

Coal Mining Risk Assessment

For development at: Carters MOT & Auto Repair Centre, 40 Cilmaengwyn, Pontardawe, SA8 4QL

For proposal: Detached 4 bay repair outbuilding to rear of existing MOT and Auto Repair Centre

Assessment Summary

Assessment Result	HIGH RISK
Recommended Further Work	INTRUSIVE SITE INVESTIGATION BEFORE FINALISING LAYOUT

The Coal Authority works to resolve the impacts of mining by growing its expertise, innovation, organisational capability and efficiency.

It manages the effects of past coal mining, including subsidence damage claims which are not the responsibility of licensed coal mine operators and is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. This report is valid for 90 days.

Limit of liability

This report is provided for the applicant and is in respect of the property identified on its face. Any conclusions or recommendations made are those based on information obtained for the report and our current knowledge and practices. The information and data set out in this report is based on information provided by or obtained from third parties which is held by the Coal Authority. Any limitations of the data are identified within the report. The Coal Authority does not accept liability for the accuracy of third party data. Should new data or information become available these results, conclusions and recommendations may require amending. The Authority is not and cannot be liable for any harm, loss or damage of whatever nature, including consequential loss, occasioned to any third party by the inaccuracy of the information set out in this report and any person seeking to rely upon it should if necessary undertake their own investigations and professional advice. The report should only be used in the stated context.

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Any advice provided in this report does not prejudice our position as a statutory consultee.

Version	Compiled	Checked	Date
1.1	PB	HB	14 th October 2021

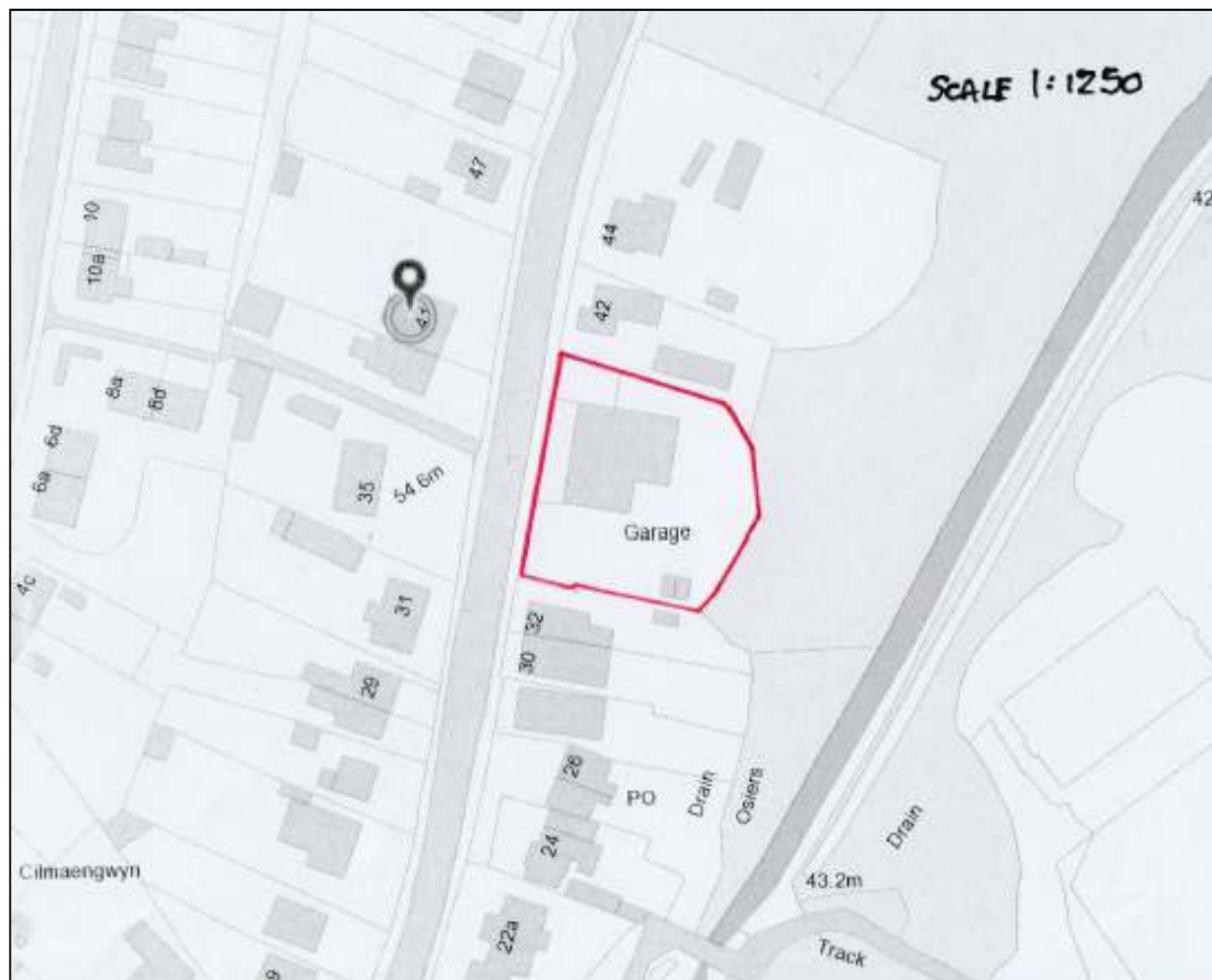
Section 1 – Description of site and proposed development

