

SOUTH WALES
(including Blaenau Gwent, Brecon Beacons National Park, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Carmarthenshire, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Neath Port Talbot, Newport, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Swansea, Vale of Glamorgan, Torfaen and parts of Powys)

A Summary of Mineral Resource Information
for Development Plans: Phase One

Coal Resources

Scale 1:100 000

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Production of this map was commissioned and funded by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (Contract MP0624).

Topography based on the Ordnance Survey 1:100 000 scale County maps. © Crown Copyright 1985
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Digital SSSI and NNR boundaries and digital AONB boundaries © Countryside Council for Wales 1996.

Positions of Scheduled Monuments at 9th April 1996 as supplied by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments.
The majority of monuments are plotted using a centred NGR symbol.
Consequently the actual area and/or length of a monument protected by the legal constraints of scheduling cannot be represented here.
Monuments scheduled or descheduled since that date are not accounted for.
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AIMS AND LIMITATIONS
The purpose of the maps and associated reports in this series is to show the broad distribution of those mineral resources which may be of current or potential economic interest and to relate these to selected nationally-recognised planning constraints. The maps are intended to assist in the consideration and preparation of development plan policies in respect of mineral extraction and the protection of important mineral resources. They bring together a wide range of information, much of which is scattered and not always available in a convenient form.
The maps have been produced by collation and interpretation of mineral resource data principally held by the British Geological Survey. Information on mineral planning permissions has been obtained from the relevant Mineral Planning Authority and licence and site information from the Coal Authority. Some of these permissions may have lapsed or expired. The status of individual areas can be ascertained from the appropriate MPA. Location information or national planning designations has been obtained from the appropriate statutory body (Countryside Council for Wales and Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments). For further information the appropriate body should be contacted.
The mineral resource data presented are based on the best available information, but are not comprehensive and their quality is variable. The inferred boundaries shown are, therefore, approximate. Extensive areas are excluded as having no mineral resource potential, but some isolated mineral workings may occur in these areas. The presence of these operations generally reflect very local or specific situations which are related to in the accompanying report.
The maps are intended for general consideration of mineral issues and not as a source of detailed information on specific sites. The maps should not be used to determine individual planning applications or in taking other decisions on acquisition or use of a particular piece of land, although they may give useful background information which sets a specific proposal within context.

COAL

- Areas of shallow coal
- Primary resource area - Thick closely-spaced coals.
- Secondary resource area - Thinner, widely spaced coals
- Deep Coal resources

