

Opencast coal statistics 2011 and 2012

Comprehensive statistics on opencast coal have, in the past, been collected and published by the Planning Officers' Society. This series ceased in 1999. The Department for Communities and Local Government, the Welsh Government and the Scottish Government agreed that it would be valuable for a summary of opencast coal statistics to be continued. The BGS has been asked to undertake this collation in collaboration with the [Coal Authority](#) and Mineral Planning Authorities with opencast coal resources in their areas. In addition to dissemination on <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/mineralsUK>, the information will be summarised in the annual [United Kingdom Minerals Yearbook](#), also produced by BGS.

The survey has the support of the Planning Officers' Society, the Coal Authority and the Confederation of UK Coal Producers ([CoalPro](#)). The BGS would like to acknowledge the help of the Coal Authority and the relevant Mineral Planning Authorities in England, Scotland and Wales for their invaluable assistance in collecting the information for this survey. It will provide a vital input to monitoring Government policies for the development of the nation's shallow coal resources.

This survey was undertaken in 2013 and received a comprehensive return rate from the relevant Mineral Planning Authorities in England, Scotland and Wales. The following tables summarise the 2011 and 2012 data:

- [Table 1: Great Britain: saleable opencast coal production in 2011 and 2012](#)
- [Table 2: Great Britain: permitted reserves of opencast coal remaining at producing sites at 31st December 2011 and 31st December 2012](#)
- [Table 3: Great Britain: permitted reserves of opencast coal in sites not yet in production at 31st December 2011 and 31st December 2012](#)
- [Table 4a: Great Britain: applications for opencast coal which have been granted planning permission during 2011](#)
- [Table 4b: Great Britain: applications for opencast coal which have been granted planning permission during 2012](#)
- [Table 5a: Great Britain: applications for opencast coal which have been refused planning permission during 2011](#)
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- [Table 6a: Great Britain: details of opencast coal sites granted planning permission during 2011](#)
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- [Table 8a: Great Britain: opencast coal sites ceasing operations due to exhaustion of reserves during 2011](#)
- [Table 8b: Great Britain: opencast coal sites ceasing operations due to exhaustion of reserves during 2012](#)

- [Table 9a: Great Britain: number of opencast coal site ceasing operations due to exhaustion of reserves during 2011](#)
- [Table 9b: Great Britain: number of opencast coal site ceasing operations due to exhaustion of reserves during 2012](#)

To view information on longer term trends in opencast coal production, graphs by financial year to the end of March for England, Scotland and Wales for the period 1985 to 2010 are presented here:

- [Figure 1. England: opencast coal production, 1985–2012](#)
- [Figure 2. Scotland: opencast coal production, 1985–2012](#)
- [Figure 3. Wales: opencast coal production, 1985–2012](#)

TABLE 1: GREAT BRITAIN: SALEABLE OPENCAST COAL PRODUCTION IN 2011 and 2012¹

Mineral Planning Authority	2011		2012	
	Tonnes	Operational sites*	Tonnes	Operational sites*
Derbyshire	435 551	2	176 225	1
Leicestershire	0	0	50 924	1
East Midlands Total	435 551	2	227 149	2
Shropshire**	0	1	0	1
Telford and Wrekin	313 036	1	339 372	1
West Midlands Total	313 036	2	339 372	2
Durham	369 093	1	341 082	1
Newcastle upon Tyne	325 918	1	421 634	2
Northumberland	1 394 465	2	1 627 094	3
North East Total	2 089 476	4	2 389 810	6
Bolton	110 934	0	0	0
North West Total	110 934	0	0	0
Kirklees**	0	1	0	1
Leeds	0	0	0	0
Yorkshire & the Humber Total	0	1	0	1
ENGLAND TOTAL**	2 948 997	9	2 956 331	11
Blaenau Gwent	11 568	1	0	1
Carmarthenshire***	9 611	1	4 821	1
Merthyr Tydfil	987 374	1	886 292	1
Neath Port Talbot***	606 370	4	869 400	4
Powys	488 072	1	369 228	1
Rhondda Cynon Taff	0	0	278 572	1
WALES TOTAL	2 102 995	8	2 408 313	9
Dumfries and Galloway	330 325	1	121 448	1
East Ayrshire	2 963 811	8	2 583 673	7
Fife	831 868	4	944 434	5
Midlothian	63 975	1	0	0
North Lanarkshire	21 968	1	1 526	1
South Lanarkshire	1 315 818	3	1 172 276	3
West Lothian	0	0	0	1
SCOTLAND TOTAL	5 527 765	18	4 823 357	18
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL**	10 579 757	35	10 188 001	38

* as at 31 December in each year.

** includes a site that was dormant but not closed.

*** The site at Cwm Yr Onen Colliery Reclamation straddles the border between Neath Port Talbot and Carmarthenshire. It is shown here as Carmarthenshire but this may not be consistent with previous years.

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

TABLE 2: GREAT BRITAIN: PERMITTED RESERVES OF OPENCAST COAL REMAINING AT PRODUCING SITES* AT 31ST DECEMBER 2011 AND 31ST DECEMBER 2012

Mineral Planning Authority	2011		2012	
	Tonnes	Operational sites	Tonnes	Operational sites
Durham	799 052	1	457 970	1
Newcastle upon Tyne	2 055 328	1	1 678 694	2
Northumberland	4 356 287	2	3 730 638	3
North East Total	7 210 667	4	5 867 302	6
Shropshire	365 460	1	365 460	1
Telford and Wrekin	562 638	1	223 266	1
West Midlands	928 098	2	588 726	2
Derbyshire	22 704	1	500 806	1
Leicestershire	0	0	1 199 076	1
East Midlands Total	22 704	1	1 699 882	2
Kirklees	34 668	1	34 668	1
Yorkshire & the Humber Total	34 668	1	34 668	1
ENGLAND TOTAL	8 196 137	8	8 190 578	11
Blaenau Gwent	36 389	1	0	0
Carmarthenshire**	15 342	1	89 194	1
Merthyr Tydfil	8 014 694	1	7 128 402	1
Neath Port Talbot**	2 655 990	4	1 753 589	4
Powys	984 175	1	614 947	1
Rhondda Cynon Taff	0	0	5 621 428	1
WALES TOTAL	11 706 590	8	15 207 560	8
Dumfries and Galloway	65 251	1	65 251	1
East Ayrshire	8 599 355	8	4 978 274	6
Fife	1 838 742	3	2 058 243	4
North Lanarkshire	51 325	1	49 799	1
South Lanarkshire	4 908 267	3	3 914 501	3
West Lothian	0	0	1 246 497	1
SCOTLAND TOTAL	15 462 940	16	12 312 565	16
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL	35 365 667	32	35 710 703	35

* Including sites which are dormant but have permitted reserves remaining.

** The site at Cwm Yr Onen Colliery Reclamation straddles the border between Neath Port Talbot and Carmarthenshire. It is shown here as Carmarthenshire but this may not be consistent with previous years.

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

TABLE 3: GREAT BRITAIN: PERMITTED RESERVES OF OPENCAST COAL IN SITES NOT YET IN PRODUCTION AT 31ST DECEMBER 2011 and 31ST DECEMBER 2012

Mineral Planning Authority	2011 Reserves tonnes	2012 Reserves tonnes
Derbyshire	786 500	413 500
Leicestershire	1 250 000	0
Northumberland	1 034 445	173 000
ENGLAND TOTAL	3 070 945	586 500
Powys	1 800 000	1 800 000
Rhondda Cynon Taff	5 900 000	0
WALES TOTAL	7 700 000	1 800 000
Dumfries & Galloway	2 125 000	3 070 000
East Ayrshire	1 100 000	1 100 000
Falkirk	190 767	190 767
Fife	815 000	0
Scottish Borders	400 000	400 000
South Lanarkshire	0	5 170 000
West Lothian	1 246 497	0
SCOTLAND TOTAL	5 877 264	9 930 767
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL	16 648 209	12 317 267

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

TABLE 4a: GREAT BRITAIN: APPLICATIONS FOR OPENCAST COAL WHICH HAVE BEEN GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2011

