

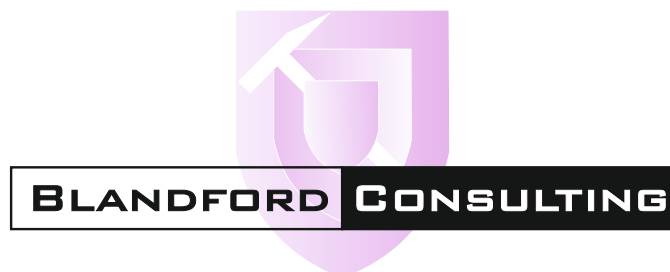
Report No. BC/MB/11.23.01.

Coal Mining Risk Assessment: Land at Dowlais Rugby Club, Blaendowlais, Merthyr Tydfil.

Prepared on behalf of:

Dowlais Rugby Club

By:



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Coal Mining Risk Assessment: Land at Dowlais RFC, Blaendowlais, Merthyr Tydfil.

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List of Plans

Drawing No:		Scale:
<i>BC/MB/11.23.01.01.</i>	<i>General Location Plan.</i>	<i>1:50,000.</i>
<i>BC/MB/11.23.01.02.</i>	<i>Geology Plan.</i>	<i>1:50,000.</i>
<i>BC/MB/11.23.01.03.</i>	<i>Detailed Location Plan.</i>	<i>See Plan.</i>

Appendix

Copy of The Coal Authority's Mining Report, reference no. 51003388111001.

Coal Mining Risk Assessment: Land at Dowlais Rugby Club, Blaendowlais, Merthyr Tydfil.

1 Introduction

This report has been prepared on behalf of our client:

***Dowlais Rugby Club,
The Clubhouse,
Dowlais Top,
Merthyr Tydfil,
CF48 3RB***

and relates to the Clubhouse where it is proposed to build a small extension linking the Clubhouse to the changing rooms. This report discusses the geology and mining history of the Site and the immediately surrounding area as they may affect the construction of the proposed pavilion and changing room and thereby assesses the mining risk to the proposed development. Recommendations are made for proposals to protect the proposed extension from the risk from shallow mine workings and from the possible presence of a disused mine adit.

The following sources of data were used in the compilation of this report:

- i) Research of published geological records;*
- ii) Research of mining records held at The Coal Authority's archive in Mansfield;*
- iii) Inspection of The Coal Authority's interactive map, accessed on the 9th November 2023;*
- iv) The findings of the Coal Authority's mining report reference no. 51003388111001 and*
- v) the archive records of Blandford Consulting.*

/Cont....

The findings of this report are necessarily based upon the data used in its compilation and may be amended in the future in the light of additional material information. The report must only be used in its entirety for its stated purpose.

2 Brief Description of the Site

The parcel of land that is the subject of this report ('the Site') is located at the north-eastern margins of Merthyr Tydfil in the district of Dowlais Top and is approximately 3.5km north-east of the centre of the town (see *General Location Plan, drawing no. BC/MB/11.23.01.01*). The Site is located on north-westerly facing slopes and is at an approximate elevation of 353m aod. The Clubhouse, changing rooms and car park form a complex that is roughly rectangular in outline and has maximum dimensions of 56m by 51m; it is fairly level. The proposed extension will link the two existing buildings and will have dimensions of approximately 9m by 2.7m (see *Detailed Location Plan, drawing no. BC/MB/11.23.01.03*).

Figure 1
Aerial View of Site



/Cont....

The Clubhouse was constructed circa 1982/83 and the changing rooms were constructed circa 1984/85. It is believed that both buildings were constructed using raft foundations.

3 Geology of the Site

The Site is situated at the northern margin of the South Wales Coalfield and is underlain at shallow depths with strata assigned to the Lower Coal Measures, a sub-division of the Upper Carboniferous Period. The published geological sheet for the area at a 1:10,560 scale, SO 00 NE, shows the inferred position of the outcrop of the Five Feet Gellideg Seam (identified on the geology plan as the Gellideg and known locally as the Lower Four Feet Seam) to be present approximately 30m south-east of the Site (see *Geology Plan, drawing no. BC/MB/11.23.01.02*). The inferred outcrop of this and other coal seams follows a north-easterly trend along the slopes of the upper valley side. The regional dip of the coal measures in this area is 1 in 12 towards the south-west such that the Gellideg Seam does not underlie the Site.

