



**British  
Geological Survey**  
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

# User Guide Historic Mineral Planning Permissions

Open Report OR/14/017





# User Guide Historic Mineral Planning Permissions

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*British Geological Survey offices*

### **BGS Central Enquiries Desk**

Tel 0115 936 3143 Fax 0115 936 3276  
email [enquiries@bgs.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@bgs.ac.uk)

### **Environmental Science Centre, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5GG**

Tel 0115 936 3241 Fax 0115 936 3488  
email [sales@bgs.ac.uk](mailto:sales@bgs.ac.uk)

### **Murchison House, West Mains Road, Edinburgh EH9 3LA**

Tel 0131 667 1000 Fax 0131 668 2683  
email [scotsales@bgs.ac.uk](mailto:scotsales@bgs.ac.uk)

### **Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD**

Tel 020 7589 4090 Fax 020 7584 8270  
Tel 020 7942 5344/45 email [bgslondon@bgs.ac.uk](mailto:bgslondon@bgs.ac.uk)

### **Columbus House, Greenmeadow Springs, Tongwynlais, Cardiff CF15 7NE**

Tel 029 2052 1962 Fax 029 2052 1963

### **Maclean Building, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford OX10 8BB**

Tel 01491 838800 Fax 01491 692345

### **Geological Survey of Northern Ireland, Colby House, Stranmillis Court, Belfast BT9 5BF**

Tel 028 9038 8462 Fax 028 9038 8461

[www.bgs.ac.uk/gsni/](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/gsni/)

### *Parent Body*

### **Natural Environment Research Council, Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon SN2 1EU**

Tel 01793 411500 Fax 01793 411501  
[www.nerc.ac.uk](http://www.nerc.ac.uk)

Website [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)

Shop online at [www.geologyshop.com](http://www.geologyshop.com)

# Contents

- Contents..... i**
- Summary ..... ii**
- 1 Introduction ..... 3**
- 2 About the Historic Mineral Planning Permission Dataset ..... 3**
  - 2.1 Background..... 3
  - 2.2 Who might require this data?..... 4
  - 2.3 What the dataset shows?..... 4
- 3 Technical Information ..... 5**
  - 3.1 Scale..... 5
  - 3.2 Field descriptions..... 5
  - 3.3 Creation of the dataset ..... 6
  - 3.4 Dataset history ..... 6
  - 3.5 Coverage..... 6
  - 3.6 Data format ..... 6
  - 3.7 Limitations..... 7
- 4 Licensing Information ..... 7**
- Appendix 1: Mineral Planning Codes & Names..... 9**

**FIGURES**

- Figure 1 The coverage of the historic mineral planning permissions dataset ..... 6

**TABLES**

- Table 1 Attribute table field descriptions ..... 5

# Summary

The historic mineral planning permission dataset contains the hand drawn boundaries for permitted, withdrawn and refused mineral planning permissions for England and Wales. The data was extracted from a set of paper maps formerly held by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and show mineral planning information collated from the 1940s (retrospective to the 1930) to the mid 1980s when responsibility for mineral planning was devolved from central to local government for England and to the Welsh Assembly for Wales.

The dataset represents a ‘snapshot’ in time and although there is extensive coverage (approximately 18000 polygons) the extent and attribution is incomplete due to the limitations of the source material.

# 1 Introduction

Founded in 1835, the British Geological Survey (BGS) is the world's oldest national geological survey and the United Kingdom's premier centre for earth science information and expertise. The BGS provides expert services and impartial advice in all areas of geoscience. Our client base is drawn from the public and private sectors both in the UK and internationally.

Our innovative digital data products aim to help describe the ground surface and what's beneath across the whole of Great Britain. These digital products are based on the outputs of the BGS survey and research programmes and our substantial national data holdings. This data coupled with our in-house geo-scientific knowledge are combined to provide products relevant to a wide range of users in central and local government, insurance, housing and other industry, engineering and environmental business, and the British public.

