Opencast coal statistics 2008

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 2008 data (click links for data):

- Table 1. Great Britain: saleable opencast coal production in 2007–2008
- Table 2. Great Britain: permitted reserves of opencast coal remaining in sites in production at 31st
 December 2007 and 2008
- Table 3. Great Britain: permitted reserves of opencast coal in sites not yet in production at 31st
 December 2007 and 2008
- Table 4. Great Britain: applications for opencast coal which have been granted planning permission during 2008
- Table 5. Great Britain: applications for opencast coal which have been refused planning permission during 2008
- Table 6. Great Britain: details of opencast coal sites granted planning permission during 2008
- Table 7. Great Britain: details of opencast coal sites refused planning permission during 2008
- Table 8. Great Britain: opencast coal sites ceasing operations due to exhaustion of reserves during 2008
- Table 9. Great Britain: number of opencast coal sites ceasing operations due to exhaustion of reserves during 2008

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 2008 are presented here:

- Figure 1. England: opencast coal production, 1985–2008
- Figure 2. Scotland: opencast coal production, 1985–2008
- Figure 3. Wales: opencast coal production, 1985–2008

Note: The data may not be totally comprehensive because not all planning authorities have made a return. The tables will be updated if new information is received.

TABLE 1. GREAT BRITAIN: SALEABLE OPENCAST COAL PRODUCTION IN 2007–2008*

	20	07	2008		
Mineral Planning Authority	Tonnes	Operational sites	Tonnes	Operational sites*	
Derbyshire	12 711	1	75 513	1	
Leicestershire	0	0	437 499	1	
East Midlands Total	12 711	1	513 012	2	
Shropshire	463	1	0	0	
West Midlands Total	463	1	0	0	
Durham	142 752	1	0	0	
Newcastle upon Tyne	25 061	1	0		
Northumberland	1 246 178	3	1 223 333	4	
North East Total	1 413 991	5	1 223 333	4	
Bolton	143 906	1	251 494	1	
Lancashire (new in 2008)			917	0	
North West Total	143 906	1	252 411	1	
Calderdale	735	1	0	0	
Kirklees	12 469	1	3 855	1	
Rotherham	0	0	0	0	
Wakefield	34 934	1	145 957	1	
Yorkshire & the Humber Total	48 138	3	149 812	2	
ENGLAND TOTAL	1 619 209	11	2 138 568	9	
Carmarthenshire	23 524	1	9 226	0	
Merthyr Tydfil	0	1	379 049	1	
Neath Port Talbot	665 790	5	842 482	6	
Powys	370 359	1	401 973	1	
WALES TOTAL	1 059 673	8	1 632 730	8	
Dumfries and Galloway	829 366	1	582 101	1	
East Ayrshire	3 349 770	8	3 218 310	8	
Fife	815 533	3	712 423	3	
Midlothian	83 989	1	226 300	1	
South Lanarkshire	765 740	4	916 009	5	
West Lothian	343 696	1	22 924	0	
SCOTLAND TOTAL	6 188 094	18	5 678 067	18	
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL *end December 2008.	8 866 976	37	9 449 365	35	

*end December 2008. Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities.

The 2008 figures, first released in July 2008 in Table 2 'GREAT BRITAIN: PERMITTED RESERVES OF OPENCAST COAL REMAINING AT SITES IN PRODUCTION AT 31ST DECEMBER 2007 and 2008' have been revised in order to ensure consistency with the data published in Table 2 in previous years.

TABLE 2. GREAT BRITAIN: PERMITTED RESERVES OF OPENCAST COAL REMAINING AT SITES IN PRODUCTION* AT 31ST DECEMBER 2007 AND 2008

	2007			
Mineral planning authority	Tonnage remaining	Number of sites	Tonnage remaining	Number of sites
Durham	0	0	0	0
Newcastle upon Tyne	0	1	0	0
Northumberland	1 790 307	3	4 175 129	4
North East Total	1 790 307	4	4 175 129	4
Bolton / Wigan	816 096	1	568 600	1
North West Total	816 096	1	568 600	1
Shropshire	320 297	1	320 297	1
West Midlands	320 297	1	320 297	1
Derbyshire (Added 2008)			923 452	1
Leicestershire (Added 2008)			287 501	1
East Midlands Total	0	0	1 210 953	2
Calderdale*	7 965	1	7 965	1
Kirklees	42 531	1	38 676	1
Rotherham	0	0	0	0
Wakefield	187 327	1	47 469	1
Yorkshire & the Humber Total	237 823	3	94 110	3
ENGLAND TOTAL	3 164 523	9	6 369 089	9
Bridgend	0**	1	0**	1
Carmarthenshire	0	1	39 619	2***
Merthyr Tydfil	10 791 317	1	10 420 951	1
Neath Port Talbot	1 163 590	5	2 683 724	4
Powys	2 646 020	1	2 260 455	1
WALES TOTAL	14 600 927	8	15 404 749	7
Dumfries and Galloway	2 428 956	1	1 876 482	1
East Ayrshire	8 331 681	7	9 249 052	8
Fife	1 235 659	2	2 832 765	3
Midlothian	400 270	1	182 036	1
South Lanarkshire	8 299 166	4	7 996 340	5
West Lothian	0	1	0	1
SCOTLAND TOTAL	20 695 732	16	31 324 627	19
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL	38 461 182	33	4 391 0513	36

^{*} Includes sites in care & maintenance at end Dec 2008.