a) Site location and Description

The Coal Authority has been commissioned to prepare a Coal Mining Risk Assessment Report for a proposed development at Carters MOT & Auto Repair Centre, 40 Cilmaengwyn, Pontardawe, SA8 4QL (see Figure 1), in order to provide the Local Planning Authority with information on coal mining and an assessment of its impact on land stability.

The approximate site centre co-ordinates are E274241, N206026. The proposed development area requires access via Cilmaengwyn. The site has an approximate elevation 49-54m AOD.

Figure 1: Site location plan



b) Description and layout of proposed development

The Coal Authority understands that the developer plans to construct a detached 4 bay repair outbuilding to the rear of the existing MOT and Auto Repair Centre (see Appendix A).

c) Scope of coal mining risk assessment

The purpose of this Coal Mining Risk Assessment Report is to:

- Present a desk-based review of all available information on the coal mining issues which are relevant to the application site.
- Use that information to identify and assess the risks to the proposed development from coal mining legacy, including the cumulative impact of issues.
- Set out appropriate mitigation measures to address the coal mining legacy issues affecting the site, including any necessary remedial works and/or demonstrate how coal mining issues have influenced the proposed development.
- Demonstrate to the Local Planning Authority that the application site is, or can be made, safe and stable to meet the requirements of national planning policy with regard to development on unstable land.

Any works that intersect coal mine workings, mine entries or coal seams may have implications for mine gas, spontaneous combustion and surface collapse. Coal Authority permission is required prior to any such works taking place. Further detailed advice can be provided upon request.

The Coal Authority's adopted policies regarding building over or close to mine entries and managing gas risks can be viewed at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/building-on-or-within-the-influencing-distance-of-mine-entries

www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-managing-the-risk-of-hazardous-gases

Section 2 – Sources of information used to inform this report

Source reviewed	Yes	No	Remarks
Coal mining report	X		Consultants Coal Mining Report (Appendix B)
Other mining records		X	
Geological plans	X		OS Geological Sheet SN70NW (1973)
BGS Boreholes	X		SN70NW39
Other	X		BGS GeoIndex

The above information sources have been used to provide an assessment of the potential mining risk within the remainder of the report.

Section 3 – Identification and assessment of site specific coal mining related risks

The Coal Authority's search of its detailed coal mining information identifies the following site specific coal mining legacy risks to the site.

Coal mining issue	Reported		Risk assessment	
	Yes	No	Rating	Comment
a) Underground coal mining (recorded at shallow depths)		X	Low risk	None recorded
b) Underground coal mining (probable at shallow depths)	X		Medium risk	Possible unrecorded shallow workings in the Lower Pinchin seam
c) Mine entries (shafts and adits)	X		High risk	Mine entry 274206-030 located within site boundary
d) Coal mining geology (faults and fissures)	X		Low risk	Fault recorded 9m west of the development site boundary, locally displacing coal seams
e) Record of past mine gas emissions or potential		X	Medium risk	All mine workings pose a potential gas risk which should be considered in any future investigations and development
f) Recorded coal mining surface hazard		X	Low risk	None recorded
g) Surface mining (opencast workings)		X	Low risk	None recorded

A desk based study of the coal mining information has been used to risk assess the coal mining features above. A summary of the risk posed by these features is summarised after thorough analysis of the information sources. Comment on each specific coal mining issue follows below:

a) Underground Coal Mining (recorded at shallow depths)

Coal mining at depths shallower than 30m beneath ground level can typically pose challenges to ground stability at the surface. The magnitude of this effect depends upon the exact depth of any workings, the thickness of competent rock cover and the extraction thickness of any coal mine workings.

