



COAL MINING RISK ASSESSMENT

SEPTEMBER 2024

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

SLACK FARM, LITTLEBOROUGH, ROCHDALE OL15 9NH

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Extent of Report

This report is prepared to accompany a Planning Application submitted to Rochdale Borough Council referenced 24/00023/FUL.

The application proposes rectification works to the existing farmhouse at Slack Farm along with an extension to the property to convert the existing farmhouse dwelling into 5 new dwellings.

Coal Mining Risk Assessment Preliminary Desktop Search

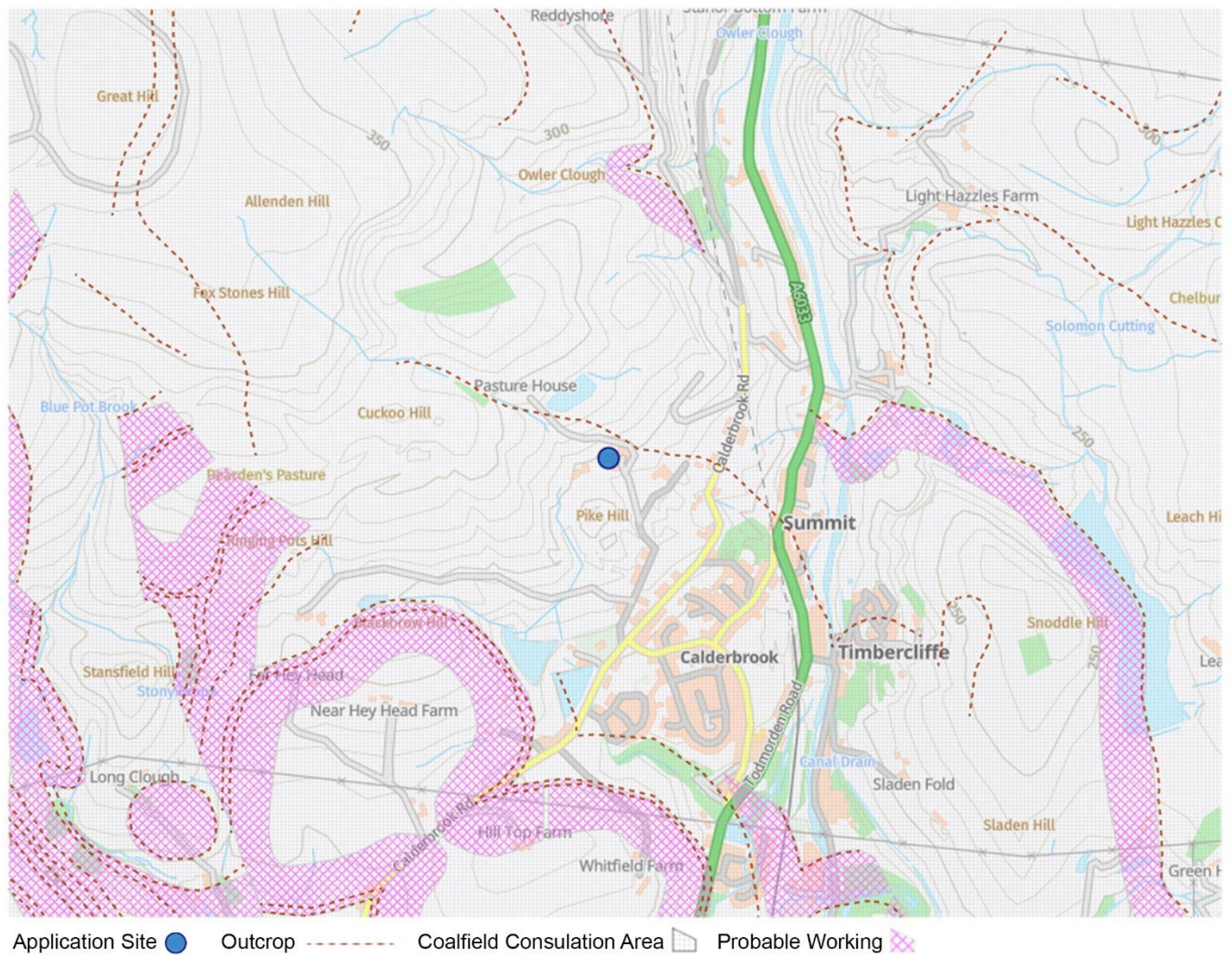
This Coal Mining Risk Assessment (Desktop) has been prepared in support of the planning application for the proposed development on Slack Farm in accordance with local council and Coal Authority requirements. The following information was gathered from secondary desktop-based research utilising The Coal Authority map viewer and related web services. The site is located within a Coal Mining High-Risk Area due to the presence of a closed mine in close proximity to the application site. This preliminary desktop assessment evaluates the risks associated with past coal mining activities and outlines the necessary measures to ensure the safety and stability of the proposed development.

Site Description and Background

The site is in a known coal mining area, with historical records showing a closed underground mine situated in close proximity to the application site. Based on a review of available coal mining data and a historical mining report from the Coal Authority, it is confirmed that:

- The mine was presumed to be in operation between 1950 and 1970 and has been abandoned for several decades.
- There is a risk of ground instability due to historical coal mining activities, including possible subsidence, shallow mine workings, and unrecorded mine shafts in the vicinity.

The below Image was taken from **The Coal Authority Map Viewer**:



<https://datamine-cauk.hub.arcgis.com/>

The image above highlights existing outcrops and probable working areas in and around Littleborough, an existing outcrop is situated North of the application site. The map suggests the outcrop has not been worked, reducing the risk to the proposed development.

Coal Mining Risk Evaluation

Based on the Coal Authority's data and site investigation:

- Shallow Mine Workings: There is no evidence of shallow coal seams beneath the site, which could cause potential ground instability.
- Mine Shafts and Adits: Historical maps indicate the presence of 1 recorded mine shaft within the proximity of the application site. These could pose a risk of collapse or subsidence.
- Subsidence Risk: The site is considered to have a moderate to high risk of subsidence due to the collapse of underground voids, particularly in the vicinity of the former mine workings.

Risk Mitigation Measures

The following steps are recommended to mitigate the identified risks and ensure compliance with safety standards:

- Detailed Site Investigation: A ground investigation will be commissioned, including boreholes, geophysical surveys, and trenching, to assess the condition of the mine workings and determine the depth and stability of the ground.

Stabilization Measures

- If voids or shallow mine workings are identified, a grouting program will be considered to fill and stabilize the underground cavities.
- Potential mine shaft locations will be identified and capped in accordance with industry best practices.
- Foundation Design: A structural engineer will design foundations suitable for a high-risk coal mining site, potentially including raft foundations or reinforced piles to mitigate subsidence risk.
- Monitoring and Ongoing Assessment: The site will be monitored for signs of subsidence during construction and after completion. A specialist geotechnical consultant will be appointed to oversee this process.

Compliance with Regulatory Standards

All works will comply with local planning policies, building regulations, and relevant Coal Authority guidelines. The necessary permits and approvals will be obtained before any groundworks begin, and regular consultation with the local authority and the Coal Authority will be maintained throughout the project.

Conclusion

This Coal Mining Risk Assessment preliminary research has identified the key risks associated with past coal mining activities on the site. Through the recommended investigation, mitigation measures, and adherence to regulatory standards, the risk to the proposed development can be effectively managed, ensuring a safe and stable outcome for the site.