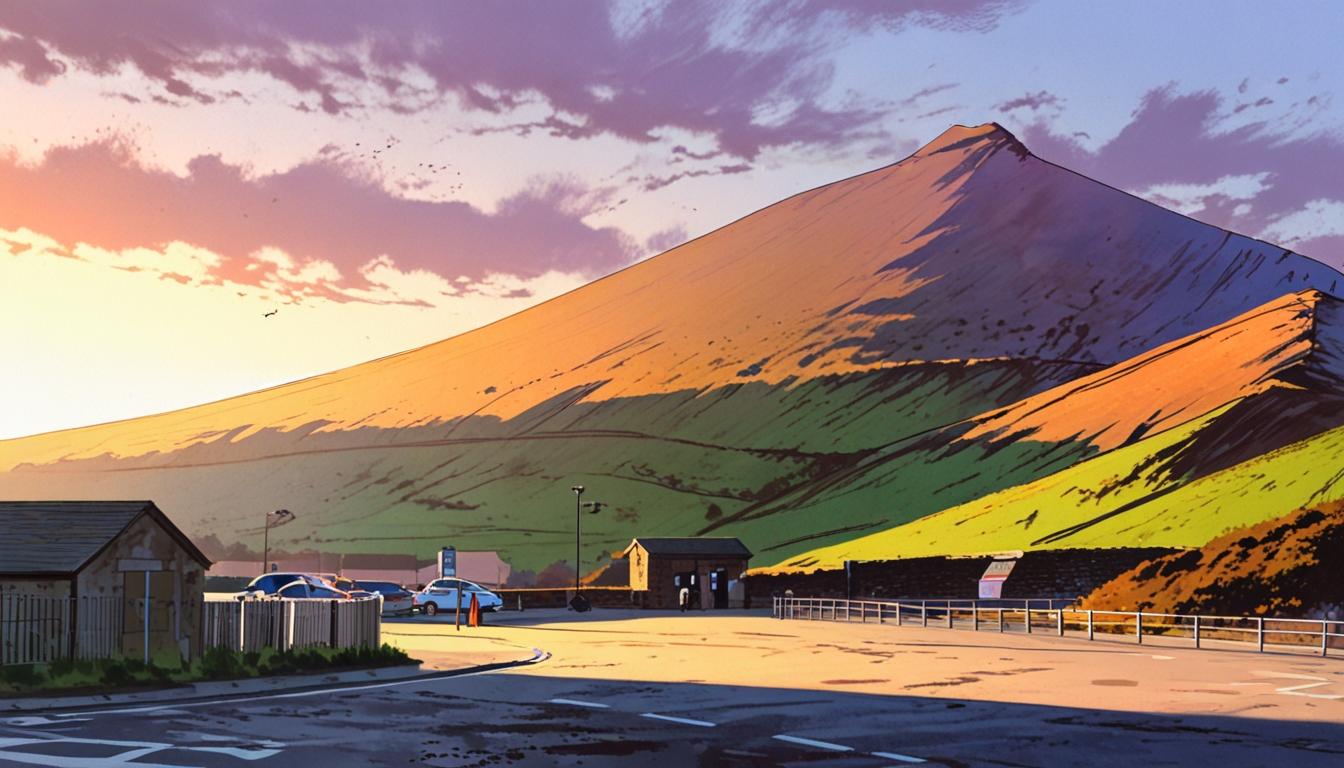
# Increase in visitor numbers raises concerns at Mam Tor



In the early hours of a Wednesday in the Peak District, a car park beneath Mam Tor’s summit began to bustle as visitors arrived to witness the sunrise. This location, known for its scenic beauty, is becoming increasingly congested as more outdoor enthusiasts flock to the area. Mam Tor, which stands as the second-highest peak in the national park, has transitioned from a tranquil spot frequented mainly by seasoned hikers to a popular destination that often experiences overcrowding and has drawn concerns from both locals and authorities.

