Coal Mining Risk Assessment

55 LUMB LANE
ROBERTTOWN
LIVERSEDGE

for

Ms. L. Barber

Report Number 4299

April 2023

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55 LUMB LANE, ROBERTTOWN, LIVERSEDGE

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 At the request of J.A. Oldroyd and Sons, acting on behalf of Ms. L. Barber, a Coal Mining Risk Assessment has been carried out at 55 Lumb Lane in Roberttown near Liversedge. It is proposed to construct a new dwelling adjacent to an existing property.

1.2 The assessment has not included other desk study research and no structural or asbestos surveys have been carried out.

2 THE SITE

2.1 The site is located to the south side of Lumb Lane in Robbertown. It forms a roughly rectangular plot. The new property is proposed to adjoin an existing property (No. 55), and the development proposals are shown on figure 1. The Ordnance Survey National grid reference is 419930, 422590.

3 GEOLOGY AND MINING

3.1 Geology

3.1.1 Maps of the British Geological Survey (BGS), record the site as being underlain by Undifferentiated mudstones, siltstones and sandstones of the Carboniferous Pennine Lower Coal Measures.

3.1.2 The site is shown to be unaffected by faulting, and no recent Drift deposits are recorded.

3.2 Mining

3.2.1 The Middleton Coal seam (also known as the Cromwell) is shown to outcrop to the north of the site, and to dip below it. According to the geological memoir "Geology of the Country around Huddersfield and Halifax", published in 1930, the Middleton Coal seam is 0.9m thick at outcrop to the northwest of Roberttown. This seam is underlain by the Wheatley Lime Coal seam.

3.2.2 The Wheatley Lime is present throughout the area, and has been mined to a *"considerable extent",* according to the memoir. The 6" to 1 mile geological map records a former shaft, just to the northeast of the site. This shaft records the depth of the Wheatley Lime to be 27m.

3.2.3 Based on the stratigraphic section of this map, this would place the Middleton Coal at approximately 14m below the site. At the former Prospect Colliery, just to the west of Roberttown, the separation is such that the Middleton Coal would be at

approximately 16m below the site. This colliery records the Middleton Coal as being 0.7m thick and the Wheatley Lime as being 0.45m thick.

3.2.4 A Coal Authority Consultant's Coal Mining Report has been obtained for the site and is reproduced in Appendix 1. It records the Wheatley Lime to have been worked at a depth of 31m below the site, and with an extraction thickness of 0.71m.

3.2.5 This would place the Middleton Coal in excess of 15m below the site. Based on a thickness of between 0.7m and 0.9m, this seam would be too deep to be of concern, even if it has been worked.

3.2.6 The Coal Authority has also confirmed that the presence of *"probable unrecorded shallow workings" as* being *"none".* In other words it does not consider there to be any shallow coals seams that may have been worked and which were unrecorded.

3.2.7 The Coal Authority has recorded a number of seams that are known to have been worked below the site. These are;

Seam	Depth (m)	Extraction Thickness (cm)
Silkstone	50	70
Black Bed	57	66
Better Bed	245	48

3.2.8 The last date of working was 1918, and as such any subsidence from these workings should have ceased by now under normal conditions.

3.2.9 No mine entries are recorded within 20m of the site. However, given the known workings in the Wheatley Lime Coal, the presence of unrecorded mine entries at the site are considered very unlikely, but cannot be entirely precluded..

3.2.10 Opencast mining has taken place to the northeast and northwest of the site, although the site itself is shown to be unaffected.

3.2.11 The Coal Authority report recorded none of the following below or in the vicinity of the site.

- Spine roadways at shallow depth
- Outcrops
- Geological faults, fissures or breaklines
- Opencast mines
- Coal Authority managed tips
- Site Investigations
- Remediated sites
- Coal Mining Subsidence
- Mine Gas
- Mine water treatment schemes
- Future underground mining
- Coal mining licensing
- Court Orders
- Section 46 Orders
- Withdrawal of Support Notices
- Payments to owners

4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Based upon the available geological information and the response from the Coal Authority, it is very unlikely that any former unrecorded mineworkings are present at sufficiently shallow depth that could affect surface stability. Furthermore, any subsidence from deeper workings will have already taken place.

