

Ecological Owlthorpe
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The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman
Millbank Tower Millbank
London SW1p QP

Dated: 19th October 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

Ref: APP/J4423/W/20/3258555 |Land off Moorthorpe Way, Sheffield S20 6PD

Thank you for the help I have received from your office regarding my complaint referenced above. Further to my original letter to you dated 5th May 2021, I have followed the procedure as directed and attached are copies of correspondence with the Planning Inspectorate. This includes their final response.

I have provided links to letters and emails and responses to relevant government organisations which were mostly obtained through the freedom of information Act 2000. They are available for your attention on the link below and throughout this communication when relevant.

<https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/letters.htm>

In order for you to review evidence I supplied to the planning inspector at the inquiry I have provided links for your attention of reports numbering from EO-01 to EO-21.

<https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/publicinquiry.htm>

Additionally, where relevant I have provided links to extracts of the meeting where appropriate.

Opening Statement

My main point is that unelected civil servants in the planning department and the planning inspectorate are ignoring decisions made by democratically elected Councillors and Members of Parliament who speak on behalf of their constituents. The Inspectorate then hides behind the High Court in the full knowledge that it is virtually impossible for local constituents to raise funds to fight undemocratic decisions in the High Court. This is the reason I have brought this case before the Parliamentary Ombudsman. Citizens of the UK are looking for democratic justice.

In this rationale, I set out my complaints and many of the statements I make are backed up with video evidence of meetings that took place at both Sheffield City Council Planning & Highways Committee meeting Dated: 2nd June 2020 and The Planning Inspectorate January 2021. These videos are available for your inspection.

A copy of my original complaint was sent to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman department by recorded delivery dated: 5th May 2021 and is attached.

My concern has always been about deforestation causing downstream flooding. Sheffield has a history of flooding which can be seen in evidence I provided to the inquiry reference Number: List of floods in Sheffield: <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/EO-17ListoffloodsinSheffield.pdf> The Rivers of Sheffield caused extensive flooding in 2019 in Beighton, Rotherham, Doncaster and Fishlake.

The timing of events is relevant.

13th November 2019: reported by <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-50398877> England flooding: After Prime Minister Boris Johnson's visit to Fishlake . **“On Tuesday, PM Mr Johnson announced more support for communities affected by flooding following a meeting of the government's emergency Cobra committee.”**

Published 23rd December 2019: HRH Prince Charles has a drink at the Hare & Hounds pub during a visit to Fishlake. Charles attended a reception in the Town Hall with people from Fishlake, Bentley and Stainforth that have been involved in the recovery and rescue work.

23rd February 2020: 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 to be spent on flood defences. In Yorkshire, up stream nature based solutions are to be supported.**

23rd January 2020: Environmental bodies set joint vision to tackle climate change: **Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, and Natural England outline a shared vision to use nature-based solutions to tackle the climate emergency.**

21st February 2020: 22 Royston Avenue Sheffield S20 6SG (Objects) Comment submitted by Letter to Howard Baxter Sheffield (LPA) **Titled Flooding;** <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/EO-01OriginalObjection21stFeb2020.pdf> Extracts: “My heart goes out when I see the faces of the victims of flooding as the emergency services work to evacuate them.” Prior to the 2019 General election I attended a husting at Rainbow Forge Primary School where all the candidates seeking to become the MP for Sheffield South East agreed that we need to plant more trees to stop Climate Change and prevent Flooding. What was not addressed was the need to protect the trees and wetlands we already have as it is defeating the object if we destroy the existing mature trees and wetlands. This would not be doing anything to prevent Climate Change or stop flooding.

March 2020: The area was fondly named Ecological Owlthorpe by Sheffield University Students studying Landscape and Architecture <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6p1SwS5orno> under the guidance of Dr Nicola Dempsey. Their project was to produce an alternative to the 72 homes proposal on plot E in Owlthorpe by Avant Homes. The students took an in-depth look at the proposal to build in Owlthorpe by reviewing the hundreds of objections made by local residents and various organisations. They also studied the [interpretation boards](#) which show the extent of environmental work carried out in 2012 under the guidance of Natural England. Detailed information, Zoom into: <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/EO-12InterpretationBoardEntrance.pdf>

BSc Landscape Architecture: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vkuxSGsGfBw>

