

Heritage Statement

The White Horse, Wrawby Street, Brigg Pavement Café Seating



November 2025

Introduction

This statement has been prepared to assess the impact of a pavement café seating on the heritage significance of The White Horse, Wrawby Street, Brigg, and its setting within the Brigg Conservation Area.

Description of the Heritage Asset and Setting

The White Horse is described as a “building of local interest”. It was originally a mid-18th-century farmhouse with stables and gardens, later converted into a public house by the Britannia Brewery. The building forms a high-profile corner on Wrawby Street, within the historic core of Brigg. Its architectural character is part of the street scene which features a mixture of 18th and 19th-century properties, some with a Dutch influence and notable brickwork details. The building was refurbished by J D Wetherspoon and opened in January 2015.

The White Horse is a key building within the Brigg Conservation Area, designated to protect the historic character and appearance of the town center, which is noted for its medieval origins, narrow alleys, and the prominent market place with the Buttercross. Wrawby Street itself is characterised by a variety of traditional building styles, including red brick and pantiled roofs. The area has a rich history linked to the River Ancholme bridge and the annual horse fair.

Assessment of Significance

The White Horse is a designated heritage asset with high local significance. Its value lies in:

Historic Interest: As a former 18th-century farmhouse and later a brewery-owned pub, it contributes to the narrative of Brigg's development as a market town and its brewing history.

Architectural Interest: The building's age and traditional design elements contribute positively to the street scene and the wider character of the conservation area.

Townscape Value: The pub holds a prominent, high-profile location on Wrawby Street, acting as a landmark within the conservation area and contributing significantly to its established character.

Impact of the Pavement Café Seating

The proposal is for pavement café seating to the front of the building.

Nature and Extent: The seating would be located on the existing hard-surfaced pavement area directly in front of the pub's main elevation. This is a temporary and reversible installation, involving tables, chairs, and temporary barriers. The chairs and barriers to be removed outside of trading hours and the tables to be screwed into the pavement surface and to remain in situ outside of trading hours. When, or if, required the tables can be unscrewed and removed easily with 24 hours' notice.

Impact on Significance: The seating introduces a degree of activity and modern use to the street scene and it should be noted that this land has been used as a seating area in excess of 26 years under licence from the Highway Authority.

Less than Substantial Harm: The introduction of high-quality, non-permanent and semi-permanent outdoor seating is not considered to cause substantial harm to the heritage asset or its setting. It does not involve any physical alterations to the building itself or the permanent removal of any historic fabric.

Enhancement and Public Benefit: The seating would continue to bring vitality and activity to Wrawby Street, contributing to the "community who live and work in the area" and the commercial life of the town centre, which is a key part of the conservation area's character. It respects the function of the building as a public house and helps ensure its continued viable use, which is essential for the long-term preservation of heritage assets. It is consistent with the historic use of inns as social hubs with activity spilling onto the street or yard areas. The nature of the seating means it does not impede important views along Wrawby Street or into the Market Place.

Conclusion

The proposed pavement café seating represents a sensitive addition that supports the ongoing use and vitality of The White Horse, a significant heritage asset. The use is existing, having been implemented by way of a highway licence since Wetherspoon took possession of the site in 2015. The previous operator had installed permanent, fixed, concrete benches and tables for use by it's customers up until that time.

The temporary and semi-permanent nature and design of the seating ensures minimal impact on the building's historic fabric or the character and appearance of the Brigg Conservation Area. The public benefits of enhanced town centre activity and the continued economic viability of the pub are considered to outweigh the less than substantial harm identified.