Beneath the Gellideg Seam in the geological sequence are a series of five ironstone veins, the Garw Seam and then the Rosser Ironstones (see Figure 2, Part of the Stratigraphic Column).

The published geological sheet shows a further series of coal seam outcrops to be present extending south-eastwards from the playing fields; these coal seams do not underlie the Site.

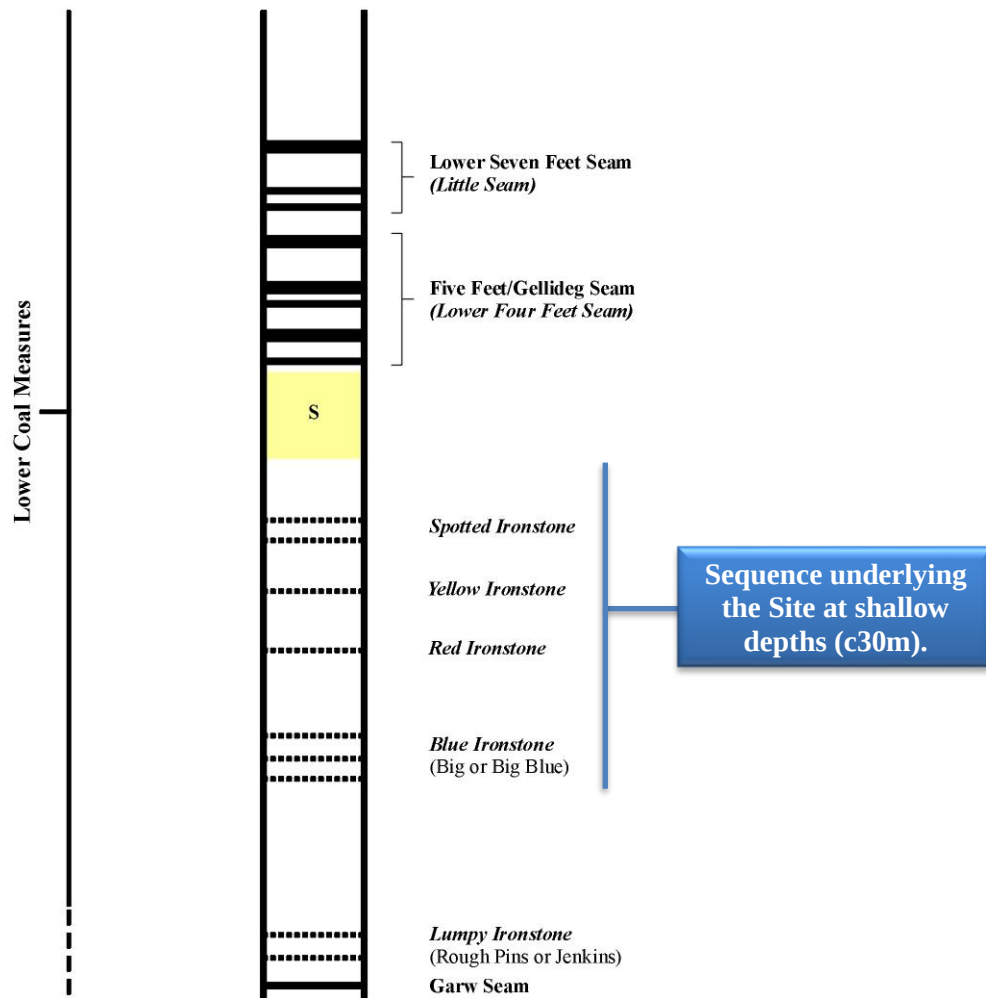
The measures of the South Wales Coalfield have been affected by large normal faults, frequently referred to as 'cross faults'. In the Dowlais area these faults have a sinuous trace at the surface and an average trend towards the north-west. Published geological information shows that the nearest such fault to the Site, the Merthyr Church Fault, is a little more than 1km south-west of the Site and beyond influencing distance of the proposed development.

The published geological sheet shows that locally the coal measures are overlain with superficial deposits of glacial till, Boulder Clay. The published geological sheet also shows the presence of Made Ground on the Site. We have no detailed information on the thickness or nature of the Boulder Clay and Made Ground.

/Cont....

The published geological sheet shows that the Site is not affected by landslip conditions.

