



IMC Consulting Engineers Limited

Preliminary Investigation
into the
Suitability of Durham Coastal Colliery Sites
as Long Term Minewater Pumping Stations
November 1999

for



Preliminary investigation into the suitability of Durham coastal colliery site as long term mine water pumping stations

INTRODUCTION

At the request of the Coal Authority IMC have been asked to the suitability of the colliery sites along the Durham coast line as long term mine water pumping stations.

This report assesses the current landownership and surface conditions of the sites. It does not take into account any of the engineering problems associated with a proposed scheme. Nor does it address the legal and environmental implications relating to the proposed end use.

Plans are attached to identify the location of the collieries with detailed plans showing Coal Authority retained land.

COASTAL COLLIERIES

(For summary and plans see appendix 1)

1. Horden

Closed in 1986 retained by British Coal and later transferred to the Coal Authority. The site consists of an area of land amounting to approximately 2ha with associated rights of access. The retained land was used in conjunction with mine water pumping which has now ceased.

The remaining colliery land and tip areas were sold in two parcels, Easington District Council taking the colliery site to the west of the railway and Durham County Council taking the tips to the east of the railway.

Work on an industrial estate has been undertaken by Easington. The infrastructure currently on site appears to have encroached onto the Coal Authority land as the compound does not occupy all of the land they own. Work on cleaning up the beaches has also commenced with the heaps now being reclaimed with millennium funding.

2. Easington

The colliery closed in 1993 and at that time occupied a considerable area of land. This land, which was in lease hold from the Church Commissions was transferred back in 1996. Prior to the transfer a lease for the shaft compound and rights of access was transferred to the Coal Authority.

Following British Coal's surrender to the Church Commissions the land was sold on to Easington District Council

Inspection of the site indicates that there is extensive reclamation and landscaping to a soft end use. Funding for this work has been obtained from One North East.

The tips have been removed from the beach with the aid of millennium ~~funing~~ as part of the Turning of Tide exercise.

3. Dawdon

The colliery closed in 1991 and at that time occupied a considerable area of land. This land remained with British Coal until 1996 when it was transferred to English Partnerships (One North East). Prior to the disposal an area of land amounting to 0.77ha or thereabouts was transferred to the Coal Authority with associated access rights. In addition to the land transfer Durham County Council instigated a C.P.O. in order to construct a link road into the area. This link road runs immediately adjacent to the northern boundary of the Coal Authorities ownership. This road is to assist in the development of the industrial estates to be constructed on the Enterprise Zone which includes part of the colliery site.

The area immediately surrounding the site is being landscaped as open space and information suggests this will be transferred to Durham County Council shortly.

4. Vane Tempest

Closed in 1993 and transferred to English Partnerships (One North East) in 1996. The Coal Authority have a compound amounting to approximately 64 sq m with associated access, the area requires confirmation.

Permissions have recently been granted to One North East to carry out reclamation works with a view to residential development and tourist attractions.

5. Seaham

Merged with Vane Tempest and ceased production in 1993.

Transferred to English Partnerships (One North East) in 1996. Prior to this an area of land amounting to approximately 64 sq m with associated rights of access was transferred to the Coal Authority.

The site is currently derelict with a minor development taking place close to the entrance at the North East Corner.

Indications are that the site has been identified for probable residential development.

6. Wearmouth

Ceased production in 1993 Land transferred to Tyne & Wear Development Corporation in 1995.

Subsequently the southern area of the site was sold to Sunderland AFC and developed as a football stadium. The northern area which remains undeveloped was transferred to English Partnerships (One North East) on the demise of Tyne & Wear.

The Coal Authority originally retained an area amounting to 400sqm or thereabouts with associated rights of access. Recently this area has been reduced to 270sq m to accommodate gas venting facilities for Sunderland AFC.

7. Westoe

Ceased production in 1993.

Land transferred to English Partnerships (One North East) in 1966.

Coal Authority retain an area of land amounting to 0.29ha with associated access rights. The site is currently derelict however planning permission has been granted for residential development.

8. Hawthorn

Amalgamated with Murton Colliery which ceased production in 1991.

Land at Hawthorn transferred to English Partnerships (One North East) in 1996.

Coal Authority retain an area of land amounting to 0.26ha with associated access rights.

The site is currently undergoing remedial works, to a soft end use, with the award of the next part of the contract imminent. Discussions with One North East are now taking place.

Conclusion

From the current preliminary investigation indications are that Horden, Easington, Dawdon and Hawthorn may be suitable subject to further study. Each of these sites have a large enough land ownership to accept a pumping station. These sites also have rights which are believed to be restricted to access only and do not include rights for services. The requirement to dispose of any waters pumped from these sites would require capital expenditure and rights to pass pipelines to a disposal point.

Contact with One North East has been established and it is intended to meet with them on Wednesday 27th October for further discussions.

What about treatment?

It should be noted that in any further investigation relating to land easements and wayleaves will need to be considered.

It would also be prudent to have the compound areas measured in relation to the area of land owned. This is likely to show that the compounds are smaller than land owned in the majority of cases.

Particular attention should be given to Horden where encroachment appears to have taken place and time to resolve the problem is fast running out.

Addendum

At the meeting subsequently held with representatives of One North East it was been established that they are willing to discuss in detail our proposals for possibly minewater pumping stations/treatment facilities. They were particularly interested in the possible use of land on Hawthorn site which as previously stated is currently undergoing reclamation. (4 year programme).

