

HERITAGE STATEMENT

Parks Store, Castle Grounds, Clitheroe

Site Location

The Parks Store Building is situated within the picturesque Clitheroe Castle Grounds, adjacent to the rear of the Stewards Gallery of the Castle Museum. This particular structure is nestled on lower ground than the surrounding main buildings, positioned alongside the access track leading to the rear of Castle Hill.

Historical Context

The Clitheroe Castle Keep was built in 1186 by Robert de Lacey. The Norman Keep of Clitheroe Castle is the second smallest keep in England. The Parks Store on Castle Hill, a short distance away from the Castle Keep and Clitheroe Castle Museum. The Castle Keep has dominated Clitheroe's skyline for over 800 years. The Castle Museum buildings are Grade II listed (30th September 1976).

Construction

The construction of the building takes advantage of its sloping location, comprising a lower ground floor accessible only from the lower end, while the main entrance resides on the upper ground floor, reached from the elevated end. These two levels are connected by means of a steep internal timber staircase. The building itself exhibits sturdy stone inner and outer walls, filled with rubble to provide stability. Its exterior showcases an appealing composition of randomly arranged grit-stone walling.

Currently, the roof is covered with concrete plain tiles and adorned with half-round concrete ridges. It is worth noting that the existing roof covering and structure, featuring traditional purlins and rafters with intermediate trusses, appear to have been installed as replacements following a fire in the late 1950s or early 1960s. This incident necessitated the reconstruction of the walls and the installation of the present roof structure and covering.

Proposed Alterations

However, the existing roof covering is showing signs of wear and approaching the end of its serviceable lifespan. The rear elevation in particular suffers from numerous damaged, broken, or slipped tiles. Furthermore, the current roof trusses appear to be under excessive strain and unsuitable for their intended purpose.

To address these concerns, it is proposed that the roof be completely removed and replaced with new, carefully designed prefabricated trussed rafters capable of accommodating the load requirements of the original specification. In consultation with Conservation Consultant Ian Bond, it has been confirmed that Welsh Blue Slates can be utilized as the preferred material for the new roof covering. These proposed works will form part of a comprehensive capital bid, encompassing the installation of new cast iron rainwater goods.

Aim

The primary objective of this project is to uphold the structural integrity of the building and improving the effectiveness of the roof covering, all the while preserving and respecting the historical significance of the structure.

Assessment of Impact

The anticipated impact of the proposed work is expected to be minimal. While there will be a subtle visual alteration to the appearance of the slates, it is important to note that the proposed slates are consistent with the roof covering currently utilised on the adjacent Steward's House. Consequently, this proposal aligns harmoniously with the architectural aesthetic already seen within the castle grounds, thus ensuring consistency. As for the internal works, i.e., the trusses and the electrical work, this will not be visible externally, thus having no impact aesthetically.

Impact on Wildlife

As per the attached bat survey, conducted by Dave Anderson (Batworker) it is noted that there are historic records of Long Eared Bats roosting within the barn. To ensure that wildlife is not disturbed, four bat access slates, two per roof face, will be fitted two slate rows below ridge tiles to ensure ongoing use of the loft spaces by roosting bats. A loft space will be created within the roof space, to provide a dark area for bats to roost.

In the unlikely event bats are found during works, bats will be rehoused within bat boxes on site under licence.

A compensatory bat box (Two Greenwood Eco Habitats two crevice box) will be placed on site (on trees to the south of the building) prior to work commencing. Bat boxes will remain on site as part of proposed biodiversity enhancement.

A copy of the Method Statement will be available to site / project managers in advance of any works being carried out.