



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

POLICY INSTRUCTION

Subject: Coal Mining Legacy Issues on the Defence Estate

Number: 14/11

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Date of issue: 21 Oct 11

Contact if different from above Sponsor:

Who Should Read this: Heads of Establishments, MOD Contract Managers including PFIs, Maintenance Management Organisations, DDs Estate Management, DTE, Health & Safety Advisors.

When it takes effect: Immediately

When it is due to expire: 22 Oct 13

Estate Management

Equality And Diversity Impact Assessment

This policy has been Equality and Diversity Impact Assessed in accordance with the Department's Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment Tool against:

Part 1 Assessment Only – no impact found

Document Aim: The aim of this Policy Instruction is essentially threefold. Firstly, it raises awareness of coal mining legacy issues across the defence estate in Great Britain (GB). Secondly, it includes Coal Authority guidance on inspection and reporting processes. Thirdly, it outlines the actions to be taken by Heads of Establishments.

For areas of the defence estate outside GB with a known or suspected coal mining legacy the appropriate host nation authority should be contacted for information. For Northern Ireland the responsibility for coal mining legacy rests with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI).

Purpose

1. The aim of this PI to raise awareness of coal mining legacy issues across the defence estate, explain the role of The Coal Authority in GB and actions to be taken by Heads of Establishment.

Background

2. The Coal Authority was established under the Coal Industry Act 1994 and is the government organisation that exists to protect the public and the environment in coal mining areas in GB. It has a remit to manage the coal legacy. They manage the effects of past coal mining in order to promote public safety and safeguard the landscape.

3. The long history of coal mining within the UK has left a widespread environmental legacy across some 25% of the country. In certain areas this legacy, which includes mine shafts and shallow mine workings, has an element of high risk but low probability of occurrence. The Coal Authority deals with over 250 surface hazards each year. These are generally evenly divided between hazards relating to mine entries and hazards relating to shallow workings (Mine gas and mine water issues are dealt with separately).

4. The black polygons in Figure 1 indicate MOD establishments in the main GB coalfields. The main sites affected are: Catterick Training Area, Otterburn Training Area, Keilder Forest, Donnington, Spadeadam, Beith, Strathclyde, and Crombie. A higher resolution map is attached at Annex A and a list of GB estate establishments and land parcels with a known coal mining legacy is attached at Annex B.

Mining Legacy Issues on the Defence Estate

5. The Coal Authority is responsible for repairing subsidence damage, managing historic liabilities, providing mining information and providing a 24hr emergency call-out service. The MOD has duties under the Occupier Liability Act 1984 and the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 for persons entering on to the defence estate.

6. As a major landowner the MOD is working in partnership with the Coal Authority to manage the risk associated with the coal mining legacy in the GB. The Coal Authority has requested that MOD provides copies of inspection reports to allow them to keep their records up to date and assess actions they need to take.

7. Coal Authority data on known coal mining activities associated with the defence estate is loaded into the 'Mining Impact' dataset on GEODE. The 'mining impact' dataset includes the layers in Table 1 below.

