


Report to be read in conjunction with the Decision Notice.								
Signed:	Officer:	SK	Date:	26.8.25	Manager:	LH	Date:	27.8.25

Application Ref:	2025/0555			 Ribble Valley Borough Council www.ribblevalley.gov.uk
Date Inspected:	5.8.25	Site Notice:	5.8.25	
Officer:	Stephen Kilmartin			
DELEGATED ITEM FILE REPORT:				APPROVAL

Development Description:	Planning permission for installation of a new gas meter
Site Address/Location:	Clitheroe Royal Grammar School York Street Clitheroe BB7 2D

CONSULTATIONS:	Parish/Town Council
No representations received in respect of the proposal.	

CONSULTATIONS:	Highways/Water Authority/Other Bodies
N/A	
N/A	
CONSULTATIONS:	Additional Representations.
No representations received in respect of the proposal.	

RELEVANT POLICIES AND SITE PLANNING HISTORY:
<p>Ribble Valley Core Strategy:</p> <p>Key Statement DS1: Development Strategy Key Statement DS2: Sustainable Development Key Statement EN5: Heritage Assets</p> <p>Policy DMG1: General Considerations Policy DMG2: Strategic Considerations Policy DME4: Protecting Heritage Assets</p> <p>Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Clitheroe Conservation Area Appraisal</p>
<p>Relevant Planning History:</p> <p>2022/0939: Discharge of Condition 3 (Railings, Gates and CCTV Pole) and 5 (Hedgerow) of planning application 3/2022/0359. (Approved)</p> <p>2022/0359: New perimeter fence to match existing. New security access gates. New CCTV. (Approved)</p>

ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:
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Site Description and Surrounding Area:

The application relates to Clitheroe Royal Grammar School. The application site is located within the designated Clitheroe Conservation Area, with the site being bounded to the north by Well Terrace and to the east by York Street.

Proposed Development for which consent is sought:

The application seeks consent for the installation of an external standalone gas meter within the grounds of Clitheroe Royal Grammar School, with the meter being sited at the northern extents of the school grounds, being located behind an existing stone and railing boundary wall.

The meter will be 1.75 in height, measuring 1.6 in width and 0.85m in depth, being of a typical utility cabinet appearance and configuration.

Impact upon Character/appearance of Conservations Area:

The application relates to the Clitheroe Royal Grammar School, with the site being located within the designated Clitheroe Conservation Area. As such, in assessing the proposal, regard must be given to the statutory duties imposed on the authority in respect of the preservation and enhancement of such assets. In this respect, at a local level, Key Statement EN5 and Policy DME4 are primarily, but not solely, engaged for the purposes of assessing likely impacts upon designated heritage assets resultant from the proposed development.

Key Statement EN5:

In this respect Key Statement EN5 states that:

There will be a presumption in favour of the conservation and enhancement of the significance of heritage assets and their settings. The Historic Environment and its Heritage Assets and their settings will be conserved and enhanced in a manner appropriate to their significance for their heritage value; their important contribution to local character, distinctiveness and sense of place; and to wider social, cultural and environmental benefits.

This will be achieved through:

- *Recognising that the best way of ensuring the long term protection of heritage assets is to ensure a viable use that optimises opportunities for sustaining and enhancing its significance.*
- *Keeping Conservation Area Appraisals under review to ensure that any development proposals respect and safeguard the character, appearance and significance of the area.*
- *Considering any development proposals which may impact on a heritage asset or their setting through seeking benefits that conserve and enhance their significance and avoids any substantial harm to the heritage asset.*
- *Requiring all development proposals to make a positive contribution to local distinctiveness/sense of place.*
- *The consideration of Article 4 Directions to restrict permitted development rights where the exercise of such rights would harm the historic environment.*

Policy DME4:

With Policy DME4 stating, in respect of development within conservation areas or those affecting the listed buildings or their setting, that development will be assessed on the following basis:

1: CONSERVATION AREAS

Proposals within, or affecting views into and out of, or affecting the setting of a conservation area will be required to conserve and where appropriate enhance its character and appearance and those elements which contribute towards its significance. This should include considerations as to whether it conserves and enhances the special architectural and historic character of the area as set out in the relevant conservation area appraisal. development which makes a positive contribution and conserves and enhances the character, appearance and significance of the area in terms of its location, scale, size, design and materials and existing buildings, structures, trees and open spaces will be supported.

In the conservation areas there will be a presumption in favour of the conservation and enhancement of elements that make a positive contribution to the character or appearance of the conservation area.

2: LISTED BUILDINGS AND OTHER BUILDINGS OF SIGNIFICANT HERITAGE INTEREST

Alterations or extensions to listed buildings or buildings of local heritage interest, or development proposals on sites within their setting which cause harm to the significance of the heritage asset will not be supported. Any proposals involving the demolition or loss of important historic fabric from listed buildings will be refused unless it can be demonstrated that exceptional circumstances exist.

