



200 Lichfield Lane  
Mansfield  
Nottinghamshire  
NG18 4RG

T: 01623 637 119 (Planning Enquiries)

E: [planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk](mailto:planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk)

W: [www.gov.uk/coalauthority](http://www.gov.uk/coalauthority)

**For the attention of: Anna Hayes – Case Officer**

Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council

[By email: [development.management@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:development.management@rochdale.gov.uk)]

13 August 2026

Dear Ms Hayes

**Re: PL/2026/0684**

**Residential development - 44 affordable dwellings including access, car parking, open space and other associated works; Dicken Green Mill, Greenfield Lane, Rochdale**

Thank you for your notification of 4 August 2026 seeking the views of the Coal Authority on the above.

The Coal Authority (now trading as the Mining Remediation 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**

I have reviewed the proposals and confirm that a large percentage of the application site falls within the Coal Authority's defined Development High Risk Area. Therefore within the application site and surrounding area there are recorded coal mining features present at

surface or shallow depths. The risk these features may pose should be considered as part of the planning process.

The Coal Authority records indicate that the site lies within an area of probable historic unrecorded shallow coal mining and a coal seam of workable thickness infers to outcrop at or close to the surface down the central part of the site that may have been historically worked from the surface to shallow depths beneath the site. These coal mining features could affect public safety and surface stability for the proposed development.

The planning application is accompanied by a Desk-Based Coal Mining Risk Assessment report (LKC251701, May 2026) produced by LK Consult Ltd for the proposed development. The report has been informed by an appropriate range of sources of historical, geological and coal mining information (Section 2.1).

Having carried out their review of the available information, the report authors concur with our records and consider there is currently a risk to the safety and stability of future development at the site. In order to mitigate the risk, recommendations have been made that investigation works and a watching brief during groundworks is required. The applicant has been made aware that ground stabilisation works may be required, however the findings of the intrusive site investigation should inform the extent of any remedial works and / or mitigation measures that may be required to ensure safe and stable development at the site.

We acknowledge that the planning application is also accompanied by a further report prepared by LK Consult Ltd: Phase 2 Geo-Environmental Investigation, Risk Assessment and Remediation Strategy Report (LKC251701, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2026) however we note (Executive Summary) that:

|                    |                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Coal Mining</b> | The site is within a development high risk area. A coal mining risk assessment has been carried out under separate cover. Further assessment is required. |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

The intrusive site investigations should be designed and undertaken by competent persons to ensure that these are appropriate to assess the ground conditions on the site to establish the coal-mining legacy present and the risks it may pose to the development and inform any mitigation measures that may be necessary.

The applicant should be aware that Permission is required from the Coal Authority Permit and Licensing Team before undertaking any activity, such as ground investigation and



ground works, which may disturb coal property. Please note that any comments that the Coal Authority may have made in a Planning context are without prejudice to the outcomes of a Permit application.

### Mine Gas

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.

### Sustainable Drainage

It should be noted that 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.

### Surface Coal Resource

The Coal Authority's records indicate that surface coal resource is present on the site, although this should not be taken to imply that mineral extraction would be economically viable, technically feasible or environmentally acceptable. As you will be aware those authorities with responsibility for minerals planning and safeguarding will have identified where they consider minerals of national importance are present in your area and related policy considerations. As part of the planning application decision making process consideration should be given to such advice in respect of the indicated surface coal resource.

### The Coal Authority Recommendation to the LPA

In light of the above, the Coal Authority recommends the imposition of the following conditions:

1. No above ground development shall commence until;
  - a) a scheme of intrusive site investigations has been carried out on site to establish the risks posed to the development by past coal mining activity, and;
  - b) any remediation works and/or mitigation measures to address land instability arising from 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.

The intrusive site investigations and remedial works shall be carried out in accordance with authoritative UK guidance.

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.

*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 Coal Authority has **no objection** to the proposed development **subject to the imposition of the conditions** to secure the above.

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 paragraphs 187, 196 & 197 of the National Planning Policy Framework.*

It is also requested that the following Informative Notes are included on any planning permission granted:

*Any intrusive activities which disturb or enter any coal seams, coal mine workings or coal mine entries (shafts and adits) requires a Mining Remediation Authority Permit. Such activities could include site investigation boreholes, excavations for foundations, piling activities, other ground works and any subsequent treatment of coal mine workings and coal mine entries for ground stability purposes. Application forms for Mining Remediation Authority permission and further guidance can be obtained from The Mining Remediation Authority's website at: [www.gov.uk/get-a-permit-to-deal-with-a-coal-mine-on-your-property](http://www.gov.uk/get-a-permit-to-deal-with-a-coal-mine-on-your-property)*

[What is a permit and how to get one? - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/get-a-permit-to-deal-with-a-coal-mine-on-your-property)

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

*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. Further information regarding Incidental Coal Agreements can be found here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/incidental-coal-agreement/guidance-notes-for-applicants-for-incidental-coal-agreements>*

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely

D Roberts

**Deb Roberts** M.Sc. MRTPI

**Planning & 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 and the electronic consultation records held by the Coal Authority since 1 April 2013. The comments made are also based on the information provided to the Coal Authority by the Local Planning Authority and/or information that has been published on the Council's website for consultation purposed 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 advisors for this development in relation to ground conditions and the acceptability of development.*