

PLANNING REF : 250959
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 10 Quantock Close
: Charvil, - State -
: RG10 9QQ
SUBMITTED BY : Mrs Kate Halstead
DATE SUBMITTED : 04/06/2025

COMMENTS:

I am writing to formally object to the full planning application proposing the demolition of two existing buildings and a garage at the former Prince Brothers site in Charvil, and the subsequent change of use to a fuel oil storage and distribution facility, including the installation of eight large storage tanks and associated works.

As a local resident and parent, I am deeply concerned about the significant risks this proposal presents to the health, safety, and quality of life of our community, as well as to the integrity of our natural and historic surroundings.

Environmental and Nature Conservation Concerns

This site directly backs onto a nature reserve and is adjacent to lakes that form part of a sensitive and ecologically important area. The storage and distribution of fuel oil so close to these protected environments poses an unacceptable risk of contamination through spills, leaks, or runoff. Even a small incident could cause irreversible harm to local biodiversity, pollute waterways, and destroy habitats.

Having lived in Florida during the BP oil spill, I've witnessed the devastating impact a fuel leak can have on ecosystems and communities. Charvil's ecosystem is far smaller and less resilient - it would not recover from even a fraction of that damage. This application is fundamentally incompatible with the council's obligations to protect nature conservation areas.

Health and Air Quality Risks

The presence of fuel emissions is already evident. On 27 December, I noticed strong fuel fumes along Old Bath Road before they would have even been allowed to operationally do so. With the proposed scale of fuel storage and increased vehicle movements, residents will be exposed to higher levels of air pollutants, which pose a particular threat to children, the elderly, and those with respiratory conditions. My daughter's asthma, which improved after leaving London's polluted air, would almost certainly be worsened by this development.

Traffic, Highway Safety, and Noise

The proposed use of this site would bring a significant increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) movements, including large fuel tankers, into an area with narrow residential roads that are already under pressure.

These roads are completely inadequate for the scale and weight of the vehicles proposed. There are no dedicated turning points, or safe passing areas, meaning that lorries often park on the roadside, which severely obstructs visibility for other drivers and poses a real danger to cyclists and pedestrians alike.

This concern is particularly urgent given the number of school

children and families using these roads daily for the school run. Children walking or cycling to school as well as the commuters walking and cycling will be at direct risk from large vehicles navigating tight corners, narrow lanes, and obstructed sightlines. The mix of HGVs with vulnerable road users in such an environment is simply unsafe and unacceptable.

The increased vehicle traffic will also lead to greater congestion, higher noise levels, and more pollution all of which will degrade the quality of life in Charvil and create persistent hazards for residents.

Effect on the Conservation Area and Local Heritage

The site lies in proximity to listed buildings and the wider conservation area. Introducing a fuel storage and distribution depot in such a context would fundamentally alter the setting and character of the area, undermining its historical and community value. This proposal is wholly out of keeping with the existing area and would set a dangerous precedent for future industrial development near our areas of natural beauty.

Conclusion

This proposal presents significant risks to environmental safety, residential amenity, public health, and road safety. It is out of scale and character with the area, threatens conservation interests, and offers no benefit that could justify the harm it would cause.

I urge the council to reject this planning application in the interests of preserving Charvil's environment, safeguarding public health, and upholding planning principles that protect communities and conservation areas from inappropriate industrial development.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,
Kate Halstead