One North East are directly involved in the operations dealing with Dawdon and Hawthorn and have input with the other sites.

Appendix 1

Table 1 Summary – Current Status

Location Plan

Ownership Plans

DURHAM MINEWATER

TABLE SHOWING ASSESSED CURRENT STATUS

	Shaft Condition	Water Monitoring	Gas Monitoring	Area in C.A. Ownership	Adjacent Land Owner	Possible use for Pumping	Remarks
Horden	Open	Yes	Yes	2ha	Easington DC Durham CC	Yes	Ownership Problems due to compound size
Easington	Open	Yes	Yes	0.3Ha	Easington DC	Yes	CA Leasehold
Dawdon	Open	Yes	Yes	0.77ha	O N E	Yes/No	Land Transfer Taking Place
Vane Tempest	Filled	No	Yes	64sq m	O N E	No	Permission to Develop Granted
Seaham	Filled	No	Yes	64 sq. m	O N E	No	Hard end use envisaged
Wearmouth	Filled	No dipping fill only	Yes	270 sq. m	Sunderland AFC O N E	No	Hard end use major complaints
Westoe	Open	Yes	Yes	0.29 ha	O N E	No	Planning for housing
Hawthorn	Open	Yes	Yes	0.26 ha	O N E	Yes	Soft end use

The reference to shaft condition refers to shaft within compound and having vent stack.

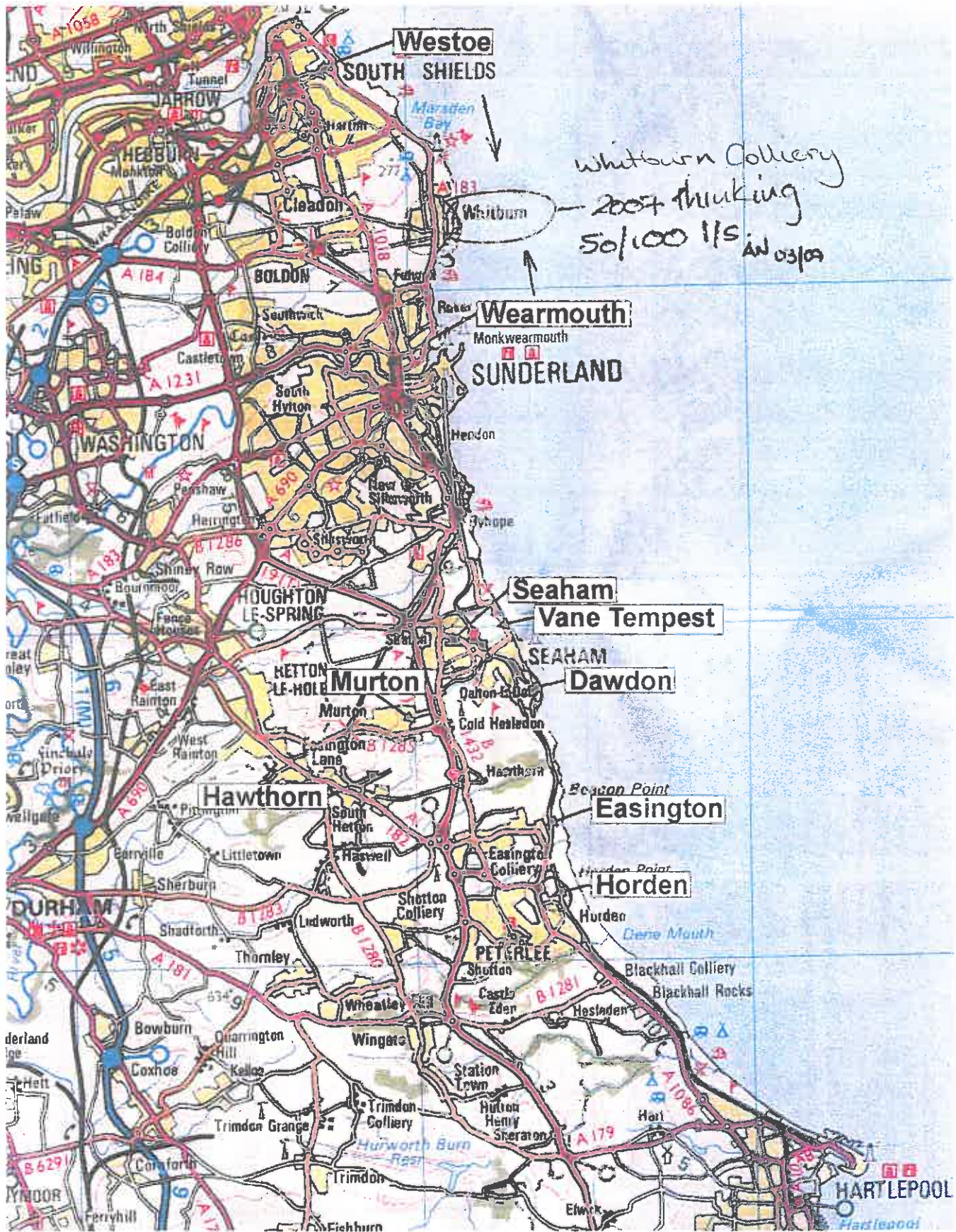
Reference to possible use relates to area of land, proposed end use and condition of shaft

