

PLANNING REF : 252782
PROPERTY ADDRESS : The Hawthorns
:
: RG10 9TS
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Joshua Cardy
DATE SUBMITTED : 09/12/2025

COMMENTS:

I object to Planning Application 252782 for the proposed fuel storage and distribution depot at the former Prince Brothers site, Old Bath Road, Charvil.

The proposal is fundamentally incompatible with its location. The site sits directly beside Charvil Country Park, the Old River Loddon and multiple lakes, forming part of a highly sensitive ecological corridor. Introducing the storage of nearly a million litres of flammable fuel into this environment presents an unjustifiable and permanent risk to protected wildlife, water quality and public amenity.

The site lies within a known floodplain with a documented history of flooding, including events in 2014 and 2024. In flood conditions, any containment measures would fail. A spill or tank rupture would rapidly contaminate the river system, local lakes, groundwater and ultimately the Thames, causing long-term and irreversible environmental damage.

The development creates serious public safety risks. Fuel depots are inherently hazardous installations. National incidents have demonstrated the real risks of vapour migration, explosion and toxic exposure. These are not hypothetical dangers and are unacceptable in such close proximity to homes, schools and public recreation areas.

The highway impacts are severe. Old Bath Road is narrow, curved and heavily used by pedestrians, cyclists and schoolchildren. The proposed volume and size of HGV fuel tankers is wholly inappropriate for this road network and creates a clear, foreseeable risk of serious collisions.

The fire risk assessment is materially deficient. The proposal fails to consider cumulative risk arising from the immediately adjoining high-risk tyre storage facility, contrary to national planning policy requiring assessment of cross-boundary and cumulative hazards.

This proposal represents an unjustified intensification of hazardous industrial use in a flood-prone, environmentally sensitive and residential location. The environmental, public health and highway risks are inherent to the scheme and cannot be mitigated.

I respectfully request that Planning Application 252782 be refused.