

## Environment Platform Wales – Meeting Notes

<b>Community of Research</b>	Coal Tip Safety
<b>Date of Meeting/Event</b>	18/9/2025
<b>Location/Format</b>	Teams Meeting
<b>Attendees:</b>	<p>Andy Schofield (AS)  Sam Deeley (SD)  Mary Lane (ML)  Jason Ngui (JN)  Robert Lee (RL)  Kasongo Shutsha (KS)  John Kinuthia (JK)  Danielle Sinnett (DS)</p>
<b>Chair/Facilitator</b>	Andy Schofield
<b>Notes Of Meeting</b>	
Welsh Government Update	<p>SD highlighted the launch of new Disused Mine and Quarry Tips Bill after five years of work.  Thanked members of group for their contributions.</p> <p>April 2027 is the next target date for establishment of new Disused Tips Authority for Wales with an implementation team within WG overseeing the preparatory work including the recent advertisement for the Chair position and later this year the new CEO post will be advertised.</p> <p>UK spending review announced £25m for 2025/26 followed by 3-year funding settlement starting in 2026/27 totalling £480m in addition to WG contribution.</p> <p>Programme therefore growing significantly and delivering an increasing programme of work.</p> <p>Funding from 2026 is not committed yet and the budget could be used to support wider research projects and other initiatives such as PhD placements within WG.</p>
Presentation by Jason Ngui	<p>JN presented ‘BGS PRIME Technology Trial for Coal Tip Assessment Proactive Coal Tip Monitoring and Decision Support’.</p> <p>ML queried if the technology would work in forested areas? Can the PRIME system operate without the Instar satellite data?</p>

	<p>JN stated that this would be possible as PRIME is predominantly subsurface monitoring.</p> <p>JN indicated that PRIME could be used on both contaminated sites and on landfill sites – it works better on a flat surface.</p> <p>Has been used to detect leakage from dams. Will generally work where material differs from underlying geology.</p> <p>JK commented on civil engineering approach to monitoring slope stability and complementarity of approaches. JN concurred that there was overlap.</p> <p>DS questioned whether the cap material of a landfill would interfere with the technology? JN indicated that this might occur if, for example, it comprises of compacted clay but this can be accounted for the models. Electrodes could be placed in such sites and would last indefinitely.</p> <p>DS concerned about durability of landfills as climate changes.</p> <p>AS referred to work by Saeed Parnow who was researching ground-penetration radar system for detection of underground water channels.</p> <p>ML would welcome further use of technology in managing underground water movements on NRW sites including metal mine sites.</p>
Future Meetings	<p>DS has a PhD student (Sam) who may be able to present at a future meeting.</p>