



# DAW MILL COLLIERY



CENTRAL GROUP



## Manager's Message

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I am writing a foreword to the 25th Anniversary Daw Million. As you may be aware the Colliery celebrates the 25th Anniversary of the commencement of Coal Production this year, and this Special Edition of the Daw Million has been produced to mark the special occasion.

There have been few, if any, Collieries which have enjoyed the same degree of success that Daw Mill has over the years. Perhaps more important to us all is the future which I believe is full of opportunity for everyone at the Colliery.

The last twenty-five years has seen many changes in the Industry, a good proportion of which have occurred during the last five to six years. Daw Mill has prospered during this period and is currently well placed to achieve its best year in Saleable Output terms.

The changes made in the last five to six years have become necessary because of a changing energy market. The challenge facing the Colliery must not be underestimated and we have to ensure that we establish a good share of the available market.

I hope that we can begin to look on the positive side of the problems beleaguering the Industry generally. At Daw Mill we have high quality reserves in significant



quantity. We are prepared to make the necessary investments to release those reserves in the most safe and efficient manner. With these two facts and the continued commitment of all the workforce I am totally confident that our Coal will beat the competition from anywhere in the world.

If my expectations are proved right, a 50th Anniversary Daw Million will detail another 25 years of continued success and profitability.

A. Galloway  
COLLIERY MANAGER

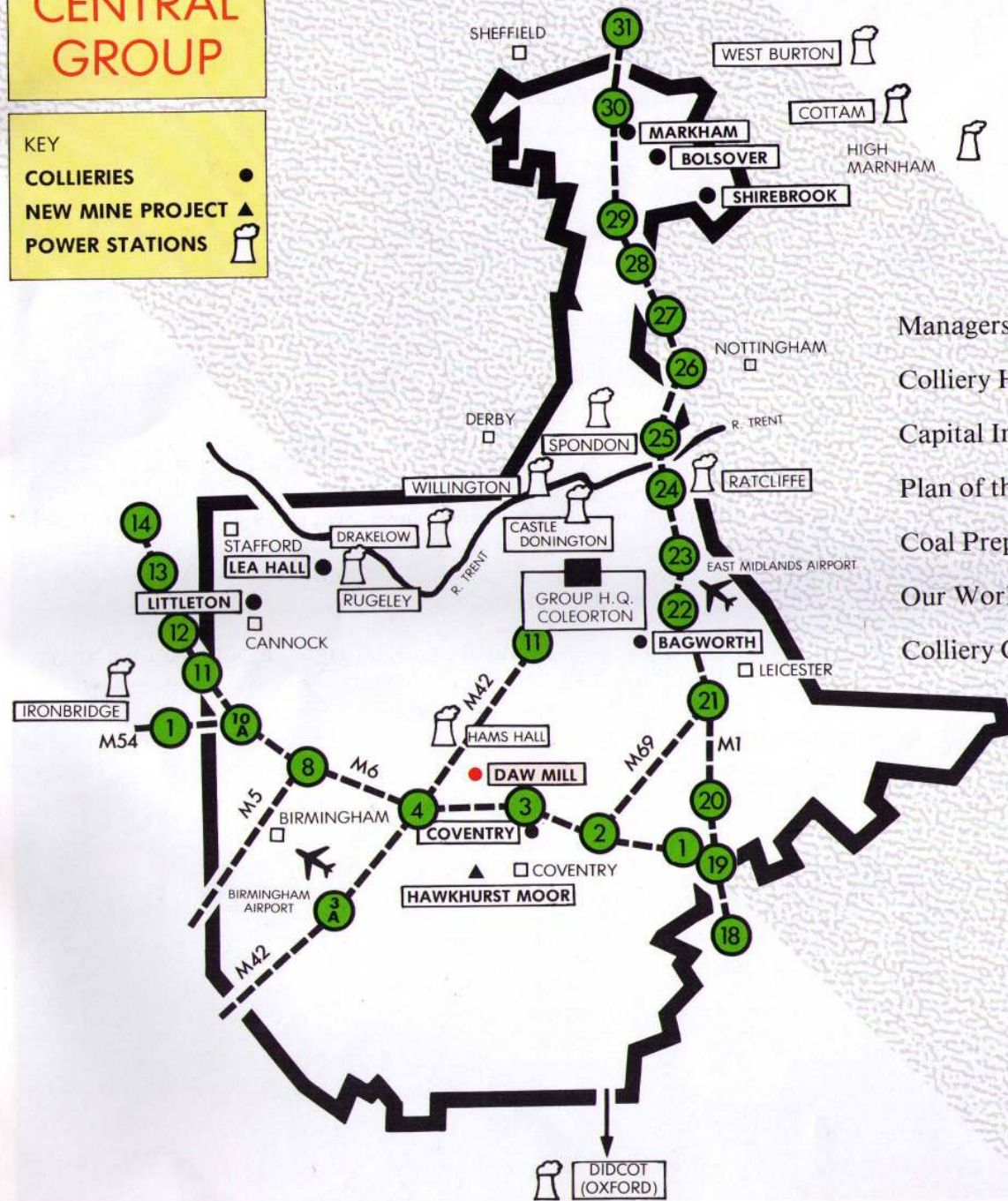
# CENTRAL GROUP

## KEY

COLLIERIES ●

NEW MINE PROJECT ▲

POWER STATIONS ☐



Managers Message

Page 1

Colliery History

Page 4

Capital Investment

Page 6

Plan of the Colliery

Pages 7/8

Coal Preparation and Markets

Page 10

Our Working Environment

Page 12

Colliery Output and Records

Page 14



# Contents

Pages  
One & Two



Left: Daw Mill Surface Drift, completed in 1983 and a major benefit to the Collieries drive to increased productivity.

Daw Mill is a natural development of Kingsbury and Dexter Collieries which worked the coal in the northern end of the Warwickshire coalfield. Kingsbury Mine first produced coal in the early 1900's. Workings extended some two and a quarter miles from the shafts when a serious geological fault was encountered. This caused the seam to be displaced vertically upwards 83 to 110 metres. Long steeply inclined tunnels were driven to overcome the problem but it became clear another shaft was