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For the attention of: Ms J. Duffield – Case Officer

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

[By email: developmentmanagement@barnsley.gov.uk]

21 October 2026

Dear Ms Duffield

Re: Planning application 2026/0650

Erection of building for vehicle maintenance (Use Class Sui Generis) and associated infrastructure including fuelling facilities; truck and plant wash facilities with surfacing works and formation of parking, following the demolition of existing buildings and structures at Wordsworth Business Park, Whaley Road, Barugh, Barnsley, S75 1FJ - RECONSULTATION

Thank you for your notification of 20 October 2026 seeking the further views of the Coal Authority (trading as the Mining Remediation Authority) on the above planning application.

The Coal Authority response: FURTHER INFORMATION / CLARIFICATION REQUIRED

As you are aware, the application site falls within the defined Development High Risk Area. Our information indicates that the site lies in an area where coal seams outcrop at or close to surface which may have been worked in the past. Such workings can pose a risk to surface stability and public safety.

You will recall that we last commented on this proposal in our initial consultation response letter of 3 September 2026. In this letter, in consideration of the conclusions and recommendations contained in the supporting Coal Mining Risk Assessment (29 May 2026, prepared by JPG), we raised no objection to the application subject to the imposition of relevant conditions on any planning permission granted.

We note that the applicant has now submitted a Geoenvironmental Ground Investigation report (October 2026, prepared by JPG) in support of their application. Based on recommendations made in the original CMRA, the report indicates that four rotary open hole boreholes were drilled at the site to further assess the risk posed by possible unrecorded shallow coal mining legacy associated with the Dunsil coal seam and a further unnamed seam. The report states at Section 5.2:

'In RO101A, RO102 and RO103, located in the west of the site, a coal seam assumed to be the Dunsil was recorded at depths of 4.40m bgl, 5.50m bgl and 3.38m bgl respectively. With seam thicknesses of 1.10m, 0.90m and 0.82m (with a 0.40m mudstone parting) recorded respectively.

'RO104, located to the east of the conjectured outcrop of the unnamed coal seam recorded a 0.40m thick coal seam at 6.90m bgl and a 0.10m thick coal seam at 12.90m bgl. It was anticipated that the Dunsil coal seam would have been encountered beneath the unnamed coal seam. The borehole was extended to 19.50m, no further coal seams were encountered.

'No evidence of shallow underground coal workings, such as broken ground or loss of flush, was recorded in any of the boreholes. All coal seams were proven to be intact.

'On this basis, the risk to the surface instability due to shallow coal mining is considered to be negligible.'

The Coal Authority's Planning & Development Team acknowledges the professional opinion expressed in the Geoenvironmental Ground Investigation. However, it is evident that the investigation has proven the presence of a coal seam of potentially workable thickness within influencing depth of the surface in the part of the site where the building is proposed.

In order to enable us to reconsider our initial recommendation, we respectfully request that further commentary is provided by the report author, in light of authoritative UK guidance contained in CIRIA C758D *Abandoned mine workings manual*, to confirm that they are satisfied that the number and spread of boreholes drilled provides sufficient information to be confident that the identified seam has not been worked beneath the site where it may lie within influencing depth of the surface, and that no further works are required in this regard.

Yours sincerely

James Smith

James Smith BSc. (Hons), Dip.URP, MRTPI

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 purposed 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.