O N E = One North East (English Partnerships)

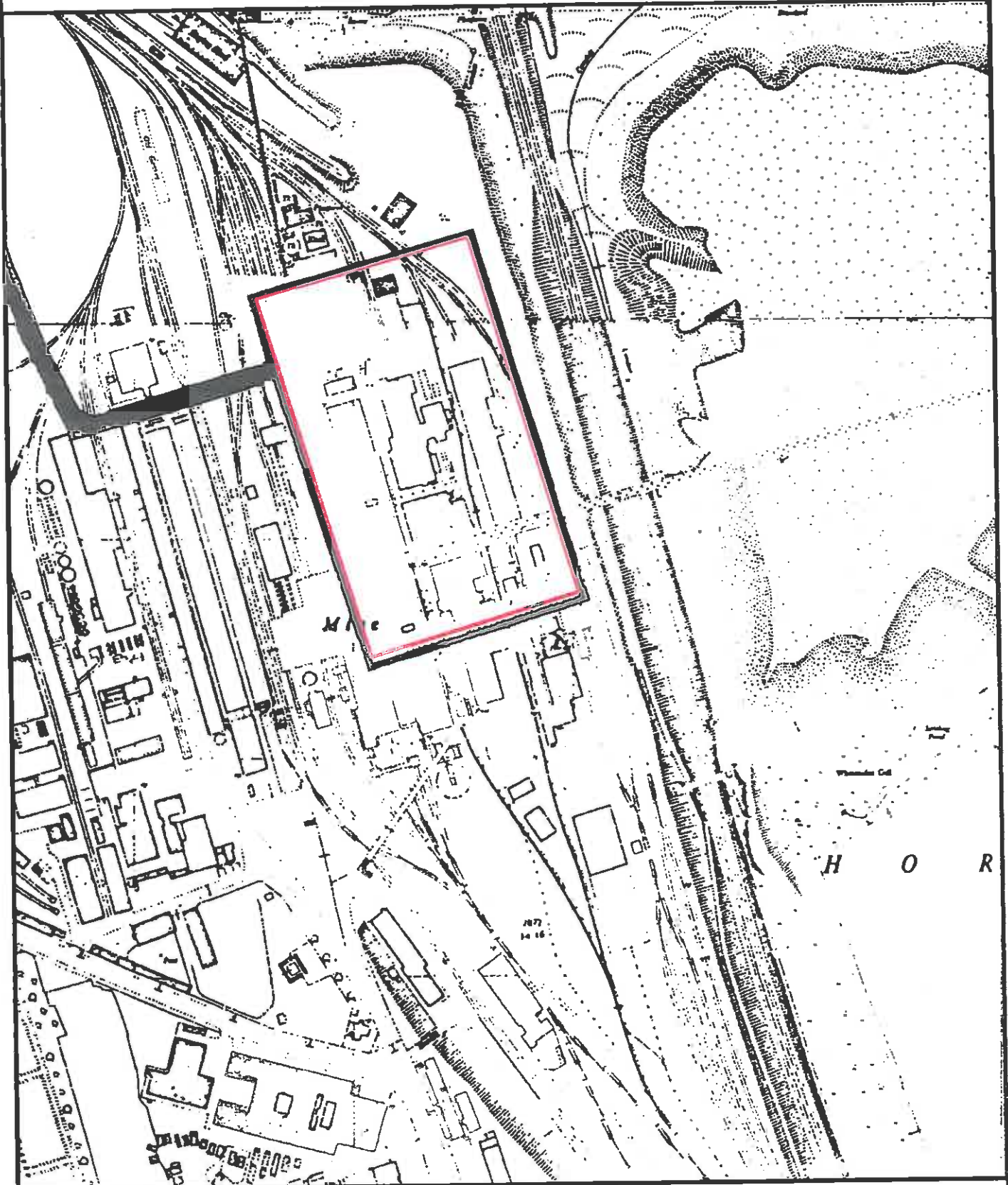
There is a large enough area of Coal Authority ownership to facilitate the construction of a pumping station at those site which have been identified for further consideration