necessary and in 1927 the Dexter Shaft was sunk. Dexter was connected underground to Kingsbury for ventilation purposes but coal wound at Dexter was taken by an overland tramway system to Kingsbury for preparation and distribution. In 1938 a booster fan was installed underground at Dexter to improve ventilation. By 1955 the underground workings extended about seven miles from Kingsbury and ventilation problems were acute. It was decided to sink a new shaft over three miles to the south of Dexter at Daw Mill.

Site work commenced in mid-1956 and shaft sinking started in 1957, the shaft 6.1m in diameter, concrete lined at a total depth of 558m, was completed in 1959.

At the coal winding level of 538m, a tunnel was driven to connect with Dexter workings. The link-up was effected in the summer of 1960.

During 1958, when the shaft had reached a little over a third of the planned depth, it was decided Daw Mill would become a new mine handling the coal from Dexter (which since 1957 had become a separately managed unit) with administration and coal preparation centralised at Daw Mill.

While construction work on the surface and underground

was proceeding, the Daw Mill shaft was used to exhaust air from the Dexter workings.

When new equipment was being installed in the new shaft the air lock had to be removed. This presented a ventilation problem because with the airlock removed air could not be pulled up Daw Mill shaft. A powerful fan was installed at Dexter to force air down the Dexter shaft and through the workings. At the end of its journey the air emerged through the open Daw Mill shaft. This arrangement was successfully maintained for some months before the pit started production. To improve safety and maximise production a decision to sink a second shaft in September 1968 to a depth of 556m was taken and this was completed in December 1969. After shaft furnishing and initial development work underground the shaft was commissioned in January, 1971.

During the 1970's improvements in coal face technology resulted in the mine consistently producing at the maximum shaft capacity.

Consequently it was decided to drive a drift from the surface to link up with the main underground trunk conveyors and to increase the production capacity of Daw Mill to more than 1.75 million tonnes.

Associated with the drift were major improvements to surface facilities such as coal preparation and loading, workshops, stores, baths, boilers and the canteen.

Work started in 1978 on the initial open cut and the project was completed in April 1983.

In 1978 it was decided to increase output to 2.25 million tonnes through improvements in face technology and coal handling facilities. This project will be completed this year.