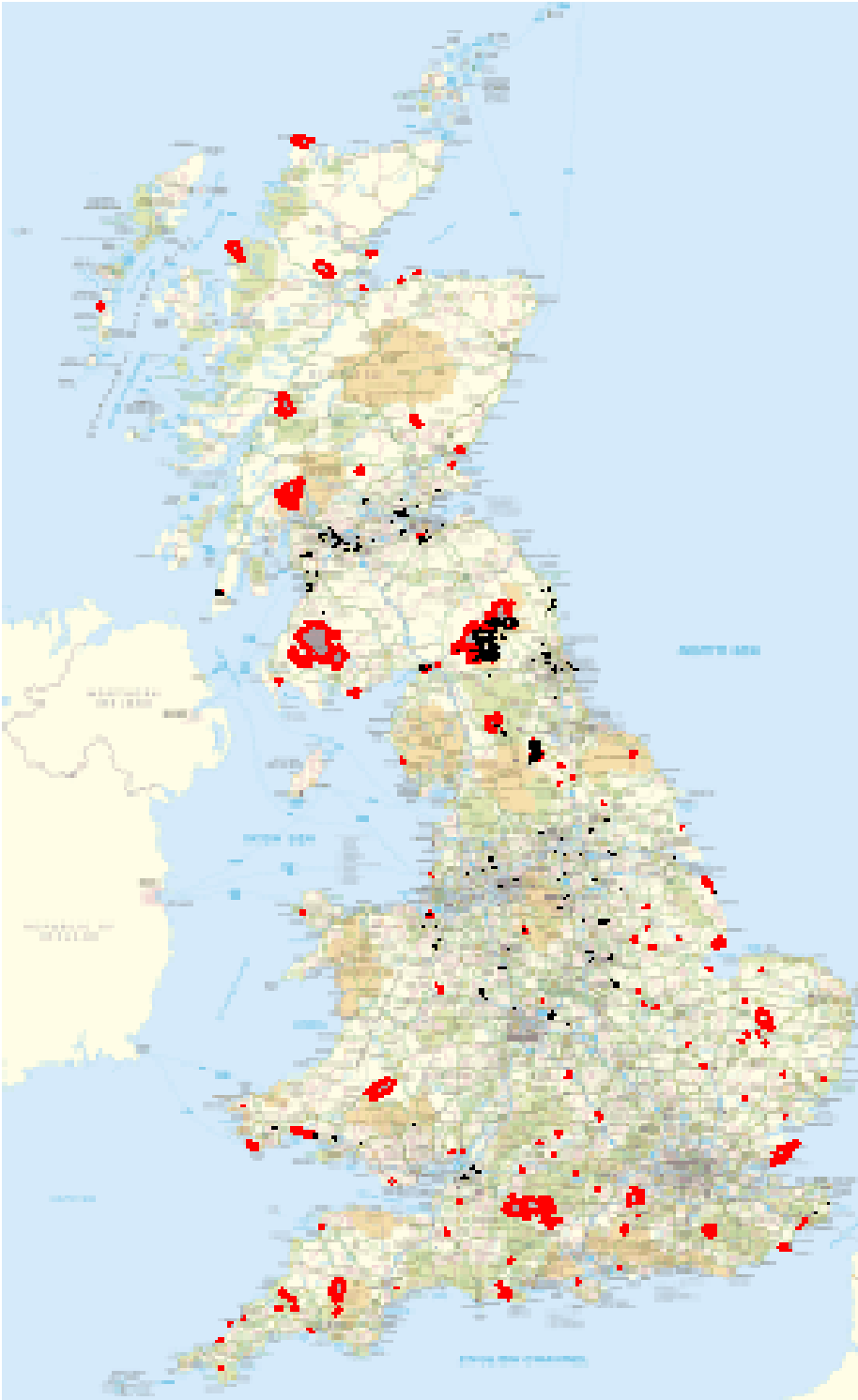
Table 1: Mining Impact Dataset

Name of Coal Authority Supplied Layer	Standardised Colour
Mine Entries	Shaft: red cross hair, Adit: red double arrow; start of arrow indicates drift mouth, point for direction only
Mine Entry Zone of Influence	Filled dark red circle centred on the coordinates of the entry
Coal outcrops	Filled purple polygons
Surface coal mining	Filled grey polygon
Recorded shallow working	Filled blue polygons
Probable workings	Filled purple polygons
Fissures	Filled red polygon 5m width
Coalfield	Black outline

8. Within GEODE the layer metadata for each data layer described above provides information about the attributes provided, where relevant. Information on associated surface features such as spoil and

structures is not included in the data set. Data on other types of mining such as tin, lead or gypsum is not included in the dataset.

Figure 1: GB Coal Fields on the MOD Estate



Key

- Coalfields – black polygons
- MOD Estate – red polygons

Head of Establishment Responsibilities

9. Where an establishment falls within a coal field, management of the associated risks must be incorporated into the Health and Safety Management System for the site. The Commanding Officer/Head of Establishment for establishments in GB should ensure that:

- the coal mining data set in GEODE has been reviewed to identify any known coal mining activity that has taken place within the area under their control;
- coal mining hazards are on the establishment hazard register;
- effective processes are in place to inform site users, facility and project managers, contractors and visitors of any known coal mining activity before commencing their activities;
- where mine entries are recorded in the mining impact dataset in GEODE a risk management strategy is put in place; and
- that records of any inspections are kept on site with copies sent to the Coal Authority.

10. The probability of encountering open or damaged entries or recent ground movements is low. The immediate requirement for establishments in coalfields is to review the content of Health & Safety briefings to ensure mine entry risks are covered.

11. Risk assessment of mine entries should be incorporated into existing estate management processes. If there are no existing site records of mine entry condition, risk assessments and site walkovers should be prioritised based on the level of risk of members of the public, MOD personnel, contractors and site visitors encountering a mine entry.

12. The Coal Authority Land Inspection Guide – Mine Entries, attached as Annex C gives guidance on what to look for and how to assess the level of risk. Any signs of recent movement, open or damaged mine entries should be reported immediately to the Coal Authority who will review the available information and instigate any remedial actions required. If no action is to be taken they will advise the site.