Figure 2
Indicative Stratigraphic Column.
(After BGS Sheet SO 00 SW)



4 Mining History

The general area has experienced extensive underground operations for coal and for ironstone dating back at least to the very earliest part of the nineteenth century. The workings were prosecuted from a number of adits driven into the valley sides at or near the outcrops of coal seams and ironstone veins and were supplemented with many shafts, principally to act as a source of air. Mining records indicate that the Site could be affected by old workings in a single

/Cont....

coal seam at a depth of 110m and last worked in 1834 and by old workings in five ironstone veins ranging in depth from shallow to 110m and last mined in 1878.

The Coal Authority's interactive on-line map resource identifies that the Site lies within an area that has shallow mine workings present (see Figure 3).

Our searches found a record of only one disused shaft or adit within the confines of the Site, a situation confirmed by The Coal Authority *report no. 51003388111001*. The disused mine entry is an adit shown to be present immediately to the south of the proposed extension, the adit was driven in a northerly direction and would pass beneath the complex that is the existing buildings and proposed extension. The Site has not been part of an opencast coal site (OCCS), and there have been no opencast mining operations close enough to the Site to affect the structural integrity of the proposed development.

5 Mine Gases

When coal is mined gases, including methane, are released and may accumulate in the voids left by the mining operations. These gases may later vent to atmosphere or be displaced by mine water flooding the mining voids and forced to the surface. Mine gases may, in certain circumstances, accumulate within buildings and pose a risk of asphyxiation, fire or explosion. A number of studies of the old workings across South Wales and dating back to the mid to late twentieth century have shown that there is little risk from mine gases. This may be as a result of the nature of the coal seams or because the shallow old workings have vented most of the mine gases to atmosphere or is as a result of the combination of the two. There are no recorded shallow coal mine workings underlying the Site that might act as a source for mine gases.

