



The Coal  
Authority



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Learning Partner

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For the Attention of: Nina Sayers – Case Officer  
Kirklees Council

[By Email: [DC.Admin@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:DC.Admin@kirklees.gov.uk)]

21 June 2023

Dear Nina

**PLANNING APPLICATION: 2023/62/90988/E**

**Erection of detached dwelling; rear of 3 East Fold, Skelmanthorpe, Huddersfield, HD8 9EZ**

Thank you for your consultation letter of 2 June 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: Substantive 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, specifically probable shallow coal mine workings. 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 applicant has submitted a Coal Mining Risk Assessment, Desk Study (May 2023, prepared by GeoEnviro Solutions Ltd) to accompany the planning application. However, the proposed mitigation in the way of a watching brief during the site strip is not considered proportionate or appropriate when considered against assessment of the risks posed by coal mining legacy, as detailed within the report (i.e. medium risk). Consequently, the Coal Authority considers that the report should be revised and resubmitted to fully address these concerns. The Coal Authority therefore **objects** to this planning application.

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

Yours sincerely

**Chris MacArthur** B.Sc. (Hons), DipTP, MRTPI  
**Planning Liaison Manager**

#### 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:

<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.