The Coal Authority Consultants Coal Mining Report in Appendix B states that the development site is not in an area of recorded shallow coal mine workings. Consequently the risk to this development from underground coal mining (recorded at shallow depths) is low.

b) Underground coal mining (probable at shallow depths)

Areas of probable shallow coal mine workings are identified as part of the Development High Risk Area for which no recorded plan exists, but where it is likely that workable coal at shallow depths has been mined before records were kept. The data has been estimated from available mining records by qualified mining surveyors. Since 1872 there has been a law that requires all coal mine operators to deposit working plans of the mine with the government following the cessation of operations. Prior to this date the plans were often destroyed or kept in private ownership.

Where the extraction of coal has occurred there is the potential for voids to remain long after mining has ceased. The depth of workings generally dictates the length of time that significant voids may remain, but other factors including the size of mine roof supports and the competency of overlying strata can influence the time for natural consolidation to occur. Waste material produced during mining was sometimes used to backfill abandoned sections of mine workings, therefore reducing the volume of open cavities or voids that remain. The method of backfilling workings is typically not recorded and cannot be relied upon as a satisfactory form of remediation.

The Coal Authority Consultants Coal Mining Report in Appendix B states that the development site is not in an area of probable shallow coal mine workings. The OS geological sheet SN70NW (1973) records the Lower Pinchin coal to outcrop 229m east of the development site boundary (shown to be curvilinear) and the Upper Welsh seam 240m NNW of the boundary (orientated northeast-southwest). The generalised vertical section (GVS) shows the Upper Welsh to be stratigraphically above the Lower Pinchin seam.

The Lower Pinchin seam is recorded at an elevation of 42m AOD and the Upper Welsh at 92m AOD, with the development site recorded at 49m AOD. The sheet records strata to dip at 13° SSW at a location 370m northeast of the development site boundary, with the site shown to be situated upon the Lynfi Rock sandstone formation. Given the direction of dip and the position of the Lower Pinchin outcrop it is considered the seam may be present 7m below rockhead at the site. As the depth to rockhead at the site is unknown it is not known what depth below surface the seam may be present at.

Given the sequence of seams, and the location of the Upper Welsh seam it is considered that this seam will not be present beneath the development site boundary. The generalised vertical section on the OS geological sheet records the Lower Pinchin to consist of a group of thin coals. A thickness for the seam is not recorded.

Although the Lower Pinchin seam is regarded as being thin and possibly overlain by significant drift deposits, the presence of a mine entry within the site boundary suggests some unrecorded workings may be present locally. As discussed in section 3c, it is possible that mine entry 274206-030 is a borehole.

Consequently the risk to this development from underground coal mining (probable at shallow depths) is medium.

c) Mine entries (shafts and adits)

The Coal Authority Consultants Coal Mining Report in Appendix B shows one mine entry is recorded within 100m of the development site, recorded to exist within the site boundary at E274248, N206039. As the mine entry (shaft 274206-030) is sourced from a plan recorded to be held by the Mineral Valuers office it has not been possible to verify the source of the mine entry. It is understood that the plans held by the Mineral Valuers office have been destroyed.

Records held by the Coal Authority suggest this entry may have been a borehole although it is not possible to verify this and it must therefore be considered to be a shaft.

The Coal Authority seeks to ensure that development is avoided above, or within the zone of influence of, all mine entries where possible. The zone of influence can be calculated as the sum of the departure value (up to 10m to account for discrepancies in source material), plus the local depth to rockhead (discussed in 3d below as likely to be up to in excess of 30m), plus the entry radius (nominally assumed to be 1.25m unless proven otherwise). On the basis of the above the zone of influence for this entry can be assumed to be a distance of 41.25m from the recorded position detailed above.

The depth to rockhead at the development site will need to be proven through the undertaking of intrusive ground investigations and an appropriate development stand-off (based on the zone of influence) calculated accordingly. The shaft should be searched for across the departure area where accessible. If it is not found it should be considered that the mine entry may be present immediately beyond the search area and the standoff area calculated accordingly.

