

1 Have you spoken to anyone at the Heritage Fund about your idea?

If so, tell us their name.

Our Partnership Officer, Sarah Wells, has contacted the Heritage Fund and had a response from Bethany Glynn with relevant links to guidance.

Describe what you will do during the project.

Include any tasks you have to do to achieve the project goal. You have 200 words.

Clitheroe Castle is grade 1 listed and the associated museum and extensive grounds are described as the jewel of the Ribble Valley. The Council are investing heavily in improvements to the Castle and Grounds, however the opportunity exists to work with the Heritage Lottery, partners and the community to create one of the key historic visitor sites in Lancashire.

This will entail developing a fascinating historical narrative for the site along with improvements to the Castle Keep, the pathways, events space and landscaping. Visitors and residents will be engaged through noticeboards, activities and events through the onsite museum and local groups.

Ribble Valley Borough Council will work closely with people of all ages across multiple community groups and organisations including Ribble Valley Police, the Civic Society, Lancashire County Council, Trinity Community Hub, the Castle Museum, local youth groups, 3 C's Cafe, Park Run groups, our local disability day care centre for adults, schools and organisations that lease and use sport, recreation and business facilities in the castle grounds to jointly deliver a shared vision for the site. All these partners are energised and ready to engage volunteers and the community in the project.

The scheme will have many outcomes beyond heritage, such as decreasing antisocial behaviour, engaging communities in major events at the Amphitheatre and ensuring that all areas are accessible for all.

Do you have a title for the project?

This can be changed at any time. Don't worry if the project does not have a title yet, you can leave this blank.

Clitheroe Castle – Re-imagined

Please outline how your project will respond to our four investment principles.

You have 300 words.

- Saving Heritage:

The castle keep requires significant structural intervention to ensure its longevity. This work involves repointing the keep with specialist mortar and structural support. The grounds require improvements to park furniture and signage and accessible features to make the site more attractive to visitors and promote the protection of the area. Protected plants and trees have been damaged, and the park toilets have been vandalised on multiple occasions leading to significant repair costs.

The castle grounds have suffered with persistent anti-social behaviour (ASB) which has resulted in the grounds being identified as an ASB hotspot needing significant additional police resources.

- **Protecting the Environment:**

Protecting the existing habitats will encourage educational opportunities to allow schools and park users to study the area. For example: We would be interested in planning a project around the creation of bat boxes to encourage them to roost and feed in the area followed by some bat walks led by local groups. There are also protected areas of plants and trees that could be further developed into environmentally sustainable areas.

- **Inclusion, access and participation:**

The park would benefit from more accessible surfacing, inclusive play equipment, accessible features to support people with disabilities to access the museum exhibitions and displays, improved signage and accessible sport and leisure activities. These suggestions have come from initial discussions with community members.

- **Organisational sustainability:**

Improving the whole site will promote a more positive use of the space and draw more visitors to the area. Businesses will be more financially viable- extending the space available for the café to use, extending the use of the facilities, bringing more revenue to the museum- which will support the sustainability of the site. The museum currently has 8000 paying visitors per annum and 19,500 to the site.

Tell us about the heritage of the project.

Include who it is important to and why. You have 100 words.

The Castle is a Grade 1 listed building and a Scheduled Monument. The castle can be noted in the Domesday Book. It stands very proud and is part of the lives of all Ribble Valley residents and it is a well know landmark for all those living in Lancashire. The Castle forms a primary focus for our Museum and Civic Society. The surrounding play area and facilities allow hundreds of thousands of people a year to enjoy activities in a beautiful historic setting.

Listed by English Heritage as follows:

CASTLE GATE 1. 5295 (South-West Side) - Clitheroe Castle SD 7441 1/2 19.5.50. GV

The castle grounds also figure in English Heritage's register of historic parks and gardens of special historical interest. The Castle Museum is also a Grade 2 listed building and other structures are also protected. The castle grounds also include many protected trees and plants and an important habitat for local wildlife.

What is the need for this project?

What work have you done that shows the potential benefits of the project? You have 200 words.

Recent surveys conducted on the castle keep demonstrate the need to address issues relating to structural openings, repointing, tying in laminate repairs, spiral staircase repairs, repointing of external and internal face regrouting of rubble interior and leadwork to the top of structure. This monument needs to be protected from dilapidation.

About maximising such a wonderful asset, allowing as many people to experience the site as possible.

Work with local community, statutory and voluntary groups demonstrate the need to better divert young people's attention in the park to more positive activities and have a stronger presence of positive groups using the space to protect the area. Multiple reports have been made to police relating to damage, graffiti and intimidating behaviour towards park users. The local café and community hub has suffered damage and intimidation.

The use of the sport and leisure facilities need to be planned co-productively with partners to make the most of the space and encourage youth groups to base themselves in the park more regularly. Maintenance and improvements need to be completed on these areas. Some areas are leased by partners who have reported concerns at their ability to sustain the areas.

Local groups have discussed their wish to see more accessible play equipment in the park and accessible features in the museum.

How long do you think the project will take?

Tell us an estimated start and end date if you have them. You have 50 words.

The work around the Keep is very specialist and will take a significant amount of time to complete. As the application will be an area project with partners, co-design will also take more time. We are estimating 2-3 years.

How much is the project likely to cost?

If you know, tell us about the most important costs. These costs can be estimated. You have 200 words.

We are estimating the cost at between £3.5-4 million but this cannot be more specific until we have undertaken the further partnership and community engagement to refine plans. This includes the significant proportion of the cost for the structural work to the Keep estimated in excess of £2 million.

We have agreed an initial investment of £800k from RVBC.

How much funding are you planning to apply for from us?

Submit an amount.

£3 million

When are you likely to submit a funding application, if asked to do so?

You have 50 words.

We would estimate submitting an application by Spring 2025.