



The Coal
Authority



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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 H Leach
Bury Metropolitan Borough Council

[By Email: development.control@bury.gov.uk]

30 September 2022

Dear Ms Leach

PLANNING APPLICATION: 68799

Partial demolition and replacement of 1 no. dwelling; The Gatehouse, Woodhill Road, Bury, BL8 1BN

Thank you for your consultation letter of 20 September 2022 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: Substantive Concern

I have reviewed the site location plans, the proposals and the supporting information submitted and available to view on the LPA website. I can confirm that the site falls within the defined Development High Risk Area and that a Coal Mining Risk Assessment is required to support this application.

The Coal Authority records indicate that the site is likely to have been subject to historic unrecorded underground shallow coal mining. Voids and broken ground associated with such workings can pose a risk of ground instability and may give rise to the emission of mine gases. The site also lies within a Surface Coal Resource Zone.

The applicant has submitted limited coal mining information to accompany the planning application, comprising a Preliminary Risk Assessment (dated August 2022, prepared by Sedgwick Associates Chartered Town Planners). However, this information does not provide any assessment of the potential risks posed to the development proposal by past

coal mining activity and does not appear to have been prepared by a geotechnical expert, nor has it been based on appropriate and up-to-date coal mining information for the proposed development site.

Notwithstanding the fact that a dwelling already exists on site at present, the construction works and disturbance involved in erecting the much larger proposal can instigate surface instability in the event that historic unrecorded shallow coal mining has taken place beneath and within influencing distance of the proposal. The Coal Authority therefore **objects** to this planning application.

In accordance with the agreed risk-based approach to development management in the defined Development High Risk Areas, the applicant should be informed that they need to submit a Coal Mining Risk Assessment Report, or equivalent report, to support this planning application. This assessment should be prepared by a suitably qualified person. Without such a risk assessment, the Coal Authority does not consider that the LPA has sufficient information to determine this planning application.

It is a requirement of the National Planning Policy Framework, paragraphs 183-184 that the applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the LPA that the application site is safe, stable and suitable for development.

The Coal Authority would be very pleased to receive for further consultation and comment any additional information submitted by the applicant.

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

Yours sincerely

Ashley Langrick

Ashley Langrick BA (HONS) Dip TRP MRTPI
Planning and Development Manager (Corporate Projects)

General Information for the Applicant

The coal mining information within the Coal Mining Report (such as a Non-Residential Coal Mining Report, an Enviro-All-in-One Report or other factual report) already obtained should be used as the basis for a Coal Mining Risk Assessment Report (CMRA). The CMRA should assess whether or not past mining activity poses any risk to the development proposal and, if necessary, propose mitigation measures to address any issues of land instability. This could include further intrusive investigation on site to ensure that the Local Planning Authority has sufficient information to determine the planning application.

The need for a Coal Mining Risk Assessment is set out in the National Planning Practice Guide at:

<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/land-stability/land-stability-guidance/>

Guidance on how to produce a Coal Mining Risk Assessment is also contained at:
<https://www.gov.uk/planning-applications-coal-mining-risk-assessments>

The Coal Authority's records indicate that surface coal resource is present on the site, although this should not be taken to imply that mineral extraction would be economically viable, technically feasible or environmentally acceptable. As you will be aware those authorities with responsibility for minerals planning and safeguarding will have identified where they consider minerals of national importance are present in your area and related policy considerations. As part of the planning application decision making process consideration should be given to such advice in respect of the indicated surface coal resource.

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:
<https://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 coal mining 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.