



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 C Pulley – Case Officer
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

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

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

17 August 2021

Dear Ms Pulley

PLANNING APPLICATION: P/21/0220

New access road and parking with associated re-profiling of ground; The Wern, Cae'r Wern, Ynysfach, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 1AE: Re-consultation

Thank you for your notification of 11 August 2021 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 objected to this planning application in our previous letter to you dated 07 July 2021 as no Coal Mining Risk Assessment had been submitted at that time to assess the risk to the proposed development from former coal mining activity identified at this site.

The planning application is now accompanied by a Mining Risk Assessment, dated 16 March 2021 prepared for the proposed development by Dr Malcolm Blandford, Chartered Geologist at Blandford Consulting. The Assessment has been informed by an appropriate range of historical, geological and coal mining information.

It is noted that within Section 1: Introduction of the Assessment, recommends the inclusion of a geotextile grid to mitigate against the risk of subsidence from the presence of shallow mine workings. However, having carried out a review of the available information, Dr Blandford informs that whilst the site and surrounding area have been extensively worked by underground mining operations (coal and ironstone), and the

proposed development will only result in very shallow excavations (does not include any hard structures or buildings), there is no requirement to include any mitigation measures from the mining heritage at this site.

Due to the history of mining in the area, we welcome the comments made that vigilance should be maintained during all ground preparation works for any unforeseen mining related workings (and / or unrecorded mine entries). If unrecorded mine entries are found they should initially be fenced off to make the area safe. Any identified ground anomaly should be thoroughly assessed by an experienced and competent body and the Coal Authority will need to be notified if any such ground anomalies relative to coal are found.

The Coal Authority Recommendation to the LPA

The Coal Authority considers that the content and conclusions of the Mining Risk Assessment, dated 16 March 2021 are sufficient for the purposes of the planning system in demonstrating (based on the professional opinion of Dr Malcolm Blandford, Chartered Geologist at Blandford Consulting) that the application site is safe and stable for the proposed development (Planning Policy Wales paras. 6.9.23 – 28). The Coal Authority therefore **withdraws its objection** to the proposed development.

We consider it prudent that the LPA add the following wording as an Informative Note to the Decision Notice should the LPA grant planning permission:

If any coal mining features are unexpectedly encountered during development, this should be reported immediately to the Coal Authority on 0345 762 6848. Further information is available on the Coal Authority website at:
www.gov.uk/government/organisations/the-coal-authority

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 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.