

## REQUIREMENTS OF A COAL MINING RISK ASSESSMENT REPORT

The Coal Authority considers that a Coal Mining Risk Assessment Report should comprise three key stages:

### Stage 1:

Obtain coal mining information for the development site

### Stage 2:

Use the information to identify what risk coal mining poses to the development

### Stage 3:

Identify how coal mining issues have influenced the proposed development and any other mitigation required

### STAGE 1: OBTAIN COAL MINING INFORMATION

The Coal Mining Risk Assessment Report must be based on up-to-date coal mining/geological information. Site specific coal mining information can be obtained from any of the following sources:

From the Coal Authority's Mining Reports Service

Tel: 0845 762 6848 Website: [www.groundstability.com](http://www.groundstability.com)

Visiting, by appointment, the Coal Authority's Mining Records Office in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire  
Tel: 01623 637 233

Contacting the British Geological Survey Tel: 0115 936 3100 Website: [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)

Contacting a suitably qualified company

### STAGE 2: IDENTIFY WHAT RISKS COAL MINING POSES TO THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The Coal Authority would expect an assessment of the site specific coal mining information, and the identification of any risk to the proposed development, to include consideration of the **cumulative impact** of the following issues:

Are there **recorded coal mine entries** within the site or within 20 metres of the site boundary?

Is the proposed development in the likely zone of influence of **past underground coal mining**?

Is the proposed development in the likely zone of influence of any **present underground coal workings**?

Is the proposed development within the likely zone of influence of **underground coal workings at shallow depth** (depths of less than 30m)?

Is there a possibility of **unrecorded shallow mine workings and/or mine entries**?

Is there a record of **mine gas** emissions within the site boundary?

Is the proposed development in an area for which the Coal Authority is determining or has granted a **license to remove coal** by underground methods?

Are there known **faults or other lines of weakness** due to coal mining at the site?

Has the site been subject to remedial works by, or on behalf of, the Coal Authority under its **surface hazard** call out procedures?

Is the proposed development within the boundary of a **surface mining/ opencast site from which coal has been removed** by surface mining/ opencast methods?

Is the proposed development within 200 metres of a **surface mining/ opencast site from which coal is being removed**?

### STAGE 3: IDENTIFY HOW COAL MINING ISSUES HAVE INFLUENCED THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND WHETHER ANY OTHER MITIGATION MEASURES ARE REQUIRED

The Coal Mining Risk Assessment Report should conclude by identifying how any coal mining issues have influenced the proposed development – for example through influencing the design and layout of the proposal by identifying areas where built development should not take place owing to the presence of coal mining features, such as mine entries.

The Coal Mining Risk Assessment Report should also identify any other mitigation/treatment/remediation measures that are necessary to ensure that the development is not subject to land instability or other public safety risks associated with former coal mining activities. This could include, for example, the need to incorporate gas proof membranes within buildings and/or the need to treat shallow coal mine workings to ensure stability of land prior to development.

## **NOTE**

Any intrusive activities which intersect, disturb or enter any coal seams, coal mine workings or coal mine entries (shafts and adits) require the prior written permission of the Coal Authority. The Coal Mining Risk Assessment Report should note whether Coal Authority permission has been obtained/will be required for any site investigation and/or mitigation works. Information on the Coal Authority's permissions process can be found at: [www.coal.gov.uk/services/permissions/index.cfm](http://www.coal.gov.uk/services/permissions/index.cfm)

## **WHO CAN PREPARE MY COAL MINING RISK ASSESSMENT REPORT?**

Your Coal Mining Risk Assessment Report will need to be prepared by a suitably qualified person who is familiar with ground stability and mining legacy related issues.

The following extract from Planning Policy Guidance Note 14 (Development on Unstable Land), provides details of the criteria which suitably qualified people would be expected to meet:

### **Extract from Appendix 2E of Planning Policy Guidance Note 14 (PPG14) “Development on Unstable Land” DoE, 1990:**

“2.E.1. For development in areas potentially liable to subsidence, or that is likely to cause subsidence, a local planning authority may request a ground stability report. This will allow the applicant to demonstrate that subsidence will not unacceptably adversely affect a proposed development or it can be satisfactorily mitigated in the design of the development.

2.E.2 The preparation of a ground stability report is a technical task demanding a wide range of expertise in engineering geology, geomorphology, hydrogeology, mining, geotechnical engineering and foundation design. Such reports should be prepared by a competent person with proven experience in the fields relevant to subsidence of natural and mining/industrial cavities and due to adverse foundation conditions. **Appropriately qualified people would be expected to be chartered members of a relevant professional institution, such as the Geological Society, the Institute of Civil Engineers, the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors or other relevant professional institutions.....”**

### **Web links to the relevant professional institutions:**

Geological Society: [www.geolsoc.org.uk/index.html](http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/index.html)

Institute of Civil Engineers: [www.ice.org.uk/homepage/index.asp](http://www.ice.org.uk/homepage/index.asp)

Institute of Mining & Metallurgy: [www.ime.org.uk/homepage/index.asp](http://www.ime.org.uk/homepage/index.asp)

Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors: [www.rics.org/uk](http://www.rics.org/uk)