Whilst working in education I found how helpful both the Council and the Government have been in supporting students. In my questions to Matt Dunkley-Roberts The Planning Inspectorate Dated: 11th August 2021: Question 7: Is the inspectorate interested in working with Sheffield University students studying landscape and architecture under the guidance of Dr Nicola Dempsey? Dr Nicola Dempsey is not aware that I have approached the government inspectorate. If the government inspectorate is interested in supporting students it is up to them to approach Dr Nicola Dempsey. My thoughts at the time were that students could produce plans that could be shown at the COP26 Climate Change Conference in Glasgow on 1 – 12 November 2021. In evidence I produced for the inquiry <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/EO-16COP26-GOV.UK.pdf> I explained to the inspector that the UK needs to show its commitment to Climate Change as other countries such as Germany will be showing how they intend to build more efficient properties, and Norway will be boasting that more electric cars were sold than combustion in their country last year. I have always had an interest in architecture and I think it comes from my father who was a draftsman/estimator. At my visit to Sheffield University Students studying Landscape and Architecture, I made a request to Dr Nicola Dempsey to see if it was possible for her students to produce hypothetical plans

for a new housing estate and I had the site at Norton Aerodrome in mind. Such plans would have to take into account government legislation which states that excess electricity produced by properties with solar panels and storage batteries should be sold back to the national grid. I wondered how best to take advantage of solar energy. For example would the architecture of new builds have to have a south facing roof? How would this fit into the landscape? Would properties have to be built of the building line, what effect would this have on driveways? Charging points for electric cars and bicycles would need to be incorporated into all properties. Perhaps scrap-page deals for new residents moving into the new housing estate to exchange old combustion cars for electric could be recommended.

[Sustainability by Dr Nicola Dempsey Department of Landscape Architecture University of Sheffield](#). Ongoing financial public sector budget pressure is adversely affecting the management and quality of parks in the UK. According to UNISON (2018), 59% of the UK's local authorities had cut their parks and green spaces budgets between 2016/2017 and 2018/2019. This has led some local authorities to change how their parks services are delivered with fewer staff and an increased focus on lower maintenance.

Have a look at Dr Nicola Dempsey research, which looks into the gaps between what policy makers and designers say and do. What practitioners and due practice and how the end user experiences the designed places. [Nicola Dempsey – YouTube](#)

After my visit with Dr Nicola Dempsey's Landscape Architecture students, I decided to build a website to promote <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org> as an upstream nature based solution. As Ecological Owlthorpe is an upstream nature based solution designed to protect the environment from downstream flooding and all local residents feel that it should be preserved as such.

Editorial <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/Workingwithnature.pdf> shows my reason that I think Ecological Owlthorpe should be protected.

26th May 2020 Date of Letter to MP George Eustace Secretary of State Environment requesting call in of Avant Home's application to build in Owlthorpe. The Secretary of State has the power to take the decision-making power on a planning application out of the hands of the local planning authority when it is of national interest and I feel that downstream flooding anywhere is in the national interest. <https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN00930>, which states: **"The Secretary of State has the power to take the decision-making power on a planning application out of the hands of the local planning authority (LPA) by calling it in for his own determination. This can be done at any time during the planning application process, up to the point at which the LPA makes the decision. Who can request calling-in? Anyone can ask for a planning application to be called-in. Applicants should give clear reasons why they think that the application should be called-in, including why it is of more than local importance."**

My application which was submitted to MP George Eustace, Secretary of state Environment Dated: 26th May 2020 precedes the Sheffield City Council Planning & Highways Committee meeting Dated: 2nd June 2020. This was in accordance with Government Legislation. My request to MP George Eustace Secretary of State for Environment is about flooding, which is of national concern. Contrary to what Holly Dutton of the Planning Inspectorate says, the Secretary of State for Environment does have the authority to call in building applications before the Planning Inspectorate meeting takes place. I followed the Law of the land and feel the Inspectorate ignored it.

Prior to the planning inquiry I made numerous requests to both Holly Dutton and Secretaries of State MP George Eustace and MP Robert Jenrick that they review the refusal document as I do not believe it truly reflects the decision made by Sheffield City Council Planning & Highways Committee meeting Dated: 2nd June 2020. On page four of the refusal document, which both the appellant and the inspectorate have relied on as evidence in the inquiry states that if the appellant is not happy with the decision they can apply to the **Secretary of State for the Environment under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.**

I applied to the Secretary of State for the Environment to have the application called in why was my application not heard?