13. Task specific risk assessment must be carried out in accordance with JSP 375 Health and Safety Handbook. The persons carrying out the site inspection must be familiar with the Coal Authority Guide and the task specific risk assessment. Under no circumstances should mine entry be undertaken. Persons carrying out site walkovers and inspection must be aware of the risk of asphyxiating, toxic or explosive gas and unstable ground around mine entries.

14. Actions to be taken following any site walkovers / inspections are detailed Figure 2.

15. Information recorded on inspections should include, as far as practicable, the details below. The Establishment Land Condition File (where one exists) would be an appropriate place to store the records.

- Date.
- Inspector and organisation.
- Mine entry reference number.
- Inspection findings i.e. no evidence of mine entry.
- GPS co-ordinates or precise plan position.
- Nearest addressable feature.

If there is evidence of a mine entry the following should be recorded:

- Photographs (with a recognisable object to indicate scale).
- Type of evidence i.e. depression, marker pillar etc.
- Size of feature i.e. depth & diameter of depression, size of structure, dimensions of any opening.
- Is the feature secured and if so what is its condition i.e. palisade fence, stock proof fence, metal grill, concrete cap.
- Details of any defects i.e. fencing broken, cap cracked.
- Land use i.e. open parkland, dense woodland.
- Access constraints.
- Any recommendations.
- Contact details for site i.e. site manager.

Copies of inspection reports should be sent to The Coal Authority for the updating of its records. The Coal Authority will assess the information and advise the site on the actions that will be undertaken.

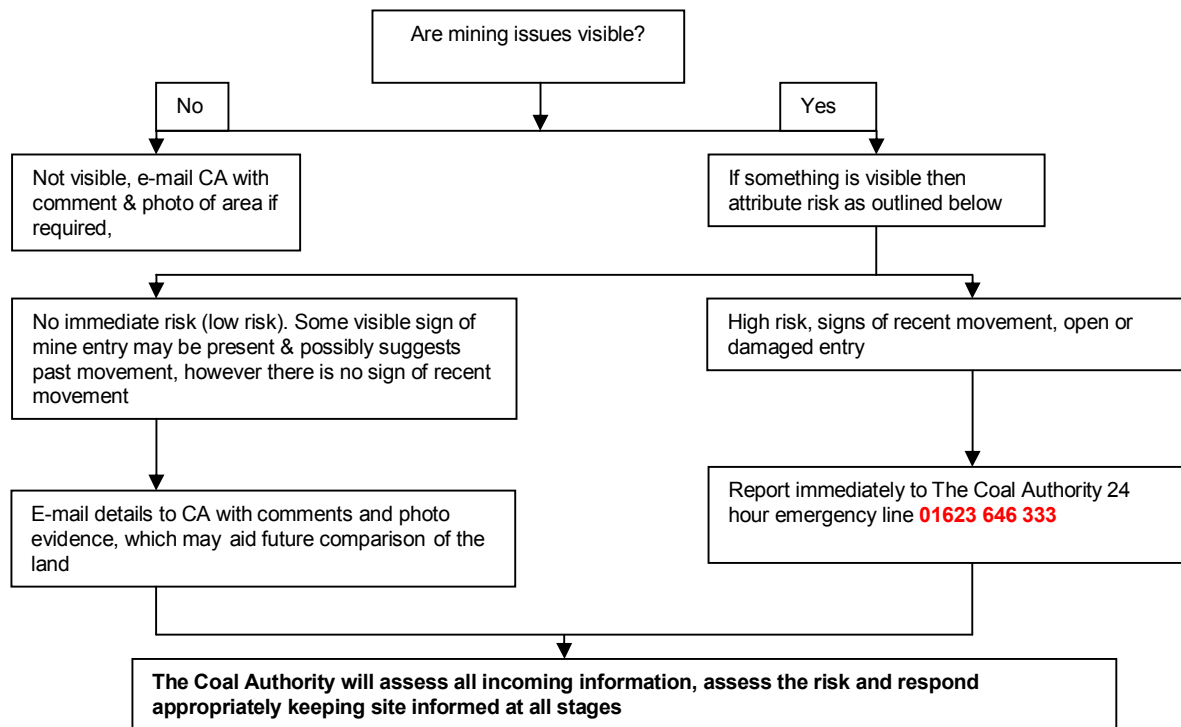


Figure 2: Actions following inspection

16. Contact Information

- The Coal Authority
200 Lichfield Lane
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG18 4RG
- Main Switchboard: 01623 637000
- Surface Hazards 24 Hour Emergency Service **01623 646333**
- Website: <http://coal.decc.gov.uk/>

- E-mail: thecoalauthority@coal.gov.uk