

DELEGATED OFFICER REPORT



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Application Number:	250592	
Site Address:	Dinton Pastures Country Park, Davis Street, Hurst, RG10 0TH	
Expiry Date:	8 May 2025	
Site Visit Date:	17/02/2025	
Proposal: Application for a certificate of lawfulness for the proposed installation of a series of art and sculpture installations on the south side of the park as part of the Wokingham Borough Forest of Imagination Project.		
PLANNING HISTORY		
The planning history surrounding the wider park is extensive; the most relevant applications are listed below.		
Application No.	Description	Decision & Date
202809	Application for advertisement consent for 2 no. non-illuminated freestanding sign boards.	Approved, 26/11/2020

APPRAISAL

Site Description:

Dinton Pastures Country Park is a publicly accessible green space managed by Wokingham Borough Council.

Proposal Development:

This application seeks a Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed installation of a series of art and sculpture installations on the south side of Dinton Pastures Country Park. The works form part of the Wokingham Borough Forest of Imagination Project, an initiative designed to foster public engagement with cultural and artistic experiences while enhancing the park's recreational and aesthetic value.

The proposed installations comprise:

- 1 no. timber signboard.
- 8 no. steel shape sculptures.
- 22 no. timber totem poles.
- 3 no. combined timber and steel signage boards.

Legislation:

The proposal is assessed against the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted

Development) (England) Order 2015 (GPDO), specifically Schedule 2, Part 12, Class A.

Under Schedule 2, Part 12, Class A of the GPDO, permitted development includes:

- (a) any small ancillary building, works or equipment on land belonging to or maintained by them required for the purposes of any function exercised by them on that land otherwise than as statutory undertakers;
- (b) lamp standards, information kiosks, passenger shelters, public shelters and seats, telephone boxes, fire alarms, public drinking fountains, horse troughs, refuse bins or baskets, barriers for the control of people waiting to enter public service vehicles, electric vehicle charging points and any associated infrastructure, and similar structures or works required in connection with the operation of any public service administered by them.

Condition A.2 states the reference in Class A to any small ancillary building, works or equipment is a reference to any ancillary building, works or equipment not exceeding 4 metres in height or 200 cubic metres in capacity.

Assessment:

The works are being carried out by Wokingham Borough Council as part of the Forest of Imagination Project, satisfying the requirement for development by a local authority.

The proposed art and sculpture installations are small-scale, not exceeding 4 metres in height or 200 cubic metres in capacity and serve an ancillary purpose by enhancing the cultural and recreational offering within the park. The installations will not materially alter the primary use of the land as public open space.

The proposal does not constitute a material change of use. The site will continue to operate as a public park, and the installations are incidental to the existing recreational function.

The proposed installations consist of non-intrusive structures, including timber posts and other lightweight materials. These are consistent with the definition of “small ancillary works” as required by Class A.

Conclusion

The proposed installation of art and sculpture within Dinton Pastures Country Park falls within the scope of permitted development under Schedule 2, Part 12, Class A of the GPDO. The works are being undertaken by Wokingham Borough Council, are ancillary to the existing use of the land, and meet the necessary criteria regarding scale and impact.

The Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010):

In determining this application the Council is required to have due regard to its obligations under the Equality Act 2010. The key equalities protected characteristics

include age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief. There is no indication or evidence (including from consultation on the application) that persons with protected characteristics as identified by the Act have or will have different needs, experiences, issues and priorities in relation to this particular planning application and there would be no significant adverse impacts as a result of the development.

RECOMMENDATION	
Recommendation:	Approval
Date:	20 March 2025
Earliest date for decision:	

Recommendation agreed by: (Authorised Officer)	<i>MC</i>
Date:	21.03.2025