## Colliery History



Left: SRD Head,  
Progressing towards the  
Collieries southern reserves.

The long term future of the Colliery is in the southern reserves consequently in 1982 it was decided to drive two arterial roadways (SID/SRD) over 20's panel. The roadways would support all future requirements for ventilation, coal clearance, manriding and supplies for exploitation of these reserves. This project was completed in March 1987.

It was decided in 1987 to increase capacity to 2.25 million tonnes. The project required improvement in face production by the introduction of improved technology with appropriate increases in the capacity of coal, dirt and supplies handling facilities both underground and on the surface.

Capital investment in this project amounted to £16.7m.

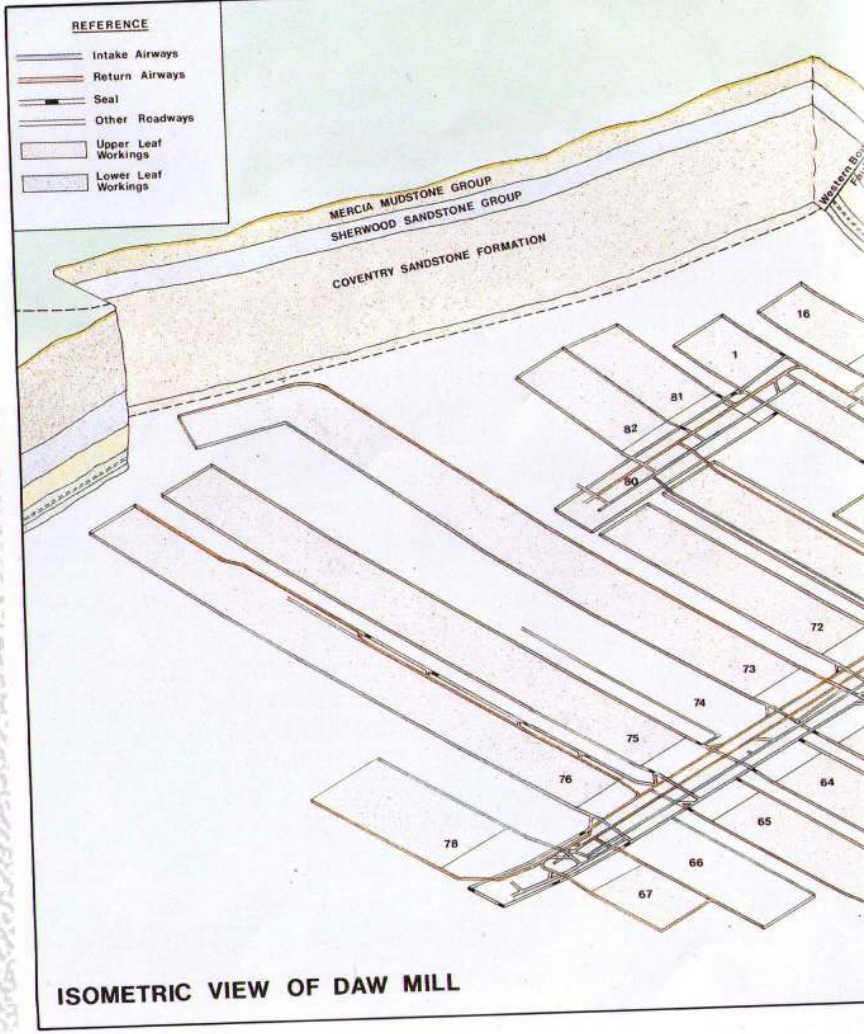
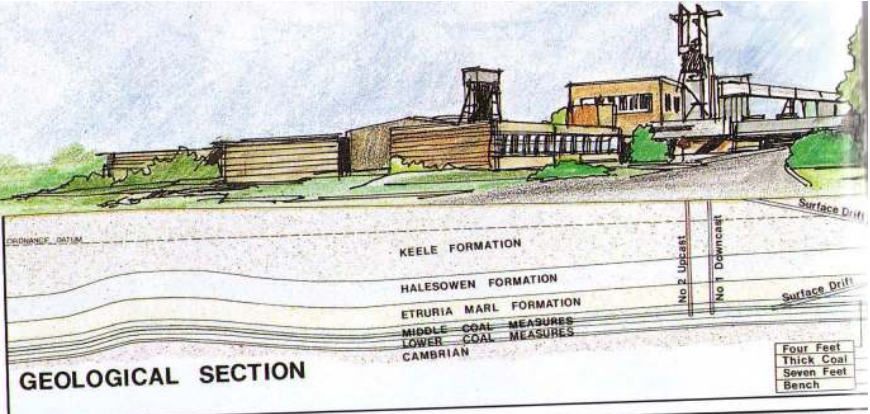
A large investment in equipment is necessary for a modern heavy duty face. A set of powered roof supports for example requires an investment of £4.5m alone. The equipping of Daw Mill's current heavy duty face 78's cost £9.7m. Major Projects since 1955 have cost £69m, a huge investment by any standards, but essential to realise the Colliery's potential for producing large volume, high quality coal effectively and profitably.



