



The Coal
Authority

Resolving the impacts of mining

Coal Authority
200 Lichfield Lane
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG18 4RG

T 0345 762 6848
T +44(0)1623 637000
**www.gov.uk/
coalauthority**

Parish Council at City of Durham Parish Council
BY EMAIL ONLY: npf@durhamcity.org.uk

26 June 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

Durham City Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for the notification of the 17 May 2019 consulting The Coal Authority on the above NDP.

The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body which works to protect the public and the environment in coal mining areas. Our statutory role in the planning system is to provide advice about new development in the coalfield areas and also protect coal resources from unnecessary sterilisation by encouraging their extraction, where practical, prior to the permanent surface development commencing.

As you will be aware the Neighbourhood Plan area lies within the current defined coalfield.

According to the Coal Authority Development High Risk Area Plans, there are recorded risks from past coal mining activity including; mine entries, recorded and likely unrecorded shallow coal workings and reported surface hazards.

Allocations for new development should consider the potential risks posed by past coal mining activity to potential development sites. This is specifically prudent when mine entries are present on a site and these may impact on the quantum of development which can be accommodated. The Coal Authority is of the opinion that building over the top of, or in close proximity to, mine entries should be avoided wherever possible, even after they have been capped, in line with our adopted policy:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/building-on-or-within-the-influencing-distance-of-mine-entries>

In addition any allocations on the surface coal resource will need to consider the impacts of mineral sterilisation in accordance with National Planning Policy.

Should you wish to discuss these comments further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Melanie Lindsley

Melanie Lindsley *BA (Hons), DipEH, DipURP, MA, PGCertUD, PGCertSP, MRTPI*
Development Team Leader

T 01623 637 164

E planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk