
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 December 2025 09:22
To: Planning Comments (HPBC)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Application Reference No. : CON/2025/0060 Site Address: Millers Dale Station Unnamed Road From Glebe Farm To B6049 Millers Dale Derbyshire SK17 8SN Buxton Comments by: Andrew

From:

Bakewell Rd
Buxton
Buxton

Phone:

Email: [REDACTED]

Submission: Objection

Comments: Objection to Planning Application NP/HPK/1125/1163

I wish to register a formal objection to the above application on the grounds of environmental impact, public safety, and inappropriate intensification of visitor use within a highly sensitive area of the National Park.

1. Parking Capacity and Visitor Management

Parking pressure in Millers Dale and the surrounding lanes is already at an unsustainable level. Residents frequently experience illegal and unsafe parking by visitors, creating congestion and hazards. The proposal would increase visitor numbers without providing the infrastructure required to manage them, contrary to the principles of sustainable access.

2. Impact on the SSSI and Local Path Network

Much of the land around Millers Dale and Chee Dale lies within a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest. Footpaths within the valley are deteriorating rapidly as a result of heavy footfall. Any development likely to intensify use must be assessed against its impact on these sensitive habitats. Increasing activity without clear mitigation risks further damage to an already vulnerable landscape.

3. Waste Management Issues

Litter and dog waste are persistent problems in the area. The lack of dedicated bins results in inappropriate disposal, including dog waste being placed in household recycling bins, which prevents collection. Additional visitor numbers would place further pressure on local waste systems that are already failing to cope with current demand.

4. Capacity of Public Toilets and Drainage

The public toilets at Millers Dale Station appear to be operating at or near capacity. On busy days, odours from the drainage system are noticeable around the site, suggesting existing pressure on the system. It is unclear whether further visitor demand can be accommodated without infrastructure upgrades.

5. Previous Assurances on Cycle Hire Provision

During the earlier planning process for the goods shed and café, local residents were approached for letters of support and were advised that a third cycle hire would not be proposed. At that time, it was accepted that two hire centres along an 8.5-mile trail were sufficient. The current application contradicts these assurances and raises concerns regarding consistency in long-term planning strategy.

6. Economic Impact on Existing Local Businesses

Cycle hire businesses along the trail have operated for many years with support from the National Park Authority. Introducing a third hire centre would directly undermine existing businesses and could result in job losses. This represents avoidable economic harm within a rural community.

7. Trail Safety and User Conflict

Conflicts between walkers, cyclists and horse riders are already commonplace on the trail. The addition of approximately 120 further hire bikes would significantly increase congestion and heighten the risk of accidents, including for users with disabilities. The route is not sufficiently signed or managed to absorb this level of increased cycle traffic safely.

8. Overall Planning Balance

The proposal appears to prioritise short-term revenue generation at the expense of environmental protection, community wellbeing and the long-term sustainability of the trail. Investment in infrastructure—such as improved parking, waste management and visitor education—would be a more appropriate means of safeguarding both the landscape and the visitor experience.

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, I consider that the proposed development at Millers Dale Station would result in significant adverse effects on the local environment, public safety, established businesses and residential amenity. While I support the principle of a visitor centre and improved facilities that enhance understanding and protect the area, the introduction of a third cycle hire is unnecessary, unjustified and harmful.

I therefore request that the Authority refuse planning application NP/HPK/1125/1163.

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