

PLANNING REF : 252434
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Briley Cottage
: Beggars Hill Road, Twyford, Berkshire
: RG10 0UB
SUBMITTED BY : Mrs Miranda Stamp
DATE SUBMITTED : 10/11/2025

COMMENTS:

I wish to object to the proposed tree felling in the wooded area that links the open grass area in front of Lands End House to the stream that separates the countryside of Charvil from the built up urban housing estate of Loddon Park.

It is clear that the majority of the trees listed are in relatively young and in good condition, growing on the site of former watercress beds that were operational prior to the gravel extraction of the 1960s/70s and later landfill in the area, which caused the watercress operation to cease. Most of the trees in the woodland have established naturally over the years, and are by no means anywhere near end of life in age. There are no buildings, footpaths or roads affected by the majority of the trees - indeed it is debatable there is any right of access to the plot in question, and thus in my opinion I consider they are not in need of removal or the work suggested. Notably I could see there is minimal squirrel damage, since there are plenty of trees available locally for a significantly reduced squirrel population in recent years.

As a wooded area, these trees provide several functions:

- a) The screening of the Charvil countryside and listed building Lands End House from the built up urban housing estates of Loddon Park & Woodley Airfield
- b) A vital wild life corridor connecting with Ashenbury Park via our fields adjacent to the upper part of the Aldermoor's Stream, leading down to the Loddon. It is essential for the roe deer particularly that overwinter on the short grass in Ashenbury Park, and to a lesser extent the muntjac deer population that this corridor is maintained for their safety and as an escape route, given the numbers of dogs that are walked in Ashenbury Park.
- c) Where branches of trees have been left fallen in the woodland, there are significant numbers of stag beetle larvae, a protected species, to be found.
- d) Likewise there are significant numbers of slow worms (also protected) to be found in the woodland, along with adders, newts, otters, and a huge variety of birds.
- e) The stream & banks are home to a few plants of the rare Loddon Lily, and this prefers damp, shady woodland and riverbanks.

Removing the tree cover would destroy this habitat.

It is clear the wholesale tree felling put forward in this application is in a bid to clear the site to make it devoid of native habitat, wildlife and plants, one can presume in an attempt to urbanise with the ultimate aim to build on the land. The site is unsuitable for building due to the waterlogged nature of the land and the fact the woodland, adjacent stream and the road itself experience heavy surface-water flooding several times a year (just as it did as watercress beds). The existing tree cover and

associated root systems play a vital role in water absorption and stabilisation of the soil on the land.

It is important that the land is retained as woodland as this is the most appropriate long-term land management strategy, and it would be appropriate that a full Tree Preservation Order be placed on the woodland to secure its protection in perpetuity.