



Sheffield (LPA) are planning to destroy part of the Grassland Grazing project, number 2 on the map, a major component of the Owlthorpe Heritage & Nature Trail. Please zoom into the interpretation boards: <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/Interpritation.htm> The interpretation boards show the extent of environmental work carried out in 2012 under the guidance of Natural England's Stewardship.

I attended the Sheffield South East (LAC) meeting Sheffield City Council South East Local Area Committee Meeting held on 11th. January 2023. PRESENT: Councillors Karen McGowan (Chair), Kurtis Crossland, Tony Downing, Bryan Lodge, Bob McCann, Kevin Oxley, Gail Smith, and Ann Woolhouse.

The Committee received a presentation from Simon Vincent, Strategic Planning and Service Manager, Planning Service, on progress regarding the Draft Sheffield Plan. Mr Vincent reported on the aims and objectives of the Plan, which would replace the Sheffield Core Strategy (2009) and the Unitary Development Plan (1998). This showed how the Plan would affect Southeast Sheffield.

I was dismayed to hear from Simon Vincent that Sheffield (LPA) had decided to reintroduce plot F, into DRAFT SHEFFIELD PLAN. Originally Sheffield City Council had put plot C, D and E up for sale but left plot F from the plans.

Reasons:

1. Sheffield City Council have been receiving Government funding from Natural England. Under the freedom of information act I have requested and received maps and the payment structures which prove that Sheffield City Council have been receiving payments for many years for the conservation and maintenance of Hedgerows and Grasslands on (Plot F) Owlthorpe Heritage & Nature Trail.
2. Also access to plot F from Moor Valley had been refused previously because of traffic issues in the area.

At the meeting I challenged Simon Vincent, and made my objections. Extracts from minutes of the meeting: <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/PlanningObjections12thApril2023.pdf>

Simon Vincent explained that traffic access to Moor Valley was still problematic. Sheffield City Council have always wanted to join up the two Moorthorpe Ways. Wednesday 9th August 2023 at about 11am I saw a helicopter hovering over the end of Moorthorpe Way for about 15 minutes, then it moved over the pylon and hovered for approximately 20 minutes more. About 3pm the helicopter returned and was hovering between Plot E and Plot F. The question is: was this the Sheffield (LPA) surveying the possibility of different traffic access to site F? If so, the Owlthorpe Heritage & Nature Trail would therefore be completely destroyed.

We do need new housing, but as I explained to Inspector O S Woodward at the enquiry regarding plot E, that in a February 2020 interview with Sophie Ridge of Sky News, MP George Eustice, **Secretary of State Environment** explained that the government's approach to UK flood prevention would consist of an extra £4bn spending on flood defences but also in Yorkshire the creation and support of upstream nature-based solutions. I also suggested that new development should not take place in Owlthorpe but areas such as Norton Aerodrome, a brownfield site, should

be developed. We have some success; Simon Vincent explains that Sheffield (LPA) now intends to build 270 new houses at Norton Aerodrome and increase the number of new houses built in the City Centre.

We see the excellent conservation work carried out in the Porter Brook development and suggest that Sheffield (LPA) look to develop the Ochre Dyke corridor in the same way starting from the header waters in Birley Woods all the way down to the River Rother. I believe Government funding is available.

A big thank you to the 1,000 + supporters who in such a short period of time, have signed our petition to Sheffield City Council: <https://chng.it/6vXHqcGG4S> Please continue to support our campaign and request friends and family to sign our petition too. For more information, please visit our website at: www.ecological-owlthorpe.org

Thanks for your attention,

Kind Regards

Michael Meredith