Table 1

Location Plan



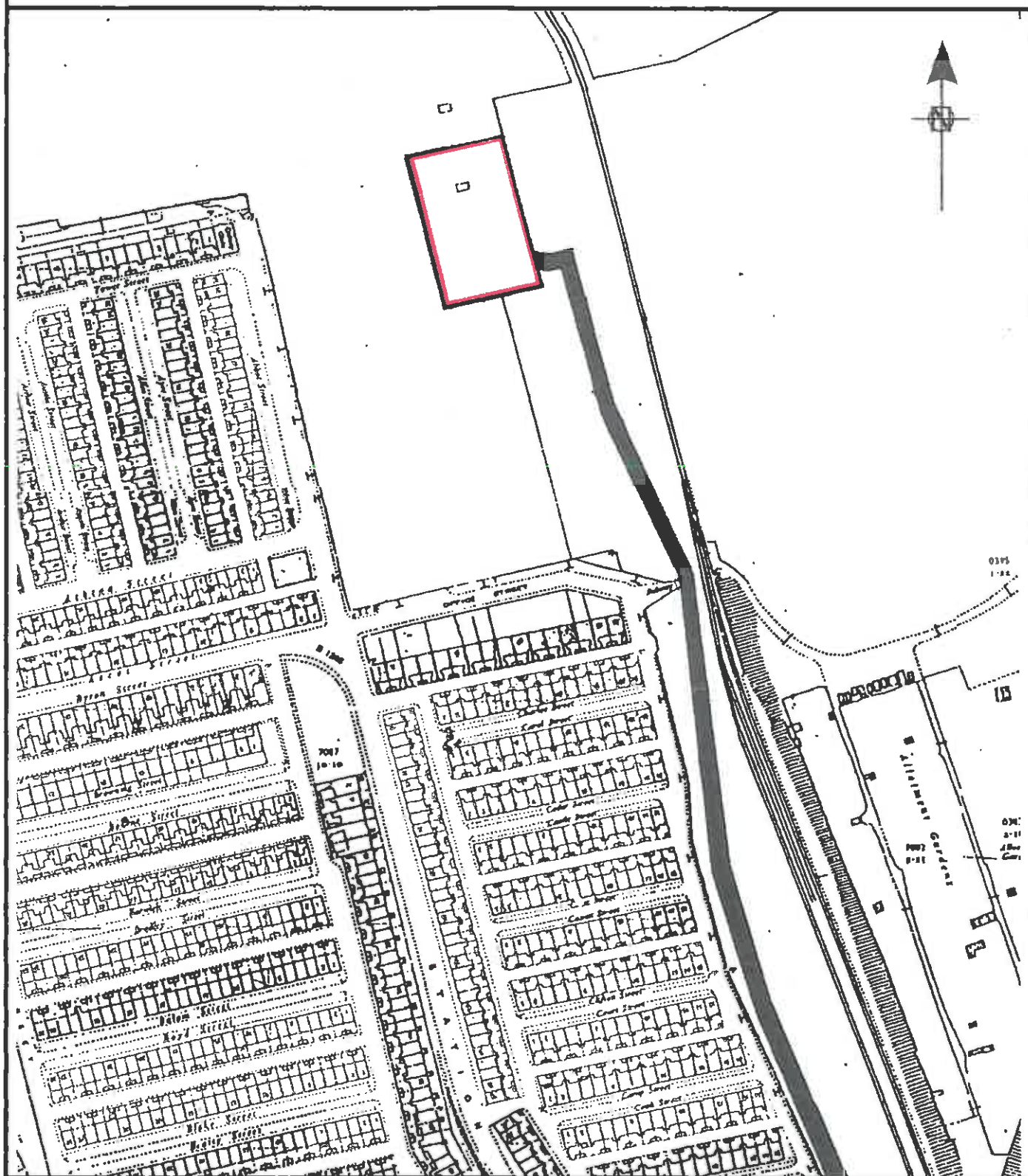
Durham Minewater Coal Authority Ownership Horden



Do Not Scale

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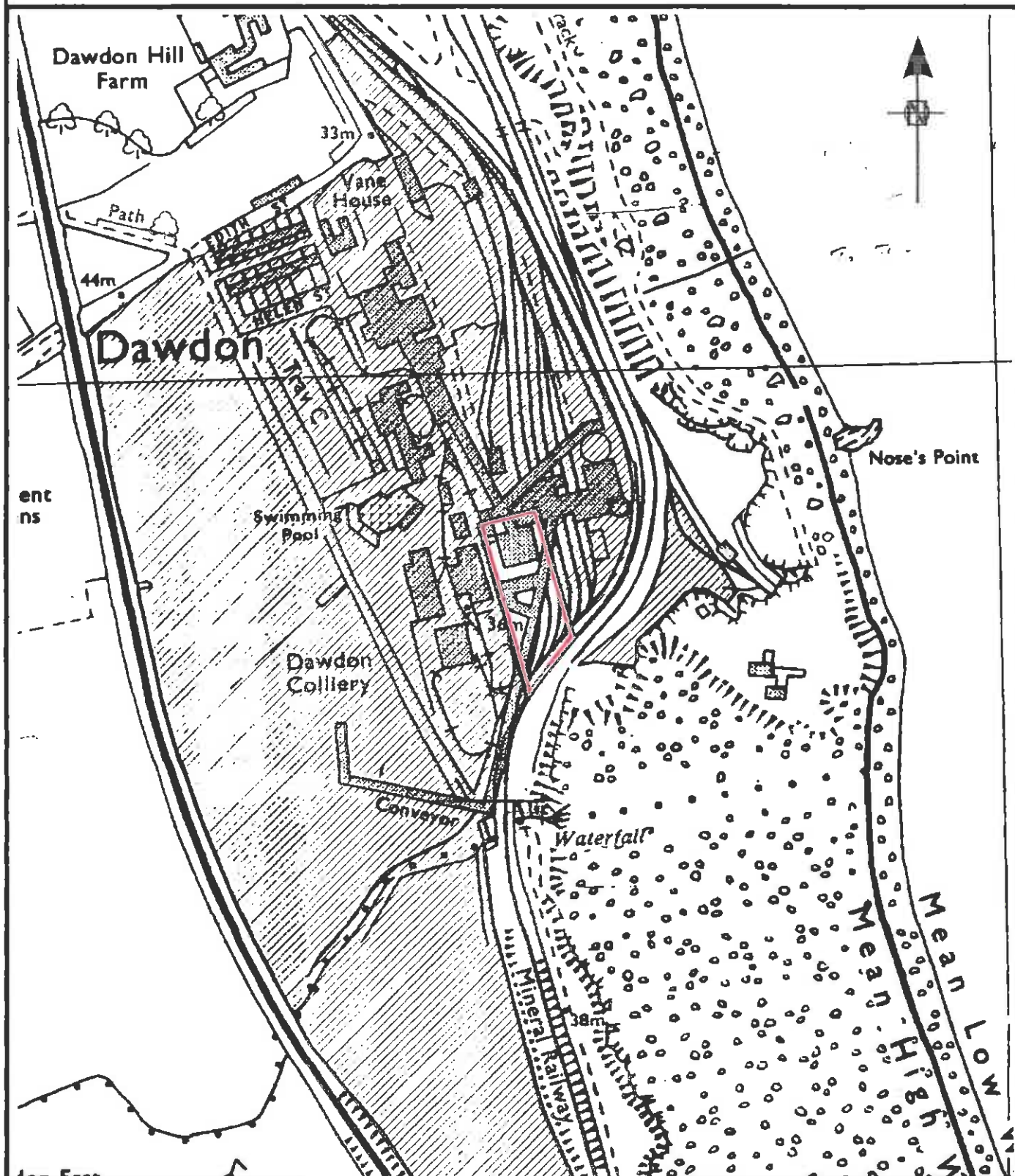
Durham Minewater Coal Authority Ownership Easington



