

Comment for planning application WSCC/030/21

Application number	WSCC/030/21
Name	Mary Jo Crisp
Address	CRABTREE COTTAGE, DRUNGEWICK LANE, DRUNGEWICK LANE, BILLINGSHURST, RH14 0RP
Type of Comment	Objection
Comments	<p>I am writing to lodge my objection to Planning Application WSCC/030/21 on the following grounds</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) The proposed development is in an area of what is understood to be ancient woodlands which are enjoyed as an amenity by the local population. Development of this area will cause the destruction of the natural habitats of a mixture of flora and fauna and cause considerable disruption for a considerable amount of time. These woods and surrounding fields have been an area of peace and tranquillity for many years. The woods are full of wildlife such as slow worms, common lizards, grass snakes, butterflies wintering birds (some on the amber and red list) and nesting birds such as nightingales, along with many wild flowers (including orchids). I am also aware that there are a number of badger sets in the woods.2) This area has been used by many walkers, runners, horse riders etc. who have enjoyed the amenity of the woods and who will have a significant right to roam removed. In addition, there will be danger from the traffic movements of large lorries accessing the development area.3) The proposed entrance to access the site is at a layby of a B-road. The access here is awkward as it is on a slightly blind bend where vehicles travelling at speed will suddenly encounter a large slow truck turning and cause a highway safety issue. The egress from the proposed site access road onto the B road has also got limited sight lines and may cause a dangerous situation with a slow moving truck pulling out onto the highway. In addition this area is also used for parking for walkers etc and access by other users such as horse riders and there is potential danger to pedestrians and others. I understand these points have been also been raised by West Sussex Highways.4) There will also be a further highway issue along the proposed route of the trucks to the A281. The road is a B road with several narrow sections (5.1m near Exfold farm) and motorists often park their cars along the top end near Bucks Green. The road has sharp bends and blind corners. It will therefore be totally unsuitable and very dangerous for 42 HGV movements a day to be driving at speed in either direction, particularly when they pass each. The number of proposed vehicle movements will also add enormously to noise vibration and engine pollution of the area and houses in the vicinity. My understanding is that the new Highway Code which comes into force in October will require vehicles to give priority to pedestrians, horses and cyclists and allow at least a 1.5 metre gap when passing. This will force the HGVs onto the verge on the opposite side of the road and significantly increase the danger of an accident if they were to meet vehicles coming the other way.5) The proposal will cause disruption to the local area for a very considerable amount of time; the proposal is for movements of around 42 lorries per day for 33 years, causing noise and pollution and attendant health risks.6) The proposal does not conform to the Local Development Plan for the area.7) The proposed route travels beside several Listed Buildings, sometimes in quite close proximity. I understand that Heritage Assets are afforded protection by the Government under the NPPF and as such, the proposals will contravene the intent of those policies by putting these house and others at serious risk. The applicant has so far not made any attempt to assess this issue or offer assurance owners of listed buildings (disclosure; as one of the Listed Building owners, we have so far not been contacted) along the proposed route as to any mitigation measures, therefore they have fundamentally failed to meet the Government's policy requirements.8) A reason given by the developer to dig for clay is the shortage of clay for bricks; however my understanding is that when this claim is investigated, this doesn't seem to be substantiated in fact. Any shortage of bricks is caused by manufacturing capacity in the brick industry being unable to respond to increases in demand.9) The application proposes that post clay extraction, the area be used for the disposal of waste. It is my understanding that there is no requirement for an additional waste site in West Sussex and particularly one sited in a remote and inaccessible greenfield site.
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