

Help shape the Peak District National Park Management Plan: responses to draft plan

1. First name *

MARK

2. Surname *

NORTH

3. Are you responding on behalf of an organisation? If not please go to question 5

Yes

4. Organisation name

MINERAL PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION

5. Email address *

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6. Please provide any comments you have on Section 5 - The Special Qualities of the Peak District National Park

7. Please provide any comments you have on Section 6 - The Areas of Impact

8. Please provide any comments you have on Section 7 - The Delivery Plan

9. Please provide any general comments

The Mineral Products Association are disappointed that notwithstanding our comments last year

on the initial consultation that no mention is made in the management plan of the extractive industry and its contribution to the Park. We set out below again our previous comments which still hold.

The Mineral Products Association's (MPA) members have been an integral part of the National Park community for centuries as a traditional local industry. Quarries and mines have helped shape the National Park and our members continue to partner with stakeholders to help meet National Park objectives.

Nationally important minerals are worked within the Park or just outside its boundaries. These include industrial minerals such as cement and high purity limestone. Aggregates are also worked within the Park and form a significant proportion of national crushed rock aggregates production. The Park also hosts dimension stone producers that supply building stone for heritage purposes both within the Park and to maintain historic buildings in major cities such as Sheffield. Building stone is also used in new build projects within the Park itself. The industry is thus a major contributor to economic activity within the Park and, directly and indirectly, provides for hundreds of job opportunities for the communities living within and around the Park boundaries, which are essential to ensure healthy and sustainable communities.

Mineral working within the Park is governed by National Planning Policy which does not oblige the NPA to provide a landbank of aggregates, but which allows for the possibility through paragraph 116 of NPPF for major developments to be rigorously tested against criteria for need, including national need, and the economic impacts of permission or refusal; the costs and scope of developing elsewhere, or meeting need in some other way, say through the use of alternatives; and any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreation, and the extent of moderation of impacts. There is therefore no absolute ban on mineral working (along with any other major development) within National Parks, so long as proposals are able to demonstrate that they meet these criteria of exceptional circumstances.

The MPA's view is that mineral working can continue to co-exist within the National Park quite happily with minimal impacts on national park objectives, with co-operation and appropriate management of impacts. MPA members have reduced their environmental footprint steadily over the last few decades and continue to make strenuous efforts to further reduce the impacts of their operations as far as it is viable to do so. The MPA would like to work with the NPA to further this objective whilst continuing to work the important minerals it has permission to extract.

The MPA should like the industry's current contribution to the National Park and its identity to be acknowledged in the Management Plan as a crucial component of the economic activity of the area and the current and future contribution it can make to sustainable local communities.

We also refer you to a draft report produced for High Peak Borough Council entitled *Minerals and Aggregate Extraction in High Peak and Derbyshire Dales; A Sector Benefits Study* (see link)

https://www.highpeak.gov.uk/media/2674/Minerals--Aggregate-Extraction-in-High-Peak--Derbyshire-Dales---Draft-Report/pdf/Minerals___Aggregate_Extraction_in_High_Peak___Derbyshire_Dales_-_Draft_Report.pdf