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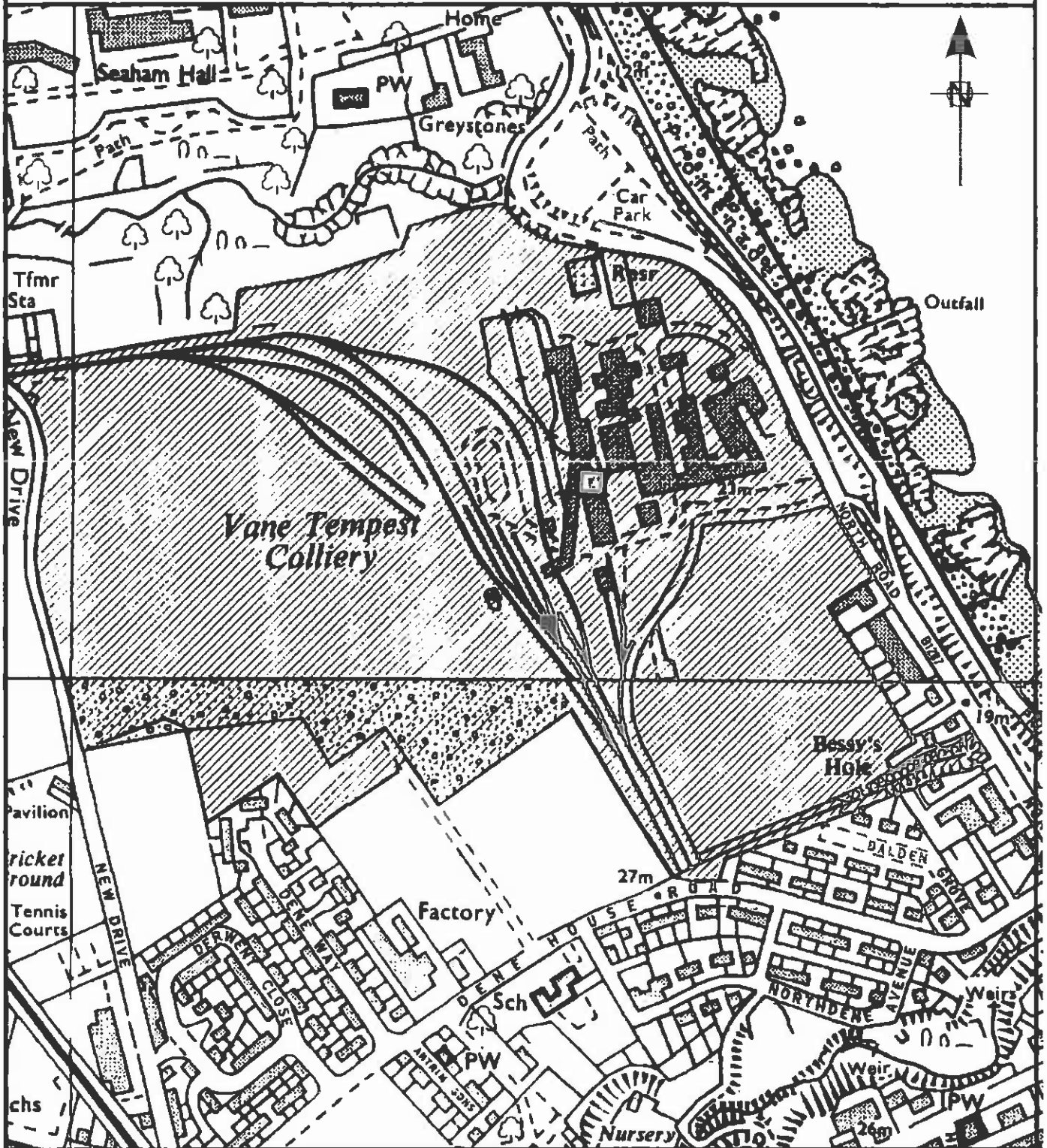
Durham Minewater Coal Authority Ownership Dawdon