Mineral Planning Authority	Applications approved	Total hectares	Total reserves tonnes
Derbyshire	3	84	786 500
Leicestershire	1	128	1 250 000
Northumberland	2	443	3 010 000
ENGLAND TOTAL	6	655	5 046 500
Powys*	1	345	1 800 000
Rhondda Cynon Taff	1	253	5 900 000
WALES TOTAL	2	598	7 700 000
Dumfries & Galloway	1	23	500 000
East Ayrshire	3	415	3 000 000
Fife	2	279	1 116 000
SCOTLAND TOTAL	6	717	4 616 000
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL	14	1 971	17 362 500

* Planning permission covers the site as a whole (including restoration of existing site).

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

TABLE 4b: GREAT BRITAIN: APPLICATIONS FOR OPENCAST COAL WHICH HAVE BEEN GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2012

Mineral Planning Authority	Applications approved	Total hectares	Total reserves tonnes
Derbyshire	1	35	400 000
Newcastle	1	9	45 000
Northumberland	1	29	140 000
ENGLAND TOTAL	3	74	585 000
Carmarthenshire	2	10	95 000
WALES TOTAL	2	9.63	95 000
Dumfries & Galloway	1	167	945 000
Fife	1	262	335 000
South Lanarkshire	3	525	5 170 000
SCOTLAND TOTAL	5	953	6 450 000
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL	10	1 036	7 130 000

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

TABLE 5a: GREAT BRITAIN: APPLICATIONS FOR OPENCAST COAL WHICH HAVE BEEN REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2011

Mineral Planning Authority	Applications declined	Total hectares	Potential total reserves (tonnes)
Durham	1	74	533 750
Northumberland	1	29	140 000
ENGLAND TOTAL	2	103	673 750
Torfaen	1	65	256 000
WALES TOTAL	1	65	256 000
North Lanarkshire	1	88	1 700 000
SCOTLAND TOTAL	1	88	1 700 000
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL	4	256	2 629 750

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

TABLE 5b: GREAT BRITAIN: APPLICATIONS FOR OPENCAST COAL WHICH HAVE BEEN REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2012

Mineral Planning Authority	Applications declined	Total hectares	Potential total reserves (tonnes)
Durham	1	74	533 750
ENGLAND TOTAL	1	74	533 750
None			
WALES TOTAL	0	0	0
None			
SCOTLAND TOTAL	0	0	0
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL	1	74	533 750

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

TABLE 6a: GREAT BRITAIN: DETAILS OF OPENCAST COAL SITES GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2011

ENGLAND

Mineral Planning Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves	Granted hectares	EIA	Granted after appeal
Derbyshire	Langley Marina	Hall Road, off Cromford Road, Langley Mill	New operation	13 500	6.12	Yes	N/A
Derbyshire	Engine Reclamation Site	off Fordbridge Lane, Blackwell	Extension - vertical/lateral	25 000	n/a	Yes	N/A
Derbyshire	Lodge House Extension	Heanor Road, Smalley	Extension - vertical/lateral	748 000	78	Yes	N/A
Leicestershire	Minorca	Land to the east of Gallows Lane, between Measham and Sweptstone	New operation	1 250 000	128.0	Yes	N/A
Northumberland	Butterwell Disposal Point	Longhirst, Morpeth	New operation	1 010 000	101.4	Yes	N/A
Northumberland	Shotton	Cramlington	Extension - lateral	2 000 000	342.0	Yes	N/A

WALES

Mineral Planning Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves	Granted hectares	EIA	Granted after appeal
Powys*	Nant Helen Remainder	Coelbren, Neath	Extension - lateral	1 800 000	345	Yes	N/A
Rhondda Cynon Taff	Tower Colliery Reclamation Site	Rhigos Road, Hirwaun, Aberdare	New operation	5 900 000	253	Yes	N/A

* Planning permission covers the site as a whole (including resotration of existing site).

