

Comment for planning application WSCC/030/21

Application number

Name

Address

Type of Comment

Comments There is no need for more capacity as can be seen from reading the Interim results for Ibstock Clay published last week on 4 August 2021. Ibstock Clay is the leading manufacturer by volume of clay bricks sold in the United Kingdom. With 16 manufacturing sites Ibstock Brick has the largest brick production capacity in the United Kingdom. It operates a network of 18 active quarries located close to its manufacturing plants. They report, "Domestic industry production for the first five months of 2021 totalled around 780 million bricks, being around 90% of 2019 levels, and imported brick volumes reduced to around 17% of total market volumes supplied." And "The 60 million investment in the redevelopment of our clay brick facilities in the West Midlands will expand our capacity significantly from early 2024, consolidating our leadership position in the clay brick market. It will also demonstrate our commitment to leading our industry on sustainability issues, producing the UK's first net-zero carbon bricks".
So, there is no need for new clay quarries in the Weald and any new capacity should be net-zero carbon. This development will result in an increase in net carbon emissions.
This is currently a safe, peaceful, rural site. Under this proposal HGV's will run alongside, and across established Public Rights of Way regularly used by members of the public giving rise to severe safety concerns. Furthermore this proposal does not compliment the natural environment or rural character of the area and does not bring any demonstrable benefits to the local community which is in contradiction to the Chichester District Local Plan for development in a rural area.
The proposed site includes Ancient Woodland which means that it has existed continuously since at least the year 1600. This development will have a major negative impact on local wildlife habitat and species including rare bats.
HGV traffic volumes will present a severe safety risk for existing road users along Loxwood Road. This is a quiet country road often used by cyclists and horses. In places it is narrow and users tend to use the middle of the road as the surface at the edges is in very poor condition. A huge increase in HGV traffic can only make this situation worse.
If this application is approved there needs to be conditions applied to ensure that the site is made good. There have been other cases in West Sussex where developers generate value for themselves, then liquidate the company leaving the local authority with the cost of cleaning up. The applicant should be required to place a suitable sum in escrow to be released only if the site is restored."/>

Received

Attachments