Coal: opencast coal mining statistics 2006

The results of the Opencast Coal Survey for 2006 are now available.

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.

There have been some revisions to the opencast coal reserves for 2005.

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 2005–2006
- Table 2. Great Britain: permitted reserves of opencast coal remaining in sites in production at 31st December 2005 and 2006
- Table 3. Great Britain: permitted reserves of opencast coal in sites not yet in production at 31st December 2005 and 2006
- Table 4. Great Britain: applications for opencast coal which have been granted planning permission during 2006
- Table 5. Great Britain: applications for opencast coal which have been refused planning permission during 2006
- Table 6. Great Britain: details of opencast coal sites granted planning permission during 2006
- Table 7. Great Britain: details of opencast coal sites refused planning permission during 2006
- Table 8. Great Britain: opencast coal sites ceasing operations due to exhaustion of reserves during 2006
- Table 9. Great Britain: number of opencast coal sites ceasing operations due to exhaustion of reserves during 2006

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 2007 are presented here:

- Figure 1. England: opencast coal production, 1986-2007
- Figure 2. Scotland: opencast coal production, 1986-2007
- Figure 3. Wales: opencast coal production, 1986–2007

Note: The data may not be totally comprehensive because not all planning authorities have made a return (5 MPAs yet to reply at 31st Jul, 2007). The tables will be updated if new information is received.

TABLE 1: GREAT BRITAIN: SALEABLE OPENCAST COAL PRODUCTION IN 2005–2006

	2005		20	06
Mineral Planning Authority	Tonnes	Operational sites	Tonnes	Operational sites
Derbyshire	48 560	2	0	0
Leicestershire	94 844	2	34 239	1
East Midlands Total	143 404	4	34 239	1
Shropshire	4 342	1	24 216	1
West Midlands Total	4 342	1	24 216	1
Durham	97 353	1	82 523	1
Newcastle upon Tyne	43 945	1	119 242	1
Northumberland	647 624	3	665 866	3
North East Total	788 922	5	867 631	5
Ottlelene	4 000	41	44 400	4
St Helens	4 299	1	11 403	1
North West Total	4 299	1	11 403	1
Barnsley	73 668	2	0	0
Leeds	73 126	2	0	0
Rotherham	368 608	2	28 898	1
Yorkshire & the Humber Total	515 602	6	28 898	1
ENGLAND TOTAL	1 456 569	17	966 387	9
Carmarthenshire	2 040	1	32 117	1
Neath Port Talbot	906 635	7	822 191	5
Powys	318 017	1	402 765	1
Wrexham	8 794	1	0	0
WALES TOTAL	1 235 486	10	1 257 073	7
Clackmannanshire	3 697	1	0	0
East Ayrshire	3 925 147	8	3 573 007	8
Falkirk	177 950	1	53 094	1
Fife	1 488 268	5	1 200 146	5
Midlothian	211 522	1	267 117	1
North Lanarkshire	181 711	1	0	1
South Lanarkshire	1 257 144	5	880 675	4
West Lothian	508 565	1	512 596	1
SCOTLAND TOTAL	7 754 004	23	6 486 635	21
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL	10 446 059	50	8 710 095	27
GREAT DRITAIN TOTAL	10 440 039	ວບ	0 / 10 095	37

Source: The Coal Authority

TABLE 2: GREAT BRITAIN: PERMITTED RESERVES OF OPENCAST COAL REMAINING IN OPERATIONAL SITES AT 31ST DECEMBER 2005 AND 2006

