

PLANNING REF : 252782
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 2
: Kilowna Close, Charvil, Berkshire
: RG10 9QU
SUBMITTED BY : Mrs Sukey Joshi
DATE SUBMITTED : 21/11/2025

COMMENTS:

I am writing to strongly object to the proposed application for a fuel distribution centre at [site location]. This development poses serious risks to our community, environment, and road safety, and is wholly unsuitable for this area.

****1. Traffic and Highway Safety****

The Old Bath Road is already a busy route with fast-moving traffic, cyclists, and pedestrians. Pavements are extremely narrow, making it difficult for people to pass safely on foot. Dangerous overtaking and speeding are frequent, and the addition of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) would significantly increase the risk of accidents. The warehouse adjacent to the site already causes tailbacks when large lorries park at its entrance, and the road includes a dangerous double bend. Adding fuel tankers and turning lorries to this mix would make a serious accident inevitable. The roundabout at Old Bath Road and Park Lane is a known accident hotspot and unsuitable for large HGVs. This route is also heavily used by children walking or cycling to nearby schools, making safety concerns even more pressing.

****2. Hours of Operation - Noise and Light Pollution****

The proposal suggests very early starts and daily use of the site. This would bring significant noise and light pollution to what is currently a peaceful rural area. The site sits directly on the edge of country park land, and increased activity would disturb both residents and wildlife.

****3. Environmental Risks****

The site borders the Berks, Bucks and Oxon-owned Loddon Nature Reserve, an important wetland and woodland habitat supporting hundreds of bird and wildlife species. It is also directly adjacent to lakes, streams, and the River Loddon. These water bodies regularly flood in winter, meaning any fuel spill would be catastrophic for wildlife and the wider community.

Residents have already noticed strong fuel odours along nearby footpaths when the site was previously used for fuel storage, showing the real environmental impact such a facility would have. There is even a swan nesting site just metres from the proposed depot, highlighting the sensitivity of the area.

****4. Rural Character and Inappropriate Use****

This site provides an important buffer between Twyford and Charvil. Increased traffic, noise, and industrial activity would erode this rural character and transform a small, quiet industrial zone into a disruptive, large-scale operation. This is a very different type of business compared to the local car maintenance garage previously on the site, and wholly inappropriate for the setting.

****5. Lack of Employment Benefit****

There is no evidence that this development would deliver meaningful employment opportunities for the local community. The risks and disruption far outweigh any potential economic benefit.

****6. Community Wellbeing and Consultation****

This proposal disregards the wellbeing of residents in Charvil and Twyford, who pay significant taxes and rates to live in a safe, healthy environment. The development is completely unsuitable for the type and nature of this area, and decision-makers must recognise the duty to protect both residents and the natural environment we depend on.

****Conclusion****

For these reasons traffic and highway dangers, environmental harm, noise and light pollution, loss of rural character, lack of local benefit, and disregard for community wellbeing I strongly object to this application. I respectfully request that the council reject the proposal to protect the safety, health, and environment of our community.