Further information on all the digital data provided by the BGS can be found on our website at [BGS Our products](#). For further details on mineral planning and resources visit [Minerals UK](#) or by contacting:

BGS Central Enquiries  
British Geological Survey  
Environmental Science Centre  
Keyworth  
Nottingham  
NG12 5GG  
Direct tel. +44(0)115 936 3143  
Fax. +44(0)115 9363150  
email [enquiries@bgs.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@bgs.ac.uk)

## 2 About the Historic Mineral Planning Permission Dataset

### 2.1 BACKGROUND

Between 2001 and 2003 the BGS received approximately 1400 1:25 000 scale paper maps and associated card index from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)). The maps, originally compiled by the Minerals Division of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (MHLG), (DCLGs historic predecessor), contain hand drawn boundaries for permitted, withdrawn and refused mineral planning permissions, and worked ground in England. These 'MHLG' maps show mineral planning information collated from the 1940s (retrospectively to 1930) to the mid 1980s. The index cards provide supplementary information regarding name, operator, dates and relevant local planning authority.

In 2006 BGS obtained the equivalent maps, 200 in number, for Wales from the Welsh Assembly Government. However, the associated card index file no longer exists.

Attempts have been made to find the equivalent MHLG maps for Scotland. However, these have been unsuccessful.

The variable completeness of the datasets should be kept in mind when this material is being used. The principal aim of the data is to show areas of land that have received or been refused permission for the extraction of minerals.

Other datasets that are currently under development include:

### **Historic land use**

This dataset has been extracted from the same MHLG source map and indicates the land use present at each site.

Categories include:

- derelict areas,
- restored quarries (filled and unfilled),
- tip heaps
- spoil heaps
- wet areas.

The principle aim of the data is to show land use present in areas of land that have been affected by the extraction of minerals.

### **BritPits**

The BritPits (an abbreviation of British Pits, and the word 'pits' is used here to include both surface quarries and underground mines) database holds information on:

- name of active mines and quarries
- geographic location
- address
- operator
- mineral planning authority
- geology
- mineral commodities produced
- end-uses where known

## **2.2 WHO MIGHT REQUIRE THIS DATA?**

This legacy dataset is important in the identification of areas which might formerly have been used for mineral extraction. Its historic nature means that no surface manifestation of previous workings may exist. The dataset may indicate restoration criteria imposed by the MHLG and provide evidence as to the suitability for the future redevelopment of sites.

The identification of former mineral workings can assist land-use planners; rapidly identifying areas with potential problems and aid local government offices in making development plans by helping to define land suited to different uses. Other users of the data may include developers, homeowners, solicitors, loss adjusters, the insurance industry, architects and surveyors.

## **2.3 WHAT THE DATASET SHOWS?**

Data depicted on the source maps (for both England and Wales) and included in the dataset are:

- a) all planning appeals, departures and called in cases whether permitted or refused.
- b) all planning permission and refusal data for various local authority areas which were obtained by Departmental officials through visits to authorities in a staged programme spread over many years. Priority was placed on areas that were giving rise to then current casework issues thus at the time when the maintenance of the maps ended (mid 1985), some

authority information had been updated recently but other areas had not been visited for many years.

The dataset contains a significant number of overlapping polygons where multiple applications have been made in the same area. These may represent resubmissions for the same area, later revised submissions or requests for surface workings at former underground locations. It should be noted that overlapping polygon boundaries may be coincident in size and extent but in many cases they are not.

The dataset does not give any indication of areas where later applications to work have been made or approved.

## 3 Technical Information

### 3.1 SCALE

The historic mineral planning permission dataset is produced for use at 1:25 000 scale providing 25 m ground resolution.

