

COAL MINING RISK ASSESSMENT OF LAND ADJACENT TO PLOT No. 24 CURWEN CLOSE, PONTRHYDYFEN, SA12 9UT

4173OR01/August 2022

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PROJECT NUMBER	4173	
PROJECT TITLE	CMRA Pontrhydyfen	
CLIENT	Mrs Amanda Boucher 67 Mariners Quay Aberavon Port Talbot SA12 6AN	
REPORT TITLE	Coal Mining Risk Assessment Of Land Adjacent To Plot No. 24 Curwen Close, Pontrhydyfen, SA12 9UT	
REPORT REFERENCE	4173OR01	
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COAL MINING RISK ASSESSMENT OF LAND ADJACENT TO PLOT NO. 24 CURWEN CLOSE, PONTRHYDYFEN, SA12 9UT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location and Description

The 0.05 ha site is located at approximate National Grid Reference 278785E, 195365N, in the hamlet of Efail-Fâch around 1.5 km to the north of Pontrhydyfen and is currently derelict land. It is proposed to develop the site with a semi-detached residential properties. The location of the site is shown on Client's Drawing FDL AB 1021 001, Appendix 1.

The site is situated between existing residential properties at the end of a cul-de-sac, and slopes from 95.5 to 86.5 m AOD, east to west.

1.2 Scope of Coal Mining Risk Assessment

FWS Consultants Ltd (FWS) have been commissioned to prepare a Coal Mining Risk Assessment Report of the proposed development site, in order to provide the Local Planning Authority with information on coal mining and an assessment of its potential impact on land stability.

The Coal Mining Risk Assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the principles of current guidance including the Coal Authority's guidance document "Risk Based Approach to Development Management - Resources for Developers Version 4" (2017) (Ref. 1) and CIRIA "C758 Abandoned Mine Workings Manual" (2019) (Ref. 2).

The purpose of the Coal Mining Risk Assessment Report is to:-

- present a desk based review of available information on the coal mining issues that 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 issues; and
- 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.

2 SOURCES OF INFORMATION

This report is based on the current information of past mining activities relevant to the site. The following sources of information have been used:-

- a site-specific Coal Mining Report dated 22 August 2022 from the Coal Authority (Appendix 2).
- BGS Sheet SS79NE 1:10,560 scale geological map.
- Coal Authority interactive website.

3 SITE GEOLOGY

The BGS Geological Map shows thin (<5 m thick) Glacial Till, however, from anecdotal evidence it indicated that the site is underlain directly by bedrock. Bedrock geology consists of the Brithdir Beds, a sequence of sandstone, mudstones, siltstone and coal. The Brithdir Rider Coal Seam is recorded to outcrop 5 to 6 m to the south of the site (Appendix 2), dipping to the north at around 16°, beneath the site. Rock head is at ground level at approximately 95 to 85 m AOD.

4 IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF SITE SPECIFIC COAL MINING RISK

4.1 Summary of Potential Risks

The table below summarises the potential risks associated with coal mining legacy for the proposed development site identified from the available sources of information.

Table 1: Summary of Mining Legacy Issues

COAL MINING ISSUE	YES	NO	SUMMARY RECORDS
Underground coal mining (recorded at shallow depth)		✓	The property is not in the likely zone of influence of past or present underground coal workings.
Underground coal mining (probable at shallow depth)	✓		Although the Coal Authority indicates that no ancient (unrecorded) workings are anticipated beneath the site, however, due to the presence of the Brithdir Rider Coal seam adjacent to the south, it is believed that unrecorded workings could be present at, or close to, the surface and may have been worked at some point in the past.
Mine entries (shaft or adits)		✓	There are no reported mine entries on or within 20 m of the site.
Coal mining geology (fissures)		✓	There are no coal mining geology structures within the vicinity of the site.
Record of past mine gas emissions or potential		✓	There is no record of a mine gas emission requiring action by the Coal Authority within the boundary of the site.
Recorded coal mining surface hazard		✓	The Coal Authority has no records of coal mining surface hazards relating to the site or immediate surrounding area.
Surface mining (opencast workings)		✓	The site is not located within the boundary of a historical opencast site, and does not lie within 200 m of a current opencast site, or within 800 m of a known future opencast site.
Other potential shallow worked minerals		✓	There is no evidence of quarrying having been carried out on site.

