



The Coal
Authority

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For the attention of: Ellie Thornhill - Case Officer

Kirklees Council

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

8 January 2026

Dear Ellie

Re: 2025/62/93438/E

Erection of 10-unit (class C2) special needs care home, day centre (class E(f), administration and training building (class E(g)(i); Arena Young Peoples Centre, Moorlands Road, Dewsbury, WF13 2LF

Thank you for your consultation letter of 7 January 2026 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: **Material Consideration**

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

The Coal Authority information indicates that 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 coal mining workings.

Voids and broken\disturbed ground associated with such workings can pose a risk of ground instability and may give rise to the emission of mine gases.

The Coal Authority notes the submitted Phase 2 Intrusive Site Investigation Report (dated October 2025) from Geoinvestigate Ltd, the content of which confirms site investigations. In terms of the results, commentary within the Report confirms that no shallow workings were encountered underlying the site, just intact coal seams.

On account of the above, and on the basis that the Report confirms that risks posed by shallow mining are low, I can confirm that the Coal Authority is satisfied that the issue of the potential for coal mining legacy to affect the proposed development has been adequately investigated.

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 information prepared by Geoinvestigate Ltd are sufficient for the purposes of the planning system in demonstrating that the application site is safe and stable for the proposed development. 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 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.

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.