



200 Lichfield Lane
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG18 4RG

T: 01623 637 119 (Planning Enquiries)

E: planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk

W: www.gov.uk/coalauthority

For the attention of: Ms C. Orrell – Case Officer
Bury Council

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

22 June 2026

Dear Ms Orrell

Re: Planning application 73223

Construction of full-size synthetic turf pitch, including a 3m perimeter safety runoff; installation of perimeter panel fencing up to 4.5m high, internal spectator fencing approx. 1.1m high; LED floodlighting; designated goal storage and spectator areas, storage container for grounds maintenance equipment at Philips High School, Higher Lane, Whitefield, Manchester, M45 7PH

Thank you for your notification of 5 June 2026 seeking the views of the Coal Authority (trading as the Mining Remediation Authority) on the above 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: MATERIAL CONSIDERATION

The application site falls marginally within the defined Development High Risk Area (DHRA). Our information indicates that a coal seam is conjectured to outcrop at or close to the surface within the southern corner of the site, dipping in a southerly direction. This seam is likely to have been subject to unrecorded mining activity at shallow depth in the past. Such workings can pose a risk to surface stability and public safety.

We note from Section 3.10 of the supporting Site Investigation Report (January 2026, prepared by JPP) that a Coal Mining Risk Assessment, dated October 2025, has been produced for the site by JPP. Whilst it does not appear that the CMRA has been submitted in support of the planning application, the SI Report advises that it was produced to inform the pitch position. It advises that the pitch has now been positioned as far as possible from the recorded conjectured coal outcrop crossing the site and the associated DHRA.

Having reviewed the proposed Site Plan (Drawing no. 25-0637(G-236608) 02P), we note that the part of the site where the development is now proposed is located outside the DHRA, i.e. falls within the Development Low Risk Area. The Coal Authority's Planning & Development Team has **NO OBJECTION** to this planning application. We do, however, recommend that the following wording is included as an Informative Note on any planning permission granted:

The application site lies in an area defined by the Mining Remediation Authority as containing potential hazards arising from former coal mining activity at the surface or shallow depth. These hazards can include: mine entries (shafts and adits); shallow coal workings; geological features (fissures and break lines); mine gas and former surface mining sites. Although such hazards are seldom readily visible, they can be present and problems can occur in the future, particularly as a result of new development taking place.

Under the Coal Industry Act 1994 any intrusive activities which disturb or enter any coal seams, coal mine workings or coal mine entries (shafts and adits) require the prior written permission of the Mining Remediation Authority since these activities can have serious public health and safety implications. Such activities could include site investigation boreholes, piling activities, other ground works and any subsequent treatment of coal mine workings and coal mine entries for ground stability purposes. Failure to obtain permission to enter or disturb our property will result in the potential for court action. Application forms for Mining Remediation Authority permission and further guidance can be obtained from: www.gov.uk/get-a-permit-to-deal-with-a-coal-mine-on-your-property.

If any suspected coal mining feature is encountered on site, this should be reported immediately to the Mining Remediation Authority on 0800 288 4242. Further information is available at: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/the-coal-authority.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss the above matters further.

Yours sincerely

James Smith

James Smith *BSc. (Hons), Dip.URP, MRTPI*

Planning and Development Manager

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).