



The Coal
Authority

200 Lichfield Lane
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG18 4RG

T: 01623 637 119 (Planning Enquiries)

E: planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk

W: www.gov.uk/coalauthority

For the attention of: Mr A Foote – Case Officer

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

[By email: planning@merthyr.gov.uk]

21st March 2024

Dear Mr Foote

Re: P/23/0208 - Construction of mountain bike trails, access trails and uplift track extension and amendments; Gethin Woodland Centre, A470 Pentrebach to Rhydycar Northbound, Abercanaid

Thank you for your notification of the 8th March 2024 seeking the further views of the Coal Authority on the above.

We previously commented on this application in letters to the LPA dated 26th September 2023 and 2nd February 2024. In our last letter we raised no objections but did recommend that relevant conditions be imposed on any consent granted.

The applicant has now provided a Supplementary Site Walkover Report, dated 7th March 2024 and prepared by Intégral Géotechnique (Wales) Limited. This report sets out details of the works carried out to investigate the location of the mine entries on the site.

The report authors state that the findings of the site walkover, have enabled them to conclude that the adits of concern, referenced 305203-026, 305202-004 and 305201-007, do not fall within the influencing zone of the proposed new bike trails and that rerouting of the proposed trails is not required. The report authors conclude that the potential risk to the proposed new bike trails from past coal mining activity is low.

They do however recommend that a watching brief is provided by the contractor during the construction of the proposed trails in order to check for the presence of any unrecorded mine entries, or other features, that may be present. The report authors also note that consideration should be given to avoiding all features included within this report, and the Coal Mining Risk Assessment Report, when tracking construction plant/machinery across the site, with appropriate engineering precautions taken to safeguard the safety of the public during and

following completion of the works. They state that if site clearance is required as part of the construction works, allowances should be made for any revealed adit entrances to be secured by fencing in any publicly accessible areas, in order to prevent any unauthorized access.

On the basis of the information now submitted, and the professional opinions of the report authors set out therein, there is no requirement to impose the previously recommended conditions. It is however requested that the recommendations included in the report and set out in italics above, are drawn to the applicants attention within the decision notice if permission is granted.

It is also requested that the following Informative Notes are included on any planning permission granted:

2 - Shallow coal seams

In areas where shallow coal seams are present caution should be taken when carrying out any on site burning or heat focused activities.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely

Melanie Lindsley

Melanie Lindsley BA (Hons), DipEH, DipURP, MA, PGCertUD, PGCertSP, MRTPI
Principal Planning & Development Manager

Disclaimer

The above consultation response is provided by the Coal Authority as a statutory consultee and is based upon the latest available data and the electronic consultation records held by the Coal Authority since 1 April 2013. The comments made are also based on the information provided to the Coal Authority by the Local Planning Authority and/or information that has been published on the Council's website for consultation purposed in relation to this specific planning application. The views and conclusions contained in this response may be subject to review and amendment by the Coal Authority if additional or new data/information (such as a revised Coal Mining Risk Assessment) is provided by the Local Planning Authority or the applicant for consultation purposes.

In formulating this response the Coal Authority has taken full account of the professional conclusions reached by the competent person who has prepared the Coal Mining Risk Assessment or other similar report. In the event that any future claim for liability arises in relation to this development the Coal Authority will take full account of the views, conclusions and mitigation previously expressed by the professional advisors for this development in relation to ground conditions and the acceptability of development.

