

From:
To: [DCAdmin](#)
Subject: Castle Hill Study - Grounds for objection re 2018/93591
Date: 13 January 2020 21:59:04

Dear Sirs,

Castle Hill Setting Study

I have taken the time out of my busy schedule as a working professional to highlight to you my serious concerns around this application. Having been a resident within the Huddersfield area for the majority of my life, I strongly believe there would be a dramatically negative effect on an important landmark for Huddersfield.

As the Kirklees Local Plan makes clear on page 144 in paragraph 35f:

“proposals which detrimentally impact the setting of Castle Hill will not be permitted”.

Also, the Castle Hill Setting Study, produced by Atkins for Kirklees Council in 2016, states on page 38 that the “Slopes and Summit” of the hill have rural and essentially undeveloped characteristics on which even small or medium scale developments would not be allowed.

This principle was further underlined, in the 2019 LDP, by the designation of what was site AGB2074 as additional Green Belt to protect and enhance the setting of Castle Hill. This land stands some distance away from the hill but even so is recognised as being a significant element of the setting of Castle Hill. A key feature of Castle Hill is the openness of its flat top, on which the Motte and Baileys stand, and the open views to be enjoyed from here.

Construction of the proposed development would introduce an incongruous, urban structure in the middle of this flat area and preclude visitor enjoyment of a key element of the site. Castle Hill has long been regarded as a local focus point for walking and escaping from the urban settings.

The drawings show a 3 floor structure where the 2 levels below ground represent a volume of at least 3 times that of the floor above ground. Whilst datum heights are not provided, it is clear the development will either lift the height of surrounding land unacceptably (damaging the open setting of Castle Hill and its victorian tower) or involve deep excavations over a very significant area of the site causing harm to the scheduled monument.

Construction work, of the nature necessary to construct the proposed development, would involve extensive excavation of earth to be shipped off site by lorry. Lots of heavy plant and equipment would need to be introduced to the site for such works to be carried out including installation of underground services, drainage etc. It is therefore likely that the volume and weight of such heavy plant, moving around on and within the heritage assets, would unavoidably lead to harm to the scheduled monument itself and the setting of the listed tower.

I believe the proposed development is contrary to the Castle Hill Setting Study and in breach of LP35. The Kirklees Local Development Plan, which also contains extensive provisions regarding green belt development, was subjected to extensive public consultation before being accepted by residents as an appropriate framework for future development.

In these circumstances I ask that this application be declined on the grounds of substantial harm to the setting of Castle Hill and the heritage assets there on.

Regards