

PLANNING REF : 252782
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 2 Hallingbury Villas
: Firs End, Burghfield Common, Reading, Berkshire
: RG7 3EP
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Dan Fisher
DATE SUBMITTED : 04/12/2025

COMMENTS:

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to lodge a strong objection to the planning application for the proposed fuel depot at the former Prince Brothers site in Charvil an area that includes a highly valued local fishing lake and lies within a known potential flood zone. The proposal presents serious and unacceptable risks to the environment, public safety, and the wider community.

1. Severe Environmental Threat to the Lake and Local Wildlife

The proximity of the depot to the lake poses a substantial and unjustifiable risk of contamination. Fuel storage, tanker movements, and refuelling activities inevitably carry the danger of leaks, spills, and polluted runoff. Even a small incident could cause long-lasting and potentially irreversible damage to the water quality and surrounding habitat.

This lake supports a diverse ecosystem of fish, birds, plants, and other wildlife, and it represents an important community asset for recreation, conservation, and local heritage. The introduction of hazardous substances so close to such an ecosystem is wholly inappropriate and contrary to responsible environmental management.

2. High Flood Risk Significantly Compounding the Danger

The proposed site lies within or adjacent to an established flood-risk area. Locating a fuel depot here dramatically increases the likelihood that flooding or severe rainfall could spread contaminants well beyond the depot boundaries. In a worst-case scenario, escaped fuel could flow into the lake, river, surrounding land, residential properties, and the wider water network.

This is not a hypothetical concern but a foreseeable and preventable hazard that exposes the public, local wildlife, and the natural environment to unacceptable levels of risk.

3. Incompatibility With Existing Land Use and Character

A fuel storage and distribution operation is fundamentally unsuited to this setting. The industrial nature of the depot heavy vehicle traffic, noise, lighting, and infrastructure would directly conflict with the current recreational and ecological use of the area. The peaceful environment enjoyed by anglers, walkers, families, and wildlife enthusiasts would be severely disrupted and permanently altered.

4. Long-Term Damage to Community Wellbeing and Amenity

The fishing lake is widely valued for leisure, mental wellbeing, biodiversity, and its contribution to the character of Charvil.

Allowing a hazardous industrial facility to be built beside it risks diminishing this local amenity and discouraging community use. Once this asset is degraded, it cannot easily be restored.

Summary

For all these reasons, I strongly urge the planning authority to refuse this application in its entirety. The environmental risks, flood-related hazards, and long-term harm to community wellbeing far outweigh any perceived benefits. Approving this development would pose a lasting and unnecessary threat to the local environment and to public safety.

Thank you for considering my objection.

Yours faithfully,

Dan Fisher