



The Coal  
Authority



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RTPI

Learning Partner

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For the Attention of: Mr D Cross – Case Officer  
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

**[By Email: [planning@merthyr.gov.uk](mailto:planning@merthyr.gov.uk)]**

26<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Mr Cross

**PLANNING APPLICATION: 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 received on the 13th September 2023 seeking the views of the Coal Authority on the above planning application.

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 Coal Authority Response: Fundamental Concern**

I have reviewed the proposals and confirm that the application site falls within the defined Development High Risk Area; therefore within the application site and surrounding area there are coal mining features and hazards which need to be considered in relation to the determination of this planning application.

Our records indicate that there are coal mining features present at surface and shallow depth on the site including; 26 mine entries, coal workings and fissures. These features may pose a potential risk to surface stability and public safety.

I have reviewed the information available on the LPA website and have been unable to locate a Coal Mining Risk Assessment, or any report which assess the risks posed by recorded coal mining features to the works proposed. The Coal Authority therefore **objects** to this planning application. Without the submission of a Coal Mining Risk Assessment we do not consider that the LPA has adequate information to assess the risks posed by coal mining features to public safety and the works proposed.

Where possible routes directly over, or close to, mine entries should be avoided and this should be demonstrated on a detailed layout plan to support the CMRA. The plan should show the locations of the mine entries, their best plot positions from a review of source data, and how these features and their zones of influence relate to the development proposals.

We would be pleased to comment on any additional information the applicant submits to address the concerns raised.

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

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 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.