



The Coal  
Authority

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**For the attention of: Christopher J Harrison – Case Officer**

Cumberland Council (Copeland area)

[By email: [Development.Control3@cumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Development.Control3@cumberland.gov.uk)]

2 April 2024

Dear Mr Harrison

**Re: 4/23/2360/0F1**

**Substitution of dwelling types on plots 46 to 52 inclusive (7 dwellings) approved under planning reference 4/18/2075/0R1; Plots 46 to 52, Keekle Meadows, Cleator Moor**

Thank you for your notification of 14 March 2024 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 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.

Our records also indicate the presence of a recorded mine entry (shaft) within the planning boundary. An untreated mine entry and its resultant zone of influence pose a significant risk not only to surface stability but also public safety.

The Coal Authority does not appear to have been consulted on 4/18/2075/0R1, which may represent a failing on behalf of the LPA. The applicant has therefore not demonstrated that the wider site is capable of being developed safely to meet the requirements of paragraphs 189 to 190 of the NPPF. Whilst we do acknowledge the supporting report, the content of which confirms that the mine entry within the site has been capped, we have no recorded of this and without a definitive site layout are unable to comment on how it might affect the consented layout in its entirety.

Notwithstanding the above, in considering that the mine entry within the site does not appear to affect 7 dwellings, together with the applicant's fall-back position in being able to implement the layout as approved, the Coal Authority **has no objection** to this planning application.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you 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.

*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.*



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