

Coal Mining Risk Assessment
for
Proposed Residential Development
at
No37 Parish Road
Blaengwrach
SA11 5SW

June 2022

Chris Meredith Designs

Coal Mining Risk Assessment

Proposed Planning Application for New Dwelling with integral Garage at No37 Parish Road, Blaengwrach, Neath, Port Talbot SA11 5SW

Existing Site Description

The proposed development site, which is the subject of a planning application ref: P/2022/0495 and has outline planning consent, is a small rectangular shaped parcel of land occupying approximately 170m² that was previously occupied by a small prefabricated single storey dwelling known as No37 Parish Road. The site, which is located between two existing dwellings, is generally level but rises slightly towards a large mature woodland to the north-west. The site boundaries are defined by fences and masonry walls. Parish Road is a small single carriageway road that is an extension of Empire Avenue which links the site and surrounding properties to the village of Blaengwrach and the A465 Heads of the Valleys trunk road to the west.

Historic maps dating to the early 1800's show Parish Road linking Blaengwrach to the village of Rhigos to the south-east, but this direct link was severed by the open cast in the late 1990's (see below). These two villages, along with the neighboring village of Cwmgwrach grew significantly in the early 1800's as the coal industry developed in the Neath Valley. Historic maps show new houses and bungalows being built along Parish Road in the 1950's and Google Earth clearly shows a number of new build homes that have recently been constructed along the road which, along with some older bungalows to the east "sandwich" the development site.

The area immediately surrounding the site remained largely undeveloped and agricultural in nature, however, in its coal mining heyday, the wider surrounding area had 4No collieries and several levels and drifts located to the south-west with two tramways serving them to the north and south of the site that providing access to the Neath Canal and GWR railway. These collieries included Blaengwrach Colliery (1960-1983), Dunraven Adare Colliery (1898-1908) and Rhigos No1 and No2 (1940-1965). In 1997 the large Selar Open Cast was opened to the south-west but this was "mothballed" in 2016.

Coal Authority Report

A Non-Residential Consultants Coal Mining Report was ordered from the Coal Authority for the development site (Ref:51002332601001). The Authorities report indicates that there is no past underground mining recorded, shallow workings or mine entries within 100m of the site, however, the site is underlain by an abandoned mine working that intersect the site boundary at depth. The report also shows the Upper Seven Foot coal seam outcrops outside the site and approximately 7.0m to the north-west of the site, and this is classed as workable. However, given its location relative to the site it is unlikely that the seam would have sufficient competent head cover to be workable other than from the surface. The site is not in the likely zone of influence of any present underground workings and the Authority is currently not determining a licence for the removal of coal using underground or open cast surface methods within 200m of the site.

No notice of the risk of subsidence has been given under Section 46 of the Coal Mining Subsidence Act 1991 stating that the site is at risk from subsidence and there are no records of mine gas emission requiring action by the Coal Authority within 500m the boundary of the site. However, there is a geological fault shown on the Summary of Findings map that runs directly through the site from north to south at the rear of the existing property and this geological feature could have been affected by past mining or have caused damage to properties.

Cont'd

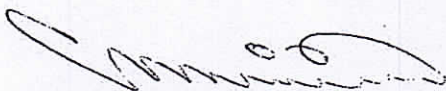
The Coal Authority has not received a damage notice or claim for damage for any property within 50m of the site boundary, since 31st October 1994 and there is no current Stop Notice or request to carry out preventative works before coal is worked under Section 33 of the Coal Mining Subsidence Act 1991. The property is not in an area where a notice to withdraw support has been given or where a notice under Section 41 of the Coal Authority Act 1994 has been given cancelling the entitlement to withdraw support. The site has not been subject to remedial works, by or on behalf of the Authority, under its Emergency Surface Hazard Call Out procedures and no such works are recorded within 50m of the site boundary.

Based on a combination of a review of historic maps, the long history of farming and agricultural activity close to the site, the presence of an existing dwelling on the site and the granting of planning permission for several recent new builds along the road in close-proximity to the site, all of which contribute along with the contents of the Coal Authority Non-Residential Coal Mining Report to this Coal Mining Risk Assessment quantified the risk to any new development on this site from deep coal mining as LOW.

However, the possible risk of some unrecorded shallow surface working (coal outcrop close-by) or superficial deposits on the land, together with the geological fault crossing the site, means that it would be advisable for a basic check of the surface geology be carried out down to the proposed foundation formation level when construction work commences. Foundation design should be based on the ground conditions encountered during this work.

In conclusion the development of the site should not, in terms of the risk from the coal mining legacy, be considered as a prohibitive factor in terms of granting outline planning permission as the risk is considered LOW. Any planning consent should however include an advisory condition requiring that a basic physical foundation formation check is carried out during the excavation for the new building to determine the nature of the shallow geology and ground characteristics.

The findings of this basic investigation work should, if necessary, be assessed by a qualified geologist or engineer and a suitable foundation solution incorporated into the foundation design for the new dwellings.



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21st June 2022



The Coal
Authority

Consultants Coal Mining Report

37 Parish Road
Blaengwrach
Neath Port Talbot
SA11 5SW

Date of enquiry: 19 June 2022
Date enquiry received: 19 June 2022
Issue date: 19 June 2022

Our reference: 51003174625001
Your reference: Morgan 1



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.

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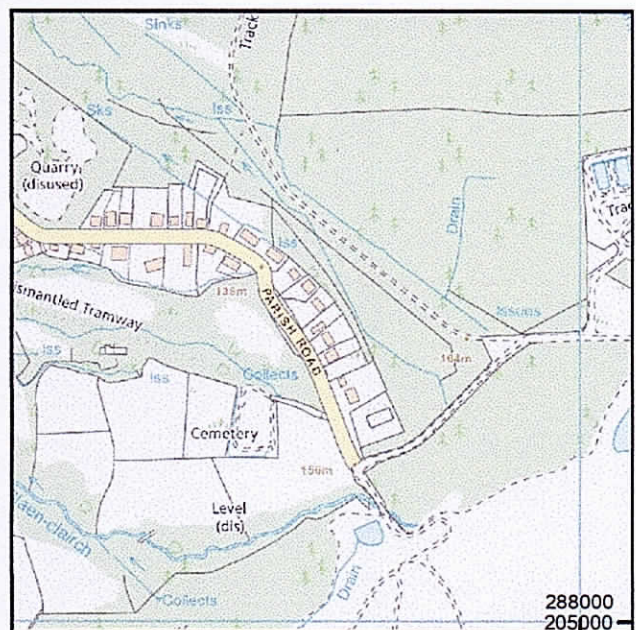
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Approximate position of property



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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

None recorded within 100 metres of the enquiry boundary.

Abandoned mine plan catalogue numbers

The following abandoned mine plan catalogue numbers intersect with some, or all, of the enquiry boundary:

SW2705	PO0	
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Please contact us on 0345 762 6848 to determine the exact abandoned mine plans you require based on your needs.

Outcrops

Seam name	Mineral	Seam workable	Distance to outcrop (m)	Direction to outcrop	Bearing of outcrop
UPPER SEVEN FOOT	Coal	Yes	7.9	North-West	54

Geological faults, fissures and breaklines

Please refer to the 'Summary of findings' map (on separate sheet) for details of any geological faults, fissures or breaklines either within or intersecting the enquiry boundary.

Fault under or close to the property recorded.

Opencast mines

Please refer to the "Summary of findings" map (on separate sheet) for details of any opencast areas 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.