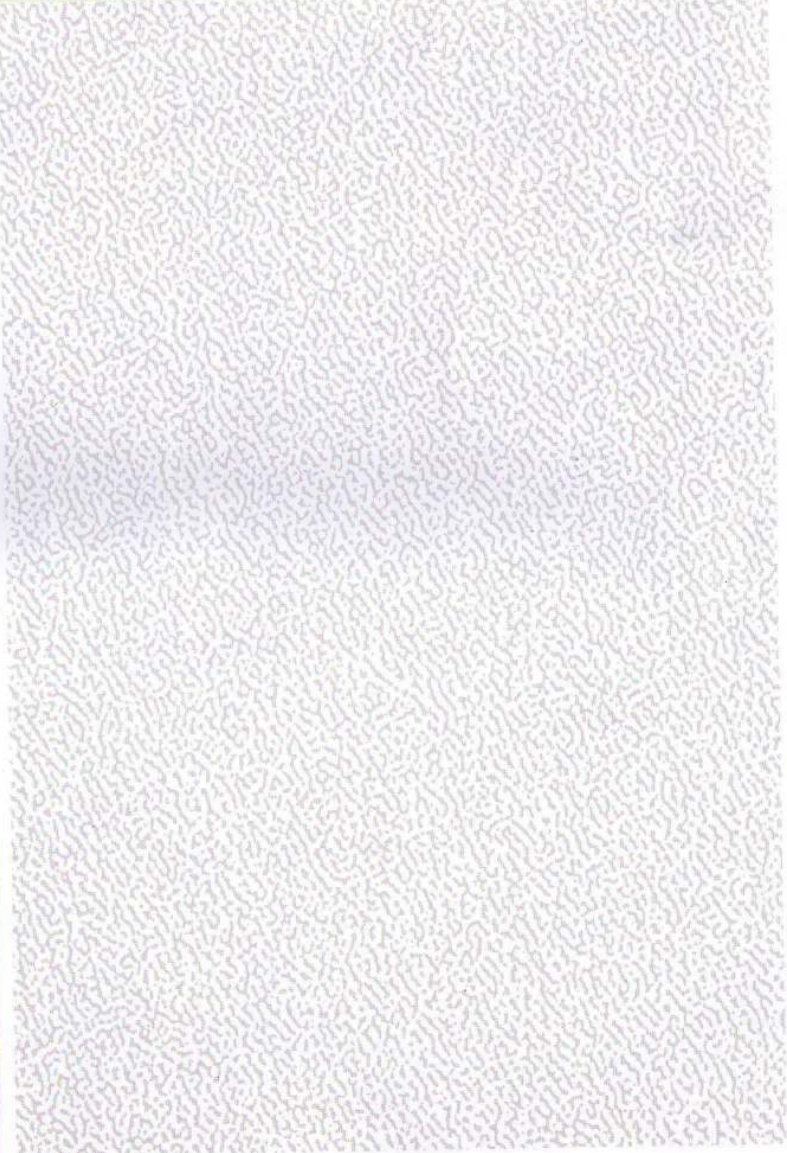
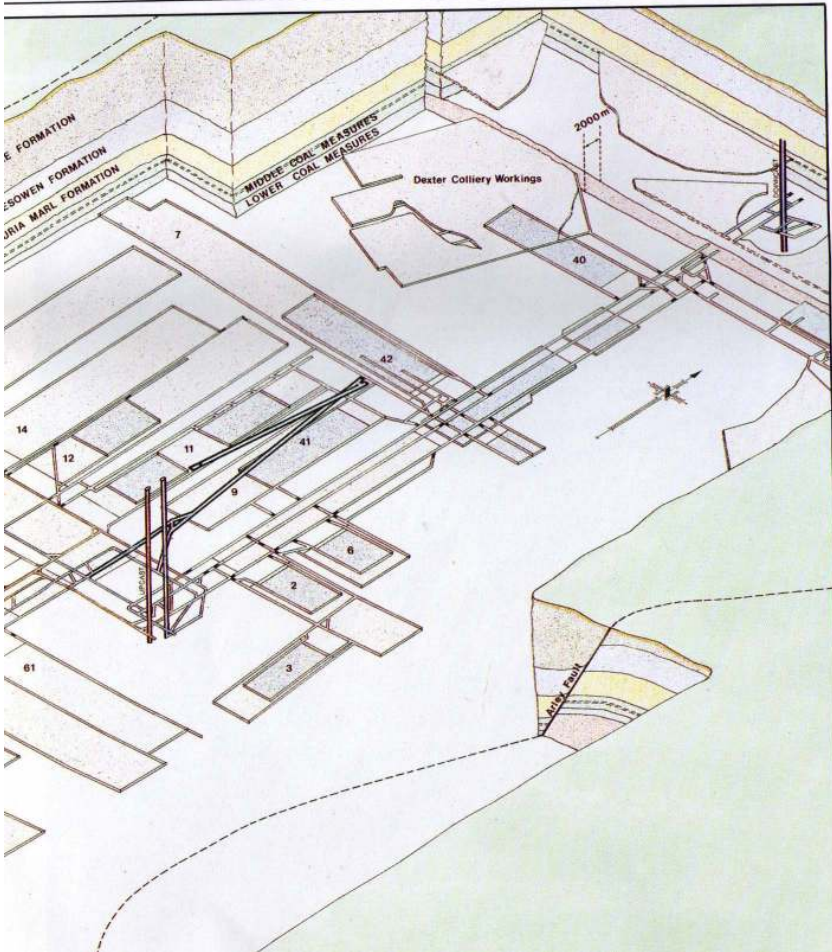
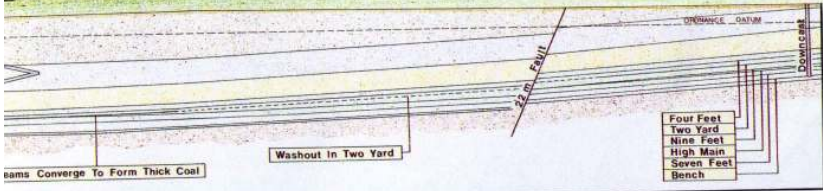
## Capital Investment

