



The Coal
Authority



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RTPI
Learning Partner

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

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

5 February 2020

Dear Mr Roberts

PLANNING APPLICATION: P/20/0025

Engineering works including provision of drainage channel/ swale and culvert/outflow, raising the level of the land, and creation of site access road; Former Ardagh Site, Dragon Parc, Abercanaid, Merthyr Tydfil

Thank you for your notification of 28 January 2020 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 of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. 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 site location plans and the proposals and supporting information submitted and can confirm that the site falls within the defined Development High Risk Area and that a Coal Mining Risk Assessment, or equivalent report, is required.

The Coal Authority records indicate that there is recorded 1 mine entry on site and a further 6 mine entries recorded within 20m of the site boundary. The site is also in an area of recorded and likely unrecorded coal mine workings at shallow depth.

As no Coal Mining Risk Assessment has been submitted we **object** to this planning application. In accordance with the agreed risk-based approach to development management in Development High Risk Areas, the applicant should be informed that they need to submit a Coal Mining Risk Assessment Report as part of this application.

Without such an assessment of any risks to the development proposal posed by past coal mining activity, based on up-to-date coal mining information, the Coal Authority does not consider that the LPA has sufficient information to determine this planning application at the current time.

The Coal Authority would be very pleased to receive for further consultation and comment any subsequent Coal Mining Risk Assessment Report which is submitted in support of this planning application.

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
Development Team Leader (Planning)

General Information for the Applicant

Under the Coal Industry Act 1994 any intrusive activities, including initial site investigation boreholes, and/or any subsequent treatment of coal mine workings/coal mine entries for ground stability purposes require the prior written permission of The Coal Authority, since such activities can have serious public health and safety implications. Failure to obtain permission will result in trespass, with the potential for court action. In the event that you are proposing to undertake such work in the Forest of Dean local authority area our permission may not be required; it is recommended that you check with us prior to commencing any works. Application forms for Coal Authority permission and further guidance can be obtained from The Coal Authority's website at:

www.gov.uk/get-a-permit-to-deal-with-a-coal-mine-on-your-property

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.