

Whitehaven Coal Mine, Cumbria (application references 4/17/9007 and APP/H0900/V/21/3271069)
Objecting at the Public Inquiry

15/4/21

The application for a Whitehaven deep coal mine will now be considered by a planning inspector at a public inquiry in September 2021. If you want to object then it is not too late, but you must act quickly as **the deadline is 6 May 2021**. If you miss this deadline your objections are unlikely to be considered. You can object either in writing, by asking to speak at the inquiry, or both. This note sets out more detail on the process.

If you have already objected

If you have already objected directly to Cumbria County Council then they should have written to you about the inquiry. They should have explained that they have forwarded all the representations on the application, including yours, to the Planning Inspectorate, so that they can be considered by the Inspector. If you want to amend or add to your objection, or request to speak at the inquiry, you need to do this by 6 May. Even if you do not want to do any of this, you may still want to check your objection has definitely been received and will be put before the Inspector. You can do this by contacting the Planning Inspectorate using the details below.

If you have not already objected

If you have not previously objected, it is not too late. You can still submit written representations, request to speak at the inquiry, or both. So long as you do this before 6 May your objections are likely to be accepted.

How to submit objections

The Planning Inspectorate oversees the inquiry process and forwards relevant material to the Inspector. There are various ways to write to the Planning Inspectorate, set out below.

Whichever method you use you will need to include your name and address, as anonymous representations will not be accepted. You must also ensure your representations do not contain any inflammatory, discriminatory or abusive comments.

The Planning Inspectorate does not acknowledge receipt of correspondence.

Online form

There is an online form in the [Appeals Casework Portal](#). Using that Portal, enter case reference '3271069' in the 'Search for a case' field and click 'Submit Search':

Log in or Register

Username

Password

Log in

Keep me logged in

I am a new user and would like to [Register](#)

Forgotten your password or username? [Click here](#)

Search for a case

Search by entering the 7 digit case reference number:

Example: APP/A1234/A/99/**1234567**

Submit Search

[Advanced Search](#)

Comment on a case

Simply search for your case and click on the 'Make Representation' button. The best way to comment on an existing case is to register with us first as that makes it easier to track cases and submit comments.

For Householder and Commercial appeals, interested parties are unable to make representations at appeal stage. Any representations made at application stage will be provided by the local planning authority and considered by the Inspector.



The Planning Inspectorate
Yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

Visit the Planning Inspectorate: [Home](#)

Then, in the following page, click 'Make representation'. This will take you to the online form for making representations.

By email

Emails can be sent to inquirydocuments4@planninginspectorate.gov.uk. You should quote case reference 'APP/H0900/V/21/3271069'.

By post

Letters can be sent to:

Ms Elizabeth Humphrey
The Planning Inspectorate
Room 3/J Kite Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

You should quote case reference 'APP/H0900/V/21/3271069'.

Unless your handwriting is very clear you should, if you are able to, have your representations typed. Either way, use black ink. If possible, you should send three copies of your representations to the Planning Inspectorate.

What happens to my objections?

The Planning Inspectorate will send your representations to the main parties to the inquiry. These include the planning applicant, West Cumbria Mining Ltd, and the council. They will be available for anyone to see.

Whilst anonymous representations will not be accepted, you may ask the Planning Inspectorate to withhold your name and address when forwarding them to the main parties. If you ask for this, then you should make sure that your representations do not include any other information which may identify you. The Planning Inspectorate will then send your

representations, with your name and address removed, to the main parties, and they will be seen by the Inspector who may give them less weight as a result.

Issues to consider including

If you object to the mine, then you should make this clear when writing to the Planning Inspectorate. You should also give reasons for your objections, ideally in your own words. If you do not give any reasons then your objection is unlikely to carry very much weight.

The planning application documents, along with the objections already made, can be found on the [Council's website](#).

The following is a list of areas you may wish to refer to in your objection:

- Any personal links to the area – do you live nearby or enjoy visiting it?
- Why a new mine is not compatible with tackling climate change. On this you may want to refer to:
 - [Lord Deben's letter on behalf of the Climate Change Committee](#) regarding the impact of the mine on the ability of the government to meet its 6th Carbon Budget. This underlines the need for a detailed consideration of the climate change impacts.
 - Why the coal produced by the mine will add to global emissions. It will not, as the developer argues, simply 'substitute' for coal currently mined in the US.
 - Why opening the mine is incompatible with emission-reduction targets, and why it will undermine the UK's global leadership when hosting crucial UN climate talks later this year.
- Whether the developer has demonstrated a need for the coking coal the mine will produce. This is especially so given it is expected that more than 90% will be exported. Other technologies for steel production coming online which are less destructive to the climate. It is also unclear whether the coal is of a high enough grade to be used in the UK or abroad for steel making.
- Whether 500 'local' jobs will actually be created or whether the majority of the skilled jobs will need to be filled by those not local to the area.
- The loss of ancient woodland. Government policy prevents this happening unless there are 'wholly exceptional reasons', which is not the case here.
- The adverse landscape and visual impacts. These could include impacts on the Pow Beck Valley by the railway loading facility. They could also include negative impacts on views from dwellings, footpaths (including the coast to coast walk), nearby roads, tourist accommodation etc.
- The noise, air quality and amenity issues associated with the mine.
- The detrimental impact on tourism, for example in relation to the perception of the area.

This is not a full list. If you have other reasons to object, include them! Similarly, if you do not wish to cover all of the above issues that's fine, focus on those important to you.

Good luck with your submission. We hope you can help us show the full extent of opposition to these outdated and ill-conceived proposals, which are totally incompatible with the climate and ecological crises we all face.

Friends of the Earth, England Wales and Northern Ireland.