4.2 Assessment of Mineral Instability

The principal factors influencing mineral instability for this site are summarised below.

4.2.1 Underground Coal Workings

Surface settlement above areas of total coal extraction (goaf) is typically rapid and can generally be assumed to be complete after a certain period. Settlement above pillar and stall workings, or old roadways, can be sudden and abrupt; and can occur long after abandonment, sometimes creating surface features known as crown-holes. It is generally considered that a cover of competent rock strata equivalent to ten times the height of the working provides adequate protection against crown-hole development (Ref. 2). Less rock cover can be adequate in certain circumstances (e.g. if the rock cover is particularly strong). Drift deposits give less protection than competent rock, and depending on the nature of the drift material (e.g. whether stiff

boulder clay or running sand) considerably more cover may be needed to minimise the risk of surface ground movement. Where mining is identified within seams of less than 1 m thickness, it has been assumed that to accommodate for roadways the minimum worked height will be 1 m, otherwise the working height is assumed to be the seam thickness unless otherwise identified.

Table 2: Mineral Instability Risk Assessment

Seam Name	Seam Description	Workings	Assessment of Risk
Brithdir Rider	This seam is shown to outcrop 5.6 m to the south of the site at 95 m AOD and underlies the site at shallow depths and is 0.3 m thick.	There are no recorded workings within this seam however, given that the seam outcrops adjacent the south of the site, there is a potential for unrecorded bell pits and trench workings from the outcrop..	The cover of competent rock strata is less than ten times the height of the possible workings. As such, potential unrecorded workings in this seam may present risk of mineral instability to the proposed development.
Graig	This seam is present beneath the site at an elevation of approximately 65 mAOD (20 to 30 m bgl) and is 0.5 m thick.	There are no recorded workings in this seam, however, unrecorded workings are possible of around 1.0 m total thickness.	The cover of competent rock strata is greater than ten times the height of the possible workings. As such, potential unrecorded workings in this seam will not present risk of mineral instability to the proposed development.

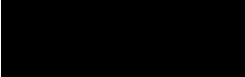
4.3 Assessment of Mine Gas Risk

Based on the Coal Authority report (Appendix 2), the presence of potential unrecorded shallow mine workings, there is a low to medium risk of mine gas emission within the site boundary .

5 MITIGATION STRATEGY PROPOSED

It is recommended that during site clearance/site strip as part of the proposed development, workers/site management should be vigilant in inspecting for evidence of any shafts/bell pits or shallow crop workings including anomalies such as backfilled, soft or disturbed ground. If any unrecorded shafts or crop workings are encountered, then these should be investigated further and appropriate remediation, such as grouting, undertaken in accordance with the Coal Authority requirements.

Due to the potential for mine gas migrating from the workings through shallow faulted bedrock to affect end users within the proposed development, the proposed development should be designed with minimum Characteristic Situation 2 gas potential measures.


A FRY
GEO-ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST


C MILLER
DIRECTOR

6 REFERENCES

- 1 Coal Authority, 2012. Risk Based Approach to Development Management Resources for Developers
- 2 CIRIA, 2019. C758D Abandoned Mine Workings Manual.
- 3 BGS Sheet SS79NE, 1:10,560 Scale Geological Map, 1970.

APPENDIX 1

THIRD PARTY DRAWINGS



ReQuestAPlan
Map number: TGRQM21295103445375
This Plan is Curwen Close Penybryn, SA12 9UT
Map prepared for the Planning Authority
All other copyright and address rights 2021 © 1000427166
Project ID:
This is a Plan for 20-10-2021
1 Note submitted from 20-10-2021 for 1 validation



Revision Notes:

Client Focused Professional Service Provider.

