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For the attention of: Claire Hall – Case Officer

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

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

6 July 2026

Dear Claire

Re: P2026/0426

Request for Screening Opinion under Regulation 6 of the Town and Country Planning (Environment Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 for a proposed Flood Alleviation Scheme; Cryddan Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme, Melyn, Neath

Thank you for your consultation letter of 3 July 2026 seeking the views of the Coal 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

The 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, specifically both

shallow coalmine workings associated with thick coal seam outcrops, which may have been worked from the surface.

Voids and broken/disturbed ground associated with such workings may pose a risk to ground stability and public safety.

In accordance with the agreed risk-based approach to development management in Development High Risk Areas, the past coal mining activities and the presence of surface coal resources within the site should be fully considered as part of the Environmental Statement (ES); this should take the form of a risk assessment, together with any necessary mitigation measures.

Whilst the Coal Authority notes the submitted letter report provided by WSP Ltd, it would appear that no form of assessment has been made of the impact of coal mining legacy. Within the application site and surrounding area there are coal mining features and hazards which need to be considered. This issue should be included within a range of proposed studies to be undertaken should an EIA be required.

Consideration of Coal Mining Issues in the ES

There are a number of coal mining legacy issues that can potentially pose a risk to new development and therefore should be considered as part of an Environmental Statement for development proposals within coalfield areas:

- The location and stability of abandoned mine entries
- The extent and stability of shallow mine workings
- Outcropping coal seams and unrecorded mine workings
- Hydrogeology, mine water and mine gas

In addition, consideration should be afforded as part of development proposals and the ES to the following:

- If surface coal resources are present, whether prior extraction of the mineral resource is practicable and viable
- Whether Coal Authority permission is required to intersect, enter, or disturb any coal or coal workings during site investigation or development work

Coal Mining Information

Information on these issues can be obtained from the Coal Authority's Property Search Services Team (Tel: 0345 762 6848 or via the Coal Authority's [website](#)) or book an



appointment to visit the Coal Authority's Mining Records Centre in Mansfield to view our mining information (Tel: 0345 7626848).

In accordance with our consultation requirements, we look forward to receiving the planning application and Environmental Statement for comment in due course.

I trust this is acceptable, please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information or would like to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

Chris MacArthur

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.



Making a **better future** for people
and the environment **in mining areas**