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For the attention of: Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit

[By email: transportinfrastructure@dft.gov.uk]

8th December 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Transpennine Route Upgrade programme of works, Network Rail is proposing a number of changes between Stalybridge and Diggle (Saddleworth)

I refer to notification received on the 13th November 2025 seeking the views of the Coal Authority on the above.

The Coal 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 records we hold indicate that there are coal mining features in the vicinity of the scheme, including mine entries, which will need detailed consideration. These recorded coal mining features pose a potential risk to surface stability and public safety.

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>

The Planning Statement submitted notes that shallow mine workings are present and that these may pose potential risks related to ground stability. It does not appear that the risks

posed by coal mining features, and potential risks posed to surface stability and public safety, is specifically addressed in the draft conditions proposed and we would request that a relevant condition to address land instability is included, unless the developer is satisfied that this could be covered within the CoCP.

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

Yours faithfully

Melanie Lindsley

Melanie Lindsley BA (Hons), DipEH, DipURP, MA, PGCertUD, PGCertSP, MRTPI

Principal 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 and/or information that has been published for consultation purposes. 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.