITAIN: OPENCAST COAL SITES CEASING OPERATIONS DUE TO EXHAUSTION OF RESERVES DURING 2007**

**ENGLAND**

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Site name</b>	<b>Site operator</b>	<b>Site address</b>
Derbyshire	Oxcroft stocking ground	UK Coal	Shuttlewood Nr. Bolsover
Durham	Stony Heap	UK Coal Mining Ltd	Brooms Lane, Iveston, Consett, Co. Durham DH8 7ST
Newcastle	Fox Covert Wood & Trinidad Plantation	H J Banks	Horton Grange Road, Dinnington

**SCOTLAND**

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Site name</b>	<b>Site operator</b>	<b>Site address</b>
Midlothian	Newbigging	Scottish Coal Company Ltd	Newbigging Opencast site, Newbigging Hill, Near Penicuik, Midlothian

**WALES - NONE**

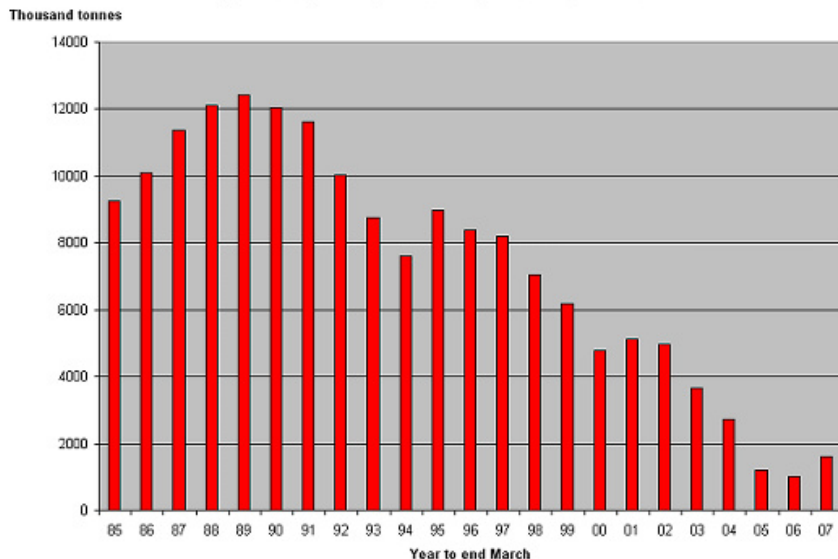


**TABLE 9: GREAT BRITAIN: NUMBER OF OPENCAST COAL SITES CEASING OPERATIONS DUE TO EXHAUSTION OF RESERVES DURING 2007**

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF OPENCAST SITES CLOSED DURING 2007
ENGLAND	3
SCOTLAND	1
WALES	0
<b>GREAT BRITAIN</b>	<b>4</b>

**OPENCAST COAL PRODUCTION GRAPHS**

**Figure 1. England: Opencast coal production, 1985 - 2007**



**Figure 2. Scotland: Opencast coal production, 1985 - 2007**

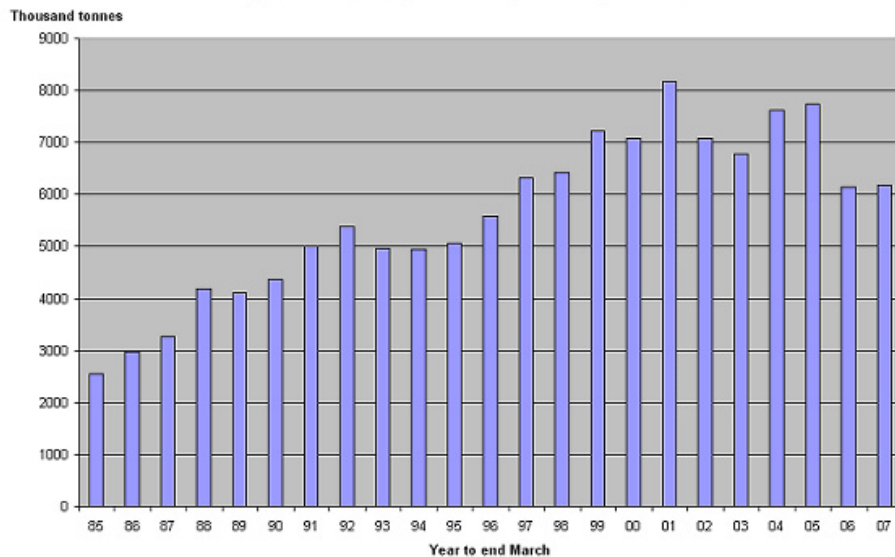


Figure 3. Wales: Opencast coal production, 1985 - 2007