4.2 Consequently, no special precautions are necessary in respect of former mining. As a purely precautionary measure, it is considered prudent to lightly reinforce the foundations.

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BSc MSc ARSM CEng CGeol CEnv MICE FGS SiLC SQP

April 2023

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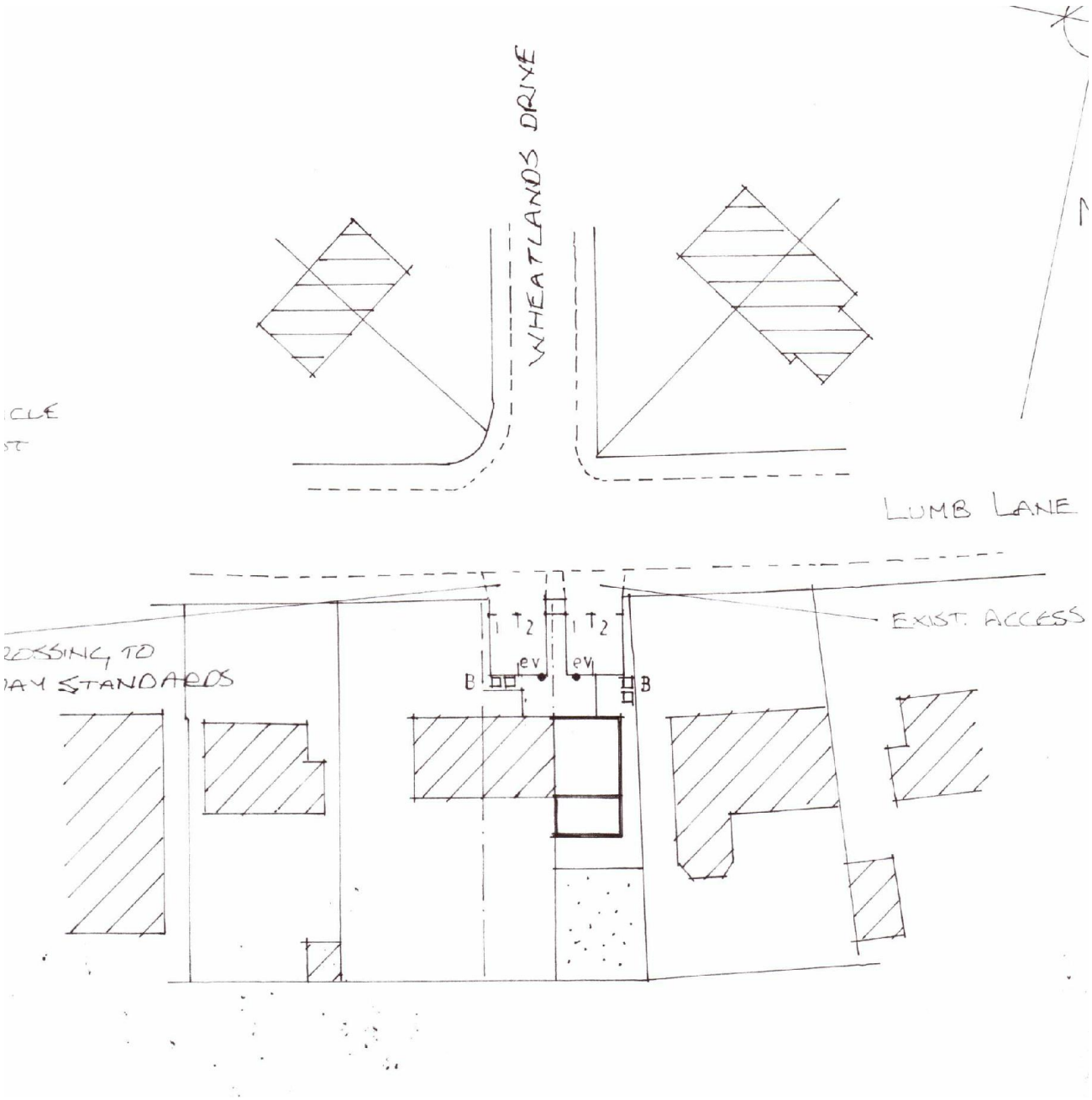
Procedure Notes

The risk assessment has been carried out in accordance with the principles of BS EN 1997-1: 2004 "Eurocode 7 - Geotechnical Design - Part 1: General Rules", BS EN 1997-2: 2007 "Eurocode 7 - Geotechnical Design - Part 2: Ground Investigation and Testing", BS5930: 1999 and BS10175: 2001, and the terms of the client's brief.

