

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 Clitheroe's skyline for over 800 years. This was the Steward's House and parts of it date back to at least 1720s. The Stewards Gallery was originally stables for the Steward's house (now part of 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).

Proposed works

The proposed alterations are to rake out existing cement-based mortar and re-point the problem elevation with lime mortar and deep pack any deep voids with pinning stones and lime-based mortar. For any large surface areas above 100mm new facing masonry should be introduced to match the existing masonry finish. The removal of the downpipe and hopper should be stored on-site for re-fit post pointing work and allowing for 3 No. coats of paint to be applied to both items. 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 i.e: 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.

Our aim is to 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. Once the re pointing work has been completed, internal corrective maintenance can be carried out, which can not be done until water ingress is eliminated.

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 the impact of the works will be minimal once the works have been complete as the proposed works are mainly to one wall elevation. During the works there will be scaffold erected. 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.