

## Opencast Coal Mining Statistics 2003-2004

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 have 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](http://www.mineralsUK.com) the information will also 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.

There have been some revisions to the opencast coal reserves for 2003.

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 2003–2004](#)
- [Table 2. Great Britain: permitted reserves of opencast coal remaining in operational sites at 31st December 2003 and 2004](#)
- [Table 3. Great Britain: permitted reserves of opencast coal in sites not yet working at 31st December 2003 and 2004](#)
- [Table 4. Great Britain: applications for opencast coal which have been granted planning permission during 2004](#)
- [Table 5. Great Britain: applications for opencast coal which have been refused planning permission during 2004](#)
- [Table 6. Great Britain: details of opencast coal sites granted planning permission during 2004](#)
- [Table 7. Great Britain: details of opencast coal sites refused planning permission during 2004](#)
- [Table 8. Great Britain: opencast coal sites ceasing operations due to exhaustion of reserves during 2004](#)
- [Table 9. Great Britain: number of opencast coal sites ceasing operations due to exhaustion of reserves during 2004](#)

**Note :** The data may not be totally comprehensive because not all planning authorities have made a return.

To provide longer term trends in opencast coal production, graphs by financial year to the end of March for England, Scotland and Wales for the period 1986 to 2005 can be viewed by [clicking here](#)

**TABLE 1: GREAT BRITAIN: SALEABLE OPENCAST COAL PRODUCTION IN 2003–2004**

Mineral planning authority	2003		2004	
	Tonnes	Operational sites	Tonnes	Operational sites
Derbyshire	647 728		332 240	3
Leicestershire	593 722	2	412 422	2
<b>East Midlands Total</b>	<b>1 241 450</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>744 662</b>	<b>5</b>
Durham	192 003	2	270 142	1
Gateshead	47 316	1		
Northumberland	1 056 996	4	997 945	4
<b>North East Total</b>	<b>1 296 315</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1 268 087</b>	<b>5</b>
St Helens	77 779	1	68 548	1
<b>North West Total</b>	<b>77 779</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>68 548</b>	<b>1</b>
Shropshire			2975	1
<b>West Midlands Total</b>			<b>2975</b>	<b>1</b>
Barnsley	392 878	2	199 931	4
Leeds	276 552	2	302 604	3
Rotherham	451 327	1	415 302	1
Wakefield	331 963	3	38 262	2
<b>Yorkshire &amp; the Humber Total</b>	<b>1 452 720</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>956 099</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>ENGLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>4 068 264</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3 037 396</b>	<b>21</b>
Bridgend	357 812	1		
Carmarthenshire	4 198	2	29 838	2
Neath Port Talbot	365 284	4	916 196	7
Powys	461 621	2	380 596	1
Wrexham			78 863	1
<b>WALES TOTAL</b>	<b>1 188 915</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1 405 493</b>	<b>11</b>
Clackmannanshire	181 860	1	108 949	1

East Ayrshire	4 084 458	9	3 756 828	13
Falkirk			22 276	1
Fife	877 119	5	1 632 982	6
Midlothian	35 715	1	79 206	1
North Lanarkshire	236 593	3	201 133	1
South Lanarkshire	1 453 167	4	1 596 122	5
West Lothian			149 353	1
<b>SCOTLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>6 868 912</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>7 546 849</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>12 126 091</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>11 989 738</b>	<b>62</b>

*Note: The operational site numbers relate to sites that have worked during the year.*

*Source: The Coal Authority*

**TABLE 2: GREAT BRITAIN: PERMITTED RESERVES OF OPENCAST COAL REMAINING IN OPERATIONAL SITES AT 31ST DECEMBER 2003 AND 2004**

