

**From:** [Sally Astles](#)  
**To:** [PL Planning Applications](#)  
**Subject:** WSCC/030/21 OBJECTION Mr and Mrs S Astles  
**Date:** 13 August 2021 09:55:35

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OBJECTION TO WSCC/030/21 Mr and Mrs Astles, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

With reference to the above planning application for clay excavation, we write to object for the following reasons:

1. The national local level of clay requirements are already met, with WSCC having more than 25 years of reserves.
2. A clay pit should be built in a built up brownfield site, not in a beautiful much loved ancient woodland. The woodland is enjoyed for recreation, exercise, dog walking, wildlife enjoyment. Access on a public right of way will lead to conflict of uses. It is very popular walking spot.
3. Building clay pits in the wood does not conform to the Neighbourhood plan or Chichester District Local Plan for development in a rural area. It does not extend, protect or improve the natural environment or provide biodiversity gains.
4. Major negative impact on wildlife habitat and species. The wood is home and habitat for a number of red listed birds, including cuckoo and nightingale, as well as badgers, birds of prey, butterflies and reptiles. Felling of trees may destroy potential bat homes. Increased noise and pollution may destroy the ecosystem in this area, for species already under threat. The wildlife and woodland is on the edge of villages, so serves an important link to other natural landscapes and is hugely valued as an area of peace and nature by villagers.
5. Increased pollution and carbon emissions and HGV traffic through the village is detrimental to the climate emergency and would spoil the environment for wildlife and people alike.

The woodland is a wonderful feature of the area being walking distance from a number of villages. Loxwood in particular is receiving an unfair proportion of new homes with more people moving in, and this woodland is key to providing doorstep recreation for all. These new people should also have access to undisturbed, unfettered access to this woodland for their health and wellbeing.

Kind regards

Sally and Stephen Astles