SCOTLAND

Mineral Planning Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves	Granted hectares	EIA	Granted after appeal
Dumfries & Galloway	Glenmuckloch Eastern Extension	Lagrae Road, Kirkconnel	Extension - lateral	500 000	23.1	Yes	N/A
East Ayrshire	Greenburn Complex - Braehead Farm Extension	Auchincross Farm by New Cumnock, Ayrshire	Extension - lateral	1 500 000	206.9	Yes	N/A
East Ayrshire	Powharnal Complex - Dalfad Extension	Skew Bridge by Cronberry, Ayrshire	Extension - lateral	700 000	145	Yes	N/A
East Ayrshire	Laigh Glenmuir Surface Mine - Duncanziemere Extension	Dornal Road by Logan, Cumnock	Extension - lateral	800 000	63	Yes	N/A
Fife	Earlseat Extension	Standing Stane Road	Extension - lateral	480 000	118	Yes	N/A
Fife	Comrie	Dunfermline	New Operation	636 000	161.1	Yes	N/A

Source: *The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities*

TABLE 6b: GREAT BRITAIN: DETAILS OF OPENCAST COAL SITES GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2012

ENGLAND

Mineral Planning Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves	Granted hectares	EIA	Granted after appeal
Derbyshire	George Farm	Heanor	New operation	400 000	35.2	Yes	N/A
Newcastle	Science Central	Former S&N Brewery Site to the north of Back Westgate Road	New operation	45 000	9	Yes	N/A
Northumberland	Halton Lea Gate Ground Remediation Scheme	Halton Lea Gate	New operation	140 000	29	Yes	Yes

WALES

Mineral Planning Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves	Granted hectares	EIA	Granted after appeal
Carmarthenshire	Glan Lash	Shands Road, Llandybie, Blaenau	New operation	92 500	9.31	Yes	N/A
Carmarthenshire	Cwm Yr Onen	Henrhyd Farm, Beyws Mountain, Rhyd Y Fro, Pontardawe	Extension - lateral	2 500	0.32	No	N/A

SCOTLAND

Mineral Planning Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves	Granted hectares	EIA	Granted after appeal
Dumfries & Galloway	Rigg North	Kirkconnel	New Operation	945 000	166.81	Yes	N/A
Fife	Muirdean Annfield Extension	Inverkeithing Road, Crossgates Road, Fife	Extension - lateral	335 000	261.5	Yes	N/A
South Lanarkshire	Broken Cross North (East) Extension	Broken Cross Surface Mine, Douglas Water, Lanark	Extension - lateral	1 000 000	170.6	Yes	N/A
South Lanarkshire	Wilsontown Revised	Cleugh Farm, Wilsontown	Extension - lateral	170 000	6	No	N/A
South Lanarkshire	Glentaggart East	Land lying south of Townhead and Weston Woods, Near Douglas	New Operation	4 000 000	348	Yes	N/A

Source: *The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities*

TABLE 7a: GREAT BRITAIN: DETAILS OF OPENCAST COAL SITES REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2011

ENGLAND

Mineral Planning Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Declined reserves	Declined hectares	EIA	Refused after appeal
Durham	Bradley	Near Leadgate, Consett	New operation	533 750	74	Yes	Yes - appeal heard in 2012 and refused
Northumberland	Halton Lea Gate Ground Remediation Scheme	Halton Lea Gate	New operation	140 000	29	Yes	No - appeal heard in 2012 and permission granted

WALES

Mineral Planning Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Declined reserves	Declined hectares	EIA	Refused after appeal
Torfaen	Varteg Hill	Varteg, Pontypool	New operation	256 000	65.3	Yes	Appeal still pending

SCOTLAND

Mineral Planning Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Declined reserves	Declined hectares	EIA	Refused after appeal
North Lanarkshire	Badallan	West Badallan Bathgate	New operation	1 700 000	88	Yes	N/A - approval in 2002 was subject to S75 agreement, but the agreement was not completed, therefore refused in 2011

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

TABLE 7b: GREAT BRITAIN: DETAILS OF OPENCAST COAL SITES REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2012

ENGLAND

Mineral Planning Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Declined reserves	Declined hectares	EIA	Refused after appeal
Durham	Bradley	Near Leadgate, Consett	New operation	533 750	74	Yes	Yes - appeal heard in 2012 and refused

