



The Coal
Authority

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FAO Vicky Turner: Place Plan Officer
Shropshire Council

BY EMAIL: Vicky.turner@shropshire.gov.uk

6th December 2022

Dear Ms Turner

Re: Pontesbury Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 Consultation

Thank you for your notification received on the 31st October 2022 in respect of the above consultation.

The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. 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.

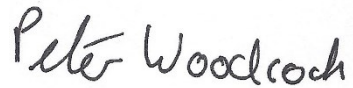
Our records indicate that within the identified Neighbourhood Plan area there are recorded coal mining features present at surface and shallow depth including: mine entries, shallow coal workings and reported surface hazards. These features pose a potential risk to surface stability and public safety.

The Coal Authority's records also indicate that surface coal resource is present in the area, 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 process consideration should be given to such advice in respect of the indicated surface coal resource.

It does not appear that the Neighbourhood Plan, as proposed, allocates any sites for future development and on this basis the Planning team at the Coal Authority have **no specific comments** to make on this document. However, if the Neighbourhood Plan does intend to allocate sites for future development, consideration will need to be given to the potential risks posed to surface stability by past coal mining activity.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Woodcock". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Peter Woodcock | BSc (Hons)
Trainee Planning Manager