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From: planningcomments@highpeak.gov.uk
Sent: 13 September 2026 17:06
To: Planning Comments (HPBC)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Application Reference No. : HPK/2025/0462 Site Address: Gas Works Site Horwich End New Road Whaley Bridge
Derbyshire SK23 7JZ Comments by: Tom Fairfield and Ali TorpeyN/A

From:

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Submission: Neither

Comments: HPK/2025/0462

We have read the comments made by the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) in their consultation response dated 09/09/2026.

The comments made by the DWT under the heading otters are a disgrace, demonstrating as they do, a complete lack of understanding of otter ecology.

The otter survey has not been published, but the DWT comments suggestion that the surveyor was not competent or experienced. Clear, quantifiable evidence for otter along the Carr Brook was present every day during July 2026 in the area it is suggested was surveyed.

Below is the published advice regarding otter surveys on Gov.Uk

Otters and their habitat could be affected if the development proposal causes:

- ⌚ habitat loss or degradation in or near water bodies
- ⌚ habitats being cut off and becoming fragmented
- ⌚ loss of holts and resting places
- ⌚ disturbance to resting and feeding places

¿ disturbance to their usual routes, for example, a road bridge or culvert works forcing otters to use roads or bridges that might mean it's more likely to cause them death or injury.

¿ An otter resting place can also be a holt. Otter natal holts can be beneath bramble domes, within a building, within a hollow tree or on mounds of tussock grass. All are strictly protected.

¿ The use of Holts or resting places may be influenced by river levels; these are referred to by professional surveyors as none secure features. Sprainting sites will also be influenced by river levels.

It is imperative that The Case Officer obtains professional advice regarding otters at the site.

Kind regards,

Tom Fairfield and Ali Torpey.

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