Mineral planning authority	2003		2004	
	Tonnage remaining	Number of sites	Tonnage remaining	Number of sites
Derbyshire	485 554	4	92 496	1
Leicestershire	505 611	2	47 092	1
<b>East Midlands Total</b>	<b>991 165</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>139 588</b>	<b>2</b>
Durham	387 311	1	117 169	1
Northumberland	2 864 271	3	1 872 498	3
<b>North East Total</b>	<b>3 251 582</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1 989 667</b>	<b>4</b>
St Helens	3 797	1		
<b>North West Total</b>	<b>3 797</b>	<b>1</b>		
Shropshire			349 318	1
<b>West Midlands</b>			<b>349 318</b>	<b>1</b>
Barnsley	120 562	2	34 031	2
Leeds	198 740	1	122 601	2
Rotherham	540 240	1	124 937	1
Wakefield	50 307	3		
<b>Yorkshire &amp; the Humber Total</b>	<b>909 849</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>281 569</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>ENGLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>5 156 393</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2 760 142</b>	<b>12</b>
Carmarthenshire	188 839	1	159 119	1
Neath Port Talbot	1 867 434	5	1 081 188	6
Powys	3 134 166	1	2 753 569	1
Wrexham			38 558	1
<b>WALES TOTAL</b>	<b>5 190 439</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4 032 434</b>	<b>9</b>
Clackmannanshire	191 406	1	82 456	1
East Ayrshire	3 813 204	7	15 335 204	8
Falkirk			405 875	1
Fife	1 633 099	4	2 929 774	5

Midlothian			392 875	1
North Lanarkshire	523 212	1	332 347	1
South Lanarkshire	11 488 137	2	9 722 312	4
West Lothian			1 262 647	1
<b>SCOTLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>17 649 058</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>30 453 490</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>27 995 890</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>37 246 066</b>	<b>41</b>

*Source: The Coal Authority*

**TABLE 3: GREAT BRITAIN: PERMITTED RESERVES OF OPENCAST COAL IN SITES NOT YET WORKING AT 31ST DECEMBER 2003 AND 2004**

Mineral planning authority	2003	2004
	Reserves tonnes	Reserves tonnes
Barnsley	65 000	
Bolton	964 000	964 000
Derbyshire		24 000
Leeds	253 000	
Newcastle	200 000	229 929
Northumberland		742 000
Rotherham		24 000
<b>ENGLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>1 482 000</b>	<b>1 983 929</b>
Wrexham	117 421	
Neath Port Talbot	44 500	2 482 233
Merthyr Tydfil		5 500 000
<b>WALES TOTAL</b>	<b>161 921</b>	<b>7 982 233</b>
Mid Lothian	472 081	
North Lanarkshire	580 000	580 000
Falkirk	428 151	
Fife	1 688 000	
Dumfries & Galloway	1 878 045	1 878 045
East Ayrshire	3 680 000	2 445 000
West Lothian	1 000 000	
South Lanarkshire	430 000	1 200 000
<b>SCOTLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>10 156 277</b>	<b>6 103 045</b>
<b>GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>11 800 198</b>	<b>16 069 207</b>

*Source: The Coal Authority*

**TABLE 4: GREAT BRITAIN: APPLICATIONS FOR OPENCAST COAL WHICH HAVE BEEN GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2004**

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Applications approved</b>	<b>Total hectares</b>	<b>Total reserves tonnes</b>
erbyshire	1	45	24 000
Leeds	1	23	240 000
Northumberland	2	23.98	617 000
Shropshire	1	29	300 000
<b>ENGLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>120.98</b>	<b>1 181 000</b>
Fife	1	47	250 000
West Lothian	1	470	1 400 000
Mid Lothian	1	60	450 000
<b>SCOTLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>2 100 000</b>
Neath Port Talbot	1	400	2 100 000
<b>WALES TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>2 100 000</b>
<b>GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1097.98</b>	<b>5 381 000</b>

**TABLE 5: GREAT BRITAIN: APPLICATIONS FOR OPENCAST COAL WHICH HAVE BEEN REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2004**

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Applications declined</b>	<b>Total hectares</b>	<b>Total reserves (tonnes)</b>
Derbyshire	1	122	1 000 000
Lancashire	1	40	140 000
Northumberland	1	45	1 070 000
<b>ENGLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>2 210 000</b>
<b>WALES - NIL RETURN</b>			
<b>Authority</b>	<b>Applications declined</b>	<b>Total hectares</b>	<b>Total reserves (tonnes)</b>
Mid Lothian	1	118	900 000
<b>SCOTLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>900 000</b>
<b>GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>3 110 000</b>



