

Welcome to friends of *Ecological Owlthorpe*

Public opinion is a very powerful tool. The public need the media to ask searching questions of those in authority.

My name is Michael Meredith and I took part in the public enquiry and presented evidence EO-01 to EO-21 <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/publicinquiry.htm>

I feel that a nationally important issue regarding flooding has been totally ignored by the Government appointed Building Inspectorate.

Enquiry <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/EO-01OriginalObjection21stFeb2020.pdf>
Original Objection 21st Feb 2020 this is my original objection to planning Application 19/03143/FUL, building in Owlthorpe, submitted 21 February 2020 to Howard Baxter Sheffield (LPA). My concern has always been about deforestation and downstream flooding which is something we all need to tackle to prevent. My objection was completely ignored by Howard Baxter Sheffield (LPA) and now also ignored by the Building Inspector at this public enquiry. Please read in full.

On 26th May 2020 I requested that George Eustace MP call in the planning application made by Avant Homes Ref: 19/03143/FUL. This is in line with Government directive which states that the application has to be made before the (LPA) makes its final decision and can be made by anyone. Sheffield City Council (LPA) sat 2nd Jun 2020, so my appeal was lodged in time. holly.dutton@planninginspectorate.gov.uk says my appeal is rejected by Robert Jenrick MP and will be heard by the building inspector. Her reasons are that my objection is only of local interest. I requested clarification from both George Eustace MP and Robert Jenrick MP, but up to date I have not received a reply. Perhaps Robert Jenrick MP and Holly Dutton are in need of a geography lesson as Fishlake is located 31.2 miles down stream from Owlthorpe.

Evidence matters: <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/Ochredyke2.mp4> this video shows that Ochre has been washed out of the old mine workings under Owlthorpe because of the water pressure which the drainage system could not cope with. It went on to flood Beighton, before joining up with the River Rother and then the River Don and flooding Rotherham, Doncaster and finally finishing up in Fishlake.

Are the old flooded mine works under Owlthorpe safe?

Public Enquiry Evidence CD2.27: The Coal Authority, Mining Report SITE AT, MOORTHORPE GATE, OWLTHORPE, SHEFFIELD, “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.” There are many questions local residents need answering before any building takes place in Owlthorpe. 1. Exactly how much coal was extracted by Dent Main Colliery which did not close until the early 1970s? 2. With regard to flooding, what effect does flooding have on the timber props holding up these old mine workings? 3. 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. 4. Who is responsible if the mines collapse under the weight of New Housing? 5. What if subsidence causes damage to properties near the Development? Who can they claim compensation from? 6. Will household Insurance premiums increase? 7. Can residents living downstream from the disused mine

workings claim compensation from the Coal Authority for previous and potential new flooding events? 8. Deforestation is the cause of downstream flooding, so should the Coal Authority and Sheffield (LPA) look to reforest Owlthorpe to mitigate downstream flooding?

January 2021, Just after the public enquiry had finished Fishlake flooded again as you can see in this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6ABoXGUgR4> there is extensive flooding in the fields around Fishlake but about 9mins into this video, it shows the erosion to the tow path at the side of the River Don. This is a frightening prospect. If we do nothing there will be fatalities down stream from the Rivers of Sheffield.
Wakeup Clive Betts MP Sheffield South East and Sheffield (LPA).

Kind Regards

Michael Meredith

<https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/index.html>