MINERAL WORKINGS

- Opencast coal site
- Underground mine site
- Former opencast coal site

LICENCE AREAS (as at August 1997)
Source: The Coal Authority

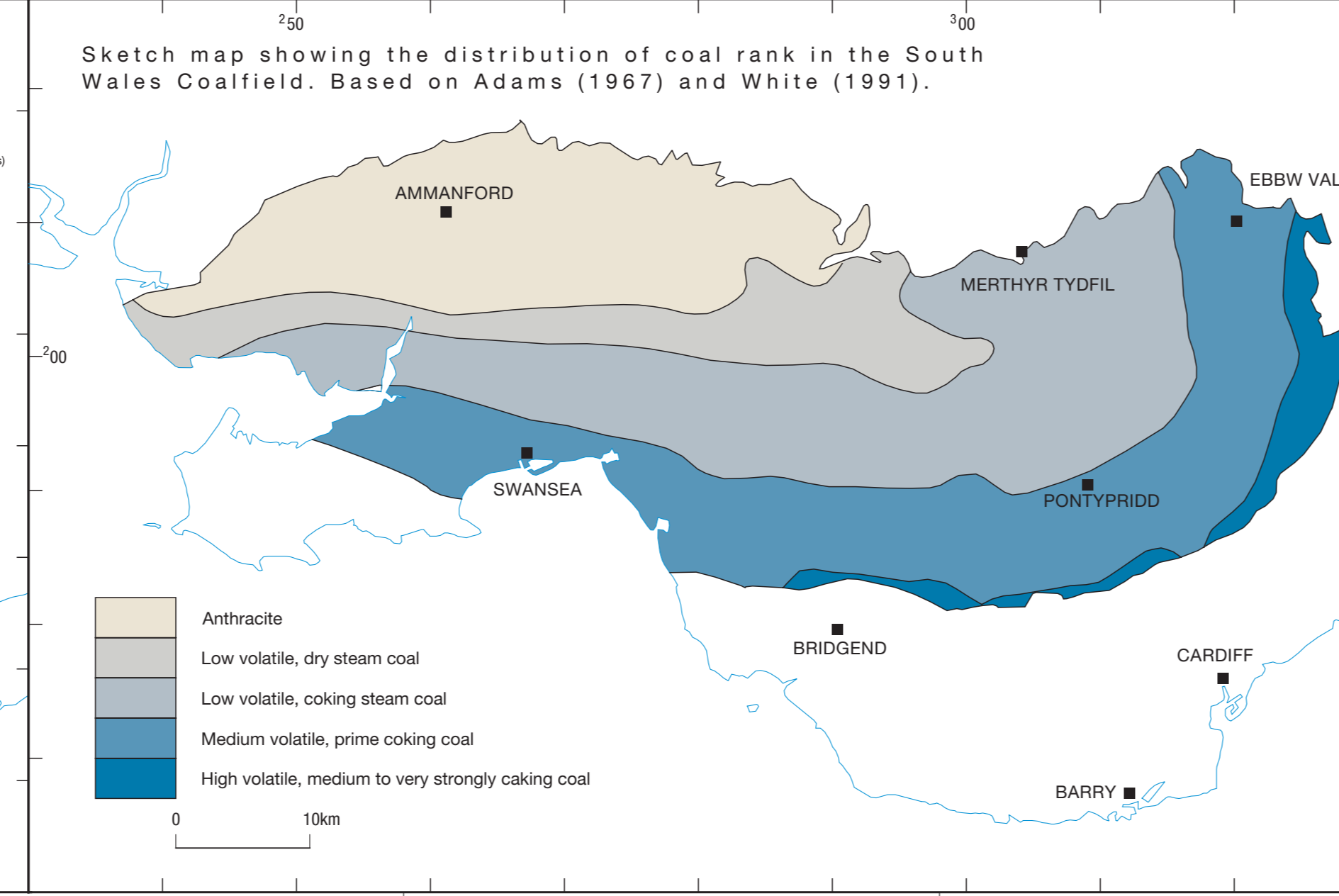
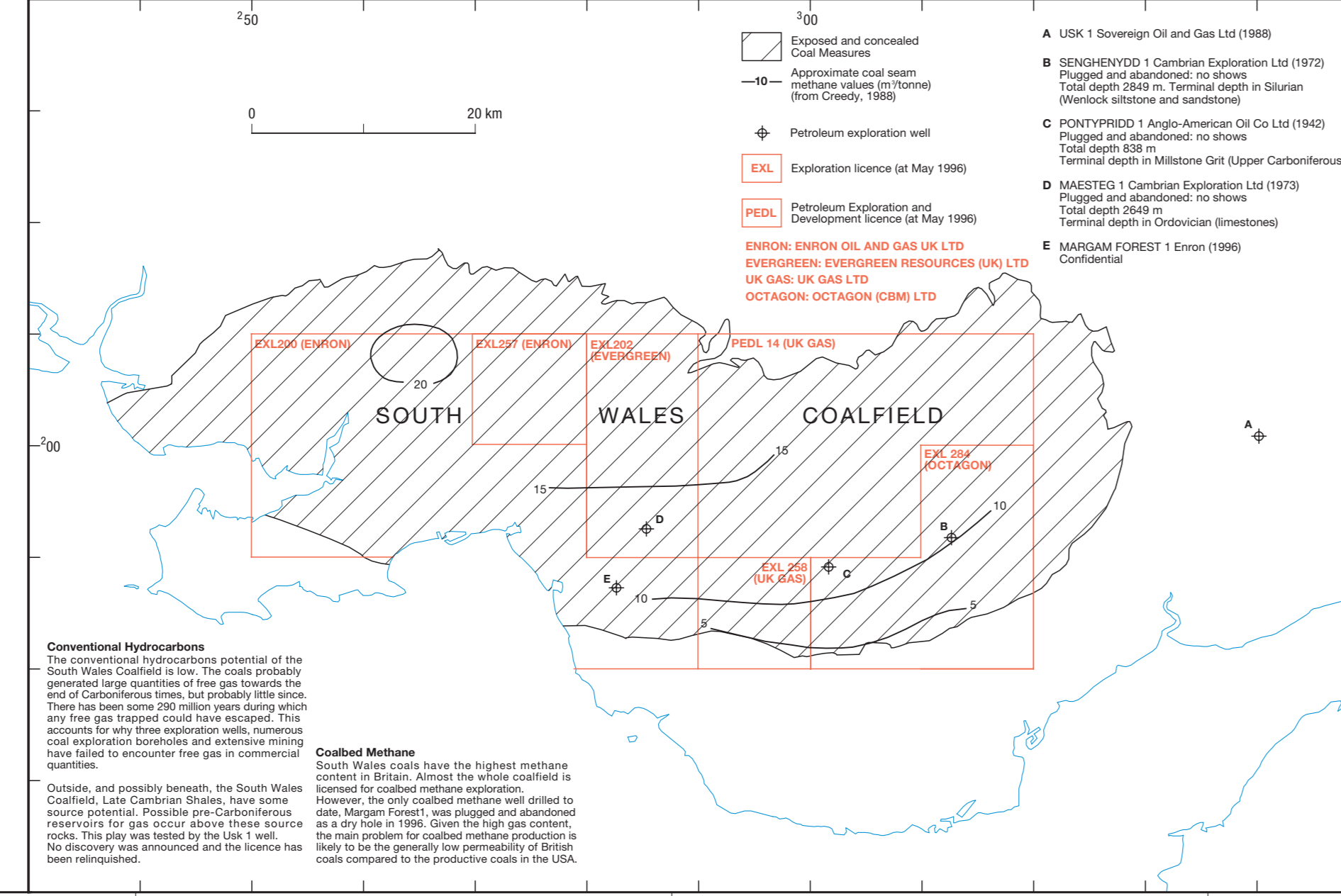
- Opencast coal site (producing sites)
- Underground mine (producing sites)