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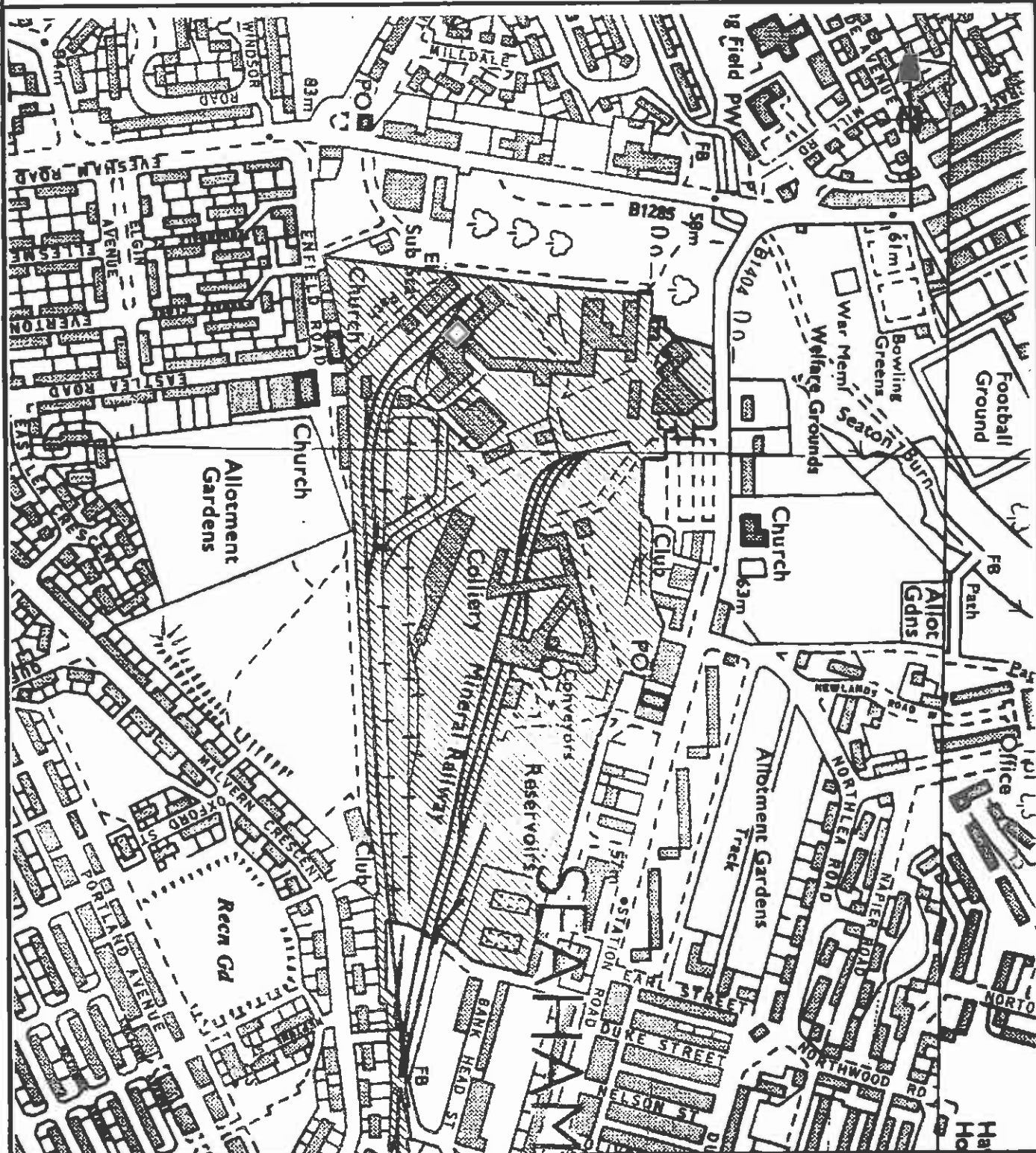
Durham Minewater Coal Authority Ownership Vane Tempest



