

Planning application number: WSCC/030/21
Loxwood Clay Pits Ltd Planning Application

Objection

I object to the planning application WSCC/030/21 for the following reasons:

It is difficult to think of a more unsuitable location to choose for clay extraction, a landfill and recycling plant. This is 2021 not 1971 why is this proposal even being considered?

I have to wonder what exactly were Loxwood Clay Pits Limited selection process criteria when selecting a potential location for this venture? Surely after going through the below tick list (or their own assessment document) they must of realised this was a totally unsuitable site for the proposed development?

Environment

- A beautiful, tranquil and unspoiled area of country side? ✓
- Unspoiled woodland and footpaths? ✓
- Irreplaceable ancient woodland. ✓
- Rare and protected wildlife. ✓
- A completely undeveloped Greenfield location. ✓

Access

- No suitable roads for HGVs. ✓
- HGV will have to drive through villages along narrow winding roads. ✓
- No possible alternative means of transportation of materials such as by rail or waterways. ✓
- Creation of tens of thousands of additional journeys for heavily polluting diesel powered HGVs to remove clay no one actually needs, in order to create a massive hole that can then be filled. ✓
- No nearby dual carriage ways or major roads suitable for HGVs. ✓

Impact of 42 HGVs per day

This will inevitably lead to deaths and injury to other road users; walkers, cyclists, horse riders will be particularly vulnerable to such a large number of HGV's driving to and from the proposed site. There will be casualties on the local roads if this proposal goes ahead.

Has the risk assessment for the likely number of casualties from the increased HGV traffic on the possible routes to and from the proposed site over the next 33years been published? If it has not been published how can a decision be made? What will be the acceptable number of road casualties for this proposed development?

Spoilers

When I first heard about the landfill proposal, I actually thought it was a joke, really who would want to destroy one of the few remaining areas of unspoilt West Sussex country side?

Well here I am in 2021 after experiencing the last two years of Covid-19 drama, where the value of accessible, unspoilt countryside has never been highlighted more. With the media full of stories about global warming, climate change, sustainability, protection of woodland and planting trees for the future. Yet I have to spend time objecting to a proposal that appears to be simply ridiculous and in complete contradiction to common sense and government policy?

Further detailed objections:

Demand for a Clay Pit

- There is simply no demand in West Sussex or nationally for brick making clay for the next 24 years.
- If however there was demand, the clay should be extracted close to the brick factory to avoid unnecessary HGV journeys
- Would the sort of clay that would be extracted “Weald Clay” actually be required for local brick making?
- The site is totally unsuitable for a needless clay extraction site
 - Because of poor and restricted access to and from the site in all directions
 - The irreplaceable sensitive nature of the site
 - Environmental concerns

Landfill - Waste Site

- There is currently sufficient capacity for construction & demolition waste in West Sussex
- If the clay is not extracted there will be no hole to fill with waste so no need to landfill
- The location is totally unsuitable for a waste site
 - Because of poor and restricted access to and from the site in all directions
 - The irreplaceable sensitive nature of the site
 - Environmental concerns

Unsuitability of proposed location

- It is an unspoilt, undeveloped Greenfield site? The proposed waste site is in the complete opposite type of location to the “brownfield site in a built up area” location recommended by national policy.
- Access is poor and with restricted vehicle access in all directions.
- There would be the loss of :
 - Woodland (permeant destruction of)
 - Ancient Woodland(permeant destruction of)
 - A greenfield site (permeant destruction of)
 - Footpaths/Bridle way access
 - Wildlife (permeant destruction of)
 - Tranquillity(immediate and surrounding areas)
 - Extended area impact of HGV traffic noise
 - Use of surrounding roads for vulnerable road users due to fear of HGVs
 - Public access to site covered by proposal