

We have consulted widely with businesses (farms) and impacted residents and we consider there to be an outrageous democratic deficit in the conduct of Peak Cluster. This project, which by any yardstick is a hugely expensive and environmentally damaging scheme designed to address climate change, should have been the subject of a consultation process which demonstrated public acceptability and allowed relevant Members of Parliament and local Councillors to be held accountable before detailed plans blighting great swathes of land and properties were released.

Under this phase, Peak Cluster, have advised farms and residents of detailed plans which could destroy businesses and present a real danger to health - hence blighting those affected - without the relevant cost benefit analysis and risk assessments being made available in advance. Our Member of Parliament and local Councillors have not published any evidence that they understand the risks and costs and have not explained why Peak Cluster should be allowed to cross their constituencies and councils.

Worse still, Peak Cluster representatives have been advising those impacted by the scheme that the project has been approved by Central Government under regulations which means that no planning objections are possible and the project cannot be stopped.

Even though reports of the dangers of CO₂ leakage from the proposed pipeline are readily accessible on the internet, Peak Cluster has chosen not to communicate these risks to the attention of communities close to the scheme and explain in a convincing manner why these risks should be of no concern.

We detail the concerns of local farms:

- There will be irreversible damage to prime agricultural land and disruption to fields and soil structure — Pipeline installation requires deep trenching, heavy machinery and wide construction corridors. Even when reinstated, soil compaction and drainage changes will affect productivity for years
- There will be Prolonged and Repeated disruption to daily farming operations – Construction work and equipment will result in the denial of access to parcels of land (severed land), impact to freedom of movement around land, drainage risk and potential flooding creating ‘No Go’ areas for livestock and farm machinery, impact on biodiversity, interruption of cropping cycles and provision of food (animal feed and our own food chain)
- Animal Welfare – In extremis as a result of the impact herd swill have to be culled.

Residents have raised the following concerns:

- They are worried about the health consequences of pipe leakages and explosions and escaping CO₂
- In addition to the non-financial issues, residents ask if ALL options been explored, including on-site or decentralised carbon storage technologies?
- Could the Peak Cluster land and money have been used alternatively to create stretches of woodland designed to absorb CO₂?
- If other options were explored, on what basis has the pipeline been deemed the best course of action for the cement business?
- Pushing ahead with the pipeline allows industry to continue emitting, rather than transforming processes or reducing demand – this is not solving the root cause and shifts the burden onto rural

communities, who bear the physical disruption and long lasting impacts while industries elsewhere claim environmental progress

- Does Paek Cluster disincentivise the need to create cleaner alternative lime and concrete production systems and diverts investment from more systemic solutions like material efficiency, alternative binders, or reduced consumption