WALES

Mineral Planning Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Declined reserves	Declined hectares	EIA	Refused after appeal
None							

SCOTLAND

Mineral Planning Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Declined reserves	Declined hectares	EIA	Refused after appeal
None							

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

TABLE 8a: GREAT BRITAIN: OPENCAST COAL SITES CEASING OPERATIONS DUE TO EXHAUSTION OF RESERVES DURING 2011

ENGLAND

Mineral Planning Authority	Site name	Site operator	Site address
Bolton	Cutacre Reclamation Site (Lomax)	UK Coal Mining Ltd	Land south of A6 Salford Road, Over Hulton, Bolton
Derbyshire	Former Biwater Works	Provectus Remediation Ltd	Market Street, Clay Cross
Derbyshire	Foxlow Tip	Pheonix Brick Co. Ltd	off Staveley Lane, Staveley
Rotherham	Former Fence Colliery & Laycast Foundry	J F Finnegan Ltd	Sheffield Road, Rotherham
Northumberland	Steadsburn	UK Coal Mining Ltd	Widdrington, Morpeth

SCOTLAND

Mineral Planning Authority	Site name	Site operator	Site address
East Ayrshire	Skares Road - Area D Extension	ATH Resources	Darntaggart Farm, Skares by Cumnock, Ayrshire
East Ayrshire	House of Water Complex - Tappet Hill Extension	Scottish Coal	Whitehill Farm by New Cumnock, Ayrshire
Midlothian	Shewington	Scottish Coal	Shewington, Rosewell
South Lanarkshire	Glentaggart, Glentaggart South East Extension, Glentaggart Carmacoup/North Extension	Scottish Coal	Glentaggart Surface Mine, Glespin
South Lanarkshire	Poniel	Scottish Coal	Poniel Surface Mine, SW of Junction 11 M74

WALES

Mineral Planning Authority	Site name	Site operator	Site address
Blaenau Gwent	Sixbells & Vivian Tips	Six Bells Coal Company	Arrael Farm Six Bells Abertillery

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

TABLE 8b: GREAT BRITAIN: OPENCAST COAL SITES CEASING OPERATIONS DUE TO EXHAUSTION OF RESERVES DURING 2012

ENGLAND

Mineral Planning Authority	Site name	Site operator	Site address
Derbyshire	Engine Reclamation Scheme, Engine Extension Area	Shires Developments (Engine) Ltd	Fordbridge Lane, Blackwell

SCOTLAND

Mineral Planning Authority	Site name	Site operator	Site address
East Ayrshire	Chalmerston Complex (including Pennyvenie and Chalmerston North Extension)	Scottish Coal	Ayr Road, Dalmellington, Ayrshire
East Ayrshire	Spireslack Complex (Airdsgreen, Spireslack, Grasshill, Ponesk)	Scottish Coal	Off A70 Public Road by Muirkirk, Ayrshire

WALES

Mineral Planning Authority	Site name	Site operator	Site address
Neath Port Talbot / Carmarthenshire	Cwm Yr Onen Colliery Reclamation	Bryn Bach Coal Ltd	Henrhyd Farm, Betws Mountain, Rhydyfro, Ammanford

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

TABLE 9a: GREAT BRITAIN: NUMBER OF OPENCAST COAL SITES CEASING OPERATIONS DUE TO EXHAUSTION OF RESERVES DURING 2011

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF OPENCAST SITES CLOSED DURING 2011
ENGLAND	5
SCOTLAND	5
WALES	1
GREAT BRITAIN	11