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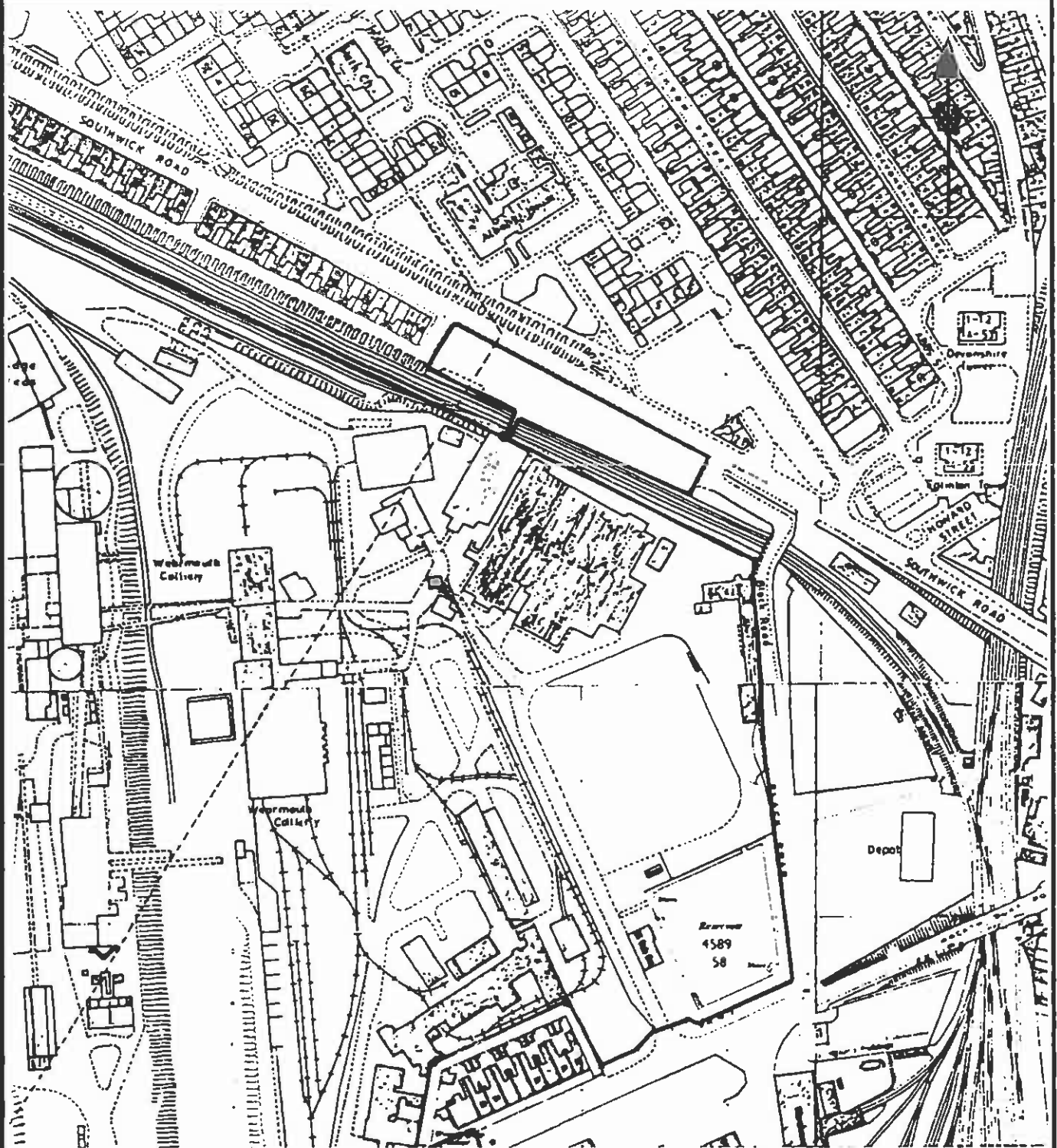
Durham Minewater Coal Authority Ownership Seaham



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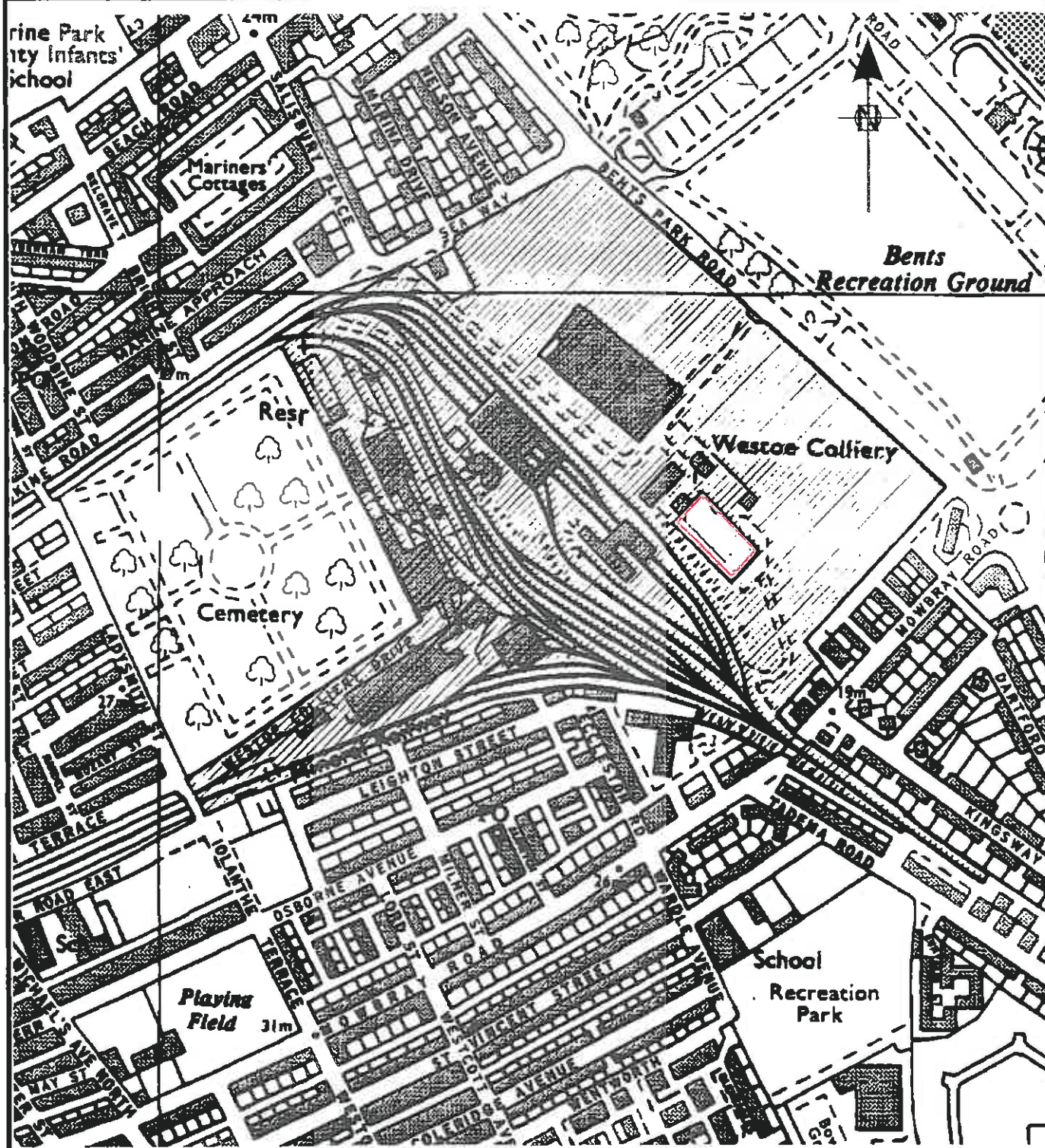
Durham Minewater Coal Authority Ownership Wearmouth



