



**Castle Hill,
Almondbury,
West Yorkshire**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Excavation and
Watching Brief**

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Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief within the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Castle Hill, Almondbury, Kirklees, West Yorkshire

1. Summary description

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) on behalf of The Thandi Partnership, lessee of that part of the Scheduled Ancient Monument which contained the hotel and 19th-century outbuildings. It has been informed by two key documents: Historic England's general guidance on the preparation of WSIs for projects relating to the historic environment (Historic England 2006, re-issue 2015), and the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (WYAAS) research agenda for the site as a whole (WYAAS 2014). It also takes account of discussions between the client's representative, their architects, Historic England and WYAAS.
- 1.2 The proposed project involves the archaeological excavation of the footprint of the proposed development (the building) in the northern quadrant of the middle ward of the motte and bailey castle, a ward which was formed out of the south-western half of an Iron Age hillfort (Fig. 1). Its aim is to record the extent and significance of archaeological deposits in an area that became, in the early 19th century, the site of a tavern with extensive outbuildings, paddocks and gardens, and in the mid-19th century, the location of a hotel. All these structures have subsequently been removed.
- 1.3 In addition to detailed excavation where development impact is greatest, an archaeological watching brief is also proposed for works associated with the carpark, any intrusive works related to the identification and reconnection of existing services, and passing places on the road to site.

2. Background

- 2.1 Castle Hill, Almondbury (SE 15222 14067), is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM 13297; HA 1009846; Appendix 1). It stands in the eastern foothills of the Pennines, some 3km south-east of the centre of Huddersfield. The hill is roughly ovoid in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, with steep slopes and a flattish summit. The highest part of the hill, as indicated on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey 6 Inch map (Fig. 2), was (at least since the 12th century), at the south-west end. The hill's shape and elevation reflect its geological formation which comprises alternating bands of sandstones and shales of the Lower Coal Measures series, laid almost horizontally and capped by an outlier of resistant Grenoside rock. Castle Hill is one of the most prominent landscape features in the region.

- 2.2 The site has long been known as the location of a medieval castle and earlier fortifications, but its detailed development remained unknown until the programme of archaeological excavations carried out between 1939 and 1973 under the direction of W.J. Varley, FSA. Varley identified the earliest bounded settlement as a Late Bronze Age univallate enclosure, occupying the south-western half of the hill, though he also identified evidence for earlier activity on the ground surface below the enclosure bank, which he believed to indicate a Neolithic presence on the basis of a radiocarbon determination.
- 2.3 The Iron Age saw the remodelling of the small Late Bronze Age enclosure into a larger hillfort, the extent of which is mirrored by the surviving medieval earthworks which were seemingly constructed over the prehistoric banks and ditches. The exact date of the Iron Age expansion is not known. It appears, however, that the first phase of hillfort development saw the rebuilding of the Bronze Age bank and ditch now enclosing the area occupied by the medieval middle and inner bailey, with the subsequent extension of these defences so as to enclose the entire hilltop. Shortly after this extension it appears that a further bank and ditch were added (forming a bivallate hillfort).
- 2.4 A series of outworks, including what were long interpreted as another outer rampart and an annexe, were also constructed. The latter formed an outer, north-east enclosed area which was thought to represent a defended pasture for stock. However, a recent re-excavation, by the Huddersfield and District Archaeological Society, of one of Varley's trenches in this area has indicated that the earthworks here are likely to be of medieval or early post-medieval date (Roberts 2017).
- 2.5 In the medieval period, Almondbury formed part of the territory known as the Honour of Pontefract, which was held by the de Laci family and it is possible that they were responsible for the establishment of a castle on the hill. The generally agreed narrative, based on the earliest reference to a castellum at Almondbury in a charter issued by King Stephen (see Renn 1973, 89), sees construction of the motte and bailey in the early 12th century. The Iron Age earthworks were modified by the cutting of the deep ditch to form the middle and inner baileys. The upcast from this ditch was possibly palisaded, creating a secure place within which to locate the keep. This period also saw the remodelling of the ramparts and the construction of new banks and ditches across the hilltop. The original entrances to the various baileys appear to be the same as the entrances used today.
- 2.6 Towards the end of the 13th century, the outer bailey was turned over to agriculture, and the buildings of the inner bailey became a hunting lodge. Some sources suggest that there was an attempt to establish a borough on the hill. Under dry conditions aerial photography has revealed in the outer bailey what appears to be a central roadway flanked by regularly laid-out plots – although these features were interpreted as ridge and furrow by the RCHME when they surveyed the site in the mid-1990s. It is thought that this settlement (if it

existed) was abandoned by the 1340s, although memory of it may have lingered, since the 1634 map of Almondbury (West Yorkshire Archive Service: Kirklees, DD/R KCZ 0016) marks the outer bailey as the site of the 'towne' (Fig. 3). At that period the name 'town' was frequently applied to settlements no larger than villages.