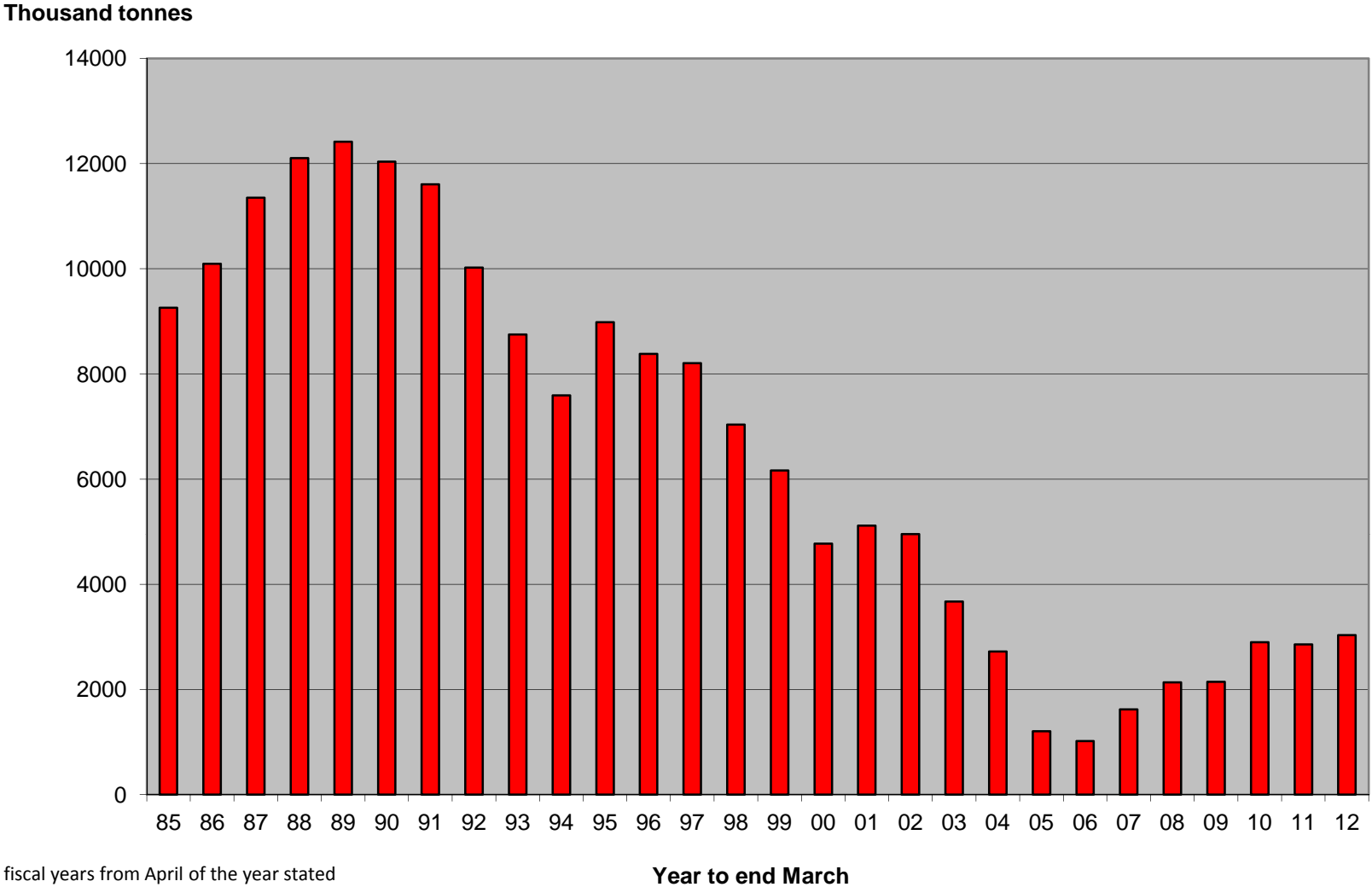
Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

TABLE 9b: GREAT BRITAIN: NUMBER OF OPENCAST COAL SITES CEASING OPERATIONS DUE TO EXHAUSTION OF RESERVES DURING 2012

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF OPENCAST SITES CLOSED DURING 2012
ENGLAND	1
SCOTLAND	2
WALES	1
GREAT BRITAIN	4

