

Loxwood Parish Council

Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 - Request for Scoping Opinion under Regulation 15

Proposed Clay pit and Construction Material's recycling facility in Pallingshurst Woods Loxwood

Herewith are Loxwood Parish Councils (LPC) comments on the Scoping Report provided by Loxwood Claypits Ltd

LPC understands that the scoping process determines the content and extent of the matters which should be covered in the environmental information to be submitted to a competent authority for projects which are subject to EIA. The scoping report defines what will be addressed in the EIA.

Planning matters will be addressed by LPC when a planning application is submitted.

The Scoping Report does not adequately address the following matters.

1. The whole area of the Pallingshurst Woods is used extensively by walkers as a recreational area either on the established PROW or the myriad of tracks which criss-cross the woods. Both Lorry routes A and B in the report utilise the PROW. All 4 boundaries of the site are bounded by tracks used by walkers. The Scoping Report does not adequately address in para. 6.1.7 how the EIA will address public safety.
2. The Scoping Report estimates that up to 42 lorry movements per day will take place 6 days per week. Both lorry routes A and B will utilise the established forestry transport infrastructure. These are simple forestry tracks which will not withstand weight and bulk of 40 tonne HGVs for the above number of movements per day. Paras. 5.9.1 and 5.9.2 of the Scoping Report do not adequately define how the EIA and planning documents will address this issue. Nor does it address what level of road infrastructure would be required to accommodate such HGVs and what level of disruption to the local woodland tracks this would mean.
3. The area defined as being the development site is heavily wooded across much of its space and indeed has a portion of designated ancient woodland in the top northern most corner. The scoping document fails to address how this will be dealt with.
4. The egress onto the Loxwood Road is onto a local "C" category road with limited carriageway width. It was almost certainly never constructed with the intention of usage by HGV vehicles, nor is it wide enough for two such vehicles to pass safely. The Scoping Document glosses over the impact this heavy goods traffic would have on the surrounding roads.
5. The designated area is covered by a number of priority habitat designations. No mention of these is made in the scoping document e.g. Ancient replanted woodland, Priority Deciduous woodland, Lapwing habitat, Nitrate vulnerable area English Woodland Grant Scheme.