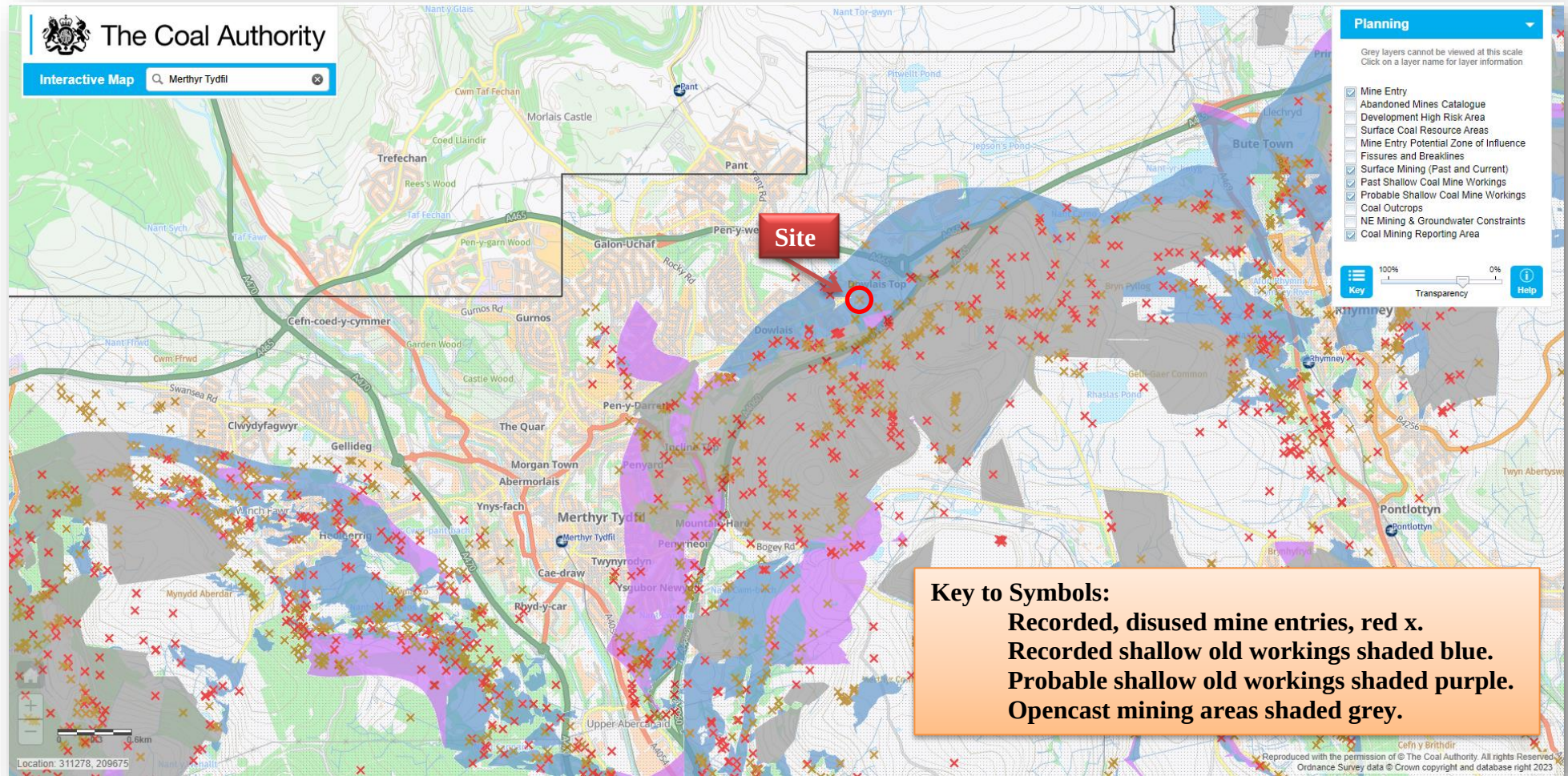
6 Discussion and Recommendations

6.1 Solid Geology

Published geological data indicates that the Site is not affected by normal faulting nor by landslip conditions. No further action is required in this respect.

/Cont....

Figure 3
Print-out of The Coal Authority's Interactive Map
 (Accessed 9th November 2023)



/Cont....

6.2 Mining History

6.2.1 Mine Workings

The inferred position of the outcrop of the Five Feet/Gellideg Seam (labelled as 'Gellideg') is shown to be present approximately 30m south-east of the Site such that the Seam does not underlie the Site. The Five Feet /Gellideg is the lowest coal seam of the 'main productive measures', those coal seams from which the majority of coal mining took place across South Wales. The only seam of significance below the Five Feet/Gellideg Seam is the Garw Seam, a thin coal of up to 1m in thickness and which has been mined in patches, usually in association with an ironstone vein that is present immediately above the coal seam. The Garw Seam is approximately 60m below the Five Feet/Gellideg Seam in the geological sequence; there are no coal seams thick enough to support underground mining below the Garw Seam. The Coal Authority's mining report makes reference to old workings in a coal seam at a depth of 110m, these workings will not affect the proposed development.

Between the Five Feet/Gellideg Seam and the Garw Seam there are five ironstone veins that have been extensively mined across the Merthyr Tydfil area. The Coal Authority's mining report identifies that the Site is affected by mine workings in a number of the ironstone veins, some of them at shallow depths.

There are no active underground mines or opencast sites within influencing distance of the Site and the Site has not been part of an opencast coal site.

The shallow ironstone workings pose a risk of surface subsidence. However, the proposed extension is of small scale (approximately 9m x 2.75m) and its foundations will be tied into the foundations of the existing Clubhouse and changing rooms that it will connect. It is understood that the two existing buildings have been constructed using raft foundations. Whether or not this is the case, the two buildings are completed and consequently there is nothing to be gained by drilling exploratory boreholes to examine the shallow mine workings.

/Cont....

6.2.2 Mine Entries

Our searches found a record of only one disused shaft or adit within the confines of the Site, the disused mine entry is an adit shown to be present immediately to the south of the proposed extension, the adit was driven in a northerly direction and would pass beneath the complex that is the existing buildings and the proposed extension and poses a risk of subsidence to the proposed extension or a risk of there being weak ground present.

The proposed extension is of small scale (approximately 9m x 2.75m) and its foundations will be tied into the foundations of the existing Clubhouse and changing rooms that it will connect. It is understood that the two existing buildings have been constructed using raft foundations. Whether or not this is the case, the two buildings are completed and can reasonably be assumed to have successfully mitigated the effects of any weak ground that may be present associated with the disused mine adit and the risk of subsidence resulting from the adit.

Excavations during the construction of the extension **must** be carefully monitored for any evidence of the adit being present and if anything unusual is observed then the excavation work should be stopped immediately and advice sought from a Chartered Geologist or from The Coal Authority.

The risk of a second, unrecorded mine entry being present on the Site is negligible given the small scale of the Site.

6.2.3 Mine Gases

There are no recorded shallow coal mine workings underlying the Site might act as a source for mine gases.

/Cont....

6.3 Summary of Risk Assessment

There is no recognised risk to the proposed development from the solid geology.