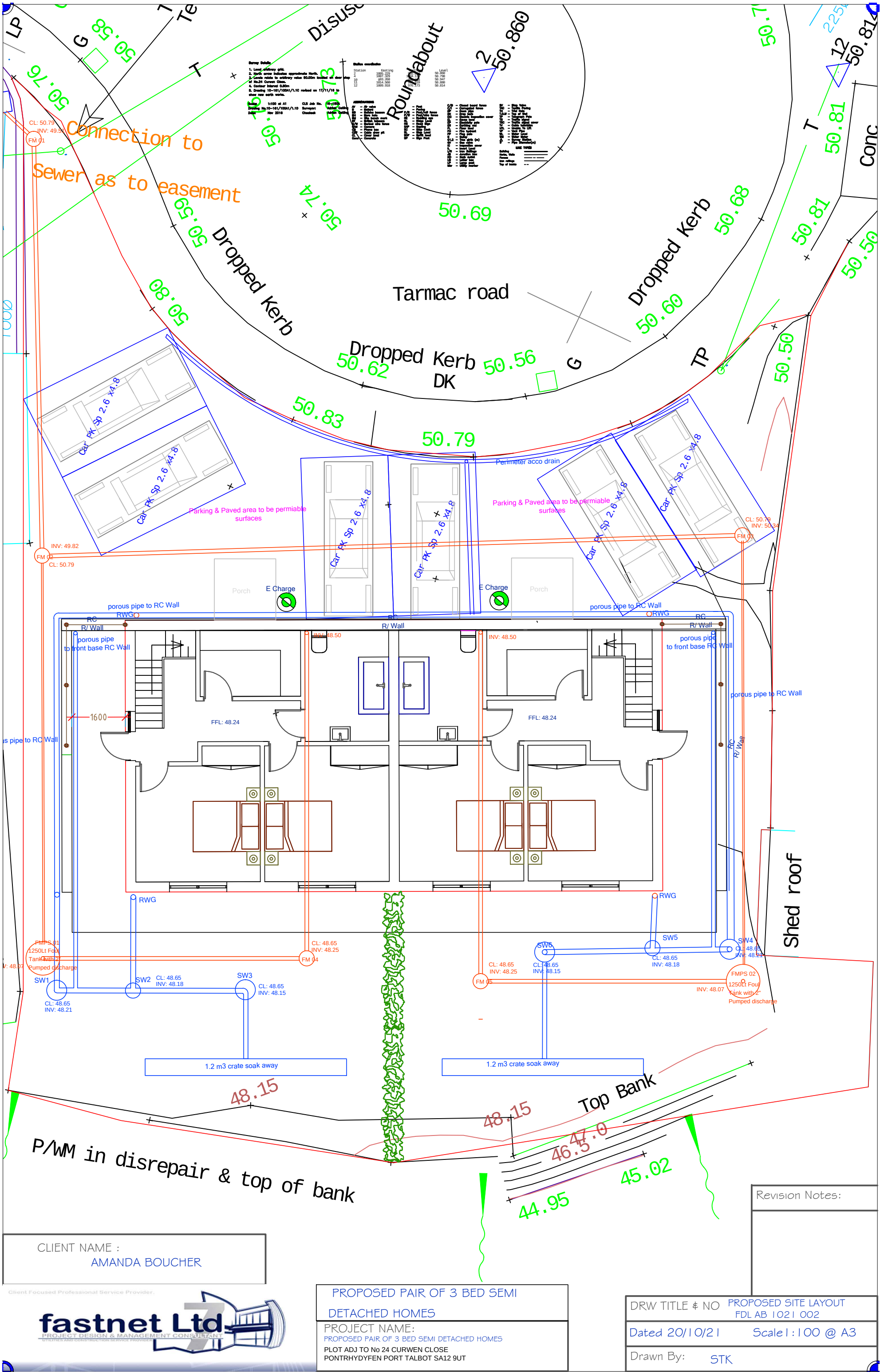


CLIENT NAME :
AMANDA BOUCHER

PROPOSED PAIR OF 3 BED SEMI
DETACHED HOMES

PROJECT NAME:
PROPOSED PAIR OF 3 BED SEMI DETACHED HOMES
PLOT ADJ TO No 24 CURWEN CLOSE
PONTRHYDYFEN PORT TALBOT SA12 9UT