**TABLE 6: GREAT BRITAIN: DETAILS OF OPENCAST COAL SITES GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2004**

**ENGLAND**

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves	Granted hectares	EIA
Derbyshire	Woodville Woodlands	Woodville, Swadlincote	New Operation	24 000	45	Yes
Northumberland	Delhi	Stannington	Extension - lateral	610 000	23.7	Yes
Northumberland	Pegswood Moor Farm	Pegswood	Extension - lateral	7000	0.28	
Leeds	Cave Lane	Lingwell Gate Lane, East Ardsley, Leeds	New Operation	240 000	23	Yes
Shropshire	Caughley	Broseley	Extension	300 000	29	Yes

**WALES**

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves	Granted hectares	EIA
Neath Port Talbot	East Pit East Revised	Celtic Energy Ltd, East Pit East OCCS, Gwaun Cae Gerwen, Tairgwaith, SA18 1UP	Extension - lateral	2 100 000	400	Yes

**SCOTLAND**

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves	Granted hectares	EIA
Fife	Rosebank Mains	Dunfermline	New Operation	250 000	47	Yes
West Lothian	Polkemmet	by Whitburn	New Operation	1 400 000	470	Yes
Mid Lothian	Newbiggin Farm	Rosewell	New Operation	450 000	60	Yes

**TABLE 7: GREAT BRITAIN: DETAILS OF OPENCAST COAL SITES REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2004**

**ENGLAND**

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Declined reserves	Declined hectares	EIA
Derbyshire	Lodge House	off Bell Lane Smalley	New Operation	1 000 000	122	Yes
Lancashire	Thieveley Colliery	Heald Moor, Bacup, Lancs	New Operation	140 000	40	1
Northumberland	Stobswood	Ulgham	Extension - lateral	1 070 000	45	1

**WALES - NONE**

**SCOTLAND**

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Declined reserves	Declined hectares	EIA
Mid Lothian	Chesters Wood East	Southside Farm, Gorebridge	Extension - lateral	900 000	118	Yes

**TABLE 8: GREAT BRITAIN: OPENCAST COAL SITES CEASING OPERATIONS DUE TO EXHAUSTION OF RESERVES DURING 2004**

**ENGLAND**

Authority	Site name	Site operator	Site address
Leicestershire	Hicks Lodge	UK Coal	Willesley Woodside, Ashby de la Zouch, LE65 5TL
Derbyshire	Forge and Monument	UK Coal	Ironville
Barnsley	Ferry Moor	UK Coal	Engine Lane, Grimethorpe, Barnsley
Wakefield	Moorhouse	UK Coal	
Wakefield	St John's 2	Gordon Harrison Ltd	

**SCOTLAND**

Authority	Site name	Site operator	Site address
South Lanarkshire	Dalquhandy	Scottish Coal	Gunns Green Middlemuir Coalburn
South Lanarkshire	Edge Farm	G Raeburn	Muttonhole Road Hamilton
Fife	Colton Remainder	I & H Brown Ltd	
East Ayrshire	Rigghead Farm	Scottish Coal	
North Lanarkshire	Watsonhead	H J Banks Co Ltd	