Further investigation can be carried out to further reduce uncertainty and risk but ultimately these risks cannot be eliminated. Similarly a desk study normally only considers readily available information and further information could be held by other sources. In commissioning further research or investigation the cost/benefit of doing so must be considered.

Where buildings are present on a site, structural and asbestos surveys have not been carried out, unless specifically stated. An unexploded ordnance survey has not been carried out. In relevant situations it would be prudent to commission such surveys.

Where information has been obtained from Third Parties, no liability can be accepted for the accuracy or completeness of this information, where anecdotal evidence or speculation are presented, they must be treated as such and cannot be relied upon.



55 Lumb Lane, Roberttown, Liversedge
Site Plan and Development Proposals

Michael D Joyce Associates LLP
Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Consultants

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Scale: NTS

Figure: 1

Appendix 1

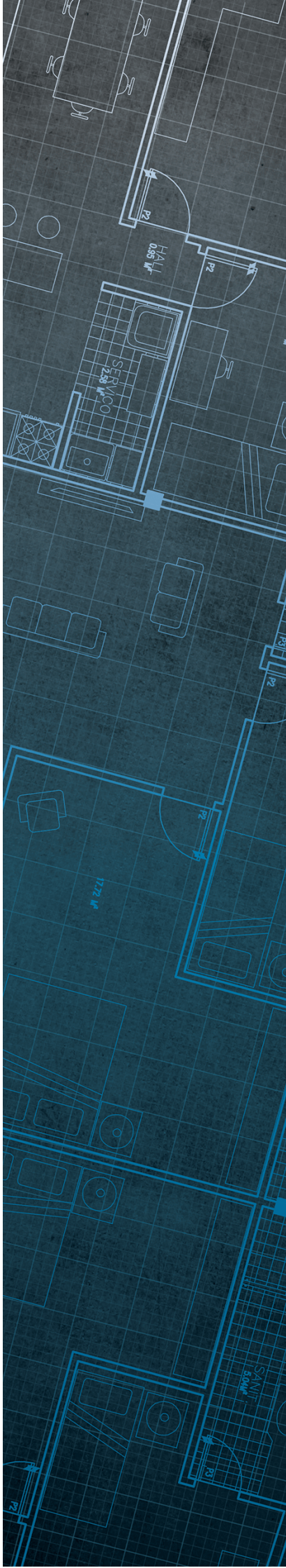
Coal Authority Mining Report

The Coal Authority

Consultants

Coal Mining Report

419927,422592
West Yorkshire



Date of enquiry:	**19 April 2023**
Date enquiry received:	**19 April 2023**
Issue date:	**19 April 2023**
Our reference:	**51003350490001**
Your reference:	

Consultants

Coal Mining Report

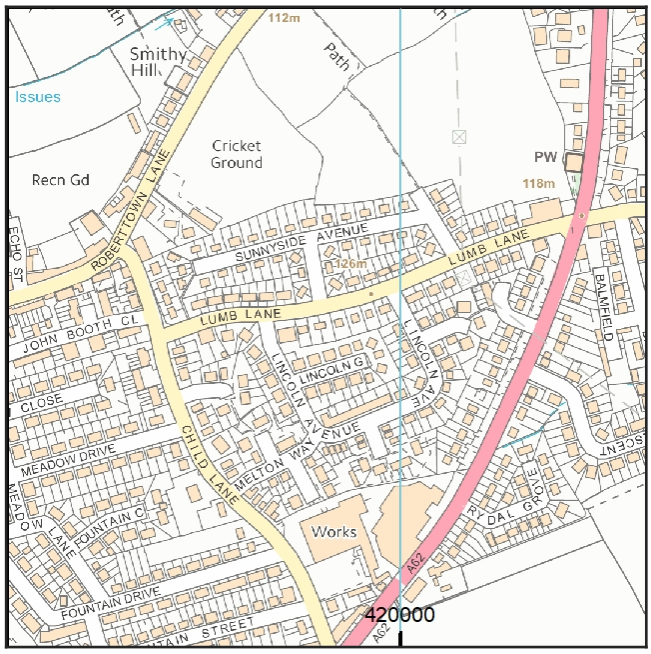
This report is based on and limited to the records held by the Coal Authority at the time the report was produced.

