

**England National Office**

620 Bristol Business Park

Coldharbour Lane

Bristol BS16 1EJ

Michael Meredith  
Via email

[informationrights@forestrycommission.gov.uk](mailto:informationrights@forestrycommission.gov.uk)

21 September 2021

Dear Michael Meredith,

Thank you for your request for information regarding the planning application at Moorthorpe Way in Sheffield sent to us on 11 September 2021.

We have a duty to meet our obligations under the open information legislation and so I have been asked to respond as I am the Information rights manager.

The Freedom of Information Act gives requestors a right to information held by a public body at the time a request is received. Where information is not held by a public body there is no requirement to create the information in order to answer a question or request, the only requirement is for the person requesting the information to be advised that the information is not held.

Please find our response to the information you have requested below. I have provided this under your questions for clarity.

- 1. Do you agree with this statement? Published 6 August 2020 : Announced by Robert Jenrick MP the Secretary of State for Housing: "Valued green spaces protected for future generations, with more building on Brownfield land." I ask this question because I took part in a public enquiry regarding building upstream in ecological owlthorpe, at the public inquiry I suggested to the inspector that Avant Homes move their project from our oasis to the old Aerodrome at Norton. The Aerodrome is a Brownfield site by definition boasting many derelict buildings in need of redevelopment. Do you agree with me that Sheffield (LPA) and Avant Homes and the inspector are blatantly ignoring Government policy?**

Where information is not held by a public body there is no requirement to create the information to answer a question or request, the only requirement is for the person requesting the information to be advised that the information is not held. Information not held, and so Section 1(a) applies.

- 2. Do you support the press release published 18th November 2020 by "Prime Minister Boris Johnson, outlines his Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution for 250,000 jobs. (9) Nature: Protecting and restoring our natural environment, planting 30,000 hectares of trees every year, whilst creating and retaining thousands of jobs?"**

Information not held.

- 3. Sheffield City Council alongside local MP Clive Betts look to develop a green corridor in the Beighton ward: <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/Ochredykegreencorridor.pdf> do you agree with me that Sheffield City Council plans to plant saplings downstream in Waterthorp, standing at 178ft above sea level, and destroying trees upstream in Owlthorpe (Plot E) standing 312ft above sea level, will do nothing to support Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, and Natural England shared vision to use up-stream nature-based solutions to tackle the climate emergency?**

Information not held.

- 4. Please view what Professor Ian Rotherham has to say regarding building in Owlthorpe Sheffield: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NU28ZUxBEK8>**

Information not held.

Under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act I would like to take the opportunity to provide you with advice and assistance as your request is not for information but rather opinion and support to a campaign.

The Forestry Commission derives its regulatory powers from the Forestry Act, as amended in 1967. This means we are the regulatory authority for the legal felling of trees in England. Planning matters, including Tree Preservation Orders, are for the local planning authority and enforced under the Town and Country Planning Act. I can confirm that we have not been consulted in this case. For more information on planning matters please visit our site at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-applications-affecting-trees-and-woodland>

A strategic approach to flood risk management could be developed by local communities and local authorities working with landowners (and their tenants) and the responsible flood risk management authority in flood affected areas to identify suitable land for creating new woodland and agreeing a Trees and Woodland creation strategy at Local Authority, catchment or landscape scale. We are involved with several partnerships under the Northern Forest to promote and engage with agencies and the private sector to create woodlands. We support Natural Flood Management groups in Leeds and Sheffield to ensure we have a proactive approach to slowing the flow, and leveraging nature based solutions for flood mitigation.

I have tried to deal with your request as fully as possible. If you have any questions then I would be happy to try and answer these for you. However, should you wish to complain about the way your request has been handled or want us to conduct an internal review please contact:

Forestry Commission  
Chief Executive Officer  
620 Bristol Business Park  
Coldharbour Lane  
Bristol  
BS16 1EJ

Email: [commissioners@forestrycommission.gov.uk](mailto:commissioners@forestrycommission.gov.uk)

Complaints regarding non-compliance with the requirements of the open information legislation should in the first instance be made to the Forestry Commission itself. We aim to resolve any complaints with you directly. Should the matter fail to be resolved, you may make an appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office.

Further information of the role of the Information Commissioner and guidance on FOI/EIR can be found on the Commissioner's web site: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk) or by calling the helpline: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely,

**Julia Lovell**

Parliamentary Business and Information Rights Manager  
Commissioners' Office, Forestry Commission