There is a significant risk of surface subsidence resulting from recorded shallow mine workings (ironstone) that are beneath the Site. In addition, there is a risk of surface subsidence or of weak ground being present as the result of the presence of a disused mine adit beneath or in the immediate vicinity of the proposed extension.

6.4 Summary of Recommendations

The proposed extension is of extremely small scale and its foundations are to be tied into the foundations of the Clubhouse and changing rooms, which it will connect.

Excavation work on the Site **must** be carefully monitored for any evidence of the disused mine entry and if any unusual features are observed then the work must be stopped immediately, and advice sought from a Chartered Geologist or from The Coal Authority.

6.5 Foundation Options

The foundations for the proposed extension must mitigate against the risk of subsidence associated with the mine adit and/or the shallow ironstone workings, and against any weak ground that may be present as a result of the adit. It is recommended that a reinforced raft foundation is used and must be tied into the foundations of the two existing buildings.



**Dr Malcolm Blandford,
Chartered Geologist.**

Report Date 9th November 2023.

**Blandford Consulting,
Consultant Geologists and Geotechnical Engineers,
The Enterprise Centre, Merthyr Industrial Park, Pentrebach, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 4DR.
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PLANS



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Geologists Working With The Environment....

Study on Land at Dowlais Rugby Club,
Blaendowlais, Merthyr Tydfil.

General Location Plan.

Plan Scale: 1:50,000.



Key to Symbols:



Approximate Position of Site.

Note:
North is at top of plan.

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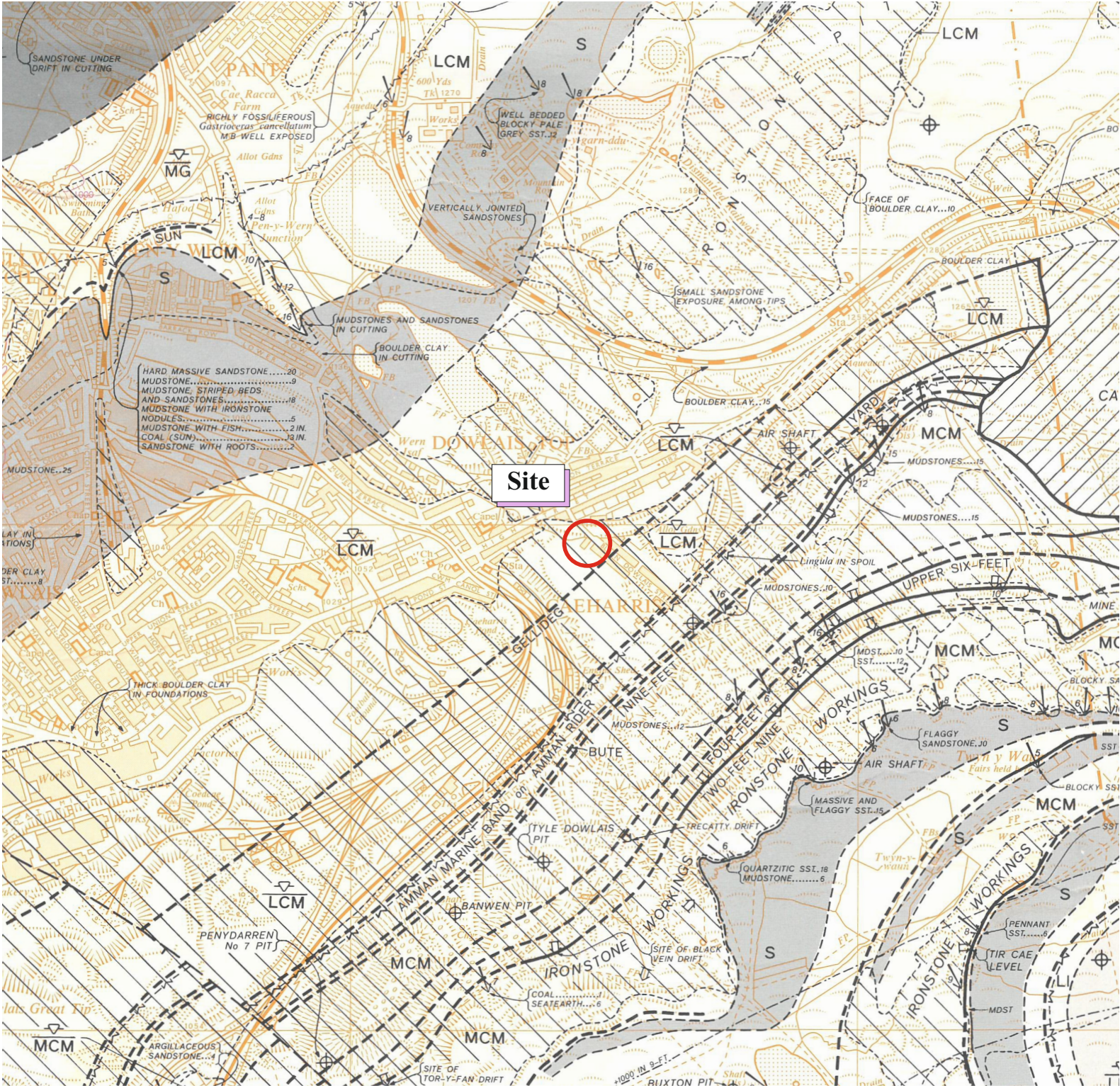
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Drawing No: BC/MB/11.23.01.01.