Client name

GROUNDSURE LIMITED

Enquiry address

419927,422592
West Yorkshire



Approximate position of property

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Section 1 – Mining activity and geology

Past underground mining

Colliery	Seam	Mineral	Coal Authority reference	Depth (m)	Direction to working	Dipping rate of seam worked (degrees)	Dipped direction of seam worked	Extraction thickness (cm)	Year last mined
unnamed	WHEATLEY LIME	Coal	6H8R	31	Beneath Property	3.7	South-East	71	1903
unnamed	SILKSTONE	Coal	6H95	50	Beneath Property	2.9	East	70	1857
unnamed	BLACK BED	Coal	6H9B	57	Beneath Property	2.4	South-East	66	1910
unnamed	BLACK BED	Coal	62WA	146	East	2.4	South-East	77	1910
unnamed	BLACK BED	Coal	6H9C	215	North-West	2.9	South-East	77	1910
unnamed	BETTER BED	Coal	6H9F	245	Beneath Property	2.9	South-East	48	1918
unnamed	BETTER BED	Coal	62WD	252	East	2.9	South-East	36	1910

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	419422-033	419908 422538		Coal	

Abandoned mine plan catalogue numbers

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

6957	9350	M31
9351	276	6253
M49	4080	FGB699

Our records show we have more plans than those shown above which could affect the enquiry boundary.

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

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.

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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.

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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.

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Section 4 – Further information

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

Future development

If development proposals are being considered, technical advice relating to both the investigation of coal and former coal mines and their treatment should be obtained before beginning work on site. All proposals should apply specialist engineering practice required for former mining areas. No development should be undertaken that intersects, disturbs or interferes with any coal or coal mines without first obtaining the permission of the Coal Authority.

MINE GAS: Please note, if there are no recorded instances of mine gas within 500m of the enquiry boundary, this does not mean that mine gas is not present within the vicinity. The Coal Authority Mine Gas data is limited to only those sites where a Mine Gas incident has been recorded. Developers should be aware that the investigation of coal seams, mine workings or mine entries may have the potential to generate and/or displace underground gases. Associated risks both to the development site and any neighbouring land or properties should be fully considered when undertaking any ground works. The need for effective measures to prevent gases migrating onto any land or into any properties, either during investigation or remediation work, or after development must also be assessed and properly addressed. In these instances, the Coal Authority recommends that a more detailed Gas Risk Assessment is undertaken by a competent assessor.

Development advice

The site is within an area of historical coal mining activity. Should you require advice and/or support on understanding the mining legacy, its risks to your development or what next steps you need to take, please contact us.

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.

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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.

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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. Please note, if there are no recorded instances of mine gas reported, this does not mean that mine gas is not present within the vicinity. The Coal Authority Mine Gas data is limited to only those sites where a Mine Gas incident has been recorded.

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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.

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The Coal Authority

Summary of findings

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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

Disused mine shaft



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Standard Appendices

A and B

STANDARD APPENDIX A

NOTES ON SITE INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE (June 2021)

1. **GENERAL.** The ground investigation has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of BS5930: 2015 and BS10175: 2011+A1: 2020. By its very nature, any ground investigation only samples a small percentage of the ground. Consequently, changes in ground conditions and soil properties can occur between any two exploratory points, for example local features such as soft ground, pockets of contamination and faults. This is also true of the exploration of mineworkings and such features can extend beneath parts of the site not investigated. Unrecorded bell pits and shafts can also exist between exploratory points. The ground investigation is designed to minimise such risks but they cannot be eliminated.

2. **GROUND INVESTIGATION.**

2.1 **BOREHOLE AND TRIAL PIT RECORDS.** These illustrate the ground conditions only at the location of the particular borehole or trial pit. Correlation between boreholes is for guidance only and its accuracy cannot be guaranteed.

2.2 **SHELL AND AUGER BORING.** This technique uses a tripod winch and an essentially percussive action using a variety of tools. Disturbed and undisturbed samples can be taken. This is the most suitable method for soft ground investigation, enabling the maximum amount of information to be obtained. However, minor changes in lithology may be overlooked unless continuous undisturbed sampling is used.

