

Heritage Statement- Stone Lintel Repairs

The Address of the Building:

Clitheroe Castle Museum
Castle Hill
Clitheroe
BB7 1BA

Site Location:

Character Area 1, Clitheroe's Historic core. Clitheroe castle is the most prominent feature, not just of the surrounding Countryside but also within the conservation area and the town itself. Approximately 35 metres above the valley floor of the River Ribble. The museum building is positioned in the North of Clitheroe Castle Park. The Castle Museum, formerly Castle House (listed grade II) is situated 10m to the south-west of the Old Courthouse. It was built as a private residence and opened as a museum in 1981. Although much of the present fabric of these buildings is of mid C19 date, the stables, courthouse and house all appear on a ground plan of c 1723 (Best 1990), and their existence is confirmed by the mid C18 steward's records (ibid).

Location of areas for improvement:

On the main approach route to the Museum & Castle Buildings the Front/principal elevation of the Museum Building is the one for which this LBC relates to. As shown on the elevation drawing attached to the application.

History Context Significance:

Castle Keep – Built in 1186 by Robert de Lacey. The Norman keep of Clitheroe Castle is the second smallest keep in England. The Museum stands high on castle hill, in the shadow of the castle keep, an image which has dominated Clitheroe's skyline for over 800 years. This was the stewards House and parts of it date back to at least 1720s. Clitheroe Castle Keep is a grade 1 listed (19th May 1950) and the Castle Museum buildings are Grade II listed (30th September 1976). Refurbished in 2009 with the addition of a new Café and Shop.

Aim of Proposed Work:

The aim of the proposed work is to carry out essential repairs to a number of stone lintels on the front elevation which are defective and if untouched, compromise the structural integrity of the surrounding structure and allow water ingress in to the building fabric. The aim is to carry out stone repairs where possible and only replace defective lintels where essential to prevent compromising either Architectural character or Historic Interest of the building.

Historic Assessments and Reports:

We have undertaken desktop research to establish the Architectural important features. In particular with reference to *Oxford Archaeology North* Report, dated September 2008 by Turner and Townsend and English Heritage, it describes the North-East elevation as follows:

The principal north-eastern elevation of the Museum contains the main entrance, located within a single storey porch which butts against the elevation and appears to be a later addition. The porch is of Jacobean Revival style and exhibits a round-headed arched doorway with three prominent key stones. There are two blind windows or niches on each side and the whole feature has a flat roof and has two

ball finials at the corners. It is probable that an earlier doorway formerly existed here. The elevation comprises two main parts, the south-eastern third comprises the tower which projects from the main elevation (Plate 13). It contains twin, lancet-arched fenestration with flush surrounds, on all three floors. All the window frames are one-over-one timber sliding sashes without horns and with concealed sash-boxes. The ground floor windows are slightly taller than the others. The main two thirds of the elevation contains mixed fenestration. The windows on the first and second floors at the south-east side are similar to those in the tower, with those on the first floor being taller. The other fenestration consists of timber mullioned windows with chamfered surrounds; the frames are timber one-over-one sliding sashes without horns. The windows on the top floor are not as tall as the others. Some of the window surrounds exhibit weathered furrow tool marks, and the quoins are similarly weathered. There is a low plinth at the south-east side of the elevation and a small flower bed with sandstone kerbstones is present at the north-west end. Sandstone mounting steps are present at the north-west corner of the building. A crenelated parapet is present at the top of the elevation, which was probably a later addition. The Museum building probably dates to the late eighteenth century and although quite reserved in execution, is an example of eighteenth century gothic or 'gothick' revival. No trace of a former structure exists, although more detailed investigation may shed further light on this.

Considerations to Listed Buildings:

As the proposed works requires Listed Building consent we aim to ensure that throughout the project we take care and attention to minimise the impact on the Historic Fabric. We recognise and understand them as a finite resource and an irreplaceable asset. We would like it to be known that care, consideration and thought have been used within our proposals as we cannot replace these buildings as they are today.

Proposals:

Wherever possible the defective lintels will be repaired but one lintel (as shown on the Front Elevation Drawing, window No.1) will require replacement as its structural integrity has been compromised and cannot be repaired.

Aim:

Our aim is to ensure the structural integrity of the exterior of the building is maintained and that necessary works are completed whilst a scaffold is in place and the windows are being refurbished, thus preventing any further need to damage/disturb the windows and surrounding structure at a later date.

Assessment of impact:

The impact of the proposed works on the existing walls is minimal. Specifically it will be limited to the full replacement of one stone lintel as shown. Also I would like to express that the proposed work will have minimum affect on the character of the building and will be carried out as a "honest repair". As such it is understood that the work should not compromise the special Architectural and Historic interest of the property. The replacement materials are to be shown and agreed with RVBC's Conservation Officer prior to Installation.