As the zone of influence for the mine entry may encompass a large proportion of the site a structural engineer should be consulted if the zone of influence cannot be avoided.

At this time the risk to the proposed development from recorded mine entries is considered to be high.

The development site sits within a historical mining area and therefore there is a residual risk of unrecorded mine entries to be present on site. All site operatives should be made aware of this potential risk and a watching brief should be maintained during site works.

d) Coal mining geology (Faults and fissures)

The development site sits upon the Llynfi Member, consisting of coal, sandstones, siltstones and mudstones. The closest BGS borehole to the site, SN70NW39 located 320m south of the site records surficial deposits to consist of made ground, cobbles, gravel, silt and sand. The borehole did not encounter rockhead to its base at 30m bgl. Borehole SN70NW39 is located adjacent to the River Tawe and it is considered the surficial deposits in this area are consistent with alluvial deposits associated with the river. The thickness and nature of surficial deposits at the site are likely to vary and should be proven as part of any intrusive investigation at the site.

No faults, fissures or break lines are known to affect the development site, however a fault is recorded to be present approximately 9m west of site, orientated approximately NW-SE and downthrown to the southwest, locally displacing coal seams.

Faults can act as pathways for gas and water, cause surface instability and result in dissimilar coal conditions/hazards due to their relative displacement of strata.

e) Record of past mine gas emissions or potential

There are no recorded past gas emissions recorded in the surrounding area, however, coal seams and coal mine workings pose a potential gas risk which should be considered in any future investigations and development. At development sites with shallow coal workings, probable shallow coal mine workings, or pathway features such as mine entries and geological disturbances on or nearby the site, the Coal Authority recommends that a more detailed gas risk assessment to be undertaken in accordance with relevant guidance.

No seam mentioned in this report is recorded as being prone to spontaneous combustion.

f) Recorded coal mining surface hazard

None recorded.

g) Surface mining (opencast workings)

None recorded.

Section 4 – Proposed mitigation strategy

a) Site investigation and/or remediation

Due to the potential for unrecorded shallow mine workings in the Lower Pinchin seam and the recorded presence of mine entry 274206-030 within the site boundary, an intrusive site investigation will be required.

The site investigations will need to be carried out by a competent contractor, taking into account the findings of this report. The results should be interpreted by a qualified and competent person so that an appropriate remedial strategy can be developed.

Guidance on drilling or piling through coal can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-managing-the-risk-of-hazardous-gases

Due to the difficulties in identifying coal related gas hazards, it may be prudent to consider completing a gas risk assessment for the development site. This may recommend basic gas protection measures within the foundation design, which are resistant to permanent gases (carbon dioxide, methane, carbon monoxide) and comparable to that suggested in BR211, as commonly used to protect against radon in residential properties.

Where development is proposed over areas of coal or past coal workings at shallow depth, developers should consider wherever possible removing any remnant shallow coal. This will enable the ground to be stabilised and remove a hazard prior to construction of any foundations associated with the development. Prior extraction of surface coal requires an Incidental Coal Agreement from the Coal Authority. Further information can be found at:

www.gov.uk/get-a-licence-for-coal-mining

Each identified mine entry will subsequently require further investigation to confirm its state and provide information which will aid the design of any treatment proposals, where it is considered necessary. The occurrence of unrecorded mine entries across the whole of the site cannot be discounted and consequently in areas of new build development a watching brief should be maintained throughout the site works to identify this risk. As a result all site operatives should be made aware of this potential risk. Where mine entries exist close to the boundary the developer should be aware that this could complicate treatment if they straddle the boundary or works needed to treat them require access to land owned by third parties.

Should coal seams be found, at or near the depth of the development's foundations, they may pose a risk of spontaneous combustion if exposed to air or may act as pathways for

ground gases to reach the development. A competent engineer should be consulted if coal is encountered in, or adjacent to, the foundations of the proposed development.

Concrete, cements and renders may be susceptible to attack from elevated levels of sulfates in the ground. The Building Research Establishment reports that most cases of sulfate attack occur in and adjacent to coal field areas and related industrial centres. It would be prudent for the issue of sulfate attack to be considered during the foundation design to ensure they comply with the Building Regulations 2010.

