

Dear

ATISN 18960 Numbers of coal tips in the Mawr Community and Swansea Area

Thank you for your request regarding old Colliery Coal Mining Waste Tips, which I received on 12th September 2023. Your questions and our responses are set out below.

1) How many such Tips do you have registered in the City & County of Swansea on your known list? (Just numbers - not names or locations)

Our records show that there are 210 disused coal tips in the City & County of Swansea area. Please note that each individual tip area (“lobe”) is considered as a separate tip in these figures.

2) How many such Tips do you have registered in the Mawr Community Council area of the City & County of Swansea on your known list? (Villages of Craigcefnparc & Felindre & Garnswllt - just numbers - not names or locations)

According to our records there are 16 disused coal tips within the electoral ward of Mawr (as last defined in 2021, this area is inclusive of the villages of Craigcefnparc, Felindre & Garnswllt). Please note that each individual tip area (“lobe”) is considered as a separate tip in these figures.

3) How many such Tips do you have registered in the Mawr Community Council area of the City & County of Swansea on your known list listed as Category "A" Dangerous (Villages of Craigcefnparc & Felindre & Garnswllt - just numbers - not names or locations)?

As a point of clarification, our records do not recognise the classification of “Dangerous” in relation to how disused coal tips are categorised in Wales. The table below outlines the interim categorisation system currently being used to rate disused coal tips in Wales. C or D categorisation does not mean these tips are unsafe but that they may require more frequent inspections, which helps identify any maintenance requirements.

| Category | Criteria |
|-----------------|--|
| D | Potential to cause risk to life or property known history of movement/signs of instability |
| C | Potential to cause risk to life or property no known history of movement/instability signs |
| B | Unlikely to cause risk to life / property |
| A | Minor tip or tip has been reclaimed / restored |
| R | Historic tip location – now removed or levelled and often built over |

Below are the numbers of disused coal tips for the City & County Area of Swansea by category according to our records (these figures have been updated since they were last published in October 2021):

| Tip Category | Number of Disused Coal Tips |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| D | 0 |
| C | 5 |
| B | 37 |
| A | 126 |
| R | 42 |
| Total | 210 |

Below are the numbers of disused coal tips for the electoral ward of Mawr (as last defined in 2021, this area is inclusive of the villages of Craigcefnparc, Felindre & Garnswllt) according to our records:

| Tip Category | Number of Disused Coal Tips |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| D | 0 |
| C | 1 |
| B | 0 |
| A | 15 |
| R | 0 |
| Total | 16 |

4) *Is your full list for Wales, with names and locations, confidential or an open document?*

The full list of disused coal tips in Wales (including names and locations) is not currently available as an open document and is classified for internal use only.

5) *If an open document could I have a copy?*

As explained above, this is not an open document.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office,

Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely