

## Coal: opencast coal mining statistics 2005

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](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.

**Note :** The data may not be totally comprehensive because not all planning authorities have made a return (3 MPAs yet to reply at 31st Jan, 2007). The tables will be updated if new information is received.

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 2004–2005](#)
- [Table 2. Great Britain: permitted reserves of opencast coal remaining in sites in production at 31st December 2004 and 2005](#)
- [Table 3. Great Britain: permitted reserves of opencast coal in sites not yet in production at 31st December 2004 and 2005](#)
- [Table 4. Great Britain: applications for opencast coal which have been granted planning permission during 2005](#)
- [Table 5. Great Britain: applications for opencast coal which have been refused planning permission during 2005](#)
- [Table 6. Great Britain: details of opencast coal sites granted planning permission during 2005](#)
- [Table 7. Great Britain: details of opencast coal sites refused planning permission during 2005](#)
- [Table 8. Great Britain: opencast coal sites ceasing operations due to exhaustion of reserves during 2005](#)
- [Table 9. Great Britain: number of opencast coal sites ceasing operations due to exhaustion of reserves during 2005](#)

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 1986 to 2006 are presented here:

- [Figure 1. England: opencast coal production, 1986–2006](#)
- [Figure 2. Scotland: opencast coal production, 1986–2006](#)
- [Figure 3. Wales: opencast coal production, 1986–2006](#)

**Note :** The data may not be totally comprehensive because not all planning authorities have made a return (3 MPAs yet to reply at 31st Jan, 2007). The tables will be updated if new information is received

**TABLE 1: GREAT BRITAIN: SALEABLE OPENCAST COAL PRODUCTION IN 2004–2005**

Mineral Planning Authority	2004		2005	
	Tonnes	Operational sites	Tonnes	Operational sites
Derbyshire	332 240	2	48 560	2
Leicestershire	412 422	2	94 844	2
<b>East Midlands Total</b>	<b>744 662</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>143 404</b>	<b>4</b>
Shropshire	2 975	1	4 342	1
<b>West Midlands Total</b>	<b>2 975</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4 342</b>	<b>1</b>
Durham	270 142	1	97 353	1
Newcastle upon Tyne	0	0	43 945	1
Northumberland	997 945	4	647 624	3
<b>North East Total</b>	<b>1 268 087</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>788 922</b>	<b>5</b>
St Helens	68 548	1	4 299	1
<b>North West Total</b>	<b>68 548</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4 299</b>	<b>1</b>
Barnsley	199 931	3	73 668	2
Leeds	302 604	3	73 126	2
Rotherham	415 302	1	368 608	2
Wakefield	38 262	2	0	0
<b>Yorkshire &amp; the Humber Total</b>	<b>956 099</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>515 602</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>ENGLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3 040 371</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1 456 569</b>	<b>17</b>
Carmarthenshire	29 838	2	2 040	1
Neath Port Talbot	916 196	7	906 635	7
Powys	380 596	1	318 017	1
Wrexham	78 863	1	8 794	1
<b>WALES TOTAL</b>	<b>1 405 493</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1 235 486</b>	<b>10</b>
Clackmannanshire	108 949	1	3 697	1

Falkirk	22 276	1	177 950	1
Fife	1 632 982	6	1 488 268	5
Midlothian	79 206	1	211 522	1
North Lanarkshire	201 133	2	181 711	1
South Lanarkshire	1 596 122	4	1 257 144	5
West Lothian	149 353	1	508 565	1
<b>SCOTLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>7 546 849</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>7 754 004</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>11 992 713</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>10 446 059</b>	<b>50</b>

**TABLE 2: GREAT BRITAIN: PERMITTED RESERVES OF OPENCAST COAL REMAINING IN OPERATIONAL SITES AT 31ST DECEMBER 2004 AND 2005**

