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AYRSHIRE JOINT STRUCTURE PLAN 2025:CONSULTATION DRAFT

The Confederation of UK Coal Producers (Coalpro) represents member companies who produce over 90% of UK Coal output.

Coalpro appreciates the opportunity to respond to this consultation draft and wishes to do so in a limited way in relation to mineral resources (section 4.30, Question 24 refers).

Coalpro is pleased that the ongoing economic importance of coal extraction by opencast methods is recognised in the draft and that the identified preferred areas for opencast coal extraction remain relevant. We would also like to emphasise the importance of the industry for local employment.

With respect to Question 24, mineral resources can be managed in a sustainable way by ensuring that new sites are made available timeously to replace sites that are exhausting, and by ensuring that such resources are not unnecessarily sterilised by other forms of development.

Proper management of operations can minimise landscape and community impacts and it should be recognised that, on restoration after extraction has been completed, there are significant opportunities to enhance, and not merely maintain, biodiversity.

David Brewer  
Director General