The Coal Authority

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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For the Attention of: Mr Ben Hurst – Case Officer
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

[By Email: planning@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk]

06 May 2020

Dear Mr Hurst

PLANNING APPLICATION: SMD/2020/0208

Construction of a manege consisting of perimeter post and rail fencing. The proposed area will be dug out by up to a meter to accommodate the change in level of the current landfall. Surface drainage will be installed which will run off to the current soak away at the bottom of the field. The surface will be covered with a layer stone and sand and finished with a rubber all weather surface; Whympenny, Godley Lane, Dilhorne, Staffordshire, ST10 2PF

Thank you for your notification of 30 April 2020 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 of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. 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 site location plans and the proposals and supporting information submitted and available to view on the LPA website and can confirm that the site falls within the defined Development High Risk Area.

The Coal Authority records indicate that the application site lies in an area of probable shallow coal mining; a thick coal seam inferred to outcrop to the west of the site; and the site is within the boundary of a site from which coal has been extracted by surface mining (opencast) methods.

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, when considering this particular proposal, it does not appear that any significant groundworks will be taking place; only groundworks to accommodate change of ground levels / surface drainage. In light of the above, and taking into consideration the nature of the development (construction of a manege area / fencing) and no built development is taking place, we do not consider that a Coal Mining Risk Assessment is necessary for this proposal in this particular instance and **do not object** to this planning application.

However, the Coal Authority does recommend that, should planning permission be granted for this proposal, the following wording is included as an Informative Note on any planning permission granted:

The proposed development lies within an area that has been defined by the Coal Authority as containing potential hazards arising from former coal mining activity. These hazards can include: mine entries (shafts and adits); shallow coal workings; geological features (fissures and break lines); mine gas and previous surface mining sites. Although such hazards are seldom readily visible, they can often be present and problems can occur in the future, particularly as a result of development taking place.

Any intrusive activities which disturb or enter any coal seams, coal mine workings or coal mine entries (shafts and adits) requires a Coal Authority Permit. Such activities could include site investigation boreholes, digging of foundations, piling activities, other ground works and any subsequent treatment of coal mine workings and coal mine entries for ground stability purposes. Failure to obtain a Coal Authority Permit for such activities is trespass, with the potential for court action

Property specific summary information on past, current and future coal mining activity can be obtained from: www.groundstability.com or a similar service provider.

If any of the coal mining features are unexpectedly encountered during development, this should be reported immediately to the Coal Authority on 0345 762 6848. Further information is available on the Coal Authority website at: www.gov.uk/coalauthority

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

Yours sincerely

D Roberts

Deb Roberts *M.Sc. MRTPI*
Planning & Development 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.