

MEMORANDUM

From:	Built Heritage Officer		
Service	Green Infrastructure	App No:	250275
Address:	The Dukes Head Ph, 56 Denmark Street, Wokingham, RG40 2BQ		
Proposal:	Full planning permission for the proposed change of the land to facilitate stationing of a mobile catering unit at the premises.		
Heritage Assets:	The Duke's Head – Grade II listed building since 1974 Wokingham Town Centre Conservation Area Listed buildings along with conservation areas are classed as designated heritage assets under the NPPF (2023) and in the Council's Local Plan policies.		
Site Visit Made:	Yes		

Summary Of Recommendations

No Objection

Comments On Proposal

The application proposes the change of use of land associated with the Grade II listed Duke's Head public house as to allow for the function of a mobile catering unit. The Duke's Head, along with the curtilage listed coach house are located within the Wokingham Town Centre Conservation – a designated heritage asset.

The catering unit – 'The Spud Wagon' – is a mobile trailer which has been parked in front of the 19th century coach house within the car park of the Grade II listed public house, the Duke's Head. The unit is predominantly silver/grey in colour with a sky blue and pink fascia/advertising board. Whilst the colour schemes may not be wholly sympathetic to the historic environment (for example the host building utilises traditional black/blue with gold lettering for the signage), given the wider milieu of the town centre and *relative* discreet siting of the unit, it is not read as wholly out of context.

Located on the corner of Denmark Street and what is now known as Langborough Road, the Duke's Head (as in Wellington) is an 18th century building, operating as a public house since at least the end of the 19th century. As such, a strong part of the listed building's significance is drawn from the function – a public house, and thus the retention of this function is important to conserve this element of significance. Whilst an external catering unit is far from ideal, both functionally and aesthetically, if this facilitates the continued viability of the public house, then this –

at the present time – would be considered beneficial. Ideally food preparation would be located within the building and the design and appearance of the unit might be of a more sympathetic design, however given the relative transient nature of the mobile trailer – and the fact it can be removed at anytime with no impact upon the physical fabric of either building or setting, no objection is raised to the application.

Conditions			
N/A			
Date:	17/03/2025	Signed:	Roderick McDonald Built Heritage Officer