- 2.7 Radiocarbon dates from organic samples recovered from the cores of ramparts indicated that the development of the Iron Age fortifications took place during the 5th and 6th centuries BC (Gilks 1992, Appendix). Parts of the timber-laced inner rampart of the final, multivallate fort showed clear evidence of destruction by fire, and this led Varley to conclude that a thermoluminescence (TL) date of 431 BC +/- 180 for that burning provided a date for its abandonment:

'that burning brought to an end the occupation of the site in the pre-Roman phase of its history... whereafter the defences were not repaired or re-erected until the twelfth century AD.' (Varley 1976, 128).

Subsequent commentators have accepted his chronology (e.g. Gilks 1992, 20).

- 2.8 The site seems to have been unoccupied between the later Middle Ages and the early 19th century, when a tavern with outbuildings was erected. The buildings, first recorded in 1810–11, were set in two ranges backing on to (and cutting into) the defensive banks forming the north-west and north-east sides of the middle ward. They are shown on the 1850 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 2), along with an area in front of them, divided into two, which may have included a hard-standing for coaches and traps, and a paddock for horses. The tavern itself was partly demolished when the Castle Hill Hotel was erected in 1854. The remaining part of the tavern became a cottage, with outside privy, attached to the range of outbuildings. These are shown along with the hotel on a photograph by W.H. Sykes taken in 1912 (Kirklees Museums collections; Fig. 4). The hotel was significantly altered during the 20th century and was demolished in 2005.

- 2.9 In 2012 a detailed assessment of Castle Hill archive, held at the Tolson Museum, Huddersfield, was carried out by ArcHeritage. Their report (ArcHeritage 2012) is broadly pessimistic about the value of reworking the Varley archive to gain further insights into the development of the site. Section 8 of the report, written by Dr Melanie Giles, comments that Varley's investigations:

'were certainly deficient in levels of recording, and problematic in their interpretation of key features... many of these individual strands of evidence rest uncomfortably on poorly drawn and photographed records. There is much to warrant future investigation, not least in terms of picking apart the ways in which surviving elements of the medieval and historic periods (which Varley had little interest in) intersect with the prehistoric evidence.' (ArcHeritage 2012, 66).

- 2.10 In her recommendations for further investigations, Dr Giles also draws attention to the current social value of such sites, in terms of strengthening shared values in local communities:

'Hillforts are not only iconic monuments of the Iron Age but sites of contemporary significance for local communities. They pose important questions about how people built significant sites to which they felt they belonged... as such, they are rich in the archaeological imagination but also have great potential to bring together contemporary communities to investigate themes which are still of contemporary relevance' (Arc Heritage 2012, 67).

The opportunity for public engagement is considered further in section 11, below.

- 2.11 More recent investigations of Castle Hill have included several phases of trenching, both before and after the demolition of the hotel. In 1998 six trial trenches were excavated around its periphery (reported in Appendix 1 of the HIA). Two trenches provided evidence of ditches or gullies cut into the natural. A seventh trial trench was excavated in 2001, to inform further proposals to extend the footprint of the hotel (Appendix 2 of the HIA). There was no indication of any in situ layers pre-dating the mid-19th-century construction of the building. As part of the present development proposals, further trial trenching was carried out in August 2018 (Appendix 3 of the HIA). The only feature of note was an earlier linear feature cut into the natural shales and clayey loams, possibly running on a similar alignment to the bank (Trench 2) but it produced no datable artefacts.

3. Research Questions

- 3.1 Despite the overall uniformity of evidence cited in support of the above chronology, there are reasons to suggest that we actually know much less about Castle Hill's occupation than we think we do. Some issues are outwith the scope of the project – for example the very limited number of radiocarbon determinations, and the precise status of the samples from which they were derived. One of the pre-conditions of the proposed project is that intrusive work must not impinge on the historically significant earthworks, and the radiocarbon dating samples were drawn from the Iron Age earthwork banks. Other issues can, however, be addressed by this project.
- 3.2 The first relates to the supposed absence of occupation on the site after the 4th century BC until the early 12th century AD. The first reference to a castle in medieval administrative documentation is not necessarily a precise indication of when it was founded – even in the case of licences to crenellate. Furthermore, some West Yorkshire castles were established on the sites of earlier settlements and administrative centres (for example, Pontefract and Mirfield), as physical expressions of the 'seisin' acquired by their Norman lords (see Wrathmell 2012, 230-31).