Study on Land at Dowlais Rugby Club,
Blaendowlais, Merthyr Tydfil.

Geology Plan.

Plan Scale: 1:10,560.



Key to Symbols:
 Approximate Position of Site.

Note:
North is at top of plan.

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Study on Land at Land at Dowlais Rugby Club,
Blaendowlais, Merthyr Tydfil.

Detailed Location Plan.

Plan Scale: See Drawing.



Key to Symbols:

 **Approximate Position of Site.**

Note:
North is at top of plan.

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APPENDIX

**COPY OF THE COAL
AUTHORITY'S MINING
REPORT REFERENCE NO.
51003388111001**



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Geologists Working With The Environment....



The Coal
Authority

CON29M

coal mining report

DOWLAIS RUGBY CLUB, BLAEN DOWLAIS, DOWLAIS, MERTHYR TYDFIL,
MERTHYR TYDFIL, CF48 3RB



Known or potential coal mining risks

Past underground coal mining	Page 5
Future underground coal mining	Page 5
Mine entries	Page 6



Further action

These additional reports can give further detail on the risks identified:

- Mine entry interpretive report
- Mine entry plan and data sheets

For more information please see our **Further action reports** on page 11



Professional opinion

According to the official mining information records held by the Coal Authority at the time of this search, evidence of, or the potential for, coal mining related features have been identified. In view of the coal mining circumstances we would recommend that any planned or future development should follow detailed technical advice before beginning work on site. Please see **page 3** for further details on **Future development**.

Your reference: **BC/MB/11.23.01**
Our reference: **5100338811001**
Date: **8 November 2023**

Client name:
BLANDFORD CONSULTING

If you require any further assistance please
contact our experts on:
0345 762 6848
groundstability@coal.gov.uk



The Law
Society

Enquiry boundary

Key

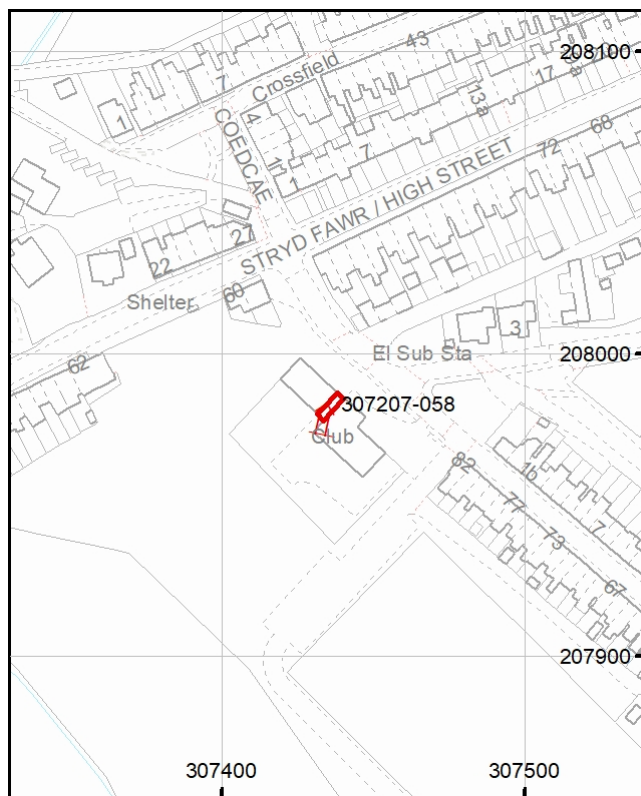
Approximate position of enquiry boundary shown



Disused adit



We can confirm that the location is
on the coalfield



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This report is prepared in accordance with the latest Law Society's Guidance Notes 2018, the User Guide 2018 and the Coal Authority's Terms and Conditions applicable at the time the report was produced.