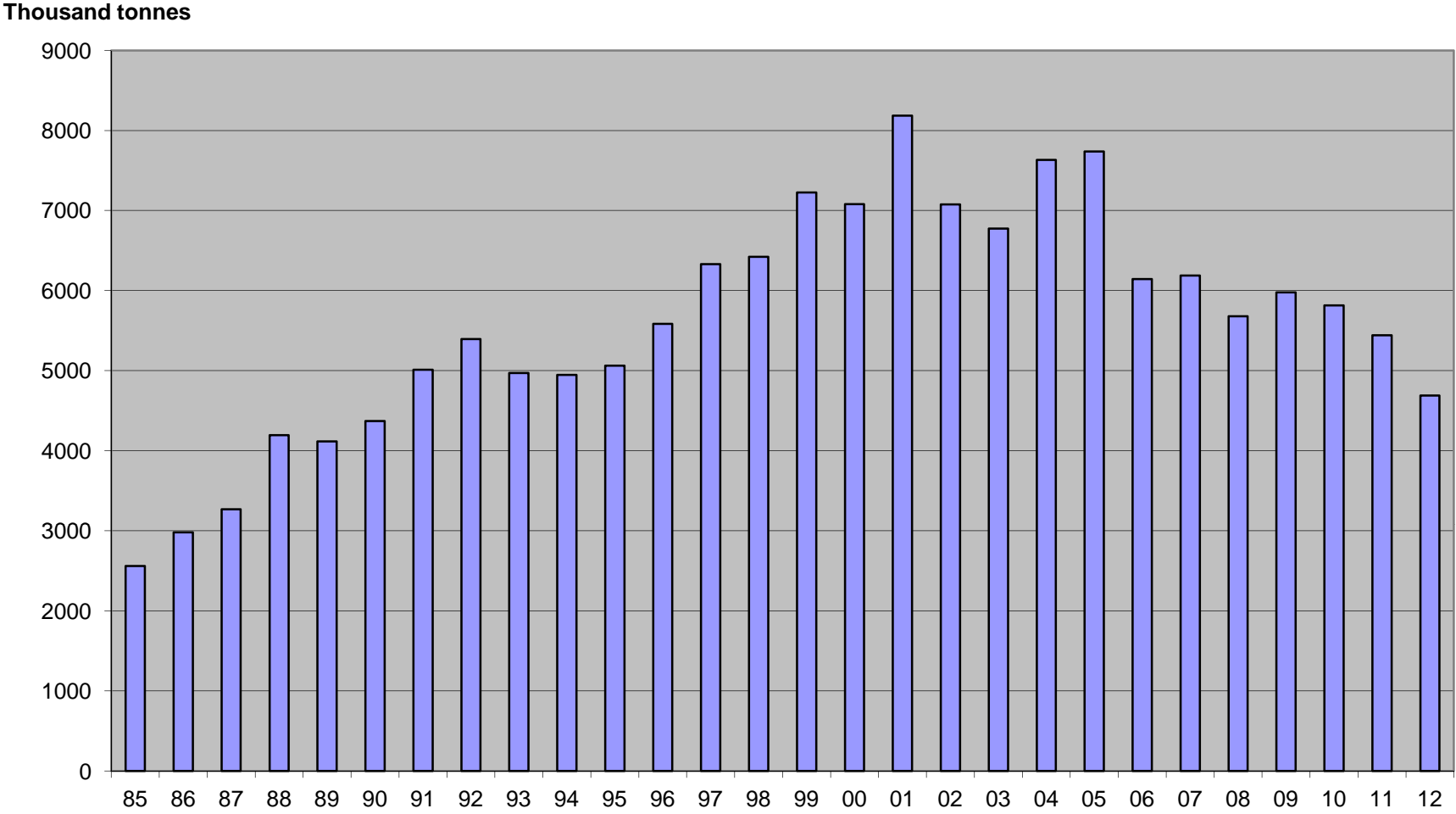
Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

Figure 1. England: Opencast coal production, 1985 - 2012



Data are for fiscal years from April of the year stated to March of the year following

Figure 2. Scotland: Opencast coal production, 1985 - 2012



Data are for fiscal years from April of the year stated to March of the year following

Year to end March

Figure 3. Wales: Opencast coal production, 1985 - 2012