- 3.3 There is also more specific evidence for occupation in the period before the 12th century. Two of the metalwork finds from the Varley excavations were iron key barrels, bound with copper alloy strips (see Fig. 5), which in 1972 were identified by Leslie Webster, then at the British Museum, as Anglo-Scandinavian artefacts (L Webster, in litt., 29 July 1972, Castle Hill archive). They were found in the 1939 Site 7, a trench running from the inner ward of the castle southwards into the ditch. Webster's identification has been confirmed recently by Ian Riddler who comments (email of 06/02/2018): 'I have had a chance to look into the keys a bit more and it is pretty conclusive that the type that you have is of 9th to 11th century date, and isn't any later. It is replaced by a longer and flatter type. Post-Conquest examples of the Almondbury type are rare and are all thought to be residual in their contexts. So I would definitely say that they are earlier than the castle.'
- 3.4 Domesday Book records that, in 1066, Almondbury was a single manor in the hands of two landholders with Scandinavian personal names: Ketill and Sveinn. They held four carucates of land (DB Yorks 9W105), and their holdings may well have been administered from a settlement on Castle Hill, probably one in the south-western half of the site given the provenance of the keys.
- 3.5 There is further information relating to the middle ward which, though again present in the Castle Hill archive since the 1970s, seems not previously to have been taken into account. It is a copy of what is clearly an early 18th-century plan of the site which, in an associated letter, is suggested as having been drawn by William Stukeley FSA (A Havercroft, in litt. 8 June 1976, Castle Hill archive). The plan (Fig. 6) shows a rectangular outline within the ward which is described as follows:
- 'This hollow is about 8 yds wide 18 long with a shallow trench about a yard wide, the site of a Temple probably'.
- 3.6 We need not feel obliged to agree with the functional identification to suggest this as the site of a building, the yard-wide trenches marking the robbing out of stone footings. Its width as recorded on the plan might indicate an aisled building, either a hall or a barn. If the former, it might have origins in the pre-Conquest period; in any case, it is likely to date to the period before the mid-14th century (see 2.6 above). It appears to have been located on or close to the site later occupied by the Victorian hotel; in either case, traces of it may remain, along with external areas of associated occupation.

4. Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The immediate aim of the excavation programme within the footprint of the proposed new building is to determine (prior to development commencing) the potential of this part of the hilltop to further our understanding of prehistoric, Anglo-Scandinavian, Norman and later medieval activity. The excavation will provide information on the presence or absence and the extent, character,

chronology, depth of burial and degree of archaeological survival across the area due to be impacted upon by development.

- 4.2 The aim is also to establish and record definitively the extent of 19th, 20th and 21st-century intrusion into the earlier site deposits. The excavations will also attempt to identify existing trenched service pipes and conduits which formerly served the hotel, so that these can be taken into account when looking to reconnect to services.
- 4.3 The archaeological watching brief (service reconnection, carpark and passing places) aims to ensure that any archaeological significant deposits, features of finds disturbed by the development are adequately recorded and/or recovered. The watching brief will provide information on the presence or absence and the extent, character, chronology, depth of burial and degree of archaeological survival across all areas impacted by development beyond that of the footprint of the proposed new building (see 4.1).
- 4.4 One of the aims of the development proposals is to provide facilities, including an interpretation space with display boards and cases relating to the site. This will transform the visitor experience at Castle Hill and address the potential for enhancing the community value of the site, a potential outlined eloquently by Dr Giles in 2012 (above, 2.10). The programme of excavation and watching brief offers a first opportunity to develop engagement with the local community in its widest sense (section 11, below).

5. Project Scope

- 5.1 The area excavation and watching brief proposed in this WSI will provide key information about the impact on the monument of the development. The scope of this WSI is limited to the recording, analysis, reporting and curation of the data retrieved from the pre-development excavation of the building's footprint, and the recording, analysis, reporting and curation of the data retrieved from the watching brief elements of the development itself (service reconnection, carpark and passing places).
- 5.2 Reporting, in the first instance, will be an assessment report on all works (excavation and watching brief). Given the archaeological importance of the site, this will be followed by a final archive report which will address any specialist recommendations.
- 5.3 Based on the results of the excavation and watching brief it is possible that a publication of the results will be required. This element of work, if necessary, will follow the production of an Update Project Design that will require approval by representatives of Historic England and WYAAS. Further outreach, such as public talks, will also be agreed at this UPD stage.

