

From: planningcomments@highpeak.gov.uk
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Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories:

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: R. Hanlon

From:

Hornbeam Cl
Cleveland
Middlesbrough

Phone:

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Submission: Neither

Comments: Dear Planning Officer,

I wish to register a formal objection to the proposed extension of the car park and the introduction of a third cycle hire facility at Millers Dale Station on the Monsal Trail.

As a frequent visitor to this section of the trail, I have seen first-hand the increasing pressure placed on this environment. The site sits within an area of exceptional environmental sensitivity, including land designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Increasing visitor numbers and associated activity at this point of the trail is incompatible with the duty to conserve and enhance the natural environment. The cumulative effects of additional traffic, bike hire operations, and increased footfall risk long-term harm to habitats, wildlife, and the character of the valley.

Current infrastructure along this stretch of the trail is already insufficient. During regular visits, it is evident that sanitation provision is limited and has previously been associated with sewage and odour problems, indicating that capacity is already being exceeded. Waste management is similarly inadequate, with litter and dog fouling becoming increasingly evident. No clear or credible strategy has been presented to address these shortcomings alongside the proposed expansion.

User safety is a further concern. From regular use of the route, sections of the footpath network in Chee Dale show clear signs of wear and erosion, with some areas now difficult to navigate safely. The trail is already heavily used, and conflicts between walkers, cyclists, horse riders, and less confident users are commonplace. Adding a large number of additional hire bikes would intensify these pressures and increase the likelihood of accidents.

The Monsal Trail is already well served by existing cycle hire facilities, including provision for adapted and accessible cycles. From the perspective of a regular user, the proposal therefore appears to be an unnecessary duplication of services rather than a response to an identified need.

From a planning perspective, it is difficult to justify further commercial development in this location when basic maintenance, safety, and environmental protection issues remain unresolved. Resources would be better directed toward repairing paths, managing visitor impact, and safeguarding the designated landscape.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, and based on my frequent use of the Monsal Trail, I believe this proposal would cause avoidable harm to a protected environment and diminish the quality and safety of the visitor experience. I therefore urge the Planning Authority to refuse this application.

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