

Watercourses

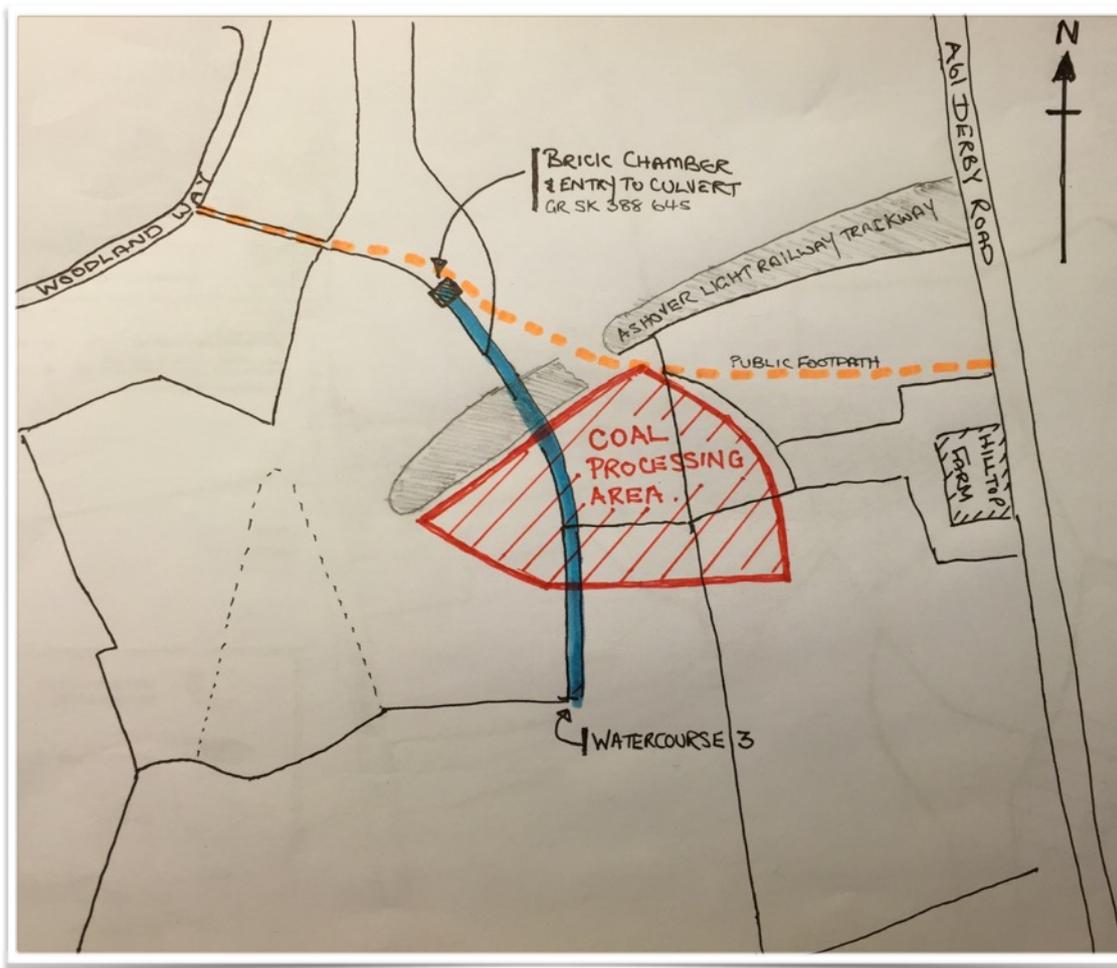
The Geological and Hydrogeological Assessment Report states in Section 3 Hydrology, para 3.2 Catchment and Principal Drainage:

“There are two principal catchment areas affecting the site, and to which the site contributes.”

These are described as a minor watercourse between the two northern fields and a secondary smaller catchment area to the southwest of the site which flows in a southerly direction immediately beyond the western boundary towards the Press Brook.

However there is a **third** significant watercourse in the central area of the site to the west of Hilltop Farm.

This stream runs from GR SK 388 642 in a northerly direction, passing through a culvert under the old Ashover Light Railway embankment before finally disappearing into a culvert at GR SK 388 645. The southern section of this watercourse follows the line of Tree Group 26 (p118 ES App6 Ecology).



This watercourse takes the surface water runoff from the proposed coal processing area and adjacent fields. The stream is free flowing, particularly at times of heavy rainfall. The entry to the culvert is a brick chamber approximately 1 metre square capped with heavy concrete slabs. Judging by the volume of water it copes with during the heaviest rainfall, the exit pipe is at least 30 cm diameter.

According to the submitted plans, the coal processing area will obliterate the stream to the south of the Ashover Light Railway trackway. However, as the coal processing area is only to be paved with crushed hardcore the surface will be porous. Surface water runoff from this area will therefore still find its way into the northern stretch of the watercourse and hence into the culvert. This water will be contaminated with coal dust and from the inevitable spillage and seepage of fuel oils.

It is not known where the culvert eventually discharges and therefore where any contaminated water will go.

This watercourse has not been mentioned in the applicant's Flood Risk Assessment or anywhere else in the application documents, showing that inadequate site surveys were carried out.

Until a proper survey and assessment of this watercourse, its catchment area, course and discharge point of culvert are carried out, the consequences of siting the Coal Processing Area over this stream are unknown.

The applicant's Flood Risk Assessment must therefore be considered unacceptable.

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