

Comment for planning application WSCC/030/21

Application number	WSCC/030/21
Name	Elizabeth Agar
Address	BRAMBLES, BREWHURST LANE, BREWHURST LANE, BILLINGSHURST, RH14 0RJ
Type of Comment	Objection
Comments	<p>I wish to strongly object to this application on the following grounds:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. There is no proven demand for clay in West Sussex given the number of existing clay extraction facilities and availability of at least a 25 year supply from these existing sites. To add another site in prime English woodland would be superfluous and in contravention of current planning regulations. Such sites should be located with close proximity to existing brickworks. The destination for the proposed clay extraction has not been identified. This indicates that there is not a demand locally for the clay.2. The site is in the middle of ancient woodlands and although the site itself is on open scrubland, access to the site would be through narrow rarely used woodland farm tracks and cut across established footpaths, Bridleways and public rights of way. The necessary road infrastructure that would be required for 32 tonne 8 wheeled vehicles would destroy the existing rural nature of this area.3. Traffic movements into and off the proposed woodland tracks onto the Loxwood road will cause significant additional danger to existing road users. This is a C class road which has varying widths along the proposed route which do not allow two similar lorries to pass without danger of colliding or straying onto the verges. Wildwood lane in Waverley Borough, Surrey has been destroyed by similar sized trucks carrying waste to and from a disused brickworks. These roads were never constructed to take this weight of traffic. In addition the proposed 42 HGV movements a day seems too small to cater for the volumes being proposed both in terms of clay extraction and waste backfill. The types of vehicle being proposed vary in size and capacity and will inevitably result in increased vehicle movements.4. If there is no case to be made for clay extraction then there is absolutely no case for infill with CD&E waste nor the construction of a waste handling facility of 1400 sq.m and 7m high proposed in the quiet rural countryside. Within this facility will be a series of noisy sorting machines and a trommel designed to break down and sieve building waste. The noise from this equipment will be extensive and disturb the entire local area running as it will for 10 hours a day 5 days a week. Also there is no electricity supply available initially and it is proposed that generators will be used until such time as an overhead supply can be constructed involving further disruption to the peaceful nature of the area with electricity poles, substations etc. This will add to the already excessive noise burden from this site disturbing wildlife and local residents.5. Further the percentage of CD&E waste proposed for recycling is way below that currently achieved by other waste recycling sites in the region. A 90% recycling ratio is common place, so to use recyclable waste as infill is contrary to national policy. My cynical view is that there is more money in waste disposal than clay extraction and the latter is just the vehicle to provide a hole in the ground to accommodate the former at the expense of our beautiful and peaceful English countryside.6. Natural woodland and countryside is by definition devoid of extraneous light. The proposals are for 10 hours a day running 5 days a week and during the winter months will inevitably result in a significant periods morning and afternoon being in darkness. Loxwood Parish in its Neighbourhood Plan specify that there should be no street lighting on roads as we have embraced the philosophy of a "dark sky" environment. This industrial complex in the middle of ancient woodlands will inevitably have to have lighting in order to make its operation "safe". This will throw up a beacon of light into the night sky and will be in contravention of our NP.7. Chichester and Horsham District Councils have been advised by Natural England that there is a significant shortage of water available for new house development in the wider area of Northern part of West Sussex. Natural England have made it a requirement that future developments should be water neutral and this requirement is currently holding up planning applications and the revised two Local Plans from the Districts. This application should also be caught by this requirement and until such time as an alternative water supply can be established no new planning permissions should be granted. 42 vehicles having their wheels washed every day will consume a huge quantity of water, well above the 110 litres per day that government states is the ecological target for personal consumption. Please take these comments into consideration when determining this application. <p>Liz Agar</p>
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Attachments	