



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](mailto:planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk)

Web: [www.gov.uk/coalauthority](http://www.gov.uk/coalauthority)

For the Attention of: Nick Hirst – Case Officer  
Kirklees Council

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

28 June 2023

Dear Nick

**PLANNING APPLICATION: 2023/44/91673/E COND**

**Discharge condition 16 (Coal Mining Risk Assessment) on previous permission 2021/93644 for erection and operation of grid-connected solar photovoltaic farm to supply up to 49.9MW, with ancillary infrastructure and landscaping and biodiversity enhancements; Low Farm, Wakefield Road, Grange Moor, Huddersfield, WF4 4BB**

Thank you for your consultation letter of 9 June 2023 seeking the views of the Coal Authority on the above discharge of condition 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:

Condition 16 of the permission states:

*'Prior to development commencing, a scheme of intrusive site investigations relating to Coal Mining Risk, shall be carried out on site to establish the risks posed to the development by past coal mining activity. Thereafter, a remediation strategy to address any identified land stability*

*issues arising from coal mining, shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. This should include the submission of the approved layout plan to illustrate the actual position of the recorded mine entries, if found present and calculated no build exclusion zones of each mine entry within influencing distance of the site. Remediation of the shall thereafter take place in accordance with the approved details.'*

Solar arrays are now exempt from requiring coal mining risk assessments, as the applicant's agent correctly acknowledges in their supporting letter dated 2 June 2023. On the basis that the content of the letter confirms that cognisance will be afforded to positioning the arrays and associated infrastructure away from the mine entries and their zones of influence, the Coal Authority **would raise no objections should the LPA be minded to discharge Condition 16.**

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**

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.