



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

Spatial Policy Team
Durham County Council

BY EMAIL ONLY: spatialpolicy@durham.gov.uk

10 February 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

Durham City Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for the notification of the 6 February 2020 consulting the Coal Authority on the above Neighbourhood Development Plan.

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.

According to the Coal Authority records there are recorded risks from past coal mining activity within the Neighbourhood Plan area 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 any sites proposed. I have reviewed the data we hold against the locations of the sites proposed for allocation and can confirm that although The Avenue site appears to fall within the Low Risk Area the other two sites, John Street and Main Street, fall within the High Risk Area. Consideration should therefore be given to the potential risks posed to new development on these sites by coal mining legacy.

In addition any allocations on the surface coal resource will need to consider the impacts of mineral sterilisation.

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 (Planning)

T 01623 637 164

E planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk