



The Coal  
Authority

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**For the attention of: Rachael Roddis – Case Officer**

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

[By email: [developmentmanagement@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:developmentmanagement@barnsley.gov.uk)]

29<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Dear Ms Roddis

**Re: Planning Application 2025/1067**

**Erection of sub-station; Land Off Dearne Valley Parkway, Rockingham Business Park, Hoyland, Barnsley**

Thank you for your notification of 17 December 2025 seeking the views of the Coal Authority (trading as the Mining Remediation Authority) on the above.

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**

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.

Our records indicate that the site is in an area of likely historic unrecorded coal mine workings at shallow depth. It is also within the boundary of a site from which coal has been removed by surface mining methods.

The planning application is supported by a Coal Mining Risk Assessment and Coal Recovery Report, dated February 2021 and prepared by JPG (Leeds) Ltd. This report has been informed by an appropriate range of sources of information. We note that this report has been produced to support a wider scheme of development, however we note that this report incorporates the current application site.

The report states that review of the abandonment plans has confirmed that surface mining has taken place on the site. The extent of the former surface mining and its associated highwall have been identified on the geotechnical constraints plan included in the report. The report authors comment that where the highwall is present there is a risk of differential settlement.

The report authors note that the presence of unrecorded, underground coal workings between the base of the opencast and the Lidgett is considered to be very low due to the presence of the Haigh Moor Rock, which is a significant sandstone unit. They comment that the risk of underground coal mining, both recorded and unrecorded, affecting the surface stability of the site has therefore been assessed as very low and no mitigation with regard to underground coal workings is required.

We note that the substation is positioned to the north of the surface mining highwall, as identified on the Geotechnical Constraints Plan, Dwg No 5419-JPG-SW-00-DR-G-0007. On the basis of the information submitted, and the professional opinions of the report authors set out therein, the Planning team have **no objection** to this planning application.

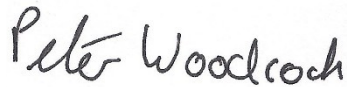
## Mine Gas

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 the gas hazards that

may exist, and appropriate measures to be implemented, from technically competent personnel.

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

Yours sincerely,



**Peter Woodcock** | BSc (Hons), AssocRTPI  
**Assistant 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 data and the electronic consultation records held by the Coal Authority since 1 April 2013. The comments made are also based on the information provided to the Coal Authority by the Local Planning Authority and/or information that 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 advisors for this development in relation to ground conditions and the acceptability of development.*