



Before my retirement I worked in education. A directive came down from the powers that be which was to eradicate the use of paper in all departments. We organized that all council workers were given lessons in the basics of how to use computer systems. I taught technical students and placed them in universities and schools. They helped organize servers, provided tuition to teachers and lecturers showing them how they could log on to the servers. We were so proud of our work and we must have contributed to saving thousands and thousands of trees from the axe.

Every thing was going so well until someone in the planning department decided to employ 'the mad axeman.' The attached photos show his work on plot E in Owlthorpe. The 'mad axeman' is also responsible for the Sheffield tree catastrophe, dubbed locally as the Sheffield chainsaw massacre. The 227-page report has just been published. [https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-03/sheffield\\_street\\_trees\\_inquiry\\_report.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3R\\_De5MltGC4FwxExvga5lSo8fEF1arzdP0FE4UBq6vmtHGK4rwq2vGgQ](https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-03/sheffield_street_trees_inquiry_report.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3R_De5MltGC4FwxExvga5lSo8fEF1arzdP0FE4UBq6vmtHGK4rwq2vGgQ) it does not make good reading for the planning department. If I was still teaching, I would recommend that all staff in the planning department take a compulsory refresher course at Sheffield University Landscape and Architecture classes. They would then have better knowledge and understanding of how planning is to be delivered in the modern world.

Planners in Sheffield (LPA) need to understand how to incorporate the Natural England infrastructure framework into planning. Published 2nd February 2023 [Natural England unveils new Green Infrastructure Framework](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/natural-england-unveils-new-green-infrastructure-framework). <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/natural-england-unveils-new-green-infrastructure-framework>

"Guidance will create nature-rich towns and cities, helping millions realise the benefits of accessing nature. As a comprehensive tool, the Green Infrastructure Frameworks and accompanying Design Guide will support local planning authorities and developers design and create more nature-rich urban greenspaces to meet mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain requirements and support development of Nature Recovery Network."

"Natural England's commitment is that the public should be able to access green space or water, such as woodlands, wetlands, parks and rivers, within a 15-minute walk from their home."

**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>

## **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

.