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGNATIONS

- Brecon Beacons National Park
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- National Nature Reserve
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Gower)
- Heritage Coast

ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS

- Unitary Authority Boundary



Coal

South Wales was formerly one of Britain's most productive coalfields and the principal source of coal exports. The coals exhibit a wide range of rank, from bituminous steam coal to anthracite, South Wales being the principal source of the latter in Britain. The main coals have generally low sulphur contents compared with elsewhere in Britain. The abundance of faulting created problems for mechanised long wall mining and contributed to the decline of large-scale deep mining. There are 26 operating underground mines in the coalfield which vary in size from large collieries (such as Tower) to small drift mines employing only a few miners.

Opencast mining is now the major source of coal. Resources are largely confined to the exposed Lower and Middle Coal Measures, which crop out around the periphery of the coalfield, the wider, north crop with generally low dips, being particularly important for large-scale extraction. Opencast resources are defined in two zones. A primary resource area comprises thick, closely-spaced coals, from the Gellideg and its equivalents at the base to the Two Feet Nine at the top. A secondary resource area contains coals which are mainly thinner, more widely spaced and amenable to smaller scale extraction. Small areas of thin locally extractable coal may lie outwith these zones.

The areas of former opencast coal sites shown principally reflect site boundaries, although in some instances only the limits of coal extraction. No claim is made for the accuracy or completeness of this information. More detailed information on specific sites may be obtained from the Coal Authority.