

National Parks Circular revising 12/96 and 125/77 ~ Response from Campaign for Better Transport

National Parks must be defended against unnecessary development and road building

The Campaign for Better Transport is not directly involved in issues related to National Parks, except where they are threatened by road building. We have limited our response to comments on section 7.12 of the draft circular and refer you to the submission by the Campaign for National Parks.

7.12 Major Developments

Campaign for Better Transport supports the principle outlined in section 7.12, which argue in favour of a presumption against major developments.

We have one suggestion: that this section should specifically cover all road building within the National Parks. Further, the standard for the public interest test must be very high: it must not be sufficient to show that, on balance, more people would benefit than disbenefit, or support than oppose, a planned development.

Our response is informed by the attempts by the Highways Agency to construct a bypass around Mottram, Tintwistle and Longdendale. The bypass would have encroached into the Peak District National Park, irreparably damaging a fantastic natural resource for those living in Sheffield, Manchester and Stoke-on-Trent. Whilst the Highways Agency abandoned its plans for the bypass in March 2009, Tameside MBC still harbours ambitions to bring the bypass to fruition. The National Parks must be protected against unnecessary and damaging development.

January 2010

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Campaign for Better Transport

Campaign for Better Transport is the leading transport NGO. Our compelling arguments and ideas have won us the support of national decision-makers and local activists, enabling us to secure transport policies and programmes that improve people's lives and reduce environmental impact.

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