---

SOUTH







# Plan of the Colliery

Pages  
Seven & Eight



BAGGING  
PLANT  
BY-PASS  
↙

SINGLES  
↓

DOUBLES  
↓

NUTS  
↓

COBBLES  
↓

CHAIN GRATE  
SMALLS  
↓

UNTREATED  
SMALLS  
BY-PASS  
↘



Far Left: Surface Loading Point.  
Left: Coal Preparation Plant.

Daw Mill Colliery employs a 700 T.P.H. Coal Preparation Plant which is responsible for the preparation of raw coal to exact Marketing Standards. The 'Plant operates 3 separation vessels containing a liquid of high specific gravity. This liquid allows coal to float and unwanted materials to sink as the raw feed is passed through the vessel. The clean coal is then passed over various screens which size and sort to determine the particular grades produced. These products are then deposited into storage bunkers ready for despatch by Road or Rail.

Of the six Grades produced at Daw Mill by far the largest proportion is Untreated Smalls, this caters for 54% of Colliery Output. Untreated Smalls are sold directly to the generating industry for the production of Electric Power.

Other industrial grades produced are Washed Smalls and Singles. These Boiler Fuels are sold to such diverse industries as Car Manufacturing, Brewing and Hospitals with a small percentage going to local authorities for use in schools.

