

Rose Garden (Clitheroe Castle Grounds) – 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 rose garden is positioned in the North of Clitheroe Castle Park. The garden is situated to the northeast of the main museum building and is a space for sitting or walking through, the main feature is a pinnacle which was reclaimed from the House of Parliament.

The pinnacle itself is a grade II listed building, and thereby a designated heritage asset, but it also forms part of the grounds of Clitheroe Castle, registered as a grade II historic park and garden², and lies within the Clitheroe conservation area. In addition, its location means that it lies in the vicinity of two other designated heritage assets whose settings might require consideration: the scheduled ancient monument of Clitheroe Castle³, and the grade II listed "Premises occupied by Ribble Valley Borough Council", currently the castle museum and North-West Sound Archive⁴.

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 rose garden itself was so named on account of the substantial collection of roses previously planted there. Most of those were removed when a substantial renovation of that area was undertaken in 2006 when the area was cleared, and tarmac put down, and a mosaic inspired by local children was laid into the surface.

Clitheroe Castle Keep is a grade 1 listed (19th May 1950) and the Castle Museum buildings are Grade II listed (30th September 1976). The gardens are within the sphere of the listing. Clitheroe Castle was built from the late eleventh to the early twelfth century on a natural outcrop of limestone which gives commanding views across the Ribble Valley and surrounding area. Following the Restoration it was granted into private ownership, and through much of the post-medieval period it was held by the Montagu family and used as their private residence (though parts of the grounds were open to the public), but in 1920 it was purchased by the borough as a memorial to the town's World War I dead, through public subscription. Much of the grounds were then landscaped as public gardens, including the setting out of the new rose garden in 1937 (as noted above), on the site of a former bowling green.

The proposed plaque for David Shackleton is intended to be one of a series of Radicals Trail plaques sited around the Pendle Hill area to celebrate people and places that highlight the radical history of this part of East Lancashire e.g., suffragettes, writers, religious dissenters, outdoor campaigners etc. The Shackleton plaque will be the only plaque in Clitheroe and will mean the town is part of the trail which will be shown on a map and encourage visitors to explore the area.

Pendle Radicals is a Mid Pennine Arts project. It is part of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership, supported by National Lottery players through the Heritage Fund.

Shackleton's relevance to Clitheroe is that he served as MP for the town and the old constituency from 1902-1910. He was Lancashire born, a cotton worker and only the third Labour MP in the country. He will also have a page on the Pendle Radicals website. As far as is known, there is no other memorial to Shackleton in Clitheroe.

As he served Clitheroe in the Houses of Parliament, he has direct relevance to the Pinnacle and the Rose Garden which also highlights another of the town's MP's - William Brass, who gave the Pinnacle to the town and was MP only 12 years after Shackleton.

Siting the plaque adjacent to the Pinnacle will give visitors a chance to link the man and the Houses of Parliament and hopefully bring new visitors following the Radicals Trail to the Pinnacle and Clitheroe Castle.

The proposed Alterations

There is already an interpretation panel in the Rose Garden associated with the pinnacle, The proposed addition is made from Stantonmoor sandstone with sandblasted etch lettering and filled with black and red weatherproof paint

The size is 378mm high x 297mm wide and 30mm thick.

Fixings: drill and dowel in 4 positions on the back of plaque, and the corresponding hole would then to be drilled using template into wall, small spacers inserted, and an anchor resin used to secure.

Aim

As the plaque is part of wider trail it is hoped that visitors will seek to follow it and visit the Castle grounds as part of that exploration of the area's cultural history. The story of the radicals is an important aspect of this area's history.

Assessment of impact

The impact of the plaque will be minimal on the rose garden itself. 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.