



12th August 2021

County Planning
West Sussex County Council
County Hall
CHICHESTER
PO19 1RH

Dear Sir or Madam

Planning Application No. WSCC/030/21
Loxwood Clay Pits Ltd

I am writing to object to the above Planning Application.

The area concerned is a natural, quiet and peaceful wildlife haven; parts of it are *classified as Ancient Woodland*.

At a time when the mental health of the population is of serious concern and appears likely to increase over time, it is widely recognised that time spent in quiet, green natural environments has a great therapeutic effect. Therefore any plans that threaten such valuable assets must be closely scrutinised and be of significant benefit. Furthermore, Ancient Woodland is considered an “irreplaceable habitat” where soil structures have developed over at least 400 years without disturbance, providing a unique, wildlife-rich habitat. The amount of Ancient Woodland in England is diminishing and the Government’s NPPF promotes “the conservation, restoration and enhancement” of such priority habitats and substantiates a presumption against development in such places, other than in exceptional circumstances.

In the above case there are no exceptional circumstances to justify this planning application.

- There is no need for more clay. WSCC have more than 25 years' worth.
- There is no need for a Construction Waste Facility. There are already sufficient provisions.
- It is out of keeping with both the Loxwood Neighbourhood Plan and the Chichester District Local Plan for development in rural areas.
- There will be an increase in noise, pollution and traffic from lorry movements along narrow country lanes that will not only increase the hazards posed by vehicles passing each other with very restricted space, but also result in the break up of the road surface under the constant flow of very heavy, fully laden lorries. (We have experienced the effect that heavy lorries have had on the small roads in Rudgwick, with the restoration of the Rudgwick Brickworks site in Lynwick Street). The local A281, which is already inadequate for the volume of traffic using it nowadays, will only become more congested, more polluting and more dangerous to anyone using it and the pedestrians and schoolchildren walking alongside it or trying to cross it. Moreover, the junction at Bucks Green/Loxwood Road has very bad visibility for traffic turning right onto the A281 towards Horsham.
- There will be the loss of, and disruption to, a much loved and valued local habitat at a time when such places are becoming increasingly important for the national wellbeing and for wildlife itself, including environmental carbon capture. The effects of this planning application would last for 33 years.

All this damage, danger and destruction would be incurred in order to provide something we neither need nor want, locally or nationally, but which local communities would pay for in terms of well being, health and peace of mind for a generation, if not more.

I repeat: I object to this Planning Application.