DRW TITLE & NO	O S LOCATION PLAN FDL AB 1021 001
DATE	20/10/21 Scale: 1:1250 @ A3
Drawn By:	STK



APPENDIX 2

COAL AUTHORITY REPORT

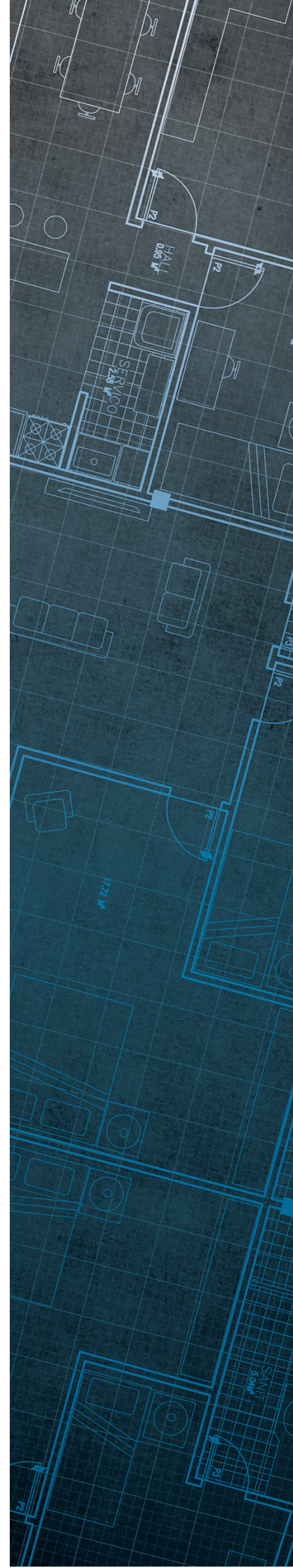


The Coal
Authority

Consultants Coal Mining Report

Plot Adjacent To No. 24 Curwen
Close
Pontrhydyfen
Neath Port Talbot
SA12 9UT

Date of enquiry:	22 August 2022
Date enquiry received:	22 August 2022
Issue date:	22 August 2022
Our reference:	51003306220001
Your reference:	4173



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

FWS CONSULTANTS LTD

Enquiry address

Plot Adjacent To No. 24 Curwen Close
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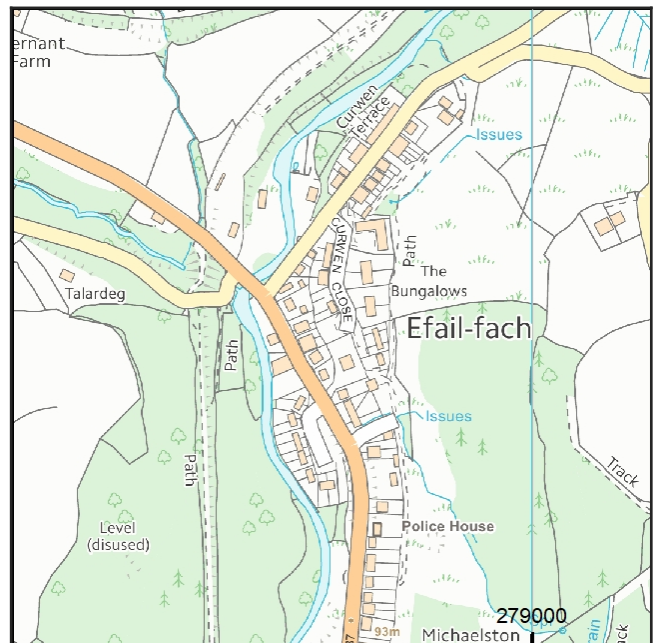
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 /company/the-coal-authority

 /thecoalauthority

 /thecoalauthority



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:

5282	14018	
------	-------	--

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
BRITHDIR RIDER GROUP	Coal	Yes	5.6	South	101

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

Status	Licence type	Distance (m)	Direction
Future	Underground	Within	N/A

See Section 4 for further information.