### 3.2 FIELD DESCRIPTIONS

**Table 1 Attribute table field descriptions**

FIELD NAME	FIELD TYPE	DESCRIPTION
SITE_NAME	String	Name of the planning permission (provided by the Mineral Planning Authority (MPA) )
ALT_SITE_N	String	Alternative site name to that given above
MIN_SITE_T	String	Mineral site type, indicates whether a working is at surface, underground or both
APP_DESC	String	Description of the type of application made or permission granted
EASTING	Double	Grid coordinate in metres, all numeric, of the centre of the site
NORTHING	Double	Grid coordinate in metres, all numeric, of the centre of the site
LOCATION	String	Location of site where known
MPA_CODE	String	Mineral Planning Authority code (see Appendix 1 for full list)
MIN_COM	String	Mineral commodity identified in the mineral planning application
PLN_STATUS	String	Plan status, defined as valid, dormant, expired, mineral consultation area, refused, revoked, withdrawn or not available where no indication was given of the outcome of the application
GRANT_DATE	String	Date the application was granted, may include more than one date if multiple applications made at same locality
SHEET	String	The national grid square which the application falls in
SOURCE_REF	String	MHLG reference number recorded from the original card index or map
PP_DB_NO	String	Internal BGS reference number
NOTES	String	Miscellaneous comments, information and subsequent additions to the original application. Captured in note form as expressed on the accompanying index cards
VERSION	String	This is version 1 of the dataset. It is a static dataset and no further updates are expected

### 3.3 CREATION OF THE DATASET

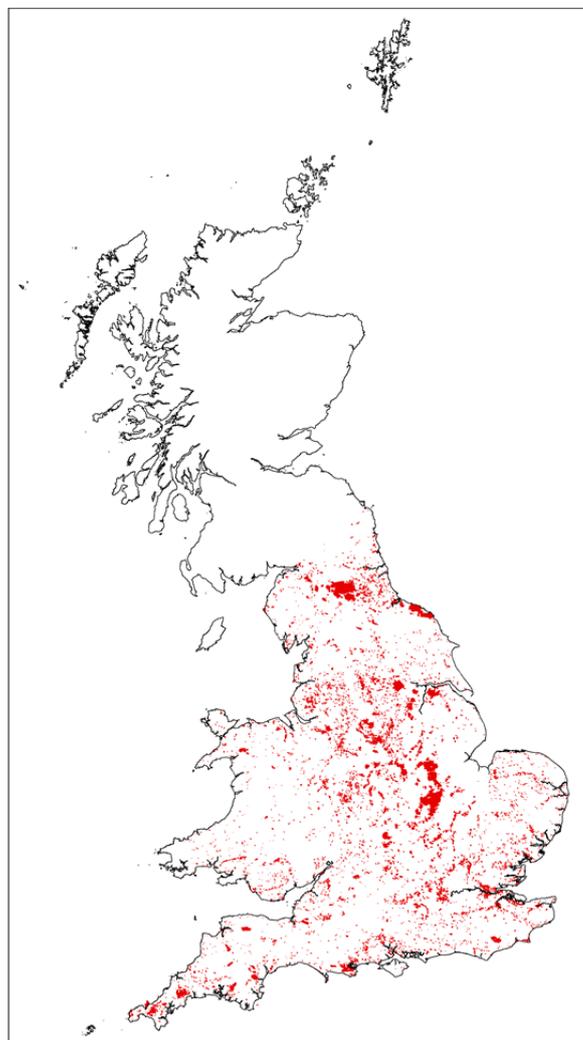
Historic mineral planning permission data was digitised from the MHLG maps. Attribute information was gathered from the associated card index, map face, where available additional information was gathered from the back of the maps sheets and the map legend.

### 3.4 DATASET HISTORY

No previous digital versions of the dataset exist. It is not anticipated that the dataset will be updated in the foreseeable future.

### 3.5 COVERAGE

Dataset covers England and Wales, but no data is available for Scotland or the Isle of Man.



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**Figure 1 Coverage of the historic mineral planning permissions dataset**

### 3.6 DATA FORMAT

The historic mineral planning permission dataset has been created as vector polygons and are available in a range of GIS formats, including ArcGIS (.shp), ArcInfo Coverages and MapInfo (.tab). More specialised formats may be available but may incur additional processing costs.

