



The Coal  
Authority

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Mr O. Meek – Case Officer  
Nottinghamshire County Council

[By Email: [oliver.meek@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:oliver.meek@nottscc.gov.uk)]

29 September 2016

Dear Mr Meek



**PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE: ES/3524**

**Proposed exploratory well, which would be a vertical multi-core well to target the Bowland Shale and Millstone Grit geological formations to assist with the assessment of the shale gas basin in the area at land off A634, between Blyth and Barnby Moor, near Retford (referred to as Tinker Lane)**

Thank you for your email of 6 September 2016 seeking the views of the Coal Authority on the above planning application. We do not appear to have a record of your original consultation of 1 June 2016 on this application to which you refer.

The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Business, Energy and 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.

**The Coal Authority Response:**

I have reviewed the proposals and confirm that, whilst the application site falls within the defined coalfield, it is located outside of the defined Development High Risk Area. Accordingly, there are no recorded coal mining hazards at shallow depth affecting this site.

Our records indicate that the site falls within the licence area for past deep underground coal mining activity. The Coal Authority is therefore pleased to note that this potential risk to the proposed drilling activities is afforded due consideration as part of Chapter 9 of the Environmental Statement (ES) (dated May 2016 and prepared by SLR Consulting Limited) which accompanies this planning application. Based upon a review of available sources of information, the ES is able to conclude at paragraph 9.47 that the proposed exploratory

drilling activities will not intersect any deep coal mine workings as there are no recorded coal mine workings under the site.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

*Mark Harrison*

**Mark E. N. Harrison** *B.A.(Hons), DipTP, LL.M, MInstLM, MRTPI*  
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