

Hope Valley Climate Action for March 2026 Parish Magazines

Peak Cluster consultation

Ever since Hope Valley Climate Action was established in 2019 we have been very aware of the particular challenge raised by the presence in our Valley of the largest cement works in the Country. The Hope Cement works currently releases well over a million tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere every year. This is vastly more than any other source locally. And the specific problem associated with cement manufacture is that it is the chemical process itself that generates most of the CO₂, not the burning of fuel. In essence, you can't make cement without making a lot of CO₂.

Much can be done to reduce cement and concrete use, through repurposing (rather than knocking down and rebuilding) buildings, through the use of alternative cements and alternative building materials, such as timber. However it is all but certain that there will continue to be a significant demand for conventional cement for some years to come.

This raises the question as to how to manufacture cement without discharging huge amounts of CO₂ into the atmosphere. The only serious solution proposed to date is **carbon capture** and **storage** – capturing the carbon as it is released from the plant, and storing it, by burying it in disused gas (or oil) fields.

This is the essence of the Peak Cluster proposal, which would link the Hope Cement works with three others in Derbyshire and Staffordshire, taking captured CO₂ in a newly constructed pipeline to the Merseyside basin and thence out to disused gas fields in Morecombe Bay. Readers will know that Peak Cluster are currently conducting a consultation exercise on the route of the pipeline, and other aspects of the project.

HVCA is very aware of the controversial nature of this proposal, with strongly held views on either side of the argument. We have put a number of questions to Peak Cluster about the details of the plans, to which we hope to get answers before we submit our response to the consultation. We will be arguing strongly that any local solution to the enormous emissions of greenhouse gasses locally must be implemented alongside radical moves to reduce cement and concrete use. But in the absence of any alternative proposals for dealing with the CO₂ currently being emitted, piping it away and burying it may be the least worst option.

If you want to get involved in helping to shape our response, or any other aspect of our activities, contact info@hopevalleyclimateaction.org.uk. Or go to our website, where you can sign up for our newsletter, donate to our *Raising the Roof for Renewables* appeal, and see what else we are up to!

Jeremy Wight, HVCA trustee and treasurer
February 2026