2.3 **GROUNDWATER**. Groundwater levels vary seasonally and the details given on the borehole logs relate only to the dates and the conditions described in the borehole records. The rate of boring may not have allowed an equilibrium water level to be established and the use of casing may seal off certain seepages.

2.4 **SAMPLING.** Disturbed samples of soils are taken for identification and classification purposes. In cohesive soils 'undisturbed' samples 100mm in diameter are taken by open drive sampler for laboratory testing of strength, permeability and consolidation characteristics.

2.5 **STANDARD PENETRATION TESTS**. S.P.T tests are used in granular and cohesive materials and in soft or weathered rocks. Difficulties in obtaining true 'N' values mean they must only be used as a guide and not as an absolute value in foundation design.

2.6 **ROTARY DRILLING.** Two main types of rotary drilling are carried out in rock. Rock coring using diamond or tungsten carbide tipped core bits provides samples and information on rock types, fissuring and weathering. Openhole drilling only produces small particles for identification purposes and the information gained is therefore limited. The latter is, however, useful as a quick method for detecting major strata changes and for the location of coal seams and old workings. Water, air, foam or drilling muds may be used as the flushing medium in either case.

2.7 **PERMEABILITY TESTS.** These can be carried out in boreholes or trial pits and gives a good indication of in-situ permeability.

2.8 **TRIAL PITTING.** This enables soil conditions to be closely examined at any specific point and samples taken. It also gives useful information on the stability of excavations and ingress of water.

2.9 **WINDOW SAMPLING**. Window sampling consists of driving a series of 1m-long tubes into the ground using a dropping weight. On completion of each 1m run, the tube is withdrawn. The next tube is then inserted and the process repeated to provide a continuous profile of the ground. On each run the tube diameter is reduced in order to assist in its recovery.

2.10 **GAS MONITORING.** This is routinely carried out in trial pits or probe holes to check for elevated levels of methane and carbon dioxide or oxygen deficiency, particularly since risks can exist from natural gases, landfill sites and rising groundwater levels in mine workings below ground. Longer term monitoring is carried out with gas monitoring standpipes.

3. **SOIL DESCRIPTION.** Samples from borings or trial pits are described as specified in the standard procedure outlined in the British Standards. The description includes colour, consistency, structure, weathering, lithological type, inclusions and origin. All descriptions are based on visual and manual identification.

Fire Soils (Cohesive Soils)

The following field terms are used:

Soil Type	Description
Very soft	Exudes between fingers
Soft	Moulded by light finger pressure
Firm	Cannot be moulded by the fingers but can be rolled in hand to 3mm threads.
Stiff	Crumbles and breaks when rolled to 3mm threads but can be remoulded to a lump.
Very stiff	No longer moulded but crumbles under pressure. Can be indented with thumbs.

The following terms are used in accordance with the results of laboratory and field tests.

Description	Undrained Shear Strength Cu (kPa)
Extremely Low	<10
Very Low	10 - 20
Low	20 - 40
Medium	40 - 75
High	75 - 150
Very High	150 - 300
Extremely High	>300

Fine soils can also be classified according to their sensitivity, which is the ratio between undisturbed and remoulded undrained shear strength.

Sensitivity	Ratio
Low	8
Medium	8 - 30
High	>30
Quick	>50

Granular Soils (Non-Cohesive)

The following descriptions are used for granular soils.

Description	Normalised Blow Count (N_1) 60
Very Loose	0 - 3
Loose	3 - 8
Medium	8 - 25
Dense	25 - 42
Very Dense	42 - 58

4. **NATURAL OR IN-SITU MOISTURE CONTENT**. The natural or in-situ moisture content of a soil is defined as the weight of water contained in the pore space, expressed as a percentage of the dry weight of solid matter present in the soil. Soil properties are greatly affected by the moisture content and the test can help to give an indication of likely engineering behaviour.

5. **LIQUID AND PLASTIC LIMITS**. Two simple classification tests are known as the liquid and plastic limits. If a cohesive soil is remoulded with increasing amounts of water, a point will be reached at which it ceases to behave as a plastic material and becomes essentially a viscous fluid. The moisture content corresponding to this change is arbitrarily determined by the liquid limit test. 'Fat' clays, which have high contents of colloidal particles, have high liquid limits; 'lean' clays, having low colloidal particle contents have correspondingly low liquid limits. An increase in the organic content of a clay is reflected by an increase in the liquid and plastic limits.

