

## About the application

Application number: 2018/93591	
What is the application for?:	Erection of restaurant/café/bar, six guest rooms, exhibition/interpretation room
Address of the site or building:	Victoria Tower, Lumb Lane, Castle Hill, Almondbury, Huddersfield, HD4 6TA
Postcode:	

## User comments

Type of comment: An objection
<p>The greater Castle Hill location is a “heritage asset” as defined in Historic England's Heritage Protection Guide (2018). “This monument is scheduled, dated 30-Mar-1925 list entry 1009846, under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended) as it appears to the Secretary of State to be of national importance.” It is also worth re iterating that Castle Hill is in a conservation area, green belt and a recognised area of archaeological importance. It also has the grade 2 Victoria Tower. Kirklees should preserve this important heritage monument at all costs.</p> <p>English heritage describe Castle Hill as “Castle Hill: slight univallate hillfort, small multivallate hillfort, motte and bailey castle and deserted village” and stipulates that most were built in the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age. English heritage also state that there are only approximately 150 examples are recorded nationally, with only a small number lying outside central southern England. As castle hill is in the north of England it's even more imperative it's valued respected and preserved in its current state for future generations to experience without any desecration.</p> <p>In the Kirklees Plan [SD1-MM96] policy PLP35 it states: “Development proposals affecting a designated heritage asset (or an archaeological site of national importance) should preserve or enhance the significance of the asset. In cases likely to result in substantial harm or loss, development will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposals would bring substantial public benefits that clearly outweigh the harm, or all of the following are met: • the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; • no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; • conservation by grant-funding or some form of charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and • the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.”</p> <p>Addressing the above .....Firstly building in to the hillside to accommodate 3 floors is going to result in substantial harm and loss to a designated heritage site and history. The nature of Castle Hill ie the heritage assets as it stands does not prevent all reasonable use of the site as many many people visit it daily to enjoy the open space, the peace and quiet and the uninterrupted 360 degree views. There is currently a</p>

ranger who is well informed to explain the history and during the summer months there are refreshments daily supplied by a mobile van. The surrounding villages of Farnley Tyas, Hall Bower, Almondbury and Honley all within a mile of the hill offer public houses for respite and toilet facilities. Therefore the revised planning application does not justify such a public benefit that doesn't already exist. Indeed the planning application is purely a private commercial venture and not purely for the benefit of the general public.

Furthermore the new application doesn't :

Consider the light and the noise pollution the proposed building would bring.

Acknowledge that Kirklees rejected planning for the building of new houses on the hill within the newsome vicinity as they said they impact view of castle hill so it's not clear why Kirklees would consider building a 3 storey, 6 bedroomed, large restaurant actually within the hillside and upon it that will be seen from miles away.

The access route to the proposed building is not suitable, which was acknowledged in previous refused planning applications. The new plans detail 3 passing areas but again this will result further desecration to the iron fort on that side of the hill. In addition, no regard has been given to icy weather. The road leading up to the summit can be become impassable within hours of snow and icy weather. The rain water flows down at a rate and when this freezes over its treacherous.

The areas surrounding castle hill are also of significant importance, it's beautiful green belt land that is often photographed from all angles to promote Huddersfield, and the properties around Castle Hill are listed too. Proposing to build a 3 storey private hotel and restaurant is not acceptable, and not only affecting the castle hill but the surrounding grade two properties.

Please preserve the few good things we have In Huddersfield