Video evidence is available of my request that the Inspector review the Sheffield City Council Planning & Highways Committee Dated: 2nd June 2020. In declining my request I feel this was a dereliction in his duty as an independent adjudicator and shows bias in favour of the Appellant. However, after my persistence with my request to the Inspector, Guy Williams, the Legal representative for Sheffield City Council arranged with Lucy Bond, Area Team Manager, to supply me with a copy of the meeting which had been taken off the council web cast, in particular the comments of Colin Walker which is quoted below. I now have obtained a copy video which I am hoping you will review. <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/EO-18ReviewofPlanningMeeting.pdf> the main point I am making: The Sheffield Planning Solicitor, Kate, explained procedure and votes were taken with many of the committee citing traffic impact as the reason for rejecting the application. The result was 10 against with 2 abstentions. After the vote was taken Colin Walker Interim Head said **“I think there is a significant risk if you throw Highway’s impact into this as a reason for refusal and that risk is that you effectively neutralise the site in residential terms.”**

Air Pollution in Ecological Owlthorpe (Sheffield)

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/pollution-nuisance/clean-air-zone>

“Air pollution contributes to 500 deaths a year in Sheffield. The harm done includes lung cancer and cardiovascular disease and stroke.

The biggest cause of pollution is transport, especially diesel vehicles. Sheffield has been in breach of the legal limits for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) levels since January 2010.”

More extracts from the Sheffield City Council Planning & Highways Committee Dated: 2nd June 2020 “Cllr Jack Clarkson explained that the site is a wildlife site and would be a massive loss of green space if developed, used by dog walkers etc. Cllr Andrew Sanger asked the question: Why were the sites not sold as one? It seems in deliberation that civil servants in the council did not want an Ecology Impact Assessment. By selling them off separately they could avoid this type of assessment. Cllr Peter Garbutt said “All three sites should be taken as one site” and asked the question: Does there need to be an Environmental Impact Assessment if they are? He also had concerns about traffic problems. Cllr Chris Rosling-Josephs explained that traffic in the area is horrendous, especially around Crystal Peaks but also in the surrounding area and that a full independent traffic assessment needs be taken before the council considers any more developments in the area.”

If anybody had taken notice of Cllr Chris Rosling-Josephs and my request, then the Appellant would not have been able to take their case to the Secretary of State.

This case should never have come before the Inspectorate.

My complaints to Planning Inspectorate:

First Complaint: <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/MathewDunkleyRoberts.pdf>

Second Complaint: <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/MattDunkley11thAug.pdf>

Final response from Bob Palmer the Planning inspectorate: <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/Bobpalmer.pdf>

My Rebuttal to Bob Palmer’s final response to complaints I made to the planning inspectorate.

Before the inquiry I requested that the application was reviewed by Secretary of State for the environment. I still believe that the problems of deforestation and carbon emissions are the main cause of Climate Change. I attended the book launch of Flood, produced by the residents of Fishlake. The book depicts the effect that flooding has on the village and its residents. Copies can be obtained from: <https://fishlakefloodbook.co.uk> this is what can happen when Planning Inspectors get it wrong and ignore Government legislation and

directive as described in my objection. Both HRH Prince Charles and Prime Minister Boris Johnson are featured in the book. The book also shows vital reasons for the flooding and possible remedies. Released just before the COP 26 Climate Change meeting in Scotland, I am sure the book will be well read and discussed both in national and international political circles.

Should the practice of building companies paying compensation for damage to the environment in the form of offset payments be outlawed? In the first instance this practice is open to interpretation that damage to the environment has unnecessarily occurred. I make this point because at the inquiry Inspector O S Woodwards made a fundamental mistake in number (89) of Appeal Decision Dated 2nd March 2021: “A contribution of £230,400.00 is secured to towards off-set biodiversity.” But extract from the site visit: <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/EO-19SitevisitWednesday20thJanuary2021.pdf> “**Facts Matter:** As we moved further up the trail, members of Avant Homes team showed the Inspector a patch of land to the left of the trail saying they could do something to compensate for the disturbance of trees and vegetation on site E. They were pointing to Plot 1 of the grazing project as described in Ecological Owlthorpe Evidence. This area is under Higher level stewardship funding from Natural England so cannot be used for offsetting.” Problems like this have happened in our area before when local candidate Bob McCann for the Liberal Party stood for election. His literature highlighted the fact that a building company had paid Sheffield (LPA) £250,000 in offset payments but the monies was not spent in our area. What happened to it and what will happen to the funding awarded by Inspector O S Woodwards?

