

Council for British Archaeology Yorkshire,
Beatrice de Cardi House,
66 Bootham,
YORK,
YO30 7BZ

29th November, 2018.

Application no: 2018/93591

Erection of cafe/restaurant with bedrooms, interpretation facilities, car parking

Victoria Tower, Lumb Lane, Castle Hill, Almondbury, Huddersfield, HD4 6TA

Type of comment: An objection

CBA Yorkshire objects to this application on the following grounds:-

1. It has been demonstrated that Castle Hill has been a focus for settlement and other types of occupation since the Neolithic period. It includes a multi-phase Iron Age hillfort; a Norman motte-and bailey fortification with the remnants of a (probably) 12th century stone castle; the site of a World War II anti-aircraft battery, and the Victoria Tower, a listed building which was erected to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. The site is a scheduled ancient monument and is of significant archaeological and historical importance not only locally but nationally. The proposed development would, of necessity, involve considerable disturbance and would inevitably cause irreparable damage to the monument, resulting in loss of vital evidence which might contribute to our understanding both of the various features at the site, and also similar sites elsewhere.
2. The proposed development, in its nature, its extent and its purpose, is entirely inappropriate for this location and would have a markedly adverse impact on the setting, character and conservation of all aspects of the monument. The inn constructed on Castle Hill in c.1810 ceased to function as a public house in about 2000 and was demolished in 2005. Since then there has been no diminution in the numbers of visitors for whom Castle Hill is a much loved leisure destination, valued for the lack of modern features which allows an uncluttered appreciation of its various elements.

The value and importance of Castle Hill for present and future generations cannot be overstressed. To allow this development to go ahead would be to place a higher value on a transient amenity than on this unique heritage asset.

Christine Went, B.A.,
Heritage & Conservation Officer (Acting),
Council for British Archaeology Yorkshire.