



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: Ms Caroline Pulley – Case Officer
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

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

12 December 2019

Dear Ms Caroline Pulley

PLANNING APPLICATION: P/19/0300

Discharge condition numbers 3 (materials), 4 (retaining walls) and 6 (site investigations) of application reference P/19/0123

Thank you for your consultation letter of 25 November 2019 seeking the views of The Coal Authority on the above planning application.

The Coal Authority's specific interests lie with Condition 6 of issued consent:

"No development shall take place until a site investigation has been carried out in accordance with a methodology first submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The results of the site investigations shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority before any development begins. If any land instability issues are found during the site investigation, a report specifying the measures to be taken to remediate the site to render it suitable for development shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Remedial measures shall be carried out prior to the first beneficial use of the development in accordance with the approved details and retained in perpetuity."

We note that the wording of this condition reflects our recommendation to the Local Planning Authority dated 5 June 2019 which was made in light of the content and conclusions of the Coal Mining Risk Assessment Report (Blandford Consulting, 25 April 2019) which was submitted by the applicant in support of their planning application.

The applicant has submitted a Site Investigation Report (Blandford Consulting, 19 August 2019) which presents the findings of investigations within the site boundary. The report identifies that old working were encountered during drilling and considers these workings

to be associated with ironstone veins. The report author recommends that a suitably scheme of drilling and grouting should be undertaken to stabilise these workings.

As I am sure you are aware The Coal Authority is a statutory consultee for land instability issues relating to coal mining legacy. The Coal Authority would have no specific comments to make in relation to ironstone, however, The LPA should seek to secure the recommendations made in the submitted report.

On the basis of the information submitted The Coal Authority would have **no objection** to the LPA discharging the relevant parts of Condition 3 relating to the undertaking of intrusive site investigations and the submission of a report of findings. The condition still requires the submission and undertaking of an appropriate scheme of remedial measures.

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

Yours Sincerely,

George Weightman

George Weightman | MSc. BSc.
Assistant 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 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.