**WALES**

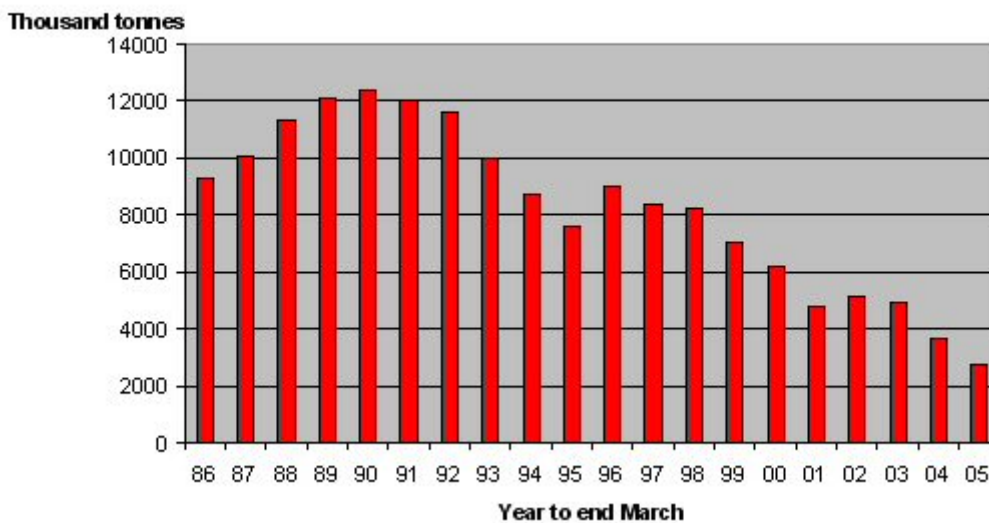
Authority	Site name	Site operator	Site address
Neath Port Talbot	Lletty'r - Crudd	C Rees & Son Plant Hire Ltd	
Neath Port Talbot	Ynys Dawley	Newscheme Ltd	Ynys Dawley Farm, Dulais Road, Seven Sisters, Neath, SA10 9EN
Powys	Brynhenllys	Celtic Energy	Brynhenllys, Palleg Road, Lower Cumtwrch, Ystradgynlais
Neath Port Talbot	Parc Level	S & H Plant Hire	Parc Level OCCS, Gwrhyd Mountain, Pen Rhiwfawr, Neath Port Talbot

**TABLE 9: GREAT BRITAIN: NUMBER OF OPENCAST COAL SITES CEASING OPERATIONS DUE TO EXHAUSTION OF RESERVES DURING 2004**

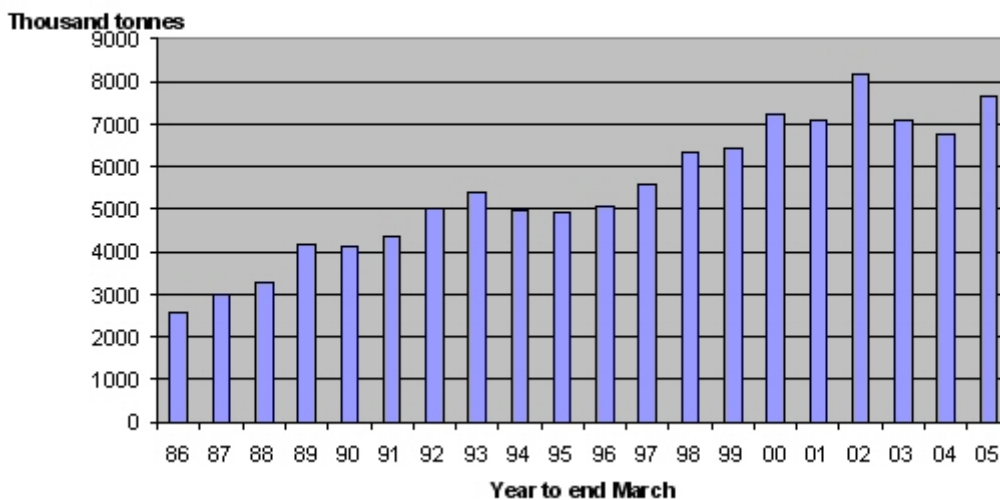
COUNTRY	NUMBER OF OPENCAST SITES CLOSED DURING 2004
ENGLAND	5
SCOTLAND	5
WALES	4
<b>GREAT BRITAIN</b>	<b>14</b>

**OPENCAST COAL PRODUCTION GRAPHS**

**England: Opencast coal production, 1986 - 2005**



**Scotland: Opencast coal production, 1986 - 2005**



### Wales: Opencast coal production, 1986 - 2005

