

COLTON OPENCAST COAL SITE	
Description:	Large-scale earthworks, coal recovery and processing, with full restoration to agricultural land
Form of Contract:	n/a
Duration:	13 years
Contract Value:	Client Confidential
Client:	I & H Brown Ltd
Clients Representative:	n/a

The opencast site started life as Colton Farm, which has now been fully restored back to agricultural land following large-scale earthworks, coal recovery and processing operations.

In total, around 14,000,000 m³ of material was excavated, hauled and replaced as part of operations to recover coal. The site produced in excess of 1,250,000 Tonnes of coal over a thirteen year period. 75% of the coal produced was used for electricity generation while the remaining 25% was supplied to industrial and domestic customers.



The opencast was operated in three distinct phases, with each being substantially restored prior to commencement of the next phase in order to minimise visual intrusion. Although the area affected by extraction totalled 87 Hectares, the active operational area was during any phase never exceeded 25 hectares. The operation brought considerable environmental benefits, by the remediation of old colliery spoil stockpiles and by ground stabilisation through the removal of old deep-mine workings.

A new wildlife pond was constructed on site to enhance the local wildlife habitat. An area of around 9 Hectares was planted as mixed woodland and hedgerow. The remaining land affected by the opencast has been returned to agricultural use, with approximately 42 Hectares of new field drainage installed.

