

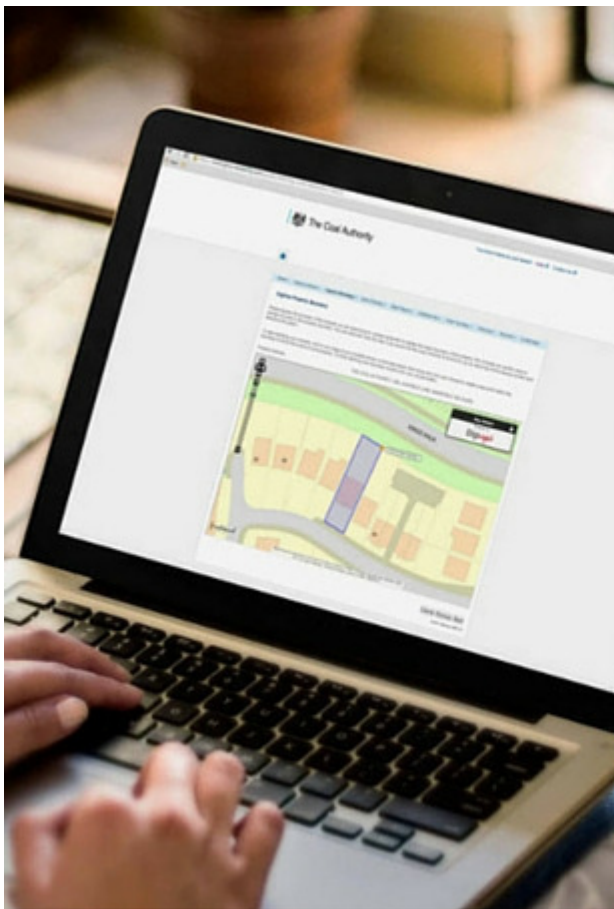


The Coal  
Authority

Resolving the **impacts** of mining

# User Guide

## For the Coal Authority Country Dataset



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**Graphic bottom right represents examples of spatial data from  
The Coal Authority's National Coal Mining Database**

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## 1 Summary

This document provides information for users on the national Country dataset. It outlines why the dataset was created and its potential uses. Technical information regarding the GIS and how the data was created is described, and information on how to use the dataset is provided.

## 2 Introduction

### The Coal Authority

The Coal Authority (the Authority) is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department of Energy and Climate Change, and was established by Parliament in 1994. Its statutory responsibilities include:

- Licensing coal mining operations in Britain
- Providing access to information on coal mining
- Dealing with property and historic liability issues
- Administering coal mining subsidence damage claims
- Providing a 24 hour call out service for public safety hazards.

Further information on all the digital data available from the Authority can be found on our website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/the-coal-authority> or by contacting:

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## **3 About the Country Dataset**

### **3.1 Background**

The Country dataset has been created by the Authority and is used in the production of coal mining reports in Scotland.

### **3.2 Dataset History**

The Country dataset was created for the automated provision of coal mining reports and was captured into the first computerised mining report system (MRS). The spatial dataset was subsequently migrated into the Authority's current ESRI based GIS in 2011.

### **3.3 Who might require this dataset?**

This dataset is currently used by the Authority in the production of ScotForm 2006 mining search reports. These provide property specific searches with regard to potential mining hazards in support of the conveyancing market.

This dataset is suitable for use by organisations wishing to identify possible ground instability and potential mining hazards. Users may include but are not limited to Local Authorities, infrastructure operators, land developers, home-owners, solicitors, loss adjusters, the insurance industry, architects and surveyors.

### **3.4 What the dataset shows**

The Coal Authority Country dataset is a defined extent covering Scotland.

### **3.5 Coverage**

Scotland.

## 4 Technical Information

### 4.1 Definitions

#### **Country**

This is a Coal Authority defined extent covering Scotland.

### 4.2 Accuracy

#### **4.2.1 Digitisation Process Accuracy Limitations**

The digitisation process is likely to have introduced intrinsic limitations due to simplification requirements.

#### **4.2.2 Scale**

This extent is thought to have been digitised to a scale of 1:25000.

### 4.3 Data Format

The Country dataset has been created as vector polygon data and is available in ESRI shapefile format. Other GIS formats, including ArcInfo Coverages and MapInfo (.tab) or more specialised formats can be supplied on request (but may incur additional processing costs).

## 4.4 Field Descriptions

**Table 1: Attribute table field descriptions**

Data Field	Explanation of Data Field
OBJECTID	<b>OBJECTID</b> File GeoDB ID number
GLOBALID	<b>GLOBALID</b> Globally Unique Identifier (GUID)
NAME	<b>Name</b> The name of the Country

## 5 Licensing Information

The Authority does not sell its digital spatial data to external parties. Instead, it grants external parties a licence to use the data, subject to terms and conditions. In general, a licence fee will be payable based on the type of data, geographic area required, the number of simultaneous users, and the duration (years) of a licence.

All recipients of a licence are required to return a signed licence document to us before authorisation for release of digital data is given.

These are general comments for guidance only. Full details of the terms and conditions of supply are included within licences.

The Authority's Data Team will be happy to discuss your proposed use of data and can be contacted at [datasolutions@coal.gov.uk](mailto:datasolutions@coal.gov.uk). The Data Team will usually be able to provide reassurance that the licence will cover individual user requirements and/or to include additional 'special conditions' in the licence documentation, addressing specific requirements within the Authority's permitted usage.

## 6 Limitations and exclusion of liability

The Authority is committed to ensuring that the digital data it holds and releases to external parties under licence has been through a robust internal approval process to ensure that corporate quality assurance standards are maintained. This approval process is intended to ensure that all data released: (i) is quality assured; (ii) meets agreed data management standards; (iii) is not in breach of any 3rd party intellectual property rights, or other contractual issues (such as confidentiality issues).

### 6.1 Limitations

- This dataset is based on, and limited to, an interpretation of the records in the possession of the Authority at the time the data set was created.
- The dataset does not categorise the risk of surface collapse and no account is taken of any past remediation that may have been undertaken.
- An indication of the presence of a mine entry does not necessarily mean that a location will be affected by ground movement or subsidence. Such an assessment can only be made by inspection of the area by a qualified professional.
- If customers are uncertain about the use of particular data they should seek professional advice. However, they may consult the Authority's Data Team [datasolutions@coal.gov.uk](mailto:datasolutions@coal.gov.uk) on technical matters, licensing arrangements, or general aspects including the appropriateness and limitations of the data.

### 6.2 Exclusions

The databases comprising the subject matter of this report are made up of information supplied to the Authority by third parties under statutory obligation and of which the Authority has no direct knowledge and has not necessarily had the opportunity to verify. Accordingly, it can have no liability for the accuracy of the information comprising the databases or for any loss of whatever nature directly or indirectly caused which may result from any reliance placed upon it. The licensee takes the information as provided without any such express or implied warranty and must rely upon its own enquiries and where necessary obtain appropriate insurance against any loss arising.



