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Coryn Reynolds  
The Coal Authority  
200 Lichfield Lane  
Mansfield  
Nottinghamshire  
NG18 4RG

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Coryn Reynolds,

Thank you for your email dated 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

**I asked the question in a previous email “Exactly how much coal was extracted by Dent Main Colliery.”** It is believed that vast quantities of coal were extracted from the colliery which was very successful and had a commercial contract to supply Blackburn Meadows power station in Sheffield. The colliery owned two 7 – ton Lorries, which took coal to the power Station on a regular basis. The Colliery also supplied the steelworks in Sheffield, the main haulers being Robinsons of Sheffield. Local coal dealers, M. Heath Jones of Intake and Keeton & Richardson, were also used for nearby small businesses and household coal sales. The drift was driven at an incline of 1 in 3.3 into the Parkgate seam of coal, which is due east from this location and also runs under Owlthorpe. In 1945 the colliery employed 27 men underground and 11 on the surface, and at this time the manager was Mr J H Heslop. In 1947 when the mines were nationalised the N.C.B. granted the pit an operating license.

This is information I have sourced from National Archives, Kew.

**Dent Main Colliery (1924) Ltd, Birley Wood, Mosborough, near Sheffield, North...**  
<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C16987290> Reference: COAL 34/1205 Description: Dent Main Colliery (1924) Ltd, Birley Wood, Mosborough, near Sheffield, North Derbyshire, (annexe to file no. AA12870). North Midlands district Valuation Board, North Midlands division, compensation unit no. ND/316: main compensation units. Note: Other reference: 9359 Date: 1949 Aug 01 - 1950 Feb 28 Held by: [The National Archives, Kew.](#)

Dent Main Colliery was situated to the right of Diamond Cottages where the Birley Moor Garden Centre is now. **GPS Coordinates: 53.33823,-1.386970**

### **Moorhole Colliery**

A map of Moorhole Colliery dated 1875 shows a Tramway crossing the field now designated Phase 2 of the grazing project from the area of the northern Engine House under Moor Valley to an area designated Old Shaft. **GPS Coordinates: 53.33890,-1.380101.** Moorhole Colliery stands less than 50 meters from the west boundary of Plot E where Avant Homes wish to build New Houses and Dent Main Colliery is situated not far upstream.

One thing that both Mines had in common is that water had to be constantly pumped out of both when in operation. The Ochre Dyke has its header water in Birley Woods standing 650ft above sea level. If you follow the path of the Ochre Dyke you will see it first passes through Dent Main Colliery then under Moor Valley and through the culvert opposite the garden centre **GPS Coordinates: 53.33822,-1.385700** then past Moorhole Colliery. After the pits were closed in the late 1960s water was no longer pumped out. It is believed that water from the Ochre Dyke now seeps into both pits.

I had hoped to find a definitive answer to who is responsible for the Ochre that washes out of the disused Mineworkers in Owlthorpe. As seen in this video: <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/Ochredyke2.mp4>. This video was taken at the same time that flooding occurred in Beighton, Rotherham, Doncaster and Fishlake, causing devastation as described in statement from Jenny Palmer: coordinating remedial works, carrying out flood samples for Uni. of Lincoln (cadmium deposits found across the landscape.) This forensic evidence will prove that some of the water that ended up in Beighton, Rotherham and Fishlake came from the disused Mine works of Dent Main and Moorhole collieries. <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/EO-03thisistheaccountofoneofthevictimsoffloodinginfishlake.pdf> .

It does seem to me that the Environment Agency is responsible for monitoring, but in correspondence I have received from them they also do not want to take responsibility for the Ochre water flooding out of the old mine works. I am still pursuing them. This document seems to suggest that the Environment Agency is in part responsible. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/291482/LIT\\_8879\\_df7d5c.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/291482/LIT_8879_df7d5c.pdf)

I have not been happy with the way the inspectorate has handled the enquiry so I have made a formal complaint to the Parliamentary Ombudsman. Copy of my complaint can be viewed here. <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/ParliamentaryOmbudsman.pdf>

As described in my formal complaint I requested that the Secretary of State call in the application by Avant Homes. My concerns have always been downstream flooding. I will be requesting that the Parliamentary Ombudsman look at the Ochre flooding out of the old mine works in Owlthorpe. He may also want to look at any records of the mine workings for both Collieries in Owlthorpe. I realise that the flooding was caused by the confluence of many rivers but the only river from Sheffield that I know of that has Ochre flooding out is the Ochre Dyke.

Thank you one again for the information you have supplied.

Kind Regards

Michael Meredith

