



The Coal
Authority

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Michael Meredith
22 Royston Avenue
Owlthorpe
Sheffield
S20 6SG

Reference: FOI 82-2020

29 April 2021

Dear Mr Meredith

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write in connection with your request for information, which was received by the Coal Authority on 31 March 2021.

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted within the Coal Authority to locate information you require.

RESPONSE

Under S 1 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), I can confirm that the Coal Authority does hold some of the information you have requested.

The Coal Authority Mining Report Site at Moorthorpe Gate Owlthorpe Sheffield Reference
71000493264001

1. Exactly how much coal was extracted by “Dent Main Colliery”?

We do not hold a centralised record of the amount of coal extracted from Dent Main Colliery, any licences granted pre 1994 before the Coal Authority was formed, were granted through NCB and the British Coal Corporation, the tonnages of extraction were not records that were included as a statutory requirement to be transferred to the Coal Authority. Records may be held in local archives or libraries in the form of Colliery Guardians. From 1872, legislation required mine owners to record on mine plans the areas of coal that were extracted. These historical plans are held by the Coal Authority but their accuracy cannot be verified by us.

2. Was the Coal extracted “in addition, the property is in an area where the Coal Authority believe there is coal at or close to the surface. This coal may have been worked at some time in the past” Does this refer to “Dent Main Colliery”?

The reference to coal at or near the surface is a direct result of a coal outcrop of the Flockton (also named Chavery) seam running west to east through the middle of the reporting area. The seam dips in a northerly direction beneath the site. As with most coal outcrops there is a high likelihood that it may have been worked at some point in the past due to the easy accessibility of the coal. This is further endorsed by the fact of former Brook Lane opencast immediately to the north-west of the area of interest was worked over this outcrop.

Any colliery workings will have been deeper and not connected to any potential shallow outcrop working. Indeed, the report denotes the only workings to potentially affect the reporting area are 60 – 80m depth.

3. With regard to flooding, what effect does flooding have on the timber props that hold the roofs up in old mine workings?

We do not hold information on timber props used in old mine workings or the effect that flooding may have on them.

4. Who is responsible if the mines collapse under the weight of New Housing?

Section 43 of the Coal Industry Act 1994 details who is responsible for subsidence

43 Persons responsible for subsidence.

(1) Except where Schedule 6 to this Act otherwise provides, the 1991 Act and the regulations under that Act which are in force immediately before the restructuring date shall have effect on and after that date with the substitution, in relation to any subsidence damage, for references to the Corporation of references to the person who is the responsible person in relation to that damage.

(2) Subject to the following provisions of this section and to section 44 below, the responsible person, in relation to any subsidence damage, shall for the purposes of this Part be—

(a) the person with responsibility for subsidence affecting the land which has been damaged or, as the case may be, the damaged part of it; or

(b) in the case of damage to other property, the person with responsibility for subsidence affecting the land where that property or, as the case may be, the damaged part of it was situated at the time of the damage.

(3) For the purposes of this Part, the person with responsibility for subsidence affecting any land shall be—

(a) where that land is for the time being within the area of responsibility of any person as the holder of a licence under Part II of this Act, that person; and

(b) in any other case, the Authority.

5. What if subsidence causes damage to properties near the Development? Who can they claim compensation from?

There is nothing preventing a claim for subsidence being made to land or buildings, structures or works, on, in or over land under the Coal Mining Subsidence Act 1991 caused by the withdrawal of support from land in connection with a lawful coal-mining operation.

6. Will household Insurance premiums increase?

No information held.

7. Can residents living downstream from the disused mine workings claim compensation from the Coal Authority for previous and potential new flooding events?

The Coal Authority is not necessarily responsible for the effects of minewater discharges and owners and occupiers of land affected may carry responsibilities.

The Coal Authority has powers but not obligations under The Coal Industry Act 1994 (as amended by the Water Act 2003 (Water Environment and Services Act (Scotland) 2003)). These state that the Coal Authority may take such action as it considers appropriate (if any) for the purpose of preventing, or mitigating the effect of, the discharge of water from a coal mine, vested in the Coal Authority, into or on to any land or into any controlled waters.

8. Deforestation is the cause of downstream flooding so should the Coal Authority and Sheffield (LPA) look to reforest Owlthorpe to mitigate downstream flooding?

The Freedom of Information Act is about information that is held, we do not hold information in relation to reforesting Owlthorpe.

Please can you confirm that Avant Homes need to carry out relevant assessments regarding previous mining activity in the area.

The Coal Authority were consulted by Sheffield City Council and our response of the 27 September 2019 is attached. Our response is also published on the planning portal reference 19/03143/FUL.

Details of your complaints rights are enclosed with this letter.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please contact our Records Management team on 01623 637225 or email: recordsmanagement@coal.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Coryn Reynolds
Records Officer

Complaints rights

The Coal Authority has a duty to implement a complaints process in relation to Freedom of Information Act requests. If you are not content with our response, you may appeal, this process is known as an 'Internal Review'

Internal Reviews are intended to be fair and impartial means of reviewing the original request process.

How do I appeal?

All appeals should be made in writing and sent to:-

Records Management

The Coal Authority

200 Lichfield Lane

Mansfield

Notts

NG18 4RG

or alternatively recordsmanagement@coal.gov.uk

To deal with your appeal as quickly as possible please provide the unique identification number provided with your response and reason for appeal.

What if I'm still not satisfied?

You can appeal to the Information Commissioner. You can contact the Information Commissioner's Office at the following:-

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113

Email:- casework@ico.org.uk