Mineral planning authority	2004		2005	
	Tonnage remaining	Number of sites	Tonnage remaining	Number of sites
Derbyshire	92 496	1	0**	1
Leicestershire	47 092	1	61 823	1
<b>East Midlands Total</b>	<b>139 588</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>61 823</b>	<b>2</b>
Durham	117 169	1		
Newcastle upon Tyne			185 984	1
Northumberland	1 872 498	3	1502 746	2
<b>North East Total</b>	<b>1 989 667</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1 668 730</b>	<b>3</b>
St Helens			10 950	1
<b>North West Total</b>			<b>10 950</b>	<b>1</b>
Shropshire	349 318	1	344 976	1
<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>349 318</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>344 976</b>	<b>1</b>
Barnsley	34 031	2		
Leeds	122 601	2		
Rotherham	124 937	1	19 411	1
<b>Yorkshire &amp; the Humber Total</b>	<b>281 569</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19 411</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ENGLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>2 760 142</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2 125 890</b>	<b>8</b>
Carmarthenshire	159 119	1	157 080	1
Neath Port Talbot	1 081 188	6	1 344 797	5
Powys	2 753 569	1	2 435 552	1
Wrexham	38 558	1		
<b>WALES TOTAL</b>	<b>4 032 434</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3 937 429</b>	<b>7</b>
Clackmannanshire	82 456	1		
East Ayrshire	15 335 204	7	14 354 513	8
Falkirk	405 875	1	227 925	1

Fife	2 929 774	5	1 501 212	5
Midlothian	392 875	1	181 353	1
North Lanarkshire	332 347	1	0	1
South Lanarkshire	9 722 312	4	8 435 724	3
West Lothian	1 262 647	1	754 082	1
<b>SCOTLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>30 453 490</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25 454 649</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>37 246 066</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>31 517 968</b>	<b>33</b>

\* Includes sites in care & maintenance at end Dec 2005

\*\* Reserve for Derbyshire included in total for Leicestershire as one site covers both MPAs

Source: *The Coal Authority*

**TABLE 3: GREAT BRITAIN: PERMITTED RESERVES OF OPENCAST COAL IN SITES NOT YET WORKING AT 31ST DECEMBER 2004 AND 2005**

Mineral planning authority	2004	2005
	Reserves tonnes	Reserves tonnes
Barnsley		
Bolton	964 000	964 000
Derbyshire	24 000	
Leeds		
Newcastle	229 929	
Northumberland	742 000	
Rotherham	24 000	
<b>ENGLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>1 983 929</b>	<b>964 000</b>
Neath Port Talbot	2 482 233	2 100 000
Merthyr Tydfil	5 500 000	
<b>WALES TOTAL</b>	<b>7 982 233</b>	<b>2 100 000</b>
Mid Lothian		1 878 045
North Lanarkshire	580 000	580 000
Falkirk		214 000
Dumfries & Galloway	1 878 045	1 878 045
East Ayrshire	2 445 000	<i>no data currently available</i>
South Lanarkshire	1 200 000	1 075 169
<b>SCOTLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>6 103 045</b>	<b>3 747 214</b>
<b>GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>16 069 207</b>	<b>6 811 214</b>

Source: The Coal Authority

**TABLE 4: GREAT BRITAIN: APPLICATIONS FOR OPENCAST COAL WHICH HAVE BEEN GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2005**

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Applications approved</b>	<b>Total hectares</b>	<b>Total reserves tonnes</b>
Leicestershire	1	2.73	40 000
<b>ENGLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.73</b>	<b>40 000</b>
North Lanarkshire	1	0.85	300 000
Falkirk	1	61.7	214 000
<b>SCOTLAND</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>62.55</b>	<b>514 000</b>
Neath Port Talbot	1	83	450 000
<b>WALES TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>450 000</b>

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**TABLE 5: GREAT BRITAIN: APPLICATIONS FOR OPENCAST COAL WHICH HAVE BEEN REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2005**

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Applications declined</b>	<b>Total hectares</b>	<b>Total reserves (tonnes)</b>
<b>ENGLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Authority</b>	<b>Applications declined</b>	<b>Total hectares</b>	<b>Total reserves (tonnes)</b>
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1	13.5	60 000
Merthyr Tydfil*	1	400.6	10 800 000
<b>WALES TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>414.1</b>	<b>10 860 000</b>
<b>Authority</b>	<b>Applications declined</b>	<b>Total hectares</b>	<b>Total reserves (tonnes)</b>
<b>SCOTLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>414.1</b>	<b>10 860 000</b>

\* Planning permission was granted in 2005 but quashed in Dec 2005 following judicial review of decision.