	20	05	2006		
Mineral planning authority	Tonnage remaining	Number of sites	Tonnage remaining	Number of sites	
Derbyshire	0**	1	0	(
Leicestershire	61 823	1	0	(
East Midlands Total	61 823	1	0	(
Durham	1		174 565	1	
Newcastle upon Tyne	185 984	1	66 742	1	
Northumberland	1502 746	2	1 876 022	3	
North East Total	1 668 730	3	2 117 329	Ę	
St Helens	10 950	1	0	C	
North West Total	10 950	1	0	0	
Shropshire	344 976	1	320 760	1	
West Midlands	344 976	1	320 760	1	
Calderdale			8 700		
Rotherham*	19 411		19 411	1	
Yorkshire & the Humber Total	19 411	1	28 111	2	
ENGLAND TOTAL	2 125 890	7	2 466 200	8	
Bridgend	0***	1	0***	1	
Carmarthenshire	157 080	1	24 386	1	
Neath Port Talbot	1 344 797	5	3 587 406	5	
Powys	2 435 552	1	2 032 787	1	
WALES TOTAL	3 937 429	7	5 644 579	7	
East Ayrshire	14 354 513	8	11 080 490	7	
Falkirk	227 925	1	0	(
Fife	1 501 212	5	842 385	4	
Midlothian	181 353	1	37 155	1	
North Lanarkshire	0	1	0	(
South Lanarkshire	8 435 724	3	8 631 218	4	
West Lothian	754 082	1	241 486	2	
SCOTLAND TOTAL	25 454 649	20	20 832 734	18	
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL	31 517 968	33	28 943 513	33	

^{*} Includes sites in care & maintenance at end Dec 2006.

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

*** Reserve for Bridgend included in total for Neath Port Talbot 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 2005 AND 2006

Min and planning and arity	2005	2006	
Mineral planning authority	Reserves tonnes	Reserves tonnes	
Bolton	964 000	964 000	
Kirklees	0	55 000	
Leicestershire	0	725 000	
ENGLAND TOTAL	964 000	1 744 000	
Neath Port Talbot	2 100 000	2 130 000	
WALES TOTAL	2 100 000	2 130 000	
Dumfries & Galloway	1 878 045	3 287 949	
East Ayrshire	no data currently available	496 527	
Falkirk	214 000	214 000	
Fife	0	25 000	
North Lanarkshire	580 000	no data currently available	
South Lanarkshire	1 075 169	4 720 000	
SCOTLAND TOTAL	3 747 214	8 246 949	
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL	6 811 214	12 120 949	

Source: The Coal Authority

TABLE 4: GREAT BRITAIN: APPLICATIONS FOR OPENCAST COAL WHICH HAVE BEEN GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2006

Authority	Applications approved	Total hectares	Total reserves tonnes
Leicestershire	1	70	725 000
Durham	1	49	257 088
Northumberland	1	39	987 000
ENGLAND TOTAL	3	158	1 96 9088
Dumfries and Galloway	1	219	3 287 949
East Ayrshire*	1	not known	496 527
Fife	1	0.83	25 000
South Lanarkshire*	3	not known	4 720 000
SCOTLAND	6	219.83	8 529 476
Neath Port Talbot	1	13.6	30 000
WALES TOTAL	1	13.6	30 000
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL	10	391.43	10 528 564

^{*}Data is incomplete for East Aryshire and S. Lanarkshire

TABLE 5: GREAT BRITAIN: APPLICATIONS FOR OPENCAST COAL WHICH HAVE BEEN REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2006

Authority	Applications declined	Total hectares	Total reserves (tonnes)
Gateshead	1	45.2	480 000
Northumberland	1	342	3 400 000
ENGLAND TOTAL	2	387.2	3 880 000
Authority	Applications declined	Total hectares	Total reserves (tonnes)
WALES TOTAL	0	0	0
Authority	Applications declined	Total hectares	Total reserves (tonnes)
Fife	1	182	2 000 000
SCOTLAND TOTAL	0	0	0
		,	
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL	2	387.2	3 880 000

TABLE 6: GREAT BRITAIN: DETAILS OF OPENCAST COAL SITES GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2006

ENGLAND

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves	Granted hectares	EIA	Granted after appeal
Leicestershire	Long Moor	Land between the villages of Ravenstone, Heather and Normanton le Heath	New Operation	725 000	70	Yes	No
Northumberland	Stobswood	Ulgham	Extension - Lateral	987 000	39	Yes	No
Durham	Stony Heap	Brooms Lane, Iveston, Consett, Co. Durham DH8 7ST	New operation	257 088	49	Yes	No

WALES

Authority	Site name	Site address			Granted hectares	EIA	Granted after appeal
Neath Port Talbot	Parc Level	Gwrhyd Mountain	Extension - Lateral	30 000	13.6	Yes	No

