

PLANNING REF : 250959
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 22 Hemdean Road
: Reading, Berkshire
: RG4 7SU
SUBMITTED BY : Ms Michelle Holdaway
DATE SUBMITTED : 03/06/2025

COMMENTS:

I am writing to strongly object to the proposed development by Speedy Fuels. As a local resident of the area, I am deeply concerned about what this might mean for the environment, our safety, and our community. The following are my concerns:

1. ENVIRONMENTAL

The proposed site is on a floodplain and right next to Charvil Nature Reserve and Charvil Meadows, which are both designated Local Wildlife Sites. These places are so precious - not just for the wildlife, but for the many people who walk there and enjoy the peace and natural beauty and rely on it for their mental wellbeing.

The high possibility of fuel leaking so close to these areas would be totally devastating for animals, and all life including humans, in this area. I understand that this development would go against policies meant to protect the countryside and biodiversity (like Wokingham's CP7 and CP11, and parts of the National Planning Policy Framework). Have these rules been considered?

2. POLLUTION

There's already a strong smell of fuel in the area..where is this coming from.

3. TRAFFIC/SAFETY

The site entrance is near a blind bend, already dangerous. Adding almost 50+ large lorries every day would be madness. This road is used by families, by cyclists, and especially by schoolchildren travelling between Charvil and Twyford. It's narrow, winding, and simply not built for fuel tankers.

Speedy Fuels vehicles aren't supposed to go through Twyford, but have been seen doing just that. If they can't follow the rules now, what happens if they're given permission to.

4. GROUNDS Stability and Contamination of water RISK

My friend in Guildford has just experienced underground water contamination from a previous petrol station (no longer in existence) but whose pipe work has leaked into residents' water supply. Check this out with Thames Water, who took ages to locate and sort it. Water was fully contaminated and not usable for anything.

An earlier survey done by the previous owners showed the land is mostly filled-in ground -unstable, with signs of subsidence and cracking. They even had water flooding into test boreholes.

Plans to park 15 fuel tankers there and build a wash-down area, with all the run-off and dirty water being sent straight into the Old River Loddon. WHAT?????? Pouring polluted water into the river how can that possibly be allowed? It would harm the very heart of our local wildlife and water systems.

To summarise:

High potential disaster and harm to the environment, wildlife, quality of life for local residents, visitors. We need to keep these treasured spaces alive, healthy and well cared for and it would be a crime to subject this and other such nature areas to a high potential of ruin in the future. it is our duty and obligation to honour, preserve and protect nature.

Thank you.