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For the attention of: Carol Grant – Case Officer
Amber Valley Borough Council

[By email: development@ambervalley.gov.uk]

9 November 2026

Dear Carol

Re: Planning application AVA/2026/0660

Erection of two dwellings at Land to the side / rear of 7 Woodside, Morley, Ilkeston, Derbyshire

Thank you for your notification of 5 November 2026 seeking the views of the Coal Authority (trading as the Mining Remediation Authority) on the above planning application.

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 largely within the defined Development High Risk Area; therefore, within the 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.

More specifically, our information indicates that the site lies in an area where historic unrecorded coal mining is likely to have taken place at shallow depth, associated with a coal seam which is conjectured to outcrop within the site. Voids and broken ground associated with such workings can pose a risk to ground stability and public safety.

We note that the application is accompanied by a Coal Mining Risk Assessment (October 2026, prepared by PS Geotechnical Consultancy). Based on a review of coal mining and geological information, the report concludes that there exists the potential for the outcropping Kilburn Coal to have been subject to unrecorded shallow mining activity.

Accordingly, the report goes on to recommend the carrying out of intrusive ground investigations, in the form of the drilling of rotary boreholes, in order to establish the Kilburn Coal outcrop position, its thickness and dip of the and the state of any associated unrecorded mine workings.

The Coal Authority's Planning & Development Team welcomes the recommendation for the undertaking of intrusive site investigations. These should be designed and carried out by competent persons in order to properly assess ground conditions and to establish the exact situation regarding coal mining legacy and the risks it may pose to the development.

The report does not outline what measures may be required in the event that mine workings are encountered at shallow depth. The results of the investigations should therefore be reviewed by competent persons and used to inform any remedial works and/or mitigation measures that may be necessary to ensure the safety and stability of the proposed development as a whole. Such works/measures may include grouting stabilisation works and foundation solutions.

The applicant should note that Permission is required from our Permitting Team before undertaking any activity, such as initial ground investigation works and subsequent remedial works, which may disturb our property. Any comments that we may have made in a Planning context are without prejudice to the outcomes of a Permit application.

The report identifies the potential for the presence of unrecorded mine entries within the site and recommends that vigilance is maintained during earthworks in this regard. We take this opportunity to highlight that should any previously unrecorded mine entry be encountered during development, appropriate treatment of the feature will be required, in accordance with a Mining Remediation Authority Permit.

Mine Gas

It should be noted that wherever coal resources or coal mine features exist at shallow depth or at the surface, there is the potential for mine gases to exist. These risks should always be considered by the LPA. The Planning & Development Team at the Coal Authority, in its role of statutory consultee in the planning process, only comments on gas issues if our data indicates that gas emissions have been recorded on the site. However, the absence of such a comment should not be interpreted to imply that there are no gas risks present. Whether or not specific emissions have been noted by the Coal Authority, local planning authorities should seek their own technical advice on the gas hazards that may

exist, and appropriate measures to be implemented, from technically competent personnel.

SuDS

Where SuDS are proposed as part of the development scheme consideration will need to be given to the implications of this in relation to the stability and public safety risks posed by coal mining legacy. The developer should seek their own advice from a technically competent person to ensure that a proper assessment has been made of the potential interaction between hydrology, the proposed drainage system and ground stability, including the implications this may have for any mine workings which may be present beneath the site.

The Coal Authority Recommendation to the LPA

The Coal Authority's Planning & Development Team notes the conclusions of the Coal Mining Risk Assessment report; that coal mining legacy potentially poses a risk to the proposed development and that investigations are required, along with possible remedial and mitigatory measures, in order to ensure the safety and stability of the proposed development.

As such, should planning permission be granted for the proposed development, we recommend that the following conditions are included on the decision notice:

1. ***No above ground development shall commence (excluding the demolition of existing structures) until;***

   a) a scheme of intrusive investigations has been carried out on site to establish the risks posed to the development by past shallow coal mining activity; and

   b) any remediation works and/or mitigation measures to address land instability arising from past coal mining legacy, as may be necessary, have been implemented on site in full in order to ensure that the site is made safe and stable for the development proposed.

2. ***Prior to the occupation of the development, or it being taken into beneficial use, a signed statement or declaration prepared by a suitably competent person confirming that the site is, or has been made, safe and stable for the approved development shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval in writing. This document shall confirm the methods and findings of the intrusive site investigations and the completion of any remedial works and/or mitigation necessary to address the risks posed by past coal mining activity.***

The Coal Authority therefore has **no objection** to the proposed development **subject to the imposition of the above conditions**. This is our recommendation for condition wording. Whilst we appreciate that you may wish to make some amendment to the choice

of words, we would respectfully request that the specific parameters to be satisfied are not altered by any changes that may be made.

The following statement provides the justification why the Coal Authority considers that a pre-commencement condition is required in this instance:

The undertaking of intrusive site investigations, prior to the commencement of development, is considered to be necessary to ensure that adequate information pertaining to ground conditions and coal mining legacy is available to enable appropriate remedial and mitigatory measures to be identified and carried out before building works commence on site. This is in order to ensure the safety and stability of the development, in accordance with policies L2 and P2 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Should planning permission be granted for this proposal, we also request that the following Informative Notes are included on the decision notice:

1 – Site investigation and remediation/mitigation guidance

Coal mining legacy related site investigations and any subsequent remediation works and/or mitigation measures shall be undertaken in accordance with authoritative UK guidance (CIRIA C758D – Abandoned mine workings manual) and under the provisions of a Mining Remediation Authority Permit.

2 – Mining Remediation Authority Permit

Under the Coal Industry Act 1994 any intrusive activities which disturb or enter any coal seams, coal mine workings or coal mine entries (shafts and adits) require the prior written permission of the Mining Remediation Authority since these activities can have serious public health and safety implications. Such activities could include site investigation boreholes, other ground works and any subsequent treatment of coal mine workings and coal mine entries for ground stability purposes. Failure to obtain permission to enter or disturb our property will result in the potential for court action. Application forms for Mining Remediation Authority permission and further guidance can be obtained from: www.gov.uk/get-a-permit-to-deal-with-a-coal-mine-on-your-property.

3 - Requirement for Incidental Coal Agreements

If any future development has the potential to encounter coal seams which require excavating, for example excavation of building foundations, service trenches, development platforms, earthworks, non-coal mineral operations, an Incidental Coal Agreement will be required from the Mining Remediation Authority. Further information regarding Incidental Coal Agreements can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/incidental-coal-agreement/guidance-notes-for-applicants-for-incidental-coal-agreements.

4 - Shallow coal seams

In areas where shallow coal seams are present caution should be taken when carrying out any on site burning or heat focused activities.

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

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 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.

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.