

22 Royston Avenue
Owlthorpe
Sheffield
S20 6SG

The Coal Authority
200 Lichfield Lane
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG18 4RG

Date: 25th March 2021

Dear Sirs,

My name is Michael Meredith I am writing to you with regard to the proposal by Avant Homes to build new homes in Owlthorpe Sheffield. This development would be above old mine workings which are prone to flooding during heavy rain and snow (as they did during the winter of 2019/20) causing severe flooding downstream in Beighton, Rotherham, Doncaster and Fishlake. I have made objections to the proposal both with the Sheffield LPA and recently with the Government appointed Inspectorate. My objections are about deforestation and downstream flooding, and I would like The Coal Authority's confirmation that a current survey needs to be carried out before any building is undertaken. Below, I outline my evidence and I will appreciate your consideration of it, particularly the section: Your reference CD2.27 which shows developers are obliged to seek appropriate technical advice before building. I have carefully read all Avant Homes proposals and attended the Inspectorate meeting and feel this has been overlooked.

Application Reference: 19/03143/FUL
Appellants Name: Avant Homes Central
Appeals Reference: APP/J4423/W/20/3258555

I took part in the Public Inquiry Regarding SITE AT, MOORTHORPE GATE, OWLTHORPE, SHEFFIELD.

Your evidence CD2.27: The Coal Authority, Mining Report SITE AT, MOORTHORPE GATE, OWLTHORPE, SHEFFIELD,
Your Reference: 71000493264001

Comments on Coal Authority information

“In view of the mining circumstances a prudent developer would seek appropriate technical advice before any works are undertaken. Therefore, if development proposals are being considered, technical advice relating to both the investigation of coal and former coal mines and their treatment should be obtained before beginning work on site.”

In your report you say that coal mining in Owlthorpe was last worked in 1932, but in a post by Ken Wain December 19th 2013 Sheffield history Professor, He states the mines closed in the early 1970s. In 1947 when the mines were nationalised the N.C.B. granted the pit an operating license Dent Main was one of the last pits in the Sheffield area to use ponies, they were well looked after and regularly taken to Hackenthorpe village blacksmiths to be re-shod. The pit was very successful and supplied the local steel works in Sheffield

and the collieries own two Lorries took coal to Blackburn Meadows Power Station at Meadowhall. The workings at the colliery were always in orange coloured "Ochre Water" due to the iron deposits in the workings, the water being continually pumped from the pit. Mr. Brian Hutchinson was the sole remaining director when the colliery closed in the early 1970s. Full report can be viewed on our website <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/dentandmoorholecolleries.htm>

Ochre was in the water pumped out of Moorhole Colliery into the Dyke and this is what coloured the water of the Dyke. This is supported by information from Interpretation Boards (Owlthorpe Heritage & Nature Trail).

It is the water pressure from Birley Wood Golf Course standing approx.: 650ft above sea level, Culvert opposite Garden centre: 420ft, capped off Colliery Drift 382ft, that caused the flooding problem, as by the time water reaches Moss Way at 212ft, it is too powerful for the drainage system to cope. Ochre washes out of the mine workings which can be seen behind Crystal Peaks at 178ft.

<https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/Ochredyke2.mp4> Video of flooding was taken at the same time as flooding occurred in Beighton, Rotherham and finally Fishlake standing approx.: 23ft above sea level. Please remember Fishlake is not local and is sited 31.2miles downstream from Ecological Owlthorpe. "I was caught up in the Sheffield floods of 2007, on that day sadly two people lost their lives in Sheffield: The pressure of water overwhelmed the drainage system, water shot up 5ft in the air out of the grates." If we do not take care their will be more fatalities downstream.

It is believed that the Coal Authority is responsible for all mine workings no matter what age they are. There are many questions local residents need answering before any building takes place in Ecological Owlthorpe?

- Exactly how much coal was extracted by "Dent Main Colliery"?
- Was the Coal extracted "in addition, the property is in an area where the Coal Authority believe there is coal at or close to the surface. This coal may have been worked at some time in the past." Does this refer to "Dent Main Colliery"?
- With regard to flooding, what effect does flooding have on the timber props that hold the roofs up in these old mine workings?
- I cannot see any evidence that Avant Homes have investigated former mines with regard to potential flood risk and damage done to pit props as the Coal Authority states: "if development proposals are being considered, technical advice relating to both the investigation of coal and former coal mines and their treatment should be obtained before beginning work on site."
- Who is responsible if the mines collapse under the weight of New Housing?
- What if subsidence causes damage to properties near the Development? Who can they claim compensation from?
- Will household Insurance premiums increase?
- Can residents living downstream from the disused mine workings claim compensation from the Coal Authority for previous and potential new flooding events?
- Deforestation is the cause of downstream flooding so should the Coal Authority and Sheffield (LPA) look to reforest Owlthorpe to mitigate downstream flooding?

Evidence I presented to the building inspector can be seen on our website: EO-01 to EO-21 <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/publicinquiry.htm>

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Michael Meredith