### 3.7 LIMITATIONS

- The historic mineral planning permission dataset has been developed at 1:25 000 scale and must not be used at larger scales. All spatial searches against the data should therefore be conducted using a minimum 25 m buffer.
- This dataset has been produced by the collation and interpretation of the data provided to the British Geological Survey. The data presented is based on the best available information, but are not comprehensive and their quality is variable. Any boundaries shown are, therefore, approximate.
- Data recorded should be treated as historic. As an example data may indicate (at the time of the original recording in the source card index) that a site had a ‘valid’ planning permission and that it was ‘active’ (having material being extracted). Since that time the planning permission may have expired and or the site may have become inactive. (The BGS BritPits database stores the up-to-date activity of any particular site).
- All planning permissions recorded as being ‘active’ from 1947 onwards were captured. Therefore, if a planning permission on the map was active in 1933 but closed by 1938 it was not captured. However, this policy was applied variably depending on the data attributer.
- Whilst every effort has been made to ensure consistency of approach during the capture of the data, the level of detail in any area reflects the accuracy of the information recorded on the original paper map.
- The variable completeness of the dataset should be kept in mind when using the data.
- Attribution is limited to the information available on the accompanying index card – in the case of permissions for Wales no supplementary information was available due to the lack of a card index.
- The dataset represents a historic ‘snapshot’ in time and does not show subsequent applications, resubmissions or later reworking e.g. opencast reworking of waste tips. Details of these are held by Local Authority Mineral Planning Departments.

## 4 Licensing Information

The British Geological Survey does not sell its digital mapping data to external parties. Instead, BGS grants external parties a licence to use the data, subject to certain standard terms and conditions. In general, a licence fee will be payable based on the type of data, the number of users, and the duration (years) of a licence.

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- make internal use of the dataset(s)
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- provide a bureau service for others or incorporate the data in the generation of products or services for commercial purposes
- sell, assign, sublicense, rent, lend or otherwise transfer (any part of) the dataset(s) or the licence
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When the BGS digital datasets are revised any upgrades will be automatically supplied to the licensee, at no additional cost. Geological map datasets are revised on a periodic rather than on an annual basis, licensees will therefore not automatically receive a new dataset each year unless changes have been made to the data.

*These are general comments for guidance only.* A licensee of BGS's digital data is provided with full details of the basis on which individual BGS datasets licensed to them are supplied.

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# Appendix 1 Mineral Planning Codes & Names

<b>MPA CODE</b>	<b>Mineral Planning Authority (MPA) Name</b>	<b>MPA CODE</b>	<b>Mineral Planning Authority (MPA) Name</b>
AGY	Isle Of Anglesey County Council, Cyngor Sir Ynys Mon	NBL	Northumberland County Council
BAS	Bath And North East Somerset Council	NBP	The Broads Authority
BBD	Blackburn With Darwen Borough Council	NEL	North East Lincolnshire Council
BDF	Bedfordshire County Council	NET	Newcastle City Council
BDG	London Borough Of Barking And Dagenham Council	NFK	Norfolk County Council
BEX	London Borough Of Bexley Council	NFP	New Forest National Park Authority
BGE	Bridgend County Borough Council, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-Y-Bont Ar Ogwr	NGM	Nottingham City Council
BGW	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Cyngor Bwrdeisdref Sirol Blaenau Gwent	NLN	North Lincolnshire Council
BIR	Birmingham City Council	NNP	Northumberland National Park Authority
BKM	Buckinghamshire County Council	NSM	North Somerset Council
BMH	Bournemouth Borough Council	NTH	Northamptonshire County Council
BNH	Brighton & Hove City Council	NTL	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Castell-Nedd Port Talbot
BNP	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog	NTT	Nottinghamshire County Council
BNS	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	NTY	North Tyneside Council
BOL	Bolton Council		London Borough Of Newham Council
BPL	Blackpool Council	NWP	Newport City Council, Cyngor Dinas Casnewydd
BRC	Bracknell Forest Council	NYK	North Yorkshire County Council
BRD	Bradford Metropolitan District Council	NYP	North York Moors National Park Authority
BRY	London Borough Of Bromley Council	OLD	Oldham Council
BST	Bristol City Council	OXF	Oxfordshire County Council
BUR	Bury Council	PCP	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol Arfordir Penfro
CAM	Cambridgeshire County Council	PDP	Peak District National Park Authority
CAY	Caerphilly County Borough Council, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili	PEM	Pembrokeshire County Council, Cyngor Sir Penfro (Sir Benfro)
CRF	Conwy County Borough Council, Cyngor Bwrseidref Sirol Conwy	POL	Borough Of Poole Council
CGNE	Ceredigion County Council, Cyngor Sir Ceredigion	POR	Portsmouth City Council
CHS	Cheshire County Council	POW	Powys County Council, Cyngor Sir Powys
CLD	Cheshire East Council	PTE	Peterborough City Council
CMA	Cumbria County Council	RCC	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
CMN	London Borough Of Camden Council	RCH	Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council
CON	Cornwall Council	RCT	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf
COV	Coventry City Council	RDB	London Borough Of Redbridge Council
CRF	Cardiff Council, Cyngor Caerdydd	RIC	London Borough Of Richmond Council
CRY	London Borough Of Croydon Council	ROT	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
CWY	Conwy County Borough Council, Cyngor Bwrseidref Sirol Conwy	RCT	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf
DAL	Darlington Borough Council	RUT	Rutland County Council
DBY	Derbyshire County Council	SAW	Sandwell Council