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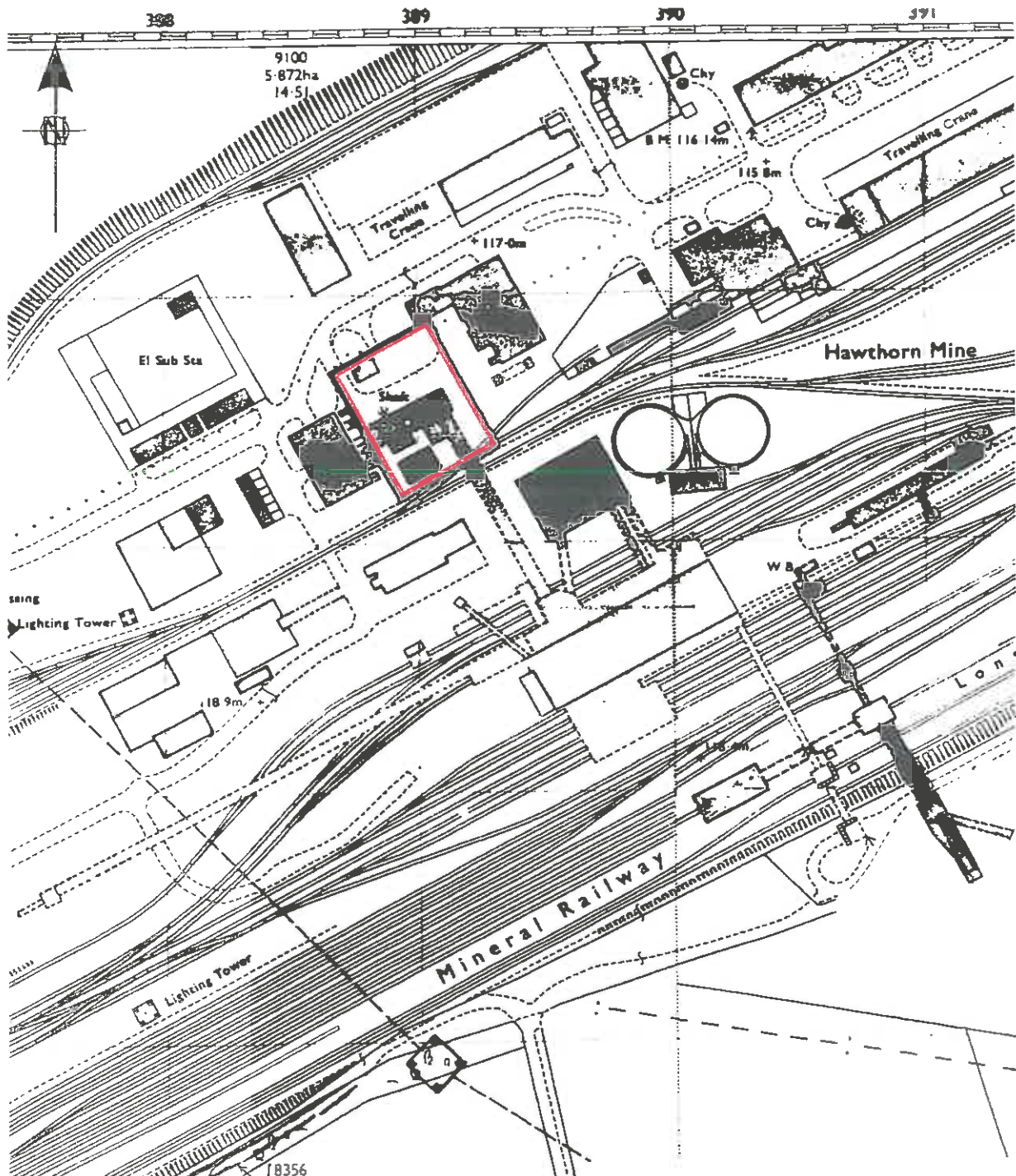
Durham Minewater Coal Authority Ownership **Westoe**



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Durham Minewater Coal Authority Ownership Hawthorn



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