



The Coal
Authority

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For the attention of: Ms N. Helliwell – Case Officer

Kirklees Council

[By email: DC.Admin@kirklees.gov.uk]

31 December 2025

Dear Ms Helliwell

Re: Planning application 2025/62/93084/E

Erection of detached dwelling at 14 Thornhill Park Avenue, Thornhill, Dewsbury, WF12 0DA

Thank you for your notification of 19 December 2025 seeking the views of the Coal Authority (trading as the Mining Remediation 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: MATERIAL CONSIDERATION

The application site falls within the defined Development High Risk Area; therefore, within the 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.

Our information indicates that the site lies in an area where historic unrecorded coal mining is likely to have taken place at shallow depth. Voids and broken ground associated with such workings can pose a risk to ground stability and public safety.

We understand that the current application proposes a revised scheme to that previously proposed under planning application 2023/62/91577/E. The Coal Authority's Planning & Development Team raised no objection to planning application 2023/62/91577/E subject to the imposition of conditions on any permission issued to secure the undertaking of intrusive investigations to establish the risks posed to the development by past shallow coal mining activity and the implementation of any necessary remedial or mitigatory measures.

The above recommendation took into account the conclusions and recommendations contained within a Coal Mining Risk Assessment (August 2023, prepared by Earth Environmental & Geotechnical Ltd) which accompanied the application. This report identified a potential risk of historical shallow workings being present beneath the development area. It went on to recommend the carrying out of an intrusive ground investigation, comprising the drilling of boreholes, to establish the shallow coal mining situation.

We note that the current application is accompanied by a Coal Mining Risk Assessment report (27 November 2025, prepared by Advant Engineers) and correctly identifies that the application site may have been subject to past coal mining activity and has been informed by an appropriate range of sources of information.

Based on this review of existing sources of geological and mining information the report correctly identifies the conjectured position of the nearby coal seam outcrop. However, the report confirms that due to its quality, there are no records of it ever having been worked in the local area. On the basis that the report goes on to confirm that all other coal seams are at sufficient depth not to pose a risk to ground stability, the Planning and Development Team at the Coal Authority has the reassurance that the site is safe and stable from a mining viewpoint.

Mine Gas

It should be noted that wherever coal resources or coal mine features exist at shallow depth or at the surface, there is the potential for mine gases to exist. These risks should always be considered by the LPA. The Planning & Development team at the Coal Authority, in its role of statutory consultee in the planning process, only comments on gas issues if our data indicates that gas emissions have been recorded on the site. However, the absence of such a comment should not be interpreted to imply that there are no gas risks present. Whether or not specific emissions have been noted by the Coal Authority, local planning authorities should seek their own technical advice on.

SUDS

It should be noted that where SUDs are proposed as part of the development scheme consideration will need to be given to the implications of this in relation to the stability and public safety risks posed by coal mining legacy. The developer should seek their own advice from a technically competent person to ensure that a proper assessment has been made of the potential interaction between hydrology, the proposed drainage system and ground stability, including the implications this may have for any mine workings which may be present beneath the site.

The Coal Authority Recommendation to the LPA

The Coal Authority considers that the content and conclusions of the supporting Coal Mining Risk Assessment report are sufficient for the purposes of the planning system in demonstrating that the application site is safe and stable. The Coal Authority therefore **has no objection** to the proposed development.

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 data and records held by The Coal Authority on the date of the response. 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.



Making a **better future** for people
and the environment **in mining areas**