Policy DMG1:

Policy DMG1 is also engaged in concert with Key Statement EN5 and Policy DME4 insofar that the policy sets out general Development Management considerations, with the policy having a number of inherent criterion that are relevant to the assessment of the current proposal, which state:

In determining planning applications, all development must:

DESIGN

- 1. Be of a high standard of building design which considers the 8 building in context principles (from the CABE/English Heritage building on context toolkit.*
- 2. Be sympathetic to existing and proposed land uses in terms of its size, intensity and nature as well as scale, massing, style, features and building materials.*
- 3. Consider the density, layout and relationship between buildings, which is of major importance. particular emphasis will be placed on visual appearance and the relationship to surroundings, including impact on landscape character, as well as the effects of development on existing amenities.*

AMENITY

- 1. Not adversely affect the amenities of the surrounding area.*

ENVIRONMENT

- 3. All development must protect and enhance heritage assets and their settings.*

Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990:

The principle statutory duty under the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (as amended by s.58B (1) of Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023) is to preserve or enhance the special character of heritage assets, including their setting. As such, in determining applications that affect designated heritage assets, the authority must consider the duties contained within the principle Act which states the following;

Listed Buildings – Section 66(1) (as amended by s.58B of Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023):

In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the building or its setting. Under s.58B (2) this includes preserving or enhancing any feature, quality or characteristic of the asset or setting that contributes to the significance of the asset.

Listed buildings - Section 16 (2) (as amended by s.58B of Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023):

In considering whether to grant listed building consent for any works to a listed building the local planning authority shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the building. Under s.58B (2) this includes preserving or enhancing any feature, quality or characteristic of the asset or setting that contributes to the significance of the asset.

National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024):

The National planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out further duties in respect of determining proposals that affect heritage assets stating that *‘In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets’ importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation’.*

The Framework sets out further duties in respect of considering potential impacts upon designated heritage assets with Paragraphs 212 – 220 reading as follows:

Considering Potential Impacts:

212:

When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset’s conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.

213:

Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of:

- a) grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional;*
- b) assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.*

214:

Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:

- a) the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and*
- b) no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and*

- c) *conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and*
- d) *the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.*

215:

Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use.

216:

The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

217:

Local planning authorities should not permit the loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred.

218:

Local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.

219:

Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to the asset (or which better reveal its significance) should be treated favourably.

220:

Not all elements of a Conservation Area or World Heritage Site will necessarily contribute to its significance. Loss of a building (or other element) which makes a positive contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site should be treated either as substantial harm under paragraph 207 or less than substantial harm under paragraph 208, as appropriate, taking into account the relative significance of the element affected and its contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site as a whole.

Assessment of Impacts:

The submitted details seek consent for the installation of an external standalone gas meter within the grounds of Clitheroe Royal Grammar School, with the meter being sited at the northern extent of the grounds, being located behind an existing stone and railing boundary wall. The meter will be 1.75 in height, measuring 1.6 in width and 0.85m in depth.

Whilst it is accepted that the meter may be afforded some limited visibility from Well Terrace to the north, the visibility of the meter from the public realm will be limited by the existing stone and railing boundary wall, with the meter also being recessed within the existing grass verge. As such, taking into account of the external appearance, configuration and scale of the proposed meter, it is not considered that the installation of the meter in this location will result in any adverse measurable visual impacts upon the character or visual amenities of the Designated Clitheroe Conservation Area or the immediate streetscene.

Taking account of the above matters, it is not considered that the proposed development raises any significant direct conflict(s) with Key Statement EN5 or Policies DMG1 and DME4 of the Ribble Valley Core Strategy, nor any significant measurable conflicts with the aims, objectives and requirements of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Impact Upon Residential Amenity:

The application relates to a small-grassed area at the northern extents of the grounds associated with Clitheroe Royal Grammar School. The proposed meter will be of a typical scale and configuration commensurate with utility meters, with the area where the meter is to be sighted being devoid of any direct relationship with existing nearby residential receptors. In this respect, the proposed meter is unlikely to result in any measurable impacts upon nearby residential amenities.

As such and taking account of the siting and scale of the proposed meter, the proposal raises no measurable conflict with Policy DMG1 of the Ribble Valley Core Strategy which seeks to protect existing residential amenity and ensure adequate levels of residential amenity for future occupiers of proposed residential development(s).

Landscape/Ecology:

The application relates to a small, grassed area within the confines of the Clitheroe Royal Grammar School, with no trees or hedgerow of landscape amenity value being affected by the proposed development. In respect of the mandatory requirements in relation to Biodiversity Net gain, pursuant to Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (inserted by the Environment Act 2021). The proposal would meet the 'de-minimis' exception insofar that it would not impact upon an area of or above 25 square metres of on-site habitat.

As such and taking account of the above matters the proposal raises no direct conflict with the aims and objectives of Key Statement EN4 and Policies DME1, DME2 and DME3 of the Ribble Valley Core Strategy which seek, amongst other matters, to ensure there are no adverse impacts upon habitats/protected species resultant from development proposals.

Observations/Consideration of Matters Raised/Conclusion:

As such, for the above reasons and having regard to all material considerations and matters raised that the application is recommended for APPROVAL.

RECOMMENDATION:

That planning permission be granted subject to the imposition of condition(s)