Accessibility

If you would like this information in an alternative format, please contact our communications team on 0345 762 6848 or email communications@coal.gov.uk.

Professional opinion



Mine entries

The enquiry boundary shows the approximate location of the disused mine entry/entries referred to in this report. Property owners have the benefit of statutory protection (under the Coal Mining Subsidence Act 1991). This contains provision for the making good, to the reasonable satisfaction of the owner, of physical damage caused by disused coal mine workings including disused coal mine entries. A leaflet setting out the rights and obligations of either the Coal Authority or other responsible persons under the 1991 Act can be obtained by visiting www.coal.gov.uk. Please note this Act is not valid where coal was worked or extracted by virtue of the grant of a gale in the Forest of Dean, or any other part of the Hundred of St. Briavels in the county of Gloucester.

If you wish to discuss the relevance of any of the information contained in this report, you should seek the advice of a qualified mining engineer or surveyor. If you or your advisor wishes to examine the source plans from which the information has been taken, these are available to view, at our Coal Authority head office in Mansfield. To book an appointment please call **01623 637 225**. Should you or your advisor wish to carry out a physical investigation that may enter, disturb or interfere with any disused mine entry, prior permission must be sought from the owner. For coal mine entries, the owner will normally be the Coal Authority.

The Coal Authority, regardless of responsibility and in conjunction with other public bodies, provide an emergency, 24 hour call out facility in coalfield areas to assess the public safety implications of mining features (including disused mine entries). To report an emergency you can call **0800 288 4242**.



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 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.

If you are looking to develop, or undertake works, within a coal mining development high risk area your Local Authority planning department may require a Coal Mining Risk Assessment to be undertaken by a qualified mining geologist or engineer. Should you require any additional information then please contact the Coal Authority on **0345 762 6848** or email **cmra@coal.gov.uk**.

Detailed findings

Information provided by the Coal Authority in this report is compiled in response to the Law Society's CON29M Coal Mining enquiries. The said enquiries are protected by copyright owned by the Law Society of 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL.

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1 Past underground coal mining

The property is in a surface area that could be affected by underground mining in 1 seam of coal at 110m depth, and last worked in 1834.

Any movement in the ground due to coal mining activity associated with these workings should have stopped by now.

In addition the property is in an area where the Coal Authority believes there is coal at or close to the surface. This coal may have been worked at some time in the past. The potential presence of coal workings at or close to the surface should be considered, particularly prior to any site works or future development activity, as ground movement could still be a risk. Your attention is drawn to the Professional opinion sections of the report.

The property is in a surface area that could be affected by underground mining in 5 seams of ironstone at shallow to 110m depth, and last worked in 1878.

2 Present underground coal mining

The property is not within a surface area that could be affected by present underground mining.

3 Future underground coal mining

The property is not in an area where the Coal Authority has received an application for, and is currently considering whether to grant a licence to remove or work coal by underground methods.

The property is not in an area where a licence has been granted to remove or otherwise work coal using underground methods.

The property is not in an area likely to be affected from any planned future underground coal mining.

However, reserves of coal exist in the local area which could be worked at some time in the future.

No notices have been given, under section 46 of the Coal Mining Subsidence Act 1991, stating that the land is at risk of subsidence.

4 Mine entries

Within, or within 20 metres of, the boundary of the property there is 1 mine entry, the approximate position of which is shown on the enquiry boundary plot. For reasons of clarity, mine entry symbols may not be drawn to the same scale as the plan.

There is no record of what steps, if any, have been taken to treat the mine entry.

This information is based on the information that the Coal Authority has at the time of this enquiry.

Based on the Coal Authority's knowledge of the mining circumstances at the time of this enquiry, there may be unrecorded mine entries in the local area that do not appear on Coal Authority records.

For an additional fee, the Coal Authority can provide a Mine Entry Interpretive Report. The report will provide a separate assessment for the mine entry/entries referred to in this report. It gives an opinion on the likelihood of mining subsidence damage caused from ground movement as a consequence of the mine entry/entries. It also gives details of the remedies available for subsidence damage where the mine entry was sunk in connection with coal mining.

Please note that it may not be possible to produce a report if the main building to the property cannot be identified from Coal Authority plans (ie for development sites and new build).

