

There are a number of coal seams running under Owlthorpe: Sitwell Thin Coal, Sitwell, Rawmarsh and Silkstone. History shows that coal in Owlthorpe has been mined by a number of pits including the Birley group of pits.

Mining at Dent Main Colliery/Birley Wood Pit continued until the late 1960s

Dent Main Colliery/Birley Wood Pit <https://www.mindat.org/loc-376953.html>

Mining at Moorhole Colliery ended in 1932



One thing that both mines have in common is that they are situated at the side of the Ochre Dyke; water had to be constantly pumped out of both when in operation.

It is believed that vast quantities of coal were extracted from the Dent Main 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.

Coal Mining is part of Owlthorpe Heritage. Moorhole Colliery is situated on Owlthorpe Heritage & Nature Trail. (Plot (F) is situated on Moor Valley opposite Diamond Cottages.)

Please help save Owlthorpe Heritage & Nature Trail by

Signing our petition to Sheffield City Council: <https://chnng.it/6vXHqcGG4S>

Also, our petition to Parliamentary Ombudsman: <https://chnng.it/FPc7X4Nq>

Click here to see a map showing what is at stake: <http://ecologicalowlthorpe.org/HigherLevelStewardshipAgreementMap.pdf>

Please read our editorial in the Yorkshire Bylines.

<https://yorkshirebylines.co.uk/region/working-with-nature-sheffield-campaign-calls-for-protection-of-upstream-environments/>

Taking action,

As we say on our website, public opinion is a very strong tool. It is by working together that we can change hearts and minds and curb the over-development of vital green spaces, especially when mature and valuable trees are threatened with the axe. Numbers are important: politicians take notice when they feel a sufficient threat to their re-election.

Thank you for your support

Michael Meredith

PS: We are looking for any old photos of Dent Main Colliery & Moorhole Colliery pits, miners, pit ponies or the lorries that we could use on our website. Please email information to email: ecologicalowlthorpe@gmail.com