

Museum Castellations – Heritage Statement

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 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 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). The building features a turreted castellation that was thought to have been later to the rest of the building in the Victorian era. There was also a major refurbishment and adaptation scheme to the site that incorporated the addition of a café and shop to the museum that linked together the Gallery and the Museum building in circa 2010.

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 a recent survey of the building it became apparent that the damp issues and water penetration that have been an ongoing problem at the site are still causing a problem even with the remedial works that have been recently implemented consisting of pointing and redressing of some of the leadwork (some has been done in copper).

A specialist in restoration work was consulted and they advised that the pointing was in a good condition and that the issue could be caused by issues from above. As all other reasonable remedial works have been carried out It was advised that the leadwork below the constellations may have been installed incorrectly causing the water to find a route below the leadwork via the solid external walls.

To establish if this is a contributory factor to the moisture ingress it is proposed to inspect a section of the wall to look at the methods used when the copper / lead trays were installed.

If like suspected the trays have been installed incorrectly then it is proposed to do the following works.

‘Erect small lightweight access platform to the lower roof area, Install protect to lead gutters, install gutter boarding to allow masonry to be stored at roof level, dismantle parapet to level where copper / lead tray is installed, Record - report findings and Re-build parapet, New sealants and redressing of the copper / lead-work’.

The works above are initially for investigation purposes, but the proposed works are to include the upgrade of the lead / copper trays to the required standard if it is found defective or incorrectly installed.

If the trays are found to be insufficient then it is proposed to repeat the procedure **throughout** the castellations of the building. This is the reason we are seeking consent.

Please refer to the attached drawings for an example of the scope of works.

As the remedial works carried out to date have not sufficiently rectified the issues with the water ingress then this course of action is deemed necessary to be completed as all other reasonable works (less obtrusive) have been carried out ie: Re-pointing the walls in the problem areas, redressing the leadwork and application of lead-mate / sealants and the use of moisture preventive paints on the plastered internal face of the walls.

Given the form of construction used for much of the building and the age of the structure, through process of elimination this now seems to be the only option left to take to combat the current issues.

Aim

Our aim to is to improve the internal finish to the rooms below and reduce the amount of water ingress in the museum building as it is becoming detrimental to both the internal aesthetic appearance of the building and some of the internal structural members and decorative finishes.

Assessment of impact

The parapet was a later addition to the building thought to have been constructed during the Victorian era and is '*Gothic*' in style and appearance.

To ensure the turrets are rebuilt correctly It is intended to number all the stones before removal to ensure that once rebuilt the will be little or no difference to the external appearance of the building. All the existing sections of stone are to be replaced in the exact location they have been removed from.

Once the turrets have been removed it is proposed to re-apply the lead trays, using as much of the existing lead / copper as possible but to apply the trays using the correct methods for the type of construction.

The impact of the works will be minimal once the works have been complete as the proposed works are mainly to the inner face of the walls. During the works there will be scaffold erected and sections of the parapet roof will be stripped and rebuilt. As such it is understood that the work should not compromise the special architectural and historic interest of the area in any way.

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.