

PLANNING REF : 252782  
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 46  
: Park View Drive North, Charvil, Berkshire  
: RG10 9QY  
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Scott Silvey  
DATE SUBMITTED : 08/12/2025

COMMENTS:

1. Environmental and Flood Risk

Storing nearly one million litres of fuel directly adjacent to Charvil Country Park and the River Loddon within Flood Zone 3 is an environmental disaster waiting to happen. The site floods regularly, which is clearly visible from freely available aerial photography. A fuel spill, whether during routine operations or a flood event, could devastate the river system, surrounding lakes, and wildlife habitats. This area supports otters, bats, wildfowl, and other protected species. The ecological risks cannot be overstated.

2. Excessive Operational Hours and Community Disturbance

Operating seven days a week from 5am to 6pm, with additional HGV movements outside these hours, would severely undermine residents' quiet enjoyment of village life. This is a semi-rural area where noise carries, and the impact would be significant and continuous.

3. Unsafe Traffic Increases

The proposal would add approximately 300 HGV journeys per week to Old Bath Road, a route already considered too narrow for current traffic volumes. Many children cycle to school along this road, and pedestrians are restricted to a single narrow footpath. Increasing heavy vehicle traffic poses a clear and unacceptable safety risk to drivers, cyclists, and schoolchildren.

4. Existing Pollution Concerns

Residents can already smell fuel from the site during the company's unapproved operations. This raises legitimate concerns about air quality, odour nuisance, and the company's ability or willingness to manage environmental hazards safely.

5. Fundamentally Unsuitable Location

A major fuel depot is wholly inappropriate between two country villages, on an S-bend, beside fishing lakes, a country park, and protected natural habitats. The siting alone introduces an unacceptable level of risk to both people and the environment.

In summary, the environmental, safety, and community risks posed by this development are severe and well evidenced. This location is entirely unsuitable for a fuel storage depot, and I strongly urge planning officers to refuse the application in order to safeguard the local community and the natural environment.