



**The Coal
Authority**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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For the Attention of: Mr R. Griffiths
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

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

17 December 2013

Dear Mr R. Griffiths

PLANNING APPLICATION: P2013/0954

Two Dwellings (Outline); March Hywel, Cilfrew, Neath, West Glamorgan, SA10 8ND

Thank you for your consultation letter of 09/12/2013 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 Energy and Climate Change. 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.

The applicant has obtained appropriate and up-to-date coal mining information for the proposed development site and has used this information to inform the Coal Mining Risk Assessment Report (dated October 2006), which accompanies this planning application.

The Coal Mining Risk Assessment Report correctly identifies that the application site was potentially subject to past coal mining activity.

The Coal Authority Recommendation to the LPA

The Coal Authority is satisfied with the broad conclusions of the Coal Mining Risk Assessment Report, informed by the site investigation works undertaken in September 2006; that coal mining legacy issues are not significant within the application site and do not pose a risk to the proposed development. Accordingly, The Coal Authority **does not object** to the proposed development and no specific mitigation measures are required as part of this development proposal to address coal mining legacy issues.

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

Yours sincerely

Anthony B Northcote

Anthony B Northcote Dip TP, Dip URP, MA, MIPS, MInstLM, MCMI, MRTPI
Planning Advisor to The Coal Authority

General Information for the Applicant

Under the Coal Industry Act 1994 any intrusive activities, including initial site investigation boreholes, and/or any subsequent treatment of coal mine workings/coal mine entries for ground stability purposes require the prior written permission of The Coal Authority, since such activities can have serious public health and safety implications. Failure to obtain permission will result in trespass, with the potential for court action. Application forms for Coal Authority permission and further guidance can be obtained from The Coal Authority's website at:

<http://coal.decc.gov.uk/en/coal/cms/services/permits/permits.aspx>

Disclaimer

The above consultation response is provided by The Coal Authority as a Statutory Consultee and is based upon the latest available data and records held by The Coal Authority on the date of the response. 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.