   If a cohesive soil is allowed to dry progressively, a point is reached at which it ceases to behave as a plastic material, which can be moulded in the fingers, and it becomes friable. The moisture content of the soil at this point is known as the 'plastic limit' of the soil.

   The range of water content over which a cohesive soil behaves plastically, i.e. the range lying between the liquid and plastic limits, is defined as the plasticity index.

   A cohesive soil with a natural water content towards its liquid limit will, in general, be an extremely soft material whereas a cohesive soil with a natural water content below its plastic limit will tend to be a stiff material.

6. **PARTICLE-SIZE DISTRIBUTION.** A knowledge of particle-size distribution is used to classify soils and to indicate likely engineering behaviour. British Standards define soils in relation to their particle-size as shown below:-

Boulders	>200mm	Coarse Sand	2.0 to 0.63mm
Cobbles	200 to 63mm	Medium Sand	0.63 to 0.2mm
		Fine Sand	0.2 to 0.063mm
Coarse Gravel	63 to 20mm	Coarse Silt	0.063 to 0.02mm
Medium Gravel	20 to 6.3mm	Medium Silt	0.02 to 0.0063mm
Fine Gravel	6.3 to 2mm	Fine Silt	0.0063 to 0.002mm
		Clay	<0.002mm

7. **BULK DENSITY.** The bulk density of a material is the weight of that material per unit volume and includes the effects of voids whether filled with air or water. The 'dry density' of a soil is defined as the weight of solids contained in a unit volume of the soil.

8. **PERMEABILITY.** The permeability of a material is defined as the rate at which water flows through it per unit area of soil under unit hydraulic gradient.

9. **CONSOLIDATION CHARACTERISTICS.** When subjected to pressure, a soil tends to consolidate as the air or water in the pore space is forced out and the grains assume a denser state of packing. The decrease in volume per unit of pressure is defined as the 'compressibility' of the soil, and a measure of the rate at which consolidation proceeds is given by the 'coefficient of consolidation' of the soil. These two characteristics Mv and Cv are determined in the consolidation test and the results are used to determine settlement of structures or earthworks.

10. **STRENGTH CHARACTERISTICS.** The strength of geological materials is generally expressed as the maximum resistance that they offer to deformation or fracture by applied shear or compressive stress. The strength characteristics of geological materials depend to an important degree on their previous history and on the conditions under which they will be stressed in practice. Consequently, it is necessary to simulate in the laboratory tests the conditions under which the material will be stressed in the field.

In general, the only test carried out on hard rocks is the determination of their compressive strength but consideration must be given to fissuring, jointing and bedding planes.

The tests at present in use for soils and soft rocks fall into two main categories. Firstly, those in which the material is stressed under conditions of no moisture content change, and secondly those in which full opportunity is permitted for moisture content changes under the applied stresses. Tests in the first category are known as undrained (immediate or quick) tests, while those in the second category are known as drained (slow or equilibrium) tests. The tests are normally carried out in the triaxial compression apparatus but granular materials may be tested in the shear box apparatus.

The undrained triaxial test gives the apparent cohesion C_u and the angle of shearing resistance $\emptyset_u$. In dry sands, $C_u = 0$ and $\emptyset_u$ is equal to the angle of internal friction whereas with saturated non-fissured clays $\emptyset u$ tends to 0 and the apparent cohesion C_u is equal to one-half the unconfined compression strength qu. On site the vane test gives an approximate measure of shear strength.

For some stability problems use is made of a variant of the undrained triaxial test in which the specimen is allowed to consolidate fully under the hydrostatic pressure and is then tested to failure under conditions of no moisture content change. This is known as the consolidated undrained triaxial test. Pore water pressures may be measured during this test or a fully drained test may be carried out. In either case the effective shear strength parameters C' and $\emptyset$' can be obtained which can be used to calculate shear strength at any given pore water pressure.

11. **COMPACTION.** The density at which any soil can be placed in an earth dam, embankment or road depends on its moisture content and on the amount of work which is used in compaction. The influence of these two factors can be studied in compaction tests, which can determine the maximum dry density (MDD) achievable at a certain optimum moisture content (OMC).

