

Heritage Statement.

Location and description

The atrium café was built c2009 as part of a wider scheme to restore aspects of the Castle and the Castle Museum.

The property is located within the picturesque setting of the grounds of Clitheroe Castle within a Conservation Area. The main building is surrounded by the castle fields, a park, a bandstand and a bowling green along with other historical and aesthetical features. Also included in the main museum building is a shop and a basement, the basement houses the boilers for museum and cafe. The general footprint of the main building is square.

The Museum is located within the Castle grounds and is a listed structure. It is a solid stone construction with a slate roof that consists of a number of hipped roofs and lead valley gutters. In areas the walls are finished with a parapet with coping stones. It was built C1730 for the Steward of the Castle.

The museum buildings also include The Education Suite, The Stewards Gallery, Office and Museum Stores. These are linked to the main museum building by the Atrium Cafe and a walkway. There is an arched walkway that leads through to the rear of the building and down towards the Castle grounds.

The café was constructed between the existing museum and the Stewards gallery. The café has aspects of the original structure and has a mixture of classic and contemporary design in order to blend in with the existing surroundings.

Scope of works (replacement ramp)

The works are to include the reconstruction of the existing side elevation ramp to provide disabled access to the rear garden area and to provide side access to the turreted walkway that provides scenic views of the castle grounds and the Ribble Vally. The existing ramp has become dangerous to use due to the timber decking starting to rot and the boards are starting to fail.

To comply with the DDA 1995 (Disability Discrimination Act) and to provide access to the walkway a new structure is to be constructed. It is proposed to construct the ramp using a steel frame and millboard (formed timber substitute) decking (Millboard Weathered Oak Embred).

The existing ramp was formed using a timber frame and timber decking with a wire mesh fixed to the timbers to provide additional grip to the ramp. The millboard has a slip rated finish and is much more resilient to the elements. If there is no impact damage suffered the ramp should last for over 25 years.

As the frame will not be visible when the ramp is constructed the only visual impact of the ramp will be the difference in colour of the millboard decking and the original timber boards. There will also be an absence of mesh fixed to the millboard boards as they have slip rating as standard. Millboard will not deteriorate over time like timber provided that the ramp is cleaned regularly and the slip rating will last if no vegetation is allowed to grow on the surface of the boards. Please refer to the attached drawings for details of the ramp construction.

It is proposed to fix the frame into the atrium café wall but not the stone wall from the original structure. As the ground is uneven the supports for the frame will be adjustable to allow for the ramp's gradient.