



The Coal
Authority

200 Lichfield Lane
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG18 4RG

W: www.gov.uk/coalauthority

For the attention of: Matthew Marsden – Case Officer
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

1 June 2026

Dear Matthew

Re: 2026/0088

Retrospective application for the construction of a new vehicular access track and associated security fencing to support the operation and maintenance of a new Sewage Pumping Station (SPS); land to the north of Balk Farm Court, Birdwell, Barnsley

Thank you for your notification of 29 May 2026.

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 records indicate 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.

The Coal Authority Recommendation to the LPA

As you will be aware, the Coal Authority's general approach in cases where development is proposed within the Development High Risk Area is to recommend that the applicant obtains coal mining information for the application site and submits a Coal Mining Risk Assessment to support the planning application.

However, and whilst a Coal Mining Risk Assessment does not appear to accompany the planning application, when considering the very modest nature of the development undertaken and that it would constitute 'Exempt development', the Coal Authority would **not expect the planning application to be supported by a Coal Mining Risk Assessment**, or equivalent, to assess the risk to the development from coal mining legacy.

Accordingly, there is no requirement under the risk-based approach that has been agreed with the LPA for a Coal Mining Risk Assessment to be submitted with any planning application or for the Coal Authority to be consulted on these proposals.

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.