For further advice on how to order this additional information please visit www.groundstability.com.

5 Coal mining geology

The Coal Authority is not aware of any damage due to geological faults or other lines of weakness that have been affected by coal mining.

6 Past opencast coal mining

The property is not within the boundary of an opencast site from which coal has been removed by opencast methods.

7 Present opencast coal mining

The property does not lie within 200 metres of the boundary of an opencast site from which coal is being removed by opencast methods.

8 Future opencast coal mining

There are no licence requests outstanding to remove coal by opencast methods within 800 metres of the boundary.

The property is not within 800 metres of the boundary of an opencast site for which a licence to remove coal by opencast methods has been granted.

9 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.

10 Mine gas

The Coal Authority has no record of a mine gas emission requiring action.

11 Hazards related to coal mining

The property has not been subject to remedial works, by or on behalf of the Coal Authority, under its Emergency Surface Hazard Call Out procedures.

12 Withdrawal of support

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.

13 Working facilities order

The property is not in an area where an order has been made, under the provisions of the Mines (Working Facilities and Support) Acts 1923 and 1966 or any statutory modification or amendment thereof.

14 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.

Statutory cover



Coal mining subsidence

In the unlikely event of any coal mining related subsidence damage, the Coal Authority or the mine operator has a duty to take remedial action in respect of subsidence caused by the withdrawal of support from land or property in connection with lawful coal mining operations.

When the works are the responsibility of the Coal Authority, our dedicated public safety and subsidence team will manage the claim. The house or land owner ("the owner") is covered for these works under the terms of the Coal Mining Subsidence Act 1991 (as amended by the Coal Industry Act 1994). Please note, this Act does not apply where coal was worked or gotten by virtue of the grant of a gale in the Forest of Dean, or any other part of the Hundred of St. Briavels in the county of Gloucester.

If you believe your land or property is suffering from coal mining subsidence damage and you need more information on what to do next, please use the following link to our website which sets out what your rights are and what you need to consider before making a claim.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/coal-mining-subsidence-damage-notice-form



Coal mining hazards

Our public safety and subsidence team provide a 24 hour a day, 7 days a week hazard reporting service, to help protect the public from hazards caused by past coal workings, such as a mine shaft or shallow working collapse. To report any hazards please call **0800 288 4242**. Further information can be found on our website: www.gov.uk/coalauthority.

Glossary



Key terms

adit - horizontal or sloped entrance to a mine

coal mining subsidence - ground movement caused by the removal of coal by underground mining

Coal Mining Subsidence Act 1991 - the Act setting out the duties of the Coal Authority to repair damage caused by coal mining subsidence

coal mining subsidence damage - damage to land, buildings or structures caused by the removal of coal by underground mining

coal seams - bed of coal of varying thickness

future opencast coal mining - a licence granted, or licence application received, by the Coal Authority to excavate coal from the surface

future underground coal mining - a licence granted, or licence application received, by the Coal Authority to excavate coal underground. Although it is unlikely, remaining coal reserves could create a possibility for future mining, which would be licensed by the Coal Authority

mine entries - collective name for shafts and adits

mine gas - reports of alleged mine gas emissions received by the Coal Authority within 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

payments to owners of former copyhold land - historically, copyhold land gave rights to coal to the copyholder. Legislation was set up to allow others to work this coal, but they had to issue a notice and pay compensation if a copyholder came forward

shaft - vertical entry into a mine

site investigation - investigations of coal mining risks carried out with the Coal Authority's permission

stop notice - a delay to repairs because further coal mining subsidence damage may occur and it would be unwise to carry out permanent repairs

subsidence claim - a formal notice of subsidence damage to the Coal Authority since it was established on 31 October 1994

withdrawal of support - a historic notice informing landowners that the coal beneath their property was going to be worked

working facilities orders - a court order which gave permission, restricted or prevented coal mine workings



Further action reports

Mine entry interpretive report - assesses the risk of ground movement from mine entries in, or within 20 metres of, the property boundary. To order this report, use the same boundary as the CON29M report, then draw the building on the additional map screen.

For more information and to order this report please visit:

<https://www2.groundstability.com/interpretive-report>

Mine entry plan and data sheets - give additional information on mine entries recorded on a piece of land. To order this report use the same boundary as the CON29M report and a member of our team will contact you to confirm the mine entries to include in this bespoke report.

For more information and to order this report please visit:

<https://www2.groundstability.com/plan-and-data-sheets>



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