SCOTLAND

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves	Granted hectares	EIA	Granted after appeal
Dumfries and Galloway	Glenmuckloch	Glenmuckloch open cast coal mine Kirkconnel	New Operation	3 287 949	219	Yes	No
Fife	St Ninians	Dunfermline to B917	Extension - Lateral	25 000	0.83	Yes	No
S. Lanarkshire	Broken Cross North extension	Not known	Extension	900 000	INOT KNOWN	Not known	Yes*
S. Lanarkshire	Broken Cross North extension	Not known	Extension	3 250 000	Not known	Not known	Yes*
S. Lanarkshire	Poniel	Not known	Not known	570 000	Not known	Yes	No
East Aryshire	Laigh Glenmuir	Not known	Not known	496 537	INOT KNOWN	Not known	No

^{*}Called in by Scottish Executive

TABLE 7: GREAT BRITAIN: DETAILS OF OPENCAST COAL SITES REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2006

ENGLAND

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type		Declined hectares	EIA	Refused after appeal
Gateshead	Skon's Park, Land at Byermoor farm	Fellside Road, Whickham, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE16 6BE	New Operation	480 000	45.2	Yes	Appeal pending
Northumberland	Shotton	Cramlington	New Operation	3 400 000	342	Yes	No

WALES - NONE

SCOTLAND

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type		Declined hectares	EIA	Refused after appeal
Fife	Muirdean	Inverkeithing Rd, Crossgates	New	2 000 000	182	No	No

TABLE 8: GREAT BRITAIN: OPENCAST COAL SITES CEASING OPERATIONS DUE TO EXHAUSTION OF RESERVES DURING 2006

ENGLAND

Authority	Site name	Site operator	Site address
Derbyshire	Woodville Woodlands	Hall Construction	Woodville, Derbyshire
Leicestershire	Swainspark	Hall Construction	Spring Cottage Road, Overseal
St Helens	Crock Hey	LEM	Crock Hey, Old Garswood Road, Garswood, St Helens

SCOTLAND

Authority	Site name	Site operator	Site address
East Ayrshire	Rigghead Farm	The Scottish Coal Company Ltd	Rigghead Farm Prospect extension
East Ayrshire	Garleffan	ATH Garleffan Ltd	Garleffan Site

WALES

Authority	Site name	Site operator	Site address
Neath Port Talbot CBC	Cwm Yr Onnen		2 miles West of Cwmgors, nr Neath

TABLE 9: GREAT BRITAIN: NUMBER OF OPENCAST COAL SITES CEASING OPERATIONS DUE TO EXHAUSTION OF RESERVES DURING 2006

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF OPENCAST SITES CLOSED DURING 2006	
ENGLAND	3	
SCOTLAND	2	
WALES	1	
GREAT BRITAIN	6	

OPENCAST COAL PRODUCTION GRAPHS

Figure 1. England: Opencast coal production, 1986 - 2007

Thousand tonnes

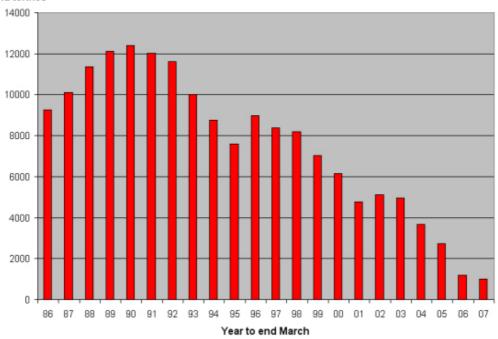


Figure 2. Scotland: Opencast coal production, 1986 - 2007

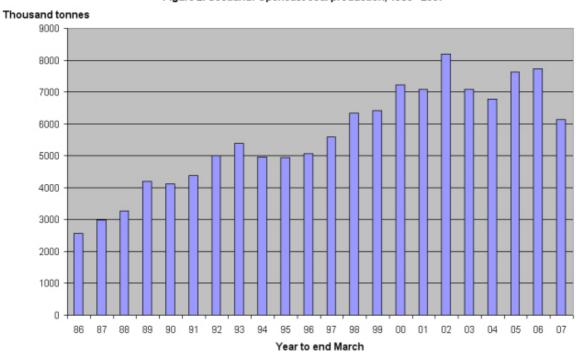


Figure 3. Wales: Opencast coal production, 1986 - 2007

Thousand tonnes

