

MEMORANDUM

From:	Built Heritage Officer		
Service	Green Infrastructure	App No:	253111
Address:	Sonning Court, Thames Street, Sonning, Wokingham, RG4 6UR		
Proposal:	Householder application for the proposed erection of 1no. single storey detached outbuilding for use as gym plus formation of outdoor pool with associated works following demolition of existing pyramid building, pool structure and pool house.		
Heritage Asset:	Sonning Conservation Area Setting of Grade II listed: • Red House/Falcon House • Sonning Bridge • The Deanery and Wall Listed building along with Conservation areas are classed as designated heritage assets under the NPPF (2024) and in the Council's Local Plan policies.		
Site Visit Made:	No, but familiar with building and area.		

Summary Of Recommendations

No objection

Comments On Proposal

The application proposes the demolition of a glass pyramid, pool house and pool cover structure, as installed by a previous owner of Sonning Court, followed by the erection of a single storey gymnasium/spa suite with the retention of the external swimming pool, albeit sans cover.

The glass pyramid structure is certainly unusual, designed and installed by a previous owner of the property. Whilst having some interest in itself by virtue of being uncommon, the structure does hold any great significance, and as such no concern is raised to its loss. Similarly, the pool covering structure is fairly rudimentary in appearance, and thus no concerns are raised to the proposed removal. The existing pool house does, to a degree, reflect the host building, designed in a traditional form with a 'tented' roof structure. This building does seek to compliment the host building, however, is not of any great age and thus no objection is raised to the proposed demolition.

Following the removal of these structures, it is proposed to erect a single storey 'leisure suite' encompassing a gym, spa and wellness facilities. The building would be of an L shape plan with a flat roof and covered in vertical timber cladding. Such buildings of this type and design are *en vogue*, and much like the pyramid may reflect changing owner's tastes and requirements. The proposed design is fairly tame, however does not seek to have adverse impact upon the setting of the host, and to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. Some glimpses of the building may be glimpse from the Thames Path, however due to the low-scale and singular material palette, the visual impact would not be so great as to cause harm to the significance of the Conservation Area.

As such, no objection is raised to the application from a heritage perspective.

Conditions			
N/A			
Date:	24/01/2026	Signed:	Roderick McDonald Built Heritage Officer