House Coal is still produced at the Colliery 1% being Grade A Cobbles and just under 5% Large Nuts, a large proportion of the latter being shipped to Northern Ireland via Liverpool Docks. "Pearls" used in the new Coalflow Domestic Boiler are produced by Crushing and Sizing almost the total make of Daw Mill Doubles,

approximately 6.5% of Colliery Output.

Daw Mill Colliery produces best qualities of Industrial and Domestic Fuels for a large variety of customer requirements. This is reflected in the day to day despatch of orders by Road and Rail to all parts of the country.

PRODUCT	SIZE	PERCENTAGE OF OUTPUT	MARKET
Untreated Smalls	12.5mm x 0	54%	Electrical Generating Industry, Small amount to Cement Works.
Washed Smalls Singles	25mm x 0 32 x 12.5mm	16% 18%	Motor Manufacturers Paper Manufacturers Brewing Industry Schools, Hospitals Small amount of Singles for Domestic Boilers.
Doubles	50 x 32mm	6.3%	Majority for reprocessing to manufacture Coalflow "Pearls".
Nuts	100 x 50mm	4.7%	Small amount for Domestic House Coal Market. Majority for Northern Ireland Market.
Cobbles	200 x 100mm	1%	House Coal Market.



# Coal Preparation & Markets



Left: Surface Monitoring,  
Daw Mill Control Room.

Monitoring of the underground environment is of vital importance to Management at all Collieries within British Coal and particularly so in the case of Daw Mill. With our history of spontaneous combustion and, consequently carefully adjusted airflows, accurate monitoring of methane, carbon monoxide, oxygen and air quantity is critical to the health, not only of people, but also to the Mine as a whole.

For some time now, the UNOR (tube bundle) system, together with paper roll chart recorders, have shown not only gas and air flow levels but also gradual changes or trends - these results enabling management to take action as required to prevent the build up of gases, break out of fire and the occurrence of dangerous atmospheres at the working site. However, this system, although accurate, has no displays underground and has an inbuilt time delay of up to 1 and ½ hours before the information is displayed in the Control Room. As a result, more electronic equipment is being installed to give instant read-out of environmental information both underground and in the Control Room.

Those of you involved in 66's District Development will no doubt have seen the amount of monitoring equipment installed to ensure safe re-opening of 67's old face; all that which played its own very important part in that operation over the week end of 8th/9th September 1990. Our new developments will be ventilated and monitored to

a higher standard than was previously possible and this, together with the normal checks made by officials will ensure a better and safer workplace for all men employed at Daw Mill.

Please remember that dust suppression is equally important in headings and working faces - the efficient working of water powered ventilators and pick sprays makes your work place safer!

Finally, Colliery Management and equipment manufacturers are constantly looking to reduce the effect of noise levels on personnel from machinery. This can be either by design, by erecting noise barriers or by establishing zones in which people must wear the ear defenders provided.

Please report any defect in ventilation, dust control and noise prevention equipment to your District Official. He will make certain that immediate action is taken to restore normal operations and will inform the Colliery Safety and Environment Engineers of what has been done and any further measures necessary. This process will ensure that all Safety equipment is being maintained to the highest standard and will also enable Management to improve the systems where possible.

The better the environment, the better the health - and hence the wealth!



## Our Working Environment

Pages  
Eleven & Twelve



Left: Alan Guild and the  
new Elckhoff machine.  
78's Face Operator.

Colliery Output and Records  
for the last 5 years.

**OUTPUT**

1985/86	1,360,909
1986/87	1,385,700
1987/88	1,501,051
1988/89	1,901,836
1989/90	1,546,620

**RECORDS**

Annual Output Record	1,901,836 tonnes	1988/89
Weekly Output Record	90,089 tonnes	14.1.89
Weekly Face Record-		
Advance	28,455 tonnes	- 78's District
Retreat	32,255 tonnes	- 61's District
Output Per Manshift	10.75 tonnes	14.1.89



# Colliery Output & Records

Pages  
Thirteen &  
Fourteen

*Compiled by*  
Employee Relations  
Department  
Daw Mill

*Published by*  
Central Group P.R.  
Coleorton, Leicester



CENTRAL GROUP