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

^{***}Includes Cwy-Yr-Onen which borders Neath Port Talbot and Carmarthenshire.

TABLE 3. GREAT BRITAIN: PERMITTED RESERVES OF OPENCAST COAL IN SITES NOT YET WORKING AT 31ST DECEMBER 2007 AND 2008

Minoral planning authority	2007	2008	
Mineral planning authority	Tonnes	Tonnes	
Derbyshire	994 340	411 839	
Leicestershire	725 000	0	
Northumberland	3 359 564	2 060 000	
ENGLAND TOTAL	5 078 904	2 471 839	
Merthyr Tydfil	0	0	
Neath Port Talbot	2 230 000	30 000	
WALES TOTAL	2 230 000	30 000	
Dumfries & Galloway	0	0	
East Ayrshire	920 000	5 037 952	
Falkirk	190 767	190 767	
Fife	2 000 000	620 068	
North Lanarkshire	0	0	
Scottish Borders	450 000	450 000	
South Lanarkshire	5 470 000	4 150 000	
SCOTLAND TOTAL	9 030 767	10 448 787	
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL	16 339 671	12 950 626	

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities.

TABLE 4. GREAT BRITAIN: APPLICATIONS FOR OPENCAST COAL WHICH HAVE BEEN GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2008

Authority	Applications approved	Total hectares	Total reserves tonnes
Derbyshire	1	62	466 577
Northumberland	1	9	33 000
ENGLAND TOTAL	2	71	499 577
Carmarthenshire	1	6	40 000
WALES TOTAL	1	6	40 000
Dumfries and Galloway	2	362	2 027 100
East Ayrshire	5	849	3 720 000
SCOTLAND	7	1 211	5 747 100
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL	10	1 287	6 286 677

TABLE 5. GREAT BRITAIN: APPLICATIONS FOR OPENCAST COAL WHICH HAVE BEEN REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2008

Authority	Applications declined	Total hectares	Total reserves (tonnes)
ENGLAND TOTAL	0	0	0
Authority	Applications declined	Total hectares	Total reserves (tonnes)
Bridgend CBC / Neath Port Talbot	1	277	1 700 000
St Helens	1	19	105 000
WALES TOTAL	2	296	1 805 000
Authority	Applications declined	Total hectares	Total reserves (tonnes)
SCOTLAND TOTAL	0	0	0
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL	2	296	1 805 000

TABLE 6. GREAT BRITAIN: DETAILS OF OPENCAST COAL SITES GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2008

ENGLAND

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves*	Granted hectares	EIA	Granted after appeal
Derbyshire	Engine	West Houses	New operation	466 577	61.75	Yes	No
Northumberland	Prestwick Pit	Callerton, Ponteland	New operation	33 000	9.3	N/a	N/a

WALES

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves	Granted hectares	EIA	Granted after appeal
Carmarthenshire	Cwm-yr-onnen	Betws Mountain	Extension Lateral	400 000	5.7	Yes	No

SCOTLAND

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves	Granted hectares	EIA	Granted after
D (')			.,,,,,	1000.700	noota oo		appeal
Dumfries and Galloway	Glenmuckloch	Kirkconnel	Extension lateral	727 100	216	Yes	No
Dumfries and Galloway	Rigg Estate	Kirkconnel	New operation	1 300 000	146	Yes	No
East Ayrshire	Greenburn (North Extension)	Auchincross Farm by New Cumnock, KA18 4QR	Lateral	200 000	16.9	No	No
East Ayrshire	Greenburn (NE Extension)	Auchincross Farm by New Cumnock, KA18 4QR	Lateral	80 000	16.9	No	No
East Ayrshire	Greenburn (Dalgig Extension)	Auchincross Farm by New Cumnock, KA18 4QR	Lateral	1 500 000	510	Yes	No
East Ayrshire	Chalmerston North (Extension)	Off A713 Public Road by Dalmellington, KA6 7PN	Lateral	1 020 000	280	Yes	No
East Ayrshire	Grievehill (Extension)	Pathhead Road, New Cumnock, KA18 4PW	Lateral	920 000	24.7	Yes	No