This is a video of Ochre Dyke Woodland <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/Ochredyke.mp4> number 7 on all interpretation boards <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/EO-12InterpretationBoardEntrance.pdf> also attached is a photo of deforestation which has very recently taken place in Ochre Dyke Woodland, this deforestation will increase the flood risk downstream in Beighton and Fishlake.

Facts Matter: In the site visit I showed the Inspector, Howard Baxter Sheffield (LPA) and representatives from Avant Homes the water retention on site E by placing a ruler in the tracks left by the off-road bikers. Local residents of Owlthorpe understand that in wet months millions of gallons of water are stored in site E and gently released into the Ochre Dyke as it is a natural floodplain. It seems to me that none of the officials understood the significance of standing water and the effect it has on downstream flooding in bad weather conditions. This is better demonstrated on our website: <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/Water.mp4> Please view.

Facts Matter: “Plot D is also where Avant Homes suggest where a SUDS system should be located according to their flood risk assessment and drainage strategy, produced by AVIE Consulting LTD Leeds. As we passed the point where the SUDS system would be, it looks very pretty on the drawing board, but in a major flooding event the drainage system will be overwhelmed because of water pressure. If you needed any more proof that the SUDS system would fail it came during a site visit to the proposed development area. As we passed by the spot where the SUDS system would be, the path had turned into a river that we all had to paddle through. Although it was not a rainy day, it had been a very wet winter and surface water was pouring off the land. Members of (OAG) are witnesses to this fact. The Building Inspector, Howard Baxter of Sheffield (LPA) and Avant Homes representatives seemed oblivious to this fact. 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 cause the problem as by the time water reaches Moss Way 212ft, it is too powerful for the drainage system to cope. Ochre washes out of the mine workings this can be seen behind Crystal Peaks 178ft video <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/Ochredyke2.mp4> of flooding taken at the same time as flooding occurred in Beighton, Rotherham and finally Fishlake standing approx.: 23ft above sea level.”

Extract from my report on the round table event regarding housing supply: <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/EO-20roundtableeventregardinghousingsupply.pdf> I suggested to the Inspector that Avant Homes should move their project to the disused Aerodrome at Norton, which is a brownfield site by definition boasting many derelict buildings in need of redevelopment. I explained that the MOD may be responsible for removing asbestos from the site. Reported in Sheffield Star March 29th 2021 “Demolition

finally gets underway at former air base.” Buildings have now been removed, so there is no reason why Avant Homes cannot remove their project to the Aerodrome at Norton. I thought this would be a win win situation for all concerned and would conform with the statement announced by the Secretary of State: brownfield sites developed before greenfield sites. When I requested that the Inspector should suggest this to the Secretary of State he said “speaking to the Secretary of State is above his pay grade.” This is very concerning as the Inspector is supposed to be appointed by the Secretary of State. Guy Williams Barrister acting for Sheffield City Council thanked me for trying to obtain funding from two separate government funds. Evidence of this exchange can be viewed on You Tube. If the evidence has been taken down copies of the event have been taken and can be supplied.

It is not difficult to show how biased the Inspectorate was in favour of the Appellant with regard to this case. Holly Dutton tried very hard to stop me giving evidence on a number of occasions which can be proven within the exchange of emails dating back to October 2020. In one email from her I was told my evidence is only of local importance, however, Fishlike is more than 30 miles downstream. I was not invited to meetings hosted by the Inspector, which took place before the inquiry. I was invited to an electronic trial event that took place on the 11th January 2021 at 10.00am. I waited but was not allowed in to the trial event. It is only the host that has the ability to manage video conferencing.

In Bob Palmers review of my evidence, he states that in Question 5: “The Inspector did not consider it appropriate for you to share your screen because he understood it to be new evidence. This was not the case with the Appellant, which concerned evidence that had already been submitted.”

Through Holly Dutton I had tried to present evidence prior to the inquiry for some time, but without success. I protested to the Inspector about the time I was allotted to present evidence. I used to teach technical IT students many of whom I placed in the labs of Universities and Schools. My knowledge and understanding of how video conferencing is managed by the host is something I used to teach, so I was aware the Inspector showed his bias against my submitting evidence with my presentation and it was not just me that was denied screen shearing facilities.