You may also wish to refer to the Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) publication C758 "Abandoned Mine Workings Manual".

b) Coal Authority permit

Any intrusive activities, including initial site investigation boreholes and any subsequent treatment of coal mine workings/coal mine entries for ground stability purposes require the prior written permission of the Coal Authority. Application forms for Coal Authority permission and further guidance on this matter can be obtained from the Coal Authority's website at:

www.gov.uk/get-a-permit-to-deal-with-a-coal-mine-on-your-property

Follow on services can be requested using the details in the contacts section.

c) Implications for development layout

The coal mining legacy issues outlined in this report, particularly the presence of mine entry 274206-030 within the site boundary, will have implications for the layout of the proposed development outlined in Appendix A. If found, the mine entry should be treated and an appropriate stand-off distance should be established. If the mine entry cannot be located, and as the zone of influence for the mine entry may encompass a large proportion of the site, a structural engineer should be consulted to determine if the risk can be mitigated if the zone of influence cannot be avoided.

Section 5 – Conclusions

This report has identified that the proposed development site has been subject to past coal mining activity, namely the potential for unrecorded shallow mine workings in the Lower Pinchin seam and the presence of mine entry 274206-030 within the site boundary. The risk to the site from legacy mining features is high.

The intrusive investigations recommended in Section 4a of this report should be undertaken prior to the layout of the development being confirmed.

The Coal Authority advises the developer undertake a detailed Gas Risk Assessment where proposed development occurs over shallow coal reserves as is the case here.

Section 6 – Contacts

Planning and Local Authority Liaison Service

Tel: 01623 637 119

Email: planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk

Website: www.gov.uk/planning-applications-coal-mining-risk-assessments

Surface Hazards Emergency Service

Tel: 01623 646 333 (open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

24-hour number for reporting public safety hazards and incidents associated with coal mining

Mining Reports Service

To purchase site specific coal mining information go to our website;