N/a not available

TABLE 7. GREAT BRITAIN: DETAILS OF OPENCAST COAL SITES REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2008

ENGLAND- NONE

WALES

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Declined reserves*		EIA	Refused after appeal
Bridgend / Neath Port Talbot	Margam	Kenfig Hill	Lateral extension	1 700 000	277	Yes	No
St Helens	Carters Fold	Land between Garswood Old Road and Arch Lane, Ashton In Makerfield	New operation	105 000	18.7	Yes	No

SCOTLAND- NONE

TABLE 8. GREAT BRITAIN: OPENCAST COAL SITES CEASING OPERATIONS DUE TO EXHAUSTION OF RESERVES DURING 2008

ENGLAND

Authority	Site name	Site operator	Site address
Northumberland	Maiden's Hall	UK Coal Mining Ltd	West Chevington, Morpeth

SCOTLAND

Authority	Site name	Site operator	Site address
East Ayrshire	Garleffan OCCS	ATH Resources	Pathhead Road, New Cumnock, KA18 4PW

WALES

Authority	Site name	Site operator	Site address
Bridgend CBC / Neath Port Talbot	Margam	Celtic Energy	Kenfig Hill
Carmarthenshire	Dynant	Carmarthen Mining	Bethesda Road, Tumble, Llanelli
Neath Port Talbot	Parc Level	Pressdale Group	Gwrhyd Mountain Nr Pontardawe

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

TABLE 9. GREAT BRITAIN: NUMBER OF OPENCAST COAL SITES CEASING OPERATIONS DUE TO EXHAUSTION OF RESERVES DURING 2008

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF OPENCAST SITES CLOSED DURING 2007	
ENGLAND		1
SCOTLAND		1
WALES		3
GREAT BRITAIN		5

Figure 1. England: Opencast coal production, 1985 - 2008

Thousand tonnes

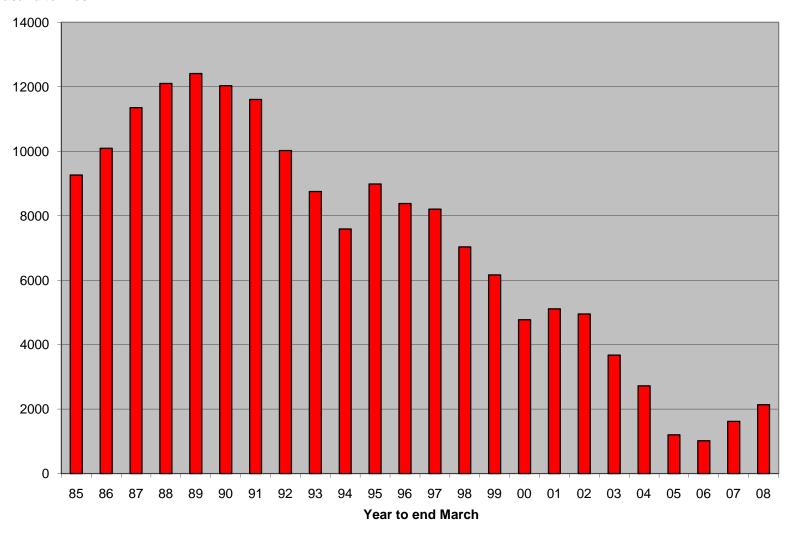


Figure 2. Scotland: Opencast coal production, 1985 - 2008

Thousand tonnes

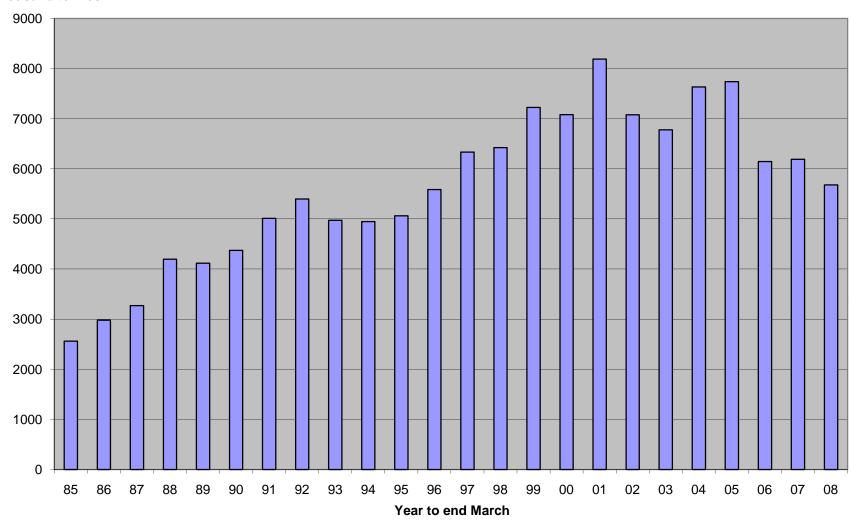


Figure 3. Wales: Opencast coal production, 1985 - 2008

Thousand tonnes