The surge in popularity can be traced back to the COVID-19 lockdowns that began in early 2020. As people sought solace in nature during a time of confinement, the Peak District emerged as an attractive option, particularly as restrictions eased. The pandemic coincided with the rise of social media platforms like TikTok, which has played a significant role in boosting the visibility of Mam Tor and its picturesque trails. The hashtag “#PeakDistrict” now boasts over 112,000 posts, with many sharing their experiences and adventures, inadvertently inviting further crowds to the national park.

The impact of this influx is evident, as reported by the Derby Telegraph. During a recent council discussion, parking issues around Rushup Edge were highlighted, with 1,918 fines issued last year. In winter, police were compelled to close roads surrounding Mam Tor due to traffic bottlenecks caused by parking on grass verges. With the advent of spring and a promising weather forecast, visitors continue to arrive en masse.

A recent visit to the Mam Tor car park revealed that many still rely on outdated payment methods. The only available payment option was an app that functioned sporadically in areas with limited mobile service, leaving some visitors struggling to pay for parking. This predicament has raised questions about accessibility and whether alternative payment methods, such as cash or contactless options, might reduce visitor frustrations.

The popularity of Mam Tor has also led to environmental concerns. In 2024, approximately 700,000 people are reported to have summited the peak, leading to increased erosion and necessitating restoration work by the national park’s authority. Littering has become a pressing issue, as rubbish is frequently left behind by visitors. The Peak District National Park Authority has acknowledged this “litter challenge” and has called on visitors to take responsibility for their waste to preserve the area for future generations.

While many visitors expressed enjoyment of the natural splendour, concerns from local residents and regular walkers about the increasing tourist crowd surfaced. Ian Hemming, a long-time local walker, remarked on the changes he has observed over the years, saying that the present influx of unsupervised visitors can negatively impact the experience for seasoned locals who cherish the area's tranquillity.

Meanwhile, in Stapleford, another issue related to parking management is attracting criticism. A small car park behind a Sainsbury’s has come under scrutiny for its enforcement practices, leading to numerous complaints from local residents about unfair parking fines. Drivers claim they are receiving fines shortly after entering the car park, often before they can even complete a brief stop. Martin Leighton, a complainant from Beeston, recounted his experience of receiving a £60 penalty notice after just 70 seconds in the lot. He criticized the visibility of the parking signs as inadequate and suggested the enforcement appeared to be more a money-making venture than a genuine attempt to manage parking.

Broxtowe Borough Councillor Richard MacRae echoed the residents’ frustrations, advocating for clearer signage and better facilities, such as parking meters. UKPS, the operator responsible for the car park, defended its policies, asserting that fines are only issued when drivers park unauthorized. A spokesperson stated that charges are carefully reviewed by CCTV operatives before being dispatched.

As these two distinct yet interconnected issues illustrate, the challenges of parking both in tourist regions like Mam Tor and urban centres like Stapleford highlight the complexities of accommodating growing visitor numbers while maintaining the integrity of local communities and natural landscapes.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mam_Tor> - This URL provides information about Mam Tor’s geography and its status as a popular destination in the Peak District. It describes the hill’s history and geological features, which are relevant to understanding its appeal and the environmental concerns arising from increased visitor numbers.
* <https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/learning-about/news/mediacentrefacts> - This URL offers details about the Peak District National Park, including its accessibility and popularity. It highlights the park’s large visitor numbers and the challenges associated with managing those visitors, aligning with concerns about overcrowding at Mam Tor.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peak_District#Tourism> - Although not specifically about Mam Tor, this URL discusses the tourism in the Peak District, which is relevant to understanding the broader context of visitor influx and its environmental impacts.
* <https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g806086-d10822950-Reviews-Mam_Tor-Hope_Hope_Valley_Peak_District_National_Park_England.html> - This review page discusses visitor experiences at Mam Tor, including issues with signage and trail conditions. It reflects the challenges and concerns related to increasing visitor numbers.
* <https://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/news/local-news> - This URL, while not directly linked to Mam Tor, is a news site where local issues such as parking and visitor management in the Peak District are reported. It could provide relevant news articles on these topics.
* <https://www.sainsburys.co.uk/> - This URL is about Sainsbury’s, where one of the car parks mentioned in the article is located. It could provide background information on the locations involved in parking issues.