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

The following potential risks have been identified and as part of your risk assessment should be investigated further.

Coal mining licensing

The report has highlighted that the site is close to a Coal Authority license area for coal mining operations. Please contact us if you require further information.

For further information on specific site or ground investigations in relation to any issues raised in Section 4, please call us on 0345 762 6848 or email us at groundstability@coal.gov.uk.

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.

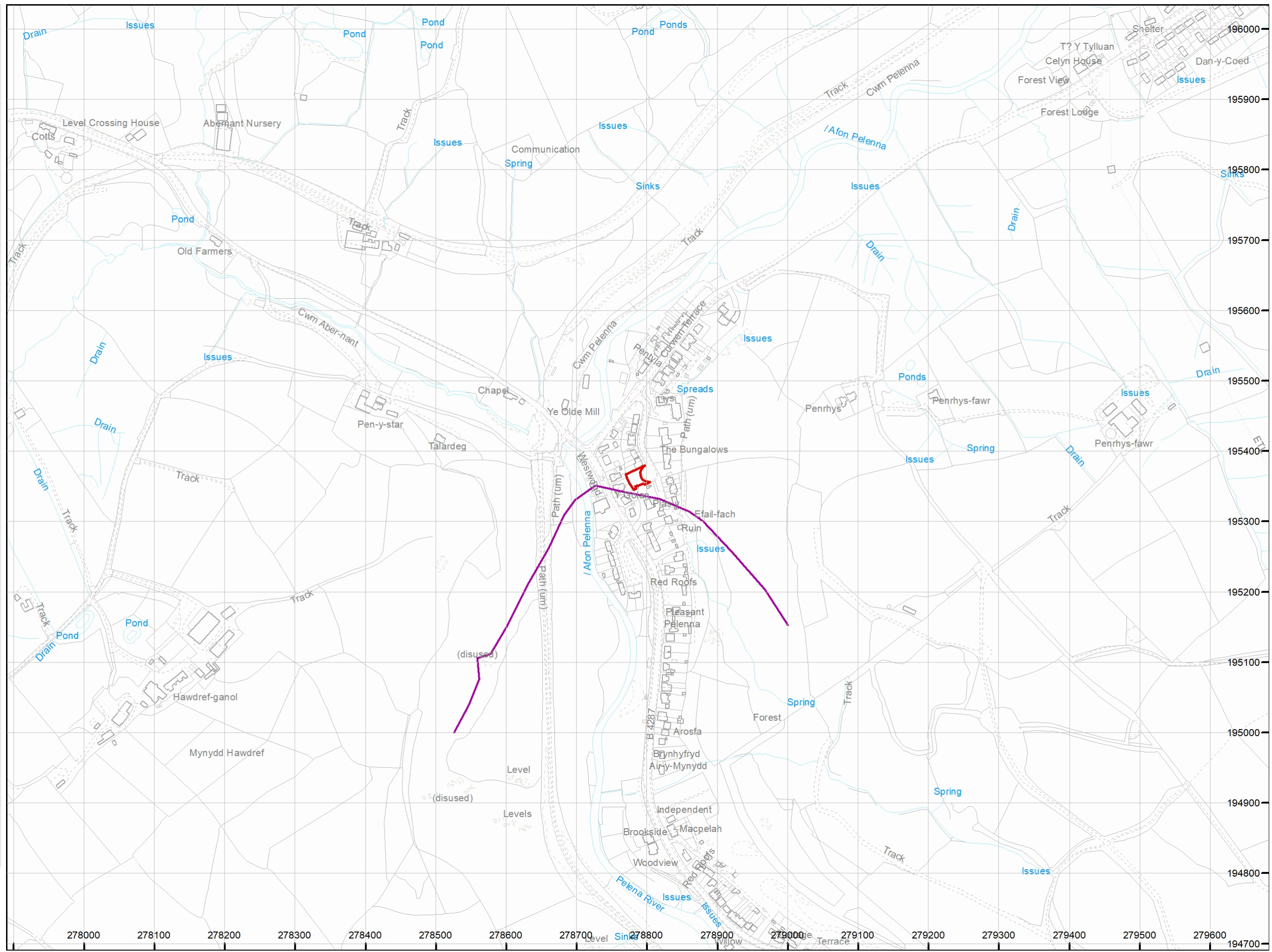
Key

Approximate position of the enquiry boundary shown 

Outcrop (Proven) 

How to contact us

0345 762 6848 (UK)
+44 (0)1623 637 000 (International)
www.groundstability.com



APPENDIX 3

NOTES ON LIMITATIONS

NOTES ON LIMITATIONS

- 1 FWS Consultants Ltd (“FWS”) has prepared this report solely for the use of the client and/or his agent (the “Client”) on the basis of exchange(s) of written proposals and instructions, and FWS accepts no responsibility or liability:-
 - a) for use of this report by any party other than the person for whom it was commissioned, or;
 - b) for the consequences of the report being used for any purpose other than that for which FWS was instructed to prepare it.

Should any third party wish to use or rely upon the contents of the report, written approval from FWS must be sought.

- 2 All information supplied by the Client, the Client’s staff and professional advisers, local authorities, other statutory bodies, investigation agencies and publicly accessible databases, shall be provided to FWS in writing, and is accepted as being correct unless otherwise specified in writing by the discloser of the information.
- 3 The conclusions and recommendations in this report represent the professional opinions of FWS derived from currently accepted industry practices, and through the exercising of reasonable skill and care to be expected of a professional geosciences and environmental consultancy of similar size and experience. The assessments and judgments given in this report are directed by and limited to both the finite data on which they are based and the proposed works to which they are addressed.
- 4 Environmental and geotechnical desk studies comprise a study of available information obtained from various identified sources, authorities and parties. The information reviewed cannot be exhaustive and has been accepted in good faith as providing representative and true data pertaining to site conditions. For clarity, no independent verification of this data is carried out by FWS and it is accepted at face value. Any identified risks in desk study reports are perceived risks based on the information available at the time. Actual risks can only be assessed after carrying out a thorough physical investigation of the site that serves to validate such identified risks.