DEN	Denbighshire County Council, Cyngor Sir Ddinbych	SFK	Suffolk County Council
DER	Derby City Council	SFT	Sefton Council
DEV	Devon County Council	SGC	South Gloucestershire Council
DNC	Doncaster Council	SHF	Sheffield City Council
DOR	Dorset County Council	SHN	St. Helens Council
DUD	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	SHR	Shropshire Council
DUR	Durham County Council	SKP	Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
EAL	London Borough Of Ealing Council	SLF	Salford City Council
ENF	London Borough Of Enfield Council	SLG	Slough Borough Council
ENP	Exmoor National Park	SND	Sunderland City Council
ERY	East Riding Of Yorkshire Council	SNP	Snowdonia National Park Authority, Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri
ESS	Essex County Council	SOL	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
ESX	East Sussex County Council	SOM	Somerset County Council
ERY	East Riding Of Yorkshire Council	SOS	Southend-On-Sea Borough Council
FLN	Flintshire County Council, Cyngor Sir Y Fflint	SRY	Surrey County Council
GAT	Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council	STE	Stoke-On-Trent City Council
GLS	Gloucestershire County Council	STH	Southampton City Council
GWN	Gwynedd Council, Cyngor Gwynedd	STS	Staffordshire County Council
	Halton Borough Council	STT	Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council
HAM	Hampshire County Council	STY	South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council
HAV	London Borough Of Havering Council	SWA	City And County Of Swansea, Dinas A Sir Abertawe
	London Borough Of Hackney Council	SWK	London Borough Of Southwark Council
HEF	Herefordshire Council	TAM	Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
HIL	London Borough Of Hillingdon Council	TFW	Telford And Wrekin Council
HNS	London Borough Of Hounslow Council	THR	Thurrock Borough Council
HPL	Hartlepool Borough Council	TOR	Torfaen County Borough Council, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Torfaen
HRT	Hertfordshire County Council	TRA	
HRY	London Borough Of Haringey Council	TRF	Trafford Council
IOW	Isle Of Wight Council	VGL	Vale Of Glamorgan Council, Cyngor Bro Morgannwg
KEN	Kent County Council	WAR	Warwickshire County Council
KHL	Hull City Council	WBK	West Berkshire Council
KIR	Kirklees Council	WFT	London Borough Of Waltham Forest Council
KTT	Royal Borough Of Kingston Upon Thames	WGN	Wigan Council
KWL	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council	WIL	Wiltshire County Council
LAN	Lancashire County Council	WKF	Wakefield Council
LDP	Lake District National Park Authority	WLL	Walsall Council
LDS	Leeds City Council	WLV	Wolverhampton City Council
LEC	Leicestershire County Council	WNM	Royal Borough Of Windsor & Maidenhead
LIN	Lincolnshire County Council	WOK	Wokingham Borough Council
LIV	Liverpool City Council	WOR	Worcestershire County Council
MAN	Manchester City Council	WRL	Wirral Borough Council
MDB	Middlesbrough Council	WRT	Warrington Borough Council
MDW	Medway Council	WRX	Wrexham County Borough Council, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Wrecsam
MIK	Milton Keynes Council	WSX	West Sussex County Council
MON	Monmouthshire County Council, Cyngor Sir Fynwy	YDP	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
MTY	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful	YOR	City Of York Council

Note MPA codes are those applicable at data of data capture (2006) and have not been updated to reflect recent boundary changes.