There is video evidence of Guy Williams, Barrister for Sheffield City Council explaining to the Inspector that the screen sharing had been allowed for the Appellant yet denied for Mr Woods of (OAG) and Dr Rivers from the wild life trust. Guy Williams wanted to make sure that screen sharing was available for Sheffield City Council members that wanted to use it. I observed the Inspector turn on screen sharing for Sheffield City Council members. Again, this evidence shows how biased Inspector O S Woodward was in favour of the Appellant and Sheffield City Council.

Although the inspectorate states that they only use inspectors without any previous involvement with any of the parties, it is worth mentioning that O S Woodward studied for his MA in Town and Regional Planning @ The University of Sheffield.

Reported by Lloyd Bent in the Sheffield Star, 2nd June 2021: “Sheffield cabinet member under investigation ‘stepped aside’ from duties, these accusations include meeting with developers without other officers present and repeated delay and last-minute cancellation of public consultations, at the cost of tens of thousands to the taxpayer.”

Sheffield (LPA) has a poor record when it comes to the environment they have previously been in trouble with the Ombudsman for unnecessary felling of trees:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/cngj2xr3klmt/sheffield-tree-protests>

The link below is how Miriam Cates MP for Penistone and Stocksbridge made her case on behalf of her constituents regarding a similar building development at Hollin Busk in North Sheffield. She highlights the need for Sheffield Planning Authority to commit to the five-year planning policy, without which Planning Inspectors approve developments on valuable greenspace instead of brownfield sites which incur extra costs to the developers. This is the hub of building on Greenfield sites.

<https://www.miriamcates.org.uk/news/hollin-busk-planning-inquiry>

I have written to Michael Johnson the Head of Planning, Sheffield City Council to inform him of my communication with the Ombudsman, hear is his reply: “Dear Mr Meredith, I am writing to thank you for sending the below correspondence and to confirm we will respond fully with any Ombudsman enquiry that is forthcoming. Kind regards Michael”

There are a number of questions that I request that the Parliamentary Ombudsman to ask Michael Johnson Head of Planning Sheffield City Council.

1. Sheffield (LPA) has a poor record when it comes to the environment they have previously been in trouble with the Ombudsman for unnecessary felling of trees:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/cngj2xr3klmt/sheffield-tree-protests> Could the Ombudsman ask what provisions have Sheffield (LPA) put into practice to stop unnecessary felling of trees?
2. 21st February 2020: I submitted by Letter to Howard Baxter Sheffield (LPA) **Titled Flooding;**
<https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/EO-01OriginalObjection21stFeb2020.pdf> Could Michael Johnson explain to the Ombudsman why Howard Baxter completely ignored my complaint?
3. Could Michael Johnson explain why Howard Baxter (LPA) sent two different versions of the refusal document? The one sent to local residents is two pages long and suggests that Sheffield (LPA) support local residents. But the one sent to the appellant and used by the inspector at the planning enquiry is five pages long. <http://www.dlpplanningappeals.co.uk/Docs/CD2.37%20-%20Decision%20notice%20June%202020.pdf> On page four it states: “NOTES Appeals to the Secretary of State: If you are aggrieved by the decision of your Local Planning Authority to refuse permission for the proposed development or to grant it subject to conditions, **then you can appeal to the Secretary of State for the Environment under Section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990.**” Howard Baxter Sheffield (LPA) encouraged Avant Homes to ignore decision made by Sheffield (LPA). Could Michael Johnson explain why Howard Baxter deliberately misled local residents?
4. I request that the Ombudsman ask Michael Johnson to review the video footage of Sheffield City Council Planning & Highways Committee meeting Dated: 2nd June 2020. I have copies which can be made available: <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/EO-18ReviewofPlanningMeeting.pdf> Extracts from the meeting: “A number of local residents voiced their concerns along with other specialists. Cllr Jack Clarkson explained that the site is a wildlife site and would be a massive loss of green space if developed, used by dog walkers etc. Cllr Andrew Sanger asked the question: Why were the sites not sold as one? It seems in deliberation that the council (LPA) did not want an Ecology Impact Assessment and that by selling them off separately they could avoid this type of assessment. Cllr Peter Garbutt said “All three sites should be taken as one site” and asked the question: Does there need to be an Environmental Impact Assessment if they are? He also had concerns about traffic problems. Cllr Chris Rosling-Josephs explained that traffic in the area is horrendous, especially around Crystal Peaks shopping complex and the surrounding area and that a full independent traffic assessment needs be taken before the council considers any more developments in the area. The main point I am making: The Sheffield Planning Solicitor, Kate, explained procedure and votes were taken with many of the committee sitting traffic impact as the reason for rejecting the application. The result was 10 against with 2 abstentions. After the vote was taken Colin Walker Interim Head said “**I think there is a significant risk if you throw Highway’s impact into this as a reason for refusal and that risk is that you effectively neutralise the site in residential terms.**” Highways impact was removed from the legal document. I would like to know why.” It seems to me that unelected civil servants in the planning department are ignoring decisions made by elected City Councillors who represent their constituents. For democracy to work, this behaviour needs to stop. I do not think this development should have been brought before the Planning Inspectorate, what is Michael Johnson’s opinion?

