



## Industry news : February 2007

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### **Parys Mountain base metal deposit to open in two years**



Parys Mountain shaft  
*Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC*

The Parys Mountain massive sulphide copper-lead-zinc deposit near Amlwch in Anglesey could reopen by 2008 according to the operators Anglesey Mining PLC. A recent resource review by Mincon International has shown significant mineralisation in the previously undefined White Rock Zone with good continuity along strike and down dip. The White Rock Zone, which lies above the previously worked Engine Zone, contains resources totalling 2.15 million tonnes at 0.36% copper, 4.13% zinc, 2.11% lead, 40 grams per tonne silver and 0.42 grams per tonne gold. Around 67% of indicated resources lie above a depth of 280 m allowing simple low-cost mining from a planned 250 m decline. Anglesey Mining also hope to restart work on the Engine Zone and repair flooded shafts as well as explore neighbouring zones. This development would make Parys Mountain the only operating base metals mine in the UK.

Source: <http://www.angleseymining.co.uk/> and Mining Journal 9/2/07

## Remediation work begins after tailings dam failure in Derbyshire



Aggregates quarry tailings pond  
*Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC*

Glebe Mines, the owner of the tailings dam which burst its banks and flooded the Derbyshire village of Stony Middleton last month, have issued a statement. They attributed the failure to unprecedented high levels of rainfall leading to a sudden and totally unforeseen breach in the dam. The tailings dam has been disused for 30 years and contained inert solids, so no lasting effects on health or the environment are expected. The local school and several roads were closed for a week for safety reasons and insurers estimate the cost of cleaning up will run into hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Source: <http://www.glebemines.com/news.htm>,

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/derbyshire/6302701.stm>

## Inquiry into Longstone Edge begins



Derbyshire quarry  
*Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC*

The public enquiry into the quarrying at Blackdale on Longstone Edge began this month. The inquiry follows an appeal by MMC Mineral Processing Ltd and Bleaklow Industries after a stop notice was issued against the quarry by the Peak District National Park Authority in May 2005. The quarry owners claim they have the right to remove limestone for use as aggregates as a by-product from fluorspar extraction afforded to them by their original 1952 planning permission. The Park Authority claims this planning permission should change to take into account new planning laws. The enquiry is due to finish at the end of February.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/derbyshire/6356617.stm>

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/downloads/start.cfm?id=>

### **Grounded ship carries 1 000 tonnes of nickel**

It has been confirmed that the container ship MSC Napoli which was grounded off the south Devon coast after a serious structural failure was carrying over 1 000 tonnes of the metal. The nickel which was destined for South Africa for use in stainless steel manufacture was equivalent to nearly two days of global consumption and its possible loss at a time of a global nickel supply shortage contributed to the price of nickel reaching a new high of \$36 300 a tonne. Recovery is still underway and much of the metal is thought to be salvageable.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L19331592.htm>

### **Job losses at Wales last deep pit**



Headgear at a disused UK coal mine  
*Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC*

The last operating deep coal pit in Wales has begun its programmed closure with the loss of 60 jobs. The Tower colliery which was reopened by its own miners after its initial closure in 1994 will finally close in January 2008 due to depleted reserves. However, the colliery which employs 375 people hopes to save around 100 jobs by transfer of personnel to the neighbouring Aberpergwm mine.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/6380573.stm>

### **Largest wave farm in the world to be built in Orkney**

The Scottish Executive and Scottish Power has announced it will be funding a new £10 million wave farm off the coast of Orkney. The project, which will use four newly developed floating generators known as Pelamis devices, will provide around 3 MW of electricity (enough to power around 2 000 homes) and will potentially be the world's largest wave farm upon completion in 2008.

Source: [http://www.scottishpower.com/PressReleases\\_1498.htm](http://www.scottishpower.com/PressReleases_1498.htm)

## North Sea oil becoming uncompetitive



North Sea platform

*Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC*

A recent survey issued by the UK Offshore Operators Association (UKOOA) has warned that rising inflation, increases in taxation and a fall in both production and investment could lead to UK offshore oil fields becoming uncompetitive in the world market. UKOOA warns that unless government and industry chiefs take steps to prevent a further decline in investment the implications for future production and secure indigenous energy supplies could be serious. Production is predicted to drop by 250 000 barrels per day in the next three years and investment is predicted to fall by up to £1.5 billion this year.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/6355745.stm> ,  
<http://www.oilandgas.org.uk/issues/economic/activitysurvey06.pdf>

## Opening of new LNG facility in Teesside

The UK's second LNG (liquefied natural gas) import terminal in Teesside has received its first delivery of gas. This facility is unique in Europe as the liquid natural gas is warmed on ship and pumped as gas directly into Britain's supply network. It is predicted that similar LNG facilities will increase in Britain as North Sea gas reserves supplying Britain by pipeline decline.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/tees/6353765.stm>

## Energy production by UK wind industry rises to over 2 GW



Wind turbine in Cumbria  
*Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC*

The start of power generation on the Braes O'Doune wind farm near Stirling brought the amount of wind energy produced in the UK past 2 GW. This was heralded as a “major landmark for the UK wind industry” by Trade and Industry Secretary Alistair Darling who also announced plans to build a new wind farm in the Thames estuary. The UK is now the 8<sup>th</sup> largest wind energy producer in the world.

Source: [http://www.cnplus.co.uk/news/news\\_article/?aid=57884&sid=107](http://www.cnplus.co.uk/news/news_article/?aid=57884&sid=107),

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/6344215.stm>

## Mineshaft collapse in Powys



The affects of mine subsidence, Edinburgh  
*Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC*

In Priestweston, Powys, near the border with Shropshire, a road has been closed and an area of hillside has been sealed off after a hole 9 m wide and 15 m deep appeared. The area has a history of lead and silver mining beginning in the 1800s and it is believed that the hole is the result of the collapse of an old mine shaft, potentially 800 m deep. One family has been forced to move from their house for safety reasons as the hole continues to grow.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/mid/6373681.stm>

## Second phase of major gas pipe development through Wales begins

The second phase of building for a new natural gas pipeline across central Wales has been approved by the Department of Trade and Industry. This phase of building is a continuation of 190 miles of pipeline already completed from Milford Haven to Swansea. The new section of pipe will continue through the Brecon Beacons and then on to Ross-on-Wye. The pipeline has received strong opposition from local groups and the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, but the National Grid and the Department of Trade and Industry state that the pipeline is vital for meeting the country's growing gas demands and addresses declining North Sea reserves.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/mid/6338475.stm>

## Quarry expansion in ancient monument site



UK sand and gravel quarry

*Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC*

A quarry in North Yorkshire has been given permission to extend its workings close to an ancient monument. The Ladybridge Farm sand and gravel quarry operated by Tarmac was given permission for an extension after its original plans were rejected. The company is now under legal obligation to safeguard the site. However English Heritage and local campaigners are worried that the working will damage the nearby Neolithic and Bronze Age Thornborough Henge, believed to be one of the largest ritual gathering places of the Neolithic era

Source: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/north\\_yorkshire/6268043.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/north_yorkshire/6268043.stm)