

Dear Peak Park Planning Body,

**: Objection to retrospective planning application NP/S/1217/1304 Midhope Moor plastic mesh.**

I live fairly locally to the Midhope Moor area and regularly visit this 'Natural Zone' of the National Park and enjoy the peace, beauty and solitude it provides. I am objecting to the continued presence of the plastic matting track which crosses the Cut Gate path on Midhope Moor. I had hoped that it was temporary as was initially stated and find its continued presence to be an eye sore and completely contrary to what one would expect in an area protected by the Peak Park Authority. One of the key attractions of this area has always been its open character, wildness and few obvious signs of human influence.

I had understood that this very obvious sign of human intervention was of a temporary nature, yet it now has a further application to remain. Having looked at the Peak Park Core Strategy Development Plan Oct 2011 I note that Policy LC1 states - '*development that would serve only to make land management or access easier will not be regarded as essential*'. .

Also within the **General Spatial Policy GSP1 - 7.19** it states '*where there are conflicting desired outcomes in achieving national park purposes greater priority must be given to the conservation of natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area, even at the cost of some socio-economic benefits*'. .

The Peak Park Authority has a stated duty to uphold '*valued characteristics*' of the National Park, including the natural beauty, natural heritage, landscape character and diversity as well as the sense of wildness and remoteness, clean earth air and water, wildlife and biodiversity.

I understand the supporting evidence to the application indicates that the development does not cross nor is near a water course. I have seen this plastic track/matting and it quite clearly crosses Mickleden Beck which flows from Bull Clough, eventually joining the Little Don downstream. Some of the matting is breaking up and will run off into the water course, causing pollution and being a risk to the animals that drink from it and live in it. This is completely contrary to current views on the impact of plastics on the environment. This is another reason for my objection to the continued presence of this matting.

I do not see how the imposition of the matting can have anything other than a negative impact on the landscape. It is an intrusive feature that can be seen from quite a distance crossing this wild valley. The Cut Gate Bridleway which the plastic track crosses and seen as a key feature on the other side of the valley, is a popular path used by many hundreds of people and the continued existence of this track detracts from their enjoyment of the area and conveys a message that those charged with protecting the quality and character of the landscape are allowing it to be spoiled.

I hope the planning committee will take these points into account when considering this application as this wild area of the Natural Zone of the National Park is worth defending.

Yours Faithfully