www.groundstability.com

Licensing and Permitting Service

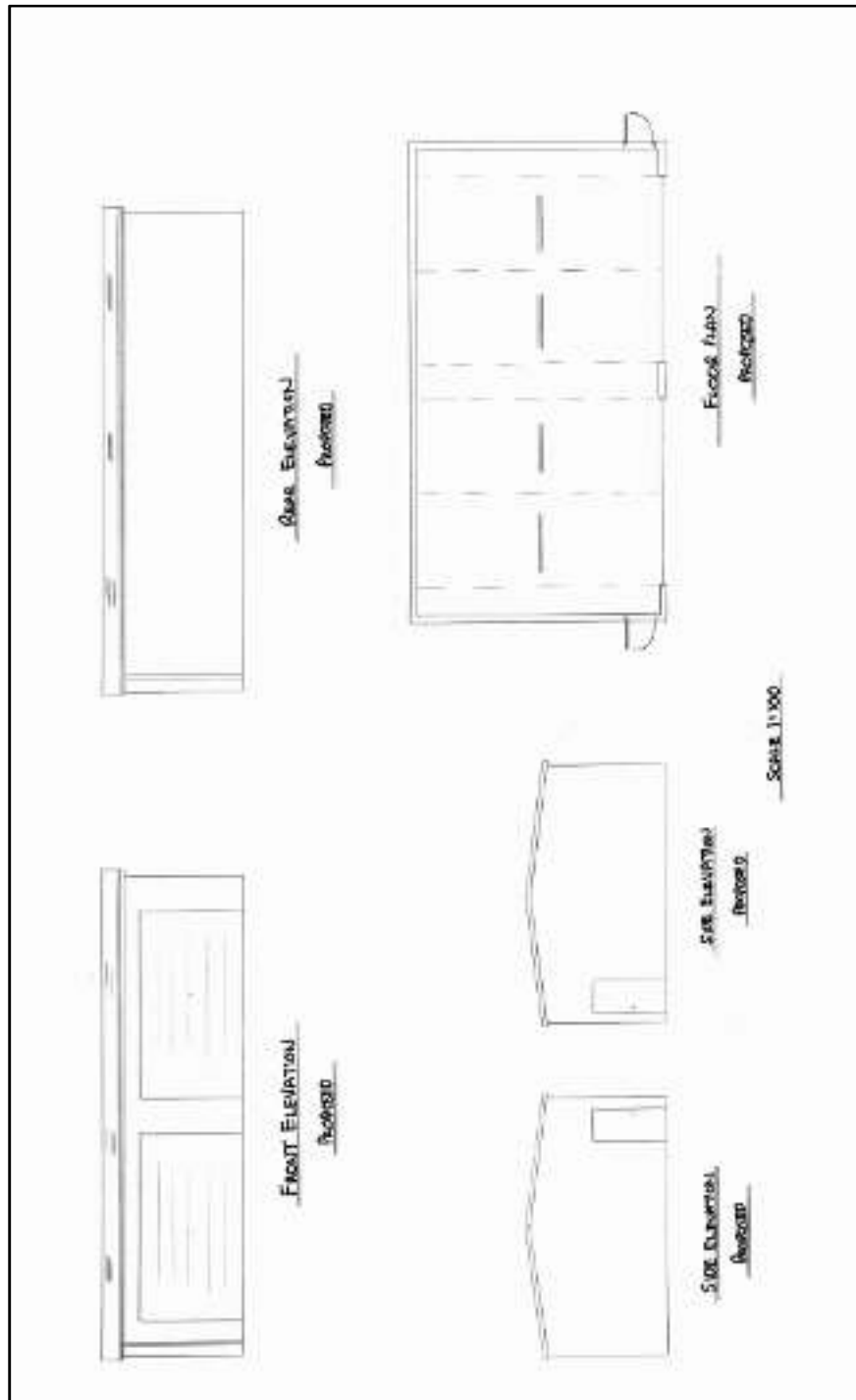
Email: permissions@coal.gov.uk

Tel: 01623 637 320

For permission to enter or disturb coal mine entries and coal seams.

Section 7 – Appendices

Appendix A – Plan showing proposed development layout



Appendix B – Non-Residential Coal Mining Consultants Report



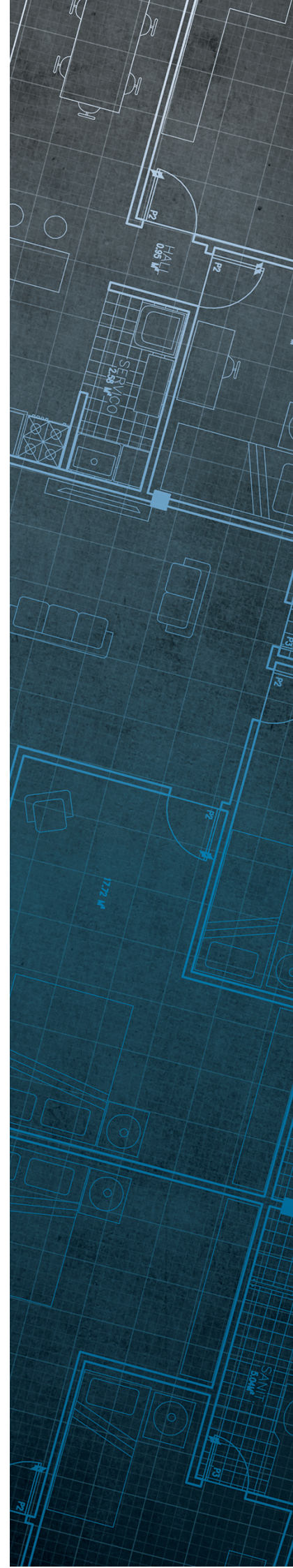
The Coal
Authority

Consultants Coal Mining Report

Carters Mot And Auto Repair
40 Cilmaengwyn Road
Cilmaengwyn
Pontardawe
Neath Port Talbot
SA8 4QL

Date of enquiry:	14 October 2021
Date enquiry received:	14 October 2021
Issue date:	14 October 2021

Our reference:	71008091907001
Your reference:	



Consultants

Coal Mining Report

This report is based on and limited to the records held by the Coal Authority at the time the report was produced.

