

Museum Dry ridge – 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 the 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

Located within the Castle grounds is the museum building situated in the North of Clitheroe Castle Park.

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 main museum building features a turreted castellation that was thought to have been added 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 I 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).

The roof area has been patched repaired over the years and in particular the ridge and hip tiles are starting to show signs of cracking at the mortar joints to such a degree that the mortar has started to slip down the face of the roof leaving the ridges unprotected in places. In the long term this could lead to severe moisture ingress if not addressed soon.

As the roof is open to the elements and in some cases severe weather conditions and considering the failure of the existing ridge tile fixing other options have been considered. Given the size, style and shape of the ridge / hip tiles it is possible to incorporate a dry ridge system into the existing roof structure.

A dry ridge system simply involves fixing ridge and hip tiles to a roof without sand or cement mortar, but instead with screws and clamps which fix each ridge tile to the roof, with waterproof unions beneath the screws to divert water away from the join. As none of the existing members, slates or tiles are damaged during the process this method of repair can be fully removed and the roof can be rebuilt again with a wet system without compromising the integrity of the roof structure.

It is proposed to use an easy-trim ridge kit using the following:

- 1 x 6 metre Easy Ridge F Roll
- 10 x Ridge Batten Brackets
- 13 x Universal Easy Ridge F Ridge Unions
- 1 x Fixing Kit

This system allows for a ventilated dry ridge system if the felt is trimmed at the apex.

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.

The main benefit of the dry ridge system is that the remedial works would have a much longer cyclical maintenance life than traditional wet ridge systems that use mortar as a fixing as the mortar generally needs to be re-applied every 7-10 years especially in adverse weather scenarios.

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. The parapet wall that surrounds all elevations of the museum building and this also restricts the view of the existing roof structure from ground level and any other vantage point in the surrounding area. This will reduce the visual impact of the works.

The cost benefits to this method are related mainly to the ongoing maintenance of the roof as the traditional ridge systems will need to be replaced far more frequently, this can also damage the existing slates whilst the works are done.

There is no impact by using this system environmentally

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. Our existing bat survey conducted on the same site earlier in the year is sufficient to cover these works.