



The Coal
Authority



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RTPI
Learning Partner

200 Lichfield Lane
Berry Hill
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG18 4RG

Tel: 01623 637 119 (Planning Enquiries)

Email: planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk

Web: www.gov.uk/coalauthority

For the Attention of: Caroline Pulley – Case Officer
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

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

[Copy Email: Caroline.Pulley@merthyr.gov.uk]

28 May 2020

Dear Ms Pulley

PLANNING APPLICATION: P/20/0017

New classroom building with an associated sheltered walkway to the existing school; Trelewis Primary School, High Street, Trelewis, Treharris, Merthyr Tydfil, CF46 6AH: Re-consultation

Thank you for your notification of 21 May 2020 seeking the views of the Coal Authority on further information submitted in support of the above planning application.

The Coal Authority Response: Material Consideration

As you are aware, the Coal Authority raised no objection to this planning application in our previous letter dated 06 February 2020 subject to the LPA imposing a suitably worded condition to secure the intrusive ground investigations, as recommended by applicant's technical consultants: Terra Firma (Wales) Ltd.

The planning application is now accompanied by a Ground Investigation Report, October 2019 prepared for the proposed development by WYG Environmental Planning Transport Ltd. This Report has been informed by the results of intrusive ground investigations, which includes 8no. rotary boreholes drilled to a maximum depth of 35m (Section 4.1). Borehole logs and location of where the boreholes were drilled are appended to the Report.

Based on the results of the ground investigations, the report author identifies that no workings beneath the site were encountered. Whilst coal was recorded in one location at a depth of 30.40m this was recorded as 0.50m thick.

In light of the above, Section 7.4 concludes that the mining risk assessment indicates that there is a low risk of ground instability as a result of unrecorded mining beneath the site. Therefore, further risk mitigation works are not considered necessary for the proposed development.

The Coal Authority Recommendation to the LPA

The Coal Authority considers that the content and conclusions of the Ground Investigation Report, October 2019, informed by the site investigation works (8no. boreholes drilled to 35m depth) are sufficient for the purposes of the planning system in demonstrating (based on the professional opinion of WYG Environmental Planning Transport Ltd) that the application site is safe and stable for the proposed development (Planning Policy Wales paras. 6.9.23 – 28). The Coal Authority therefore has **no objection** to the proposed development.

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

Yours sincerely

D Roberts

Deb Roberts *M.Sc. MRTPI*
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 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.

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 advisers for this development in relation to ground conditions and the acceptability of development