**TABLE 6: GREAT BRITAIN: DETAILS OF OPENCAST COAL SITES GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2005 ENGLAND**

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves	Granted hectares	EIA
Leicestershire	Swainspark	Spring Cottage	New Operation	40 000	2.73	Yes

**WALES**

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves	Granted hectares	EIA
Neath Port Talbot	Nant y Mynydd	Aberpergym Forest, Glynneath	New Operation	450 000	83	Yes

**SCOTLAND**

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves	Granted hectares	EIA
Falkirk	Greenhill	Avonbridge	New Operation	214 000	61.7	Yes
N. Lanarkshire	Drumshangie	Greengairs, Airdrie	Extension - lateral	300 000	0.85	Yes

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**TABLE 7: GREAT BRITAIN: DETAILS OF OPENCAST COAL SITES REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2005**

**ENGLAND - NONE**

**WALES**

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Declined reserves	Declined hectares	EIA
Rhondda Cynon Taf		NE of Llwydcoed, Aberdare	New Operation	60 000	13.5	No
Merthyr Tydfil*	Ffos-y-Fran		New Operation	10 800 000	400.6	Yes

\* Planning permission was granted in 2005 but quashed in Dec 2005 following judicial review of decision.

**SCOTLAND - NONE**

**TABLE 8: GREAT BRITAIN: OPENCAST COAL SITES CEASING OPERATIONS DUE TO EXHAUSTION OF RESERVES DURING 2005**

**ENGLAND**

Authority	Site name	Site operator	Site address
Barnsley	Low Barugh	UK Coal	Dearne Hall Rd, Low Barugh
Barnsley	Woodhead	HJ Banks & Company Ltd	Woodhead Lane
Derbyshire	Arkwright	UK Coal Mining Ltd	Arkwright Townm, Nr Chesterfield
Durham	Southfield	UK Coal Mining Ltd	Brusselton Lane, Nr Shildon
Leeds	Moss Carr	HJ Banks & Company Ltd	
Leeds	Cave Lane	HJ Banks & Company Ltd	East Ardsley, Leeds
Leicestershire	Albion	Hall Construction	Woodville Rd, Moira
Northumberland	Stobswood	UK Coal Mining Ltd	Ulgham, Morpeth
Rotherham	Orgreave	UK Coal Mining Ltd	Highfield Lane, Orgreave

**SCOTLAND**

Authority	Site name	Site operator	Site address
Clackmannanshire	Meadowhill	J Fenton & Sons (contractors) Ltd	
North Lanarkshire	Drumshangie	G M Mining Ltd	
South Lanarkshire	Climpy	CRE Energy Ltd	

**WALES**

Authority	Site name	Site operator	Site address
Neath Port Talbot CBC	Nant Melyn	Energybuild Ltd	Seven Sisters, Dulais, Neath
Neath Port Talbot CBC	Parc Level	S&H Plant Ltd	Gwrhyd Mountain, Rhiwfawr, Neath
Wrexham	Brymbo Steelworks	Brymbo Developments Ltd	

**TABLE 9: GREAT BRITAIN: NUMBER OF OPENCAST COAL SITES CEASING OPERATIONS DUE TO EXHAUSTION OF RESERVES DURING 2005**

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>NUMBER OF OPENCAST SITES CLOSED DURING 2005</b>
ENGLAND	9
SCOTLAND	3
WALES	3
<b>GREAT BRITAIN</b>	<b>15</b>

