

# Comment for planning application WSCC/030/21

Application number	<input type="text" value="WSCC/030/21"/>
Name	<input type="text" value="Chris Blizard"/>
Address	<input type="text" value="COXFOLD, COX GREEN, COX GREEN, HORSHAM, RH12 3DD"/>
Type of Comment	<input type="text" value="Objection"/>
Comments	<p>I STRONGLY OBJECT to the planning application for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. As shown by the latest WSCC Minerals Monitoring Report there is no need for a new and very small-scale supply of brick-making clay in Sussex. Brickworks are, almost always, sited on the clay resources they use as it is uneconomic to transport raw clay. The application effectively acknowledges there will be no demand for its clay by stating an extra-ordinary proposal that the applicant will create a small-scale brickworks at an unspecified location and date making bricks by hand. If such a brick-making operation is seriously proposed it would be more sensible to set it up first, using existing clay sources, before seeking to open up a new supply.</li><li>2. Given the lack of demand for clay, the application is effectively an excuse for creating a waste recycling operation in a very unsuitable, green-field location. There are already enough recycling centres in the local area and planning policy requires such centres to be on brownfield sites, close to the national major road network and close to the urban environment that is likely to generate such waste. The application should fail by reference to these requirements.</li><li>3. If approved, the application will create a huge increase in the number of HGV journeys along a narrow, winding and undulating Loxwood Road which is totally unsuited to significant volumes of such traffic. The applicant's own data shows that a 300% increase in HGV traffic is expected. Safety would be significantly compromised and access into and off the site would be dangerous due to the limited site-lines (even after so-called improvements at the access location are carried out). The access road within the woodland area would, in part, be shared with a footpath and would cut across other footpaths - creating danger for all human and animal users of the footpaths.</li><li>4. The application, if successful, would result in considerable noise pollution in an area that is currently very quiet and tranquil, with virtually no background noise other than from nature. Noise would be created by, amongst other things, diesel generation of electricity, very large diggers and other mobile and stationary machinery including a wheel-wash facility positioned close to residential housing.</li><li>5. The proposal, if given approval, would result in the "temporary" closure and re-routing of footpath 792-1 for a period of 33 years - hardly temporary by anyone's definition. The re-routing would approximately treble the length of the affected part of footpath. Several footpaths would be dangerously impacted by the site's access road and applications for new PROW would be compromised before they could be given due consideration by the relevant authority.</li><li>6. The environmental impact of the applicant's project would be very significant - leading to a net loss of biodiversity as acknowledged within the application (paragraph 22.49 of the Environmental Statement, and evidenced by Appendix ES W). Huge numbers of trees would be destroyed together with the related wildlife habitat. Environmental vandalism on this scale is simply not acceptable.</li><li>7. The application contains a significant number of errors, omissions, and opinions appearing to be facts (evidence of this statement can be provided if requested) implying that the applicant is unprofessional and cavalier with important details. The application also includes a considerable number of commitments that the applicant says will happen, including some that commit owners of woodland adjacent to the site, which it is impossible for the applicant to ensure will be honoured. The applicant and its directors do not have any track record or experience in the business of clay extraction and waste recycling. Without any external authority to provide constant and detailed policing of adherence to all the rules, requirements and commitments arising from the operations the local community would largely be reliant upon the applicant self-policing everything. The unprofessional and cavalier application does not give any confidence that this will happen to an acceptable standard.</li><li>8. Overall, the proposed operation does not conform with relevant Policies, the Loxwood Neighbourhood Plan, or the Chichester District Local Plan for development in a rural area, is not sensitive to the surrounding area, will be damaging to the environment and will not result in any appreciable, counteracting economic or other benefit for the local community.</li></ol>
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Attachments	