12. **CALIFORNIA BEARING RATIO TEST.** In flexible pavement design a knowledge of the bearing capacity of the subgrade is necessary to enable the thickness of pavement for any particular combination of traffic and site conditions to be determined. The quality of the subgrade can be assessed by means of the California Bearing Ratio Test or approximately by the MEXE cone penetrometer.

13. **ROCK DESCRIPTION.** This is based on;

i. Colour (minor then principal colour).
ii. Grain Size.

Description	Predominate Grain Size (mm)
Very Coarse - grained	>63
Coarse - grained	63 - 2
Medium - grained	2 - 0.063
Fine - grained	0.063 - 0.002
Very Fine - grained	<0.002

iii. Matrix.
iv. Weathering.

Term	Description
Fresh	No visible sign of weathering/alteration of the rock material.
Discoloured	The colour of the original fresh rock material is changed and is evidence of weathering/alteration. The degree of change from the original colour should be indicated. If the colour change is confined to particular mineral constituents, this should be mentioned.
Disintegrated	The rock material is broken up by physical weathering, so that bonding between grains is lost and the rock is weathered/altered towards the condition of a soil in which the original material fabric is still intact. The rock material is friable but the grains are not decomposed.
Decomposed	The rock material is weathered by the chemical alteration of the mineral grains to the condition of a sol in which the original material fabric is still intact; some or all of the grains are decomposed.

v. Carbonate Content.
vi. Stability of Rock Material.

Stable indicates no changes when sample left in water for 24 hours. Fairly stable indicates fissuring and crumbling of surfaces. Unstable indicates complete disintegration of the sample.

vii. Unconfined Compressive Strength.

Term	Field Identification	Unconfined Compressive Strength (MPa)
Extremely Weak[a]	Indented by thumbnail.	Less than 1
Very Weak	Crumbles under firm blows with point of geological hammer, can be peeled by a pocket knife.	1 to 5
Weak	Can be peeled by a pocket knife with difficulty, shallow indentations made by firm blow with point of geological hammer.	5 to 25
Medium Strong	Cannot be scraped or peeled with a pocket knife, specimen can be fractured with single firm blow of geological hammer.	25 to 50
Strong	Specimen required more than one blow of geological hammer to fracture it.	50 to 100
Very Strong	Specimen requires many blows of geological hammer to fracture it.	100 to 250
Extremely Strong	Specimen can only be chipped with geological hammer.	Greater than 250

[a] Some extremely weak rocks will behave as soils and should be described as soils.

viii. Structure.

Sedimentary	Metamorphic	Igneous
Bedded	Cleaved	Massive
Interbedded	Foliated	Flowbanded
Laminated	Schistose	Folded
Folded	Banded	Lineated
Massive	Lineated	
Graded	Gneissose	
	Folded	

ix. Discontinuities.
x. Discontinuity Spacing, persistence and roughness, infilling and seepage.
xi. Weathering of the Rock Mass.

Term	Description	Grades
Fresh	No visible sign of rock material weathering; perhaps slight discolouration on major discontinuity surfaces.	0
Slightly weathered	Discolouration indicates weathering of rock material and discontinuity surfaces.	1
Moderately weathered	Less than half of the rock material is decomposed or disintegrated. Fresh or discoloured rock is present either as a continuous framework or as core stones.	2
Highly weathered	More than half of the rock material is decomposed or disintegrated. Fresh or discoloured rock is present either as a continuous framework or as core stones.	3
Completely weathered	All rock material is decomposed and/or disintegrated to soil. The original mass structure is still largely intact.	4
Residual soil	All rock material is converted to soil. The mass structure and material fabric are destroyed. There is a large change in volume, but the soils has not been significantly transported.	5

xii. Rock Mass Permeability

14. **CHEMICAL TESTS.** A knowledge of total soluble sulphate content and pH of soils and groundwater is important in determining the protection required for concrete or steel in contact with the ground. Other specialist tests may be carried out on sites suspected of being contaminated by toxic materials (see standard appendix B).

15. **REFERENCES**

BS5930: 2015+A1:2020 British Standard Code of Practice for Site Investigations
BS10175: 2011+A2:2017 British Standard Code of Practice for the Investigation of Potentially Contaminated Sites

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