Client name

THE COAL AUTHORITY

Enquiry address

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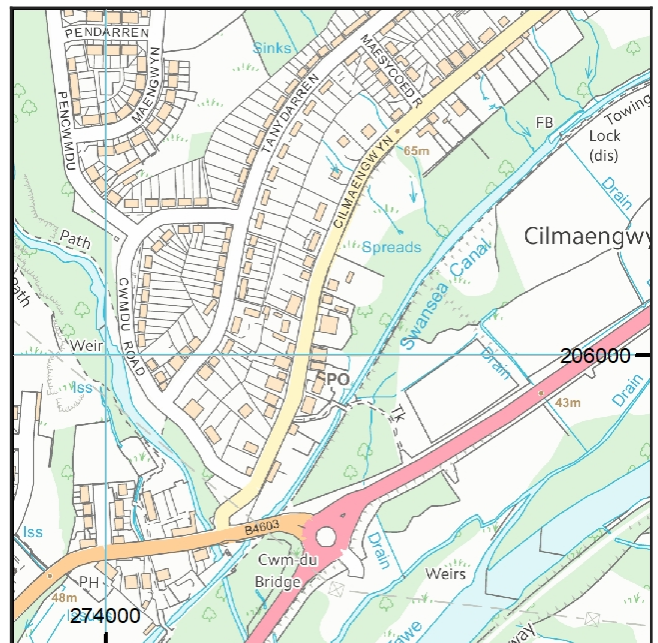
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Approximate position of property



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Section 1 – Mining activity and geology

Past underground mining

No past mining recorded.

Probable unrecorded shallow workings

None.

Spine roadways at shallow depth

No spine roadway recorded at shallow depth.

Mine entries

Entry type	Reference	Grid reference	Treatment description	Mineral	Conveyancing details
Shaft	274206-030	274248 206039		Coal	

Abandoned mine plan catalogue numbers

None available.

Outcrops

No outcrops recorded.

Geological faults, fissures and breaklines

No faults, fissures or breaklines recorded.

Opencast mines

None recorded within 500 metres of the enquiry boundary.

Coal Authority managed tips

None recorded within 500 metres of the enquiry boundary.

Section 2 – Investigative or remedial activity

Please refer to the 'Summary of findings' map (on separate sheet) for details of any activity within the area of the site boundary.

Site investigations

None recorded within 50 metres of the enquiry boundary.

Remediated sites

None recorded within 50 metres of the enquiry boundary.

Coal mining subsidence

The Coal Authority has not received a damage notice or claim for the subject property, or any property within 50 metres of the enquiry boundary, since 31 October 1994.

There is no current Stop Notice delaying the start of remedial works or repairs to the property.

The Coal Authority is not aware of any request having been made to carry out preventive works before coal is worked under section 33 of the Coal Mining Subsidence Act 1991.

Mine gas

None recorded within 500 metres of the enquiry boundary.

Mine water treatment schemes

None recorded within 500 metres of the enquiry boundary.

Section 3 – Licensing and future mining activity

Future underground mining

None recorded.

Coal mining licensing

None recorded within 200 metres of the enquiry boundary.

Court orders

None recorded.

Section 46 notices

No notices have been given, under section 46 of the Coal Mining Subsidence Act 1991, stating that the land is at risk of subsidence.

Withdrawal of support notices

The property is not in an area where a notice to withdraw support has been given.

The property is not in an area where a notice has been given under section 41 of the Coal Industry Act 1994, cancelling the entitlement to withdraw support.

Payments to owners of former copyhold land

The property is not in an area where a relevant notice has been published under the Coal Industry Act 1975/Coal Industry Act 1994.

Section 4 – Further information

Based on the responses in this report, no further information has been highlighted.

Section 5 – Data definitions

The datasets used in this report have limitations and assumptions within their results. For more guidance on the data and the results specific to the enquiry boundary, please **call us on 0345 762 6848** or **email us at groundstability@coal.gov.uk**.

Past underground coal mining

Details of all recorded underground mining relative to the enquiry boundary. Only past underground workings where the enquiry boundary is within 0.7 times the depth of the workings (zone of likely physical influence) allowing for seam inclination, will be included.

Probable unrecorded shallow workings

Areas where the Coal Authority believes there to be unrecorded coal workings that exist at or close to the surface (less than 30 metres deep).

Spine roadways at shallow depth

Connecting roadways either, working to working, or, surface to working, both in-seam and cross measures that exist at or close to the surface (less than 30 metres deep), either within or within 10 metres of the enquiry boundary.

Mine entries

Details of any shaft or adit either within, or within 100 metres of the enquiry boundary including approximate location, brief treatment details where known, the mineral worked from the mine entry and conveyance details where the mine entry has previously been sold by the Authority or its predecessors British Coal or the National Coal Board.

