



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: Kate Glover – Case Officer

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

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

17 April 2026

Dear Kate

Re: P/26/0068

**To resurface with tarmac the uplift track that currently serves Bike Park Wales;
Gethin Woodland Centre, A470 Pentrebach To Rhydyar Northbound, Abercanaid**

Thank you for your consultation letter of 16 April 2026.

The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. As a statutory consultee, the Coal Authority has a duty to respond to planning applications and development plans in order to protect the public and the environment in mining areas.

The application site does fall within the defined Development High Risk Area; however, I can confirm that the **nature of development is exempt** from Version 8, January 2025 of the Coal Authority's *Guidance for Local Planning Authorities*.

Accordingly, and whilst there is no requirement under the risk-based approach that has been agreed with the LPA for a Coal Mining Risk Assessment to be submitted with any planning application or for the Coal Authority to be consulted on this proposal, the applicant may wish to consider the implications posed by the coal mining legacy of the site.

Most notably, our records indicate the presence of one recorded mine entry (shaft) within, or within close proximity of the planning boundary. An untreated mine entry and its resultant zone of influence pose a significant risk not only to surface stability but also public safety. The applicant should be made aware of this **by way of an informative note on any permission given and the Coal Authority.**

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

Chris MacArthur

Chris MacArthur *B.Sc.(Hons), DipTP, MRTPI*
Planning Liaison Manager

Disclaimer

The above consultation response is provided by The Coal Authority as a Statutory Consultee and is based upon the latest available coal mining data on the date of the response, and electronic consultation records held by The Coal Authority since 1 April 2013. The comments made are also based upon only the information provided to The Coal Authority by the Local Planning Authority and/or has been published on the Council's website for consultation purposes 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.

Building over or within the influencing distance of a mine entry (shaft or adit) can be dangerous and has the potential for significant risks to both the development and the occupiers if not undertaken appropriately. The Coal Authority would draw your attention to our adopted policy regarding new development and mine entries:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/building-on-or-within-the-influencing-distance-of-mine-entries>



Making a **better future** for people
and the environment **in mining areas**