- 5 Data acquisition during site investigations is subject to the limitations of the methods of investigation used, site conditions and access constraints. Exploratory holes undertaken during fieldwork, particularly boreholes and/or trial pits, investigate a small volume of ground in relation to the size of the site and thus can only provide an indication of site conditions. The opinions provided and recommendations given in this report are based on the desk study information and ground conditions apparent at the site of each of the exploratory holes. There may be ground conditions elsewhere onsite that have not been disclosed by the investigation and which therefore have not been taken into account in this report. FWS will take all due care and make commentary on the adequacy of data collection and therefore the ability to highlight the presence or otherwise of exceptional conditions.
- 6 Owing to the natural variation of the systems that are being investigated, and the anthropological impact similarly changing through time, the findings and opinions in this report are relevant to the dates of the site works and should not be relied upon to represent conditions after a reasonable passing of time. Site conditions will change over time due to natural variations and human activities. The comments made on groundwater, surface water and soil gas conditions are based on observations made at the time that the site work was carried out. It should be noted that these conditions will vary owing to seasonal, tidal and meteorological effects. Variation in the types and concentrations of contaminants and variations in their flow paths may occur due to seasonal water table fluctuations, past disposal practices, the passage of time, or subsequent developments or activities on the site or adjacent area.
- 7 The scope of the investigation, as agreed between FWS and the Client, was undertaken based on the specific development proposals of the Client and may be inappropriate to another form of development or scheme.
- 8 The opinions expressed in this report regarding contamination, geotechnical and/or waste assessments are based on simple statistical analysis and comparison with available guidance values. No liability can be accepted for the retrospective effects of any changes or amendments to these values.