



The Coal
Authority



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For the Attention of: Mr H Roberts – Case Officer
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

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

22 November 2021

Dear Mr Roberts

PLANNING APPLICATION: P/21/0159

Discharge of condition 15 (site investigation) of planning permission P/20/0025; Former Ardagh Site, Dragon Parc, Abercanaid, Merthyr Tydfil – Further consultation

Thank you for your notification of 10 November 2021 seeking the further views of The Coal Authority on the above.

We have previously commented on this discharge of condition submission in letters to the LPA dated 18 May 2021 and 21 September 2021. The applicant has now provided a copy of a Coal Mining Risk Assessment, dated November 2021 and prepared by Intégral Géotechnique (Wales) Limited. This report sets out details of the further investigations carried out on site.

The report authors note that due to the presence of recorded mine workings at shallow depths within the south-western area of the site and based on the unoccupied nature of the drainage channel and required earthworks for the proposed channel development. They consider that the most appropriate remediation and/or stabilisation strategy is the installation of a reinforced geomattress, such as the Tensar TriAx 160, spanning the channel base and below the reengineered fill embankment. They note that the geomattress should comprise 500mm DTp Type 1 subbase with a Tensar TriAx 160 geogrid at the top, middle and bottom.

They comment that the occurrence of unrecorded mine entries across the site cannot be discounted and consequently in areas of new development a watching brief should be

maintained throughout the site works to identify this risk. They note that all site operatives should be made aware of this potential risk.

On the basis of the information now submitted, and subject to the recommended works being implemented on site, the Planning team at the Coal Authority would have **no objection** to the LPA discharging Condition 15 of the issued consent.

The applicant should note that Permission is required from the Coal Authority Permit and Licensing Team before undertaking any activity, such as ground investigation and ground works, which may disturb coal property. Please note that any comments that the Coal Authority may have made in a Planning context are without prejudice to the outcomes of a Permit application.

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

Yours sincerely

Melanie Lindsley

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Disclaimer

The above consultation response is provided by The Coal Authority as a Statutory Consultee and is based upon the latest available 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.