

Ecological Owlthorpe
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For the attention of Sir Tony Juniper
Chair Natural England
County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2NP
United Kingdom

Date: 10th September 2021

Dear Sir Tony

After HRH Prince Charles and the Prime Minister Boris Johnson visited the devastating flooding in Fishlake and Stainforth, South Yorkshire on November 2019 the Prime Minister announced more support for communities affected by flooding following a meeting of the Government's emergency Cobra Committee.

Do you still support the following Government statements?

(A) Published 23rd January 2020 Government Press Release:

"Environment Bodies set joint vision to tackle climate change. **Environment Agency**, Forestry Commission, and Natural England outline a shared vision to use up-stream nature-based solutions to tackle the climate emergency."

(B) In this <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbYXEDczL-U> Sophie Ridge interview George Eustace explains the Government's response to UK floods. An extra £4 Billion is to be spent on flood defences. In Yorkshire, up stream nature based solutions are to be supported.

(C) 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.”

Prior to the public inquiry regarding Appeal Ref: APP/J4423/W/20/3258555 Land off Moorthorpe Way, Sheffield S20 6PD I requested on 26th May 2020 that George Eustace MP Secretary of State for the Environment “call in” the application. My request was in line with government directive which states that applications have to be made before the local planning Authority makes its decision. The decision to refuse the planning application by Sheffield City Council Planning & Highways Committee took place 2nd June 2020 therefore my application was submitted in time.

I personally think that flooding should take precedence over House Building but civil servants in Sheffield (LPA), The Planning Inspectorate and MP Robert Jenerick's departments seem to think otherwise. They totally ignore elected Councillors decisions and Government legislation and directive.

I have made a formal complaint to the Parliamentary Ombudsman regarding the public enquiry: <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/ParliamentaryOmbudsman.pdf> evidence I supplied to the enquiry EO-01 to EO-21 can be viewed here: <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/publicinquiry.htm>

Under the freedom of information ACT 2000 I wonder if you could supply the following information.

1. Could you please supply copies of any documents, plans and information regarding the construction of <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/EO-12InterpretationBoardEntrance.pdf> Our oasis in Owlthorpe, which was constructed under the Natural England's Higher Level Stewardship Scheme and completed and opened in 2012 by MP Clive Betts Sheffield South East.
2. 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?
3. On 22nd January 2021 workmen were seen working on drains on Moss Way Sheffield; **GPS Co-ordinates: 53.340038,-1.362883** it is assumed this is where the flood waters of the disused mines usually discharge into the drains, but in heavy rain events the drains cannot cope and Ochre floods into the Ochre Dyke. <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/Ochredyke2.mp4> this video was taken at the same time as downstream flooding occurred in Beighton, Rotherham and Fishlake. I have been investigating who is responsible for the discharge from the old mine workings with the Coal Authority evidence can be seen here <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/LettertoCoalAthority.pdf> The Coal Authority seem to suggest that the Environment Agency is responsible. Does Natural England have any comment to make regarding this?
4. 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 Waterthorpe, standing at 178ft above sea level, and destroying trees upstream in Owlthorpe (Plot E) standing 312ft above sea level, will do nothing to support Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Environment Secretary and Agency, Forestry Commission, and Natural England shared vision to use up-stream nature-based solutions to tackle the climate emergency?
5. 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?**
6. **Published (Thursday 25 January 2018).** A £21 million flood defence scheme to better protect hundreds of businesses in Sheffield's Lower Don Valley has opened today The Lower Don Valley area is second only to the city centre for economic importance to Sheffield. The new flood alleviation scheme will benefit more than 500 businesses and safeguard around five thousand jobs, key roads in and out of the city and homes along a five mile stretch of the River Don. New 'hard defences' have been installed along an 8km stretch of the river to raise flood

defence levels comprising new gravity walls, installation of flood gates and the fitting of more than 300 flap valves to pipes and openings which discharge to the river. **Sir James Bevan, Environment Agency Chief Executive, said:** “Flooding has devastating costs for people and businesses – and we know this has been the case for the people of Sheffield. This fantastic scheme will not only benefit homes and businesses in the city but it will also safeguard thousands of jobs due to the increased level of protection it provides. It’s been great to see Sheffield City Council and the Environment Agency working together in partnership to better protect the Lower Don Valley.” **The only problem with this concrete flood defence is that flooding has been transferred from Sheffield down stream to Rotherham, Doncaster and Fishlake. Also in 2019 flood water from old mine workings in Owlthorpe caused damage to the environment, wild life and increased the pollution of rivers also contributing to the devastation downstream in Fishlake.** <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/Ochredyke2.mp4> **Do you agree with me that upstream nature based solutions are the best way of tackling Climate Change and stopping downstream flooding?**

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

I look forward to your response

Kind Regards

Michael Meredith