## OPENCAST COAL PRODUCTION GRAPHS

Figure 1. England: Opencast coal production, 1986 - 2006

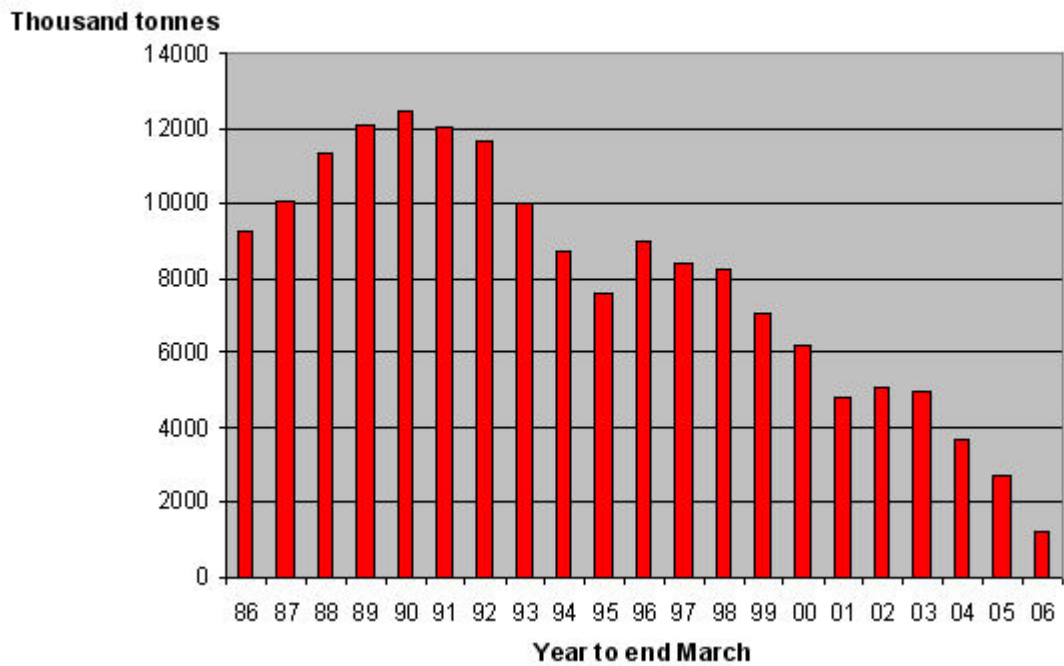
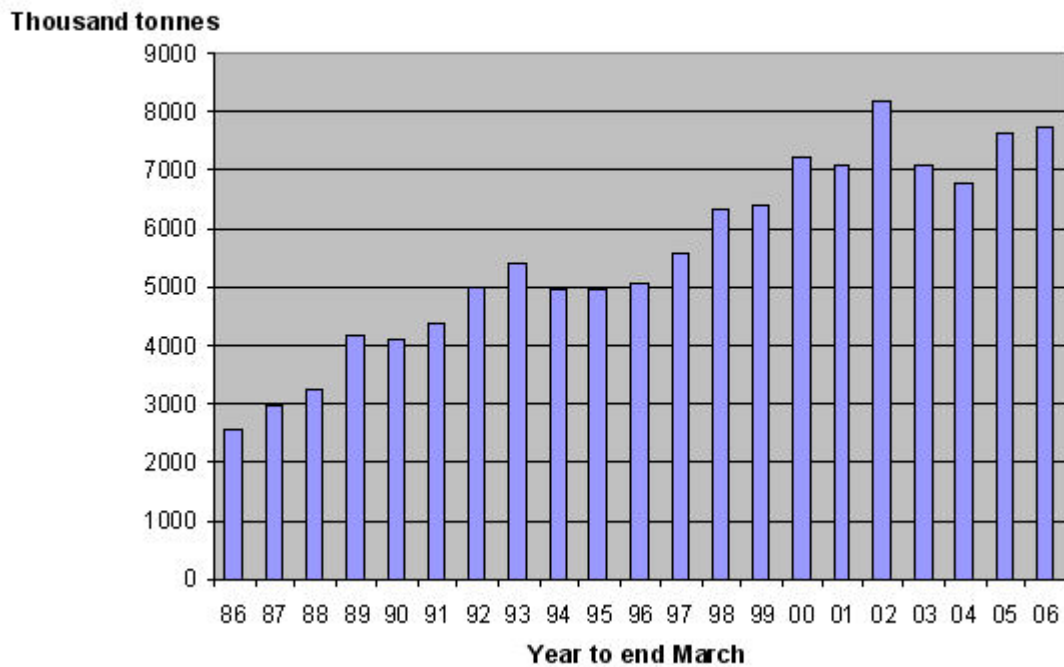


Figure 2. Scotland: Opencast coal production, 1986 - 2006



**Figure 3. Wales: Opencast coal production, 1986 - 2006**

