



Case Study

Leith Coal Outloading Plant

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Different grades of coal are at present unloaded and outloaded within the estuarial ports administered by the Forth Ports Authority. Grabbing cranes unload the coal to road vehicles and railway wagons and the outloading of coal is handled using a modern 3,000 tonnes per hour (t/h) capacity coal outloading plant at the Authority's Leith Docks.

The plant has been erected on the site of the last remaining coal wagon hoist which was built in the year 1932 and was operational until it was demolished in the year 1974 to clear a suitable site for the projected new plant. The Authority's remaining coal outloading facilities four coal hoists at Methil Docks one coal hoist at Grangemouth Docks and a coal outloading conveyor at Granton Harbour were also demolished at various times. Until then a diminishing amount of coal was still being outloaded from Methil Docks using wagon hoists but by the year 1974 the Fife Coalfields ceased to produce coal in excess of what was required for consumption by local power stations and this situation resulted in a decision being made to demolish the hoists.