Abandoned mine plan catalogue numbers

Plan numbers extracted from the abandoned mines catalogue containing details of coal and other mineral abandonment plans deposited via the Mines Inspectorate in accordance with the Coal Mines Regulation Act and Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act 1872. A maximum of 9 plan extents that intersect with the enquiry boundary will be included. This does not infer that the workings and/or mine entries shown on the abandonment plan will be relevant to the site/property boundary.

Outcrops

Details of seam outcrops will be included where the enquiry boundary intersects with a conjectured or actual seam outcrop location (derived by either the British Geological Survey or the Coal Authority) or intersects with a defined 50 metres buffer on the coal (dip) side of the outcrop. An indication of whether the Coal Authority believes the seam to be of sufficient thickness and/or quality to have been worked will also be included.

Geological faults, fissures and breaklines

Geological disturbances or fractures in the bedrock. Surface fault lines (British Geological Survey derived data) and fissures and breaklines (Coal Authority derived data) intersecting with the enquiry boundary will be included. In some circumstances faults, fissures or breaklines have been known to contribute to surface subsidence damage as a consequence of underground coal mining.

Opencast mines

Opencast coal sites from which coal has been removed in the past by opencast (surface) methods and where the enquiry boundary is within 500 metres of either the licence area, site boundary, excavation area (high wall) or coaling area.

Coal Authority managed tips

Locations of disused colliery tip sites owned and managed by the Coal Authority, located within 500 metres of the enquiry boundary.

Site investigations

Details of site investigations within 50 metres of the enquiry boundary where the Coal Authority has received information relating to coal mining risk investigation and/or remediation by third parties.

Remediated sites

Sites where the Coal Authority has undertaken remedial works either within or within 50 metres of the enquiry boundary following report of a hazard relating to coal mining under the Coal Authority's Emergency Surface Hazard Call Out procedures.

Coal mining subsidence

Details of alleged coal mining subsidence claims made since 31 October 1994 either within or within 50 metres of the enquiry boundary. Where the claim relates to the enquiry boundary confirmation of whether the claim was accepted, rejected or whether liability is still being determined will be given. Where the claim has been discharged, whether this was by repair, payment of compensation or a combination of both, the value of the claim, where known, will also be given.

Details of any current 'Stop Notice' deferring remedial works or repairs affecting the property/site, and if so the date of the notice.

Details of any request made to execute preventative works before coal is worked under section 33 of the Coal Mining Subsidence Act 1991. If yes, whether any person withheld consent or failed to comply with any request to execute preventative works.

Mine gas

Reports of alleged mine gas emissions received by the Coal Authority, either within or within 500 metres of the enquiry boundary that subsequently required investigation and action by the Coal Authority to mitigate the effects of the mine gas emission.

Mine water treatment schemes

Locations where the Coal Authority has constructed or operates assets that remove pollutants from mine water prior to the treated mine water being discharged into the receiving water body.

These schemes are part of the UK's strategy to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. Schemes fall into 2 basic categories: Remedial – mitigating the impact of existing pollution or Preventative – preventing a future pollution incident.

Mine water treatment schemes generally consist of one or more primary settlement lagoons and one or more reed beds for secondary treatment. A small number are more specialised process treatment plants.

Future underground mining

Details of all planned underground mining relative to the enquiry boundary. Only those future workings where the enquiry boundary is within 0.7 times the depth of the workings (zone of likely physical influence) allowing for seam inclination will be included.

Coal mining licensing

Details of all licenses issued by the Coal Authority either within or within 200 metres of the enquiry boundary in relation to the under taking of surface coal mining, underground coal mining or underground coal gasification.

Court orders

Orders in respect of the working of coal under the Mines (Working Facilities and Support) Acts of 1923 and 1966 or any statutory modification or amendment thereof.

Section 46 notices

Notice of proposals relating to underground coal mining operations that have been given under section 46 of the Coal Mining Subsidence Act 1991.

Withdrawal of support notices

Published notices of entitlement to withdraw support and the date of the notice. Details of any revocation notice withdrawing the entitlement to withdraw support given under Section 41 of the Coal Industry Act 1994.

Payment to owners of former copyhold land

Relevant notices which may affect the property and any subsequent notice of retained interests in coal and coal mines, acceptance or rejection notices and whether any compensation has been paid to a claimant.

The map highlights any specific surface or subsurface features within or near to the boundary of the site.