5. Are civil servants in his department deliberately not making a 5-year housing supply policy in the full knowledge that as the Law stands: (LPA) without a 5 year housing supply policy the Planning Inspector has no alternative but to grant permission to the Appellant?

There are a number of questions that I request that the Parliamentary Ombudsman ask O S Woodward and the Planning inspectorate.

1. National Planning Policy Framework February 2019: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government: **2. Achieving sustainable development: 8c** “an environmental objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy”. **Extract from my report on the round table event regarding housing supply:** <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/EO-20roundtableeventregardinghousingsupply.pdf> I suggested to the Inspector that Avant Homes should move their project to the disused Aerodrome at Norton, which is a Brownfield site by definition boasting many derelict buildings in need of redevelopment. I explained that the MOD may be responsible for removing asbestos from the site. Reported in Sheffield Star March 29th 2021 “Demolition finally gets underway at former air base.” Buildings have now been removed, so there is no reason why Avant Homes cannot remove their project to the Aerodrome at Norton. I thought this would be a win win situation for all concerned and would conform with the statement announced by the Secretary of State: **“Brownfield sites developed before Greenfield sites”**. When I requested that the Inspector should suggest this to the Secretary of State he suggested that “speaking to the Secretary of State is above his pay grade.” This is very concerning as the Inspector is supposed to be appointed by the Secretary of State. Guy Williams Barrister acting for Sheffield City Council thanked me for trying to obtain funding from two separate government funds. Evidence of this exchange can be viewed on You Tube. If the evidence has been taken down copies of the event have been taken and can be supplied. My first question is why did Inspector O S Woodward dismiss my suggestion which is in line with government directive and statement by secretary of state for housing?
2. There is video evidence of Guy Williams, Barrister for Sheffield City Council explaining to the Inspector that the screen sharing had been allowed for the Appellant yet denied for Mr Woods of (OAG) and Dr Rivers from the wild life trust. Guy Williams wanted to make sure that screen sharing was available for Sheffield City Council members that wanted to use it. I observed the Inspector turn on screen sharing for Sheffield City Council members. Again, this evidence shows how biased Inspector O S Woodward was in favour of the Appellant and Sheffield City Council. Could the Ombudsman ask Inspector O S Woodward why he was so biased in favour of the Appellant?
3. This is my report regarding Site visit which is referenced in “Appeal Decision Inquiry Held on 12-15, 19, and 21 January 2021 **Site visit made on 20 January 2021** by O S Woodward BA(Hons.) MA MRTPI an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State Decision date: 2 March 2021”. <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/EO-19SitevisitWednesday20thJanuary2021.pdf> there are many facts that are not addressed in O S Woodward's appeal decision. (a) Water retention on site E as demonstrated on our website: <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/Water.mp4> Please view. (b) Offset payments to an area already covered by **Natural England** (HLSS). (c) Flood risk assessment and drainage strategy, produced by AVIE Consulting LTD Leeds. During the site visit to the proposed development area. As we passed by the spot where the suds system would be, the path had turned into a river that we all had to paddle through. This was not a rainy day but surface water was pouring off the land. Members of (OAG) are witnesses to this fact. The building inspector, Howard Baxter of Sheffield (LPA) and Avant Homes representatives seemed oblivious to this fact. The problem with this system is it relies on the drainage system which will be overwhelmed in heavy rain conditions. I would be grateful if the Ombudsman would ask the inspector why he thinks local knowledge described in the site visit is not relevant to his decision.

In conclusion I request that the decision made by inspector O S Woodward be set aside whilst a full investigation by the Parliamentary Ombudsman takes place.

Kind Regards

Michael Meredith