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Site Location

Clitheroe is a small market town located on and around a natural rock outcrop in a rural location at the centre of Ribble Valley in Lancashire. Clitheroe castle is the most prominent feature, not just of the surrounding Countryside but 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 Stewards Gallery is situated to the north west of the main museum building and is currently used for storage of artefacts, a staff room for the museum employees and as an exhibition gallery.

History and Context

Castle Keep – Built in 1186 by Robrt 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 Clitheroes skyline for over 800 years. This was the stewards House and parts of it date back to at least 1720s. The Stewards Gallery was originally stables for the stewards house (now the museum).

Clitheroe Castle Keep is a grade 1 listed (19th May 1950) and the Castle Museum buildings are Grade II listed (30th September 1976).

The proposed Alterations

Whilst undertaking the window renewal scheme it became evident that the top Mullion (please refer to the attached west elevation detail) in the window in the staircase that leads to the staff room is defective. It was originally intended to repair the Mullion by pinning and resin (application 3/2018/0950 – the pinning was approved) repair but on further inspection we found that the vertical crack meant that the Mullion had deteriorated to the extent that it is now deemed to be beyond repair. As it is defective beyond repair it is proposed to replace the Mullion with new Waddington Fell Gritstone Mullion cut to the same profile and size as the existing stone section. This stone has also recently been used as replacement stonework on the front elevation of the building under a previous application 3/2017/1176.

Aim

Our aim to is to improve quality finish to the proposed external elevations and reduce any future deterioration of the window members and the internal plaster finish and building fabric due to and water penetration to the interior due to the cracks in the Mullion.

Assessment of impact

The impact of the mullion will be minimal and would blend in with the existing replaced stonework to the front elevation of the museum. As such it is understood that the work should not compromise the special architectural and historic interest of the area.

Impact for Bats and Associated Wildlife

As such it is understood that the work for “Impact and Associated Wildlife” will not compromise the Impact for Bats and Associated Wildlife.

Listed Buildings consent Appendix A

Site:

Castle Museum – Stewards Gallery – West elevation

Castle Hill

Clitheroe

BB7 1BA



Image 1. Vertical cracking to the central mullion.



Image 2 shows further cracks on the left hand section of the mullion.



Image 3 Evidence of previous repair to the lower section of the mullion.



Image 4 Crack on Mullion once the window frames were removed.



Image 5 crack on the left hand side once the window frames were removed.

Note: it was originally thought that the Mullion could be repaired by pining but as the windows were removed as part of the window refurbishment scheme it became evident that replacement was the only option to maintain the integrity of the window.