6. Interfaces

- 6.1 The excavation and watching brief are intended to ensure that any archaeological significant deposits, features or finds disturbed by the development are adequately recorded and/or recovered. The results of the investigations may also inform the development of visitor facilities, which will represent a collaborative development between The Thandi Partnership, the owners and Kirklees Metropolitan Council.

7. Project review

- 7.1 The overall purpose of the excavation and watching brief is to determine the impact of 19th, 20th and 21st-century construction activity on the archaeological potential of this area of the hillfort, to mitigate the impact of the development proposals on any pre-19th-century remains, and to adequately excavate, record and report on the features, deposits and finds recovered.
- 7.2 The project will be implemented in the form of an iterative process, in which the excavation area (and any watching brief areas that impact on archaeologically significant remains) will require review at various stages during the course of the excavations. This may require the need for frequent site visits by Historic England (and WYAAS at Historic England's request). An initial review of the open area once stripped will determine subsequent stages of work.
- 7.2 The first critical review point will occur when the extent and depth of disturbance in recent centuries has been established within the open area. At this point a review meeting will be held on site with representatives of Historic England. A provisional date for the meeting will be agreed in advance of the start of the excavation element of the project. The requirement and timetabling of any subsequent review meetings on site will be determined at the first review meeting.

8. Communications

- 8.1 If the investigations proposed in this WSI are approved, Historic England will be given the required advance notice of the start of the works, and they will be consulted on a provisional date for the first review stage. The review will be attended by the ASWYAS project manager. Representatives of the lessee and owners, and of the owners' archaeological advisors (WYAAS) will also be invited.

9. Fieldwork Methodology

- 9.1 Given that Castle Hill is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Appendix 1), Scheduled Monument Consent will be required for the archaeological works proposed here. It is noted that some features are excluded from the scheduling. These include the surfaces of the approach road, carpark, drives and paths up

to and round the monument, all modern walling and fencing, the Victorian Jubilee Tower which is Grade II Listed, the buildings and fixtures of Castle Hill Hotel (no longer extant) and the buildings of the house on Hill Side, the safety grille over the well, the Armada anniversary beacon, all modern steps up to and on the monument and the telephone poles crossing the monument. The ground beneath these exclusions, however, **with the exception of that beneath the hotel which will have been disrupted by cellarge**, is included.

- 9.2 All archaeological works will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant standards (ClfA 2020a-b; Historic England 1991, 2006, 2008). The archaeological works will involve the excavation of an open area incorporating the footprint of the proposed building, as well as watching briefs on works associated with service reconnection, carpark and passing places.
- 9.3 It is expected that the exact limits of the open area excavation and watching brief will be finalised following a meeting between ASWYAS, WYAAS and Historic England, the client and their representatives at the site, prior to any works commencing. At this meeting, the extent of any fencing required around the excavation, the site for welfare facilities and the location of spoil will be determined. Both the welfare facilities and the fencing will be free standing to avoid damage to the monument. Material laid down to protect the monument, prior to the storage of spoil, will also be agreed.

Table 1. Rationale and objectives for archaeological works

Intervention	Dimensions	Rationale and Objectives
Excavation	Estimated 25m by 35m	This area will be located over the footprint of the new build. It will be large enough to cover all intrusive groundworks associated with the build, with its final dimensions agreed during a pre-commencement site meeting (9.3). Its primary objective is to establish the extent and depth of structures and intrusions related to the former hotel, and to record any remains (prehistoric, Anglo-Scandinavian, Norman or later medieval structures and deposits) that may have survived 19th-century and later interventions.
Watching brief - services	-	An archaeological watching brief will be maintained on all intrusive works associated with identifying and reconnecting existing services. A watching brief is considered adequate due to the expectation that existing services will be re-used. The impact on the monument by these works is considered minimal.
Watching brief - carpark	-	An archaeological watching brief will be maintained on all intrusive works associated with expansion and/or relaying of the existing carpark. A watching brief is considered adequate due to expectation that excavation depths are likely to be

		shallow. The impact on the monument by these works is considered minimal.
Watching brief - passing places	-	<p>An archaeological watching brief will be maintained on all intrusive works associated with the creation of passing places on the existing road up to the top of the monument.</p> <p>A watching brief is considered adequate due to the expectation that intrusion into the monument is likely to be limited. The impact on the monument by these works is considered minimal.</p>

- 9.4 As almost the whole of the relevant excavation area is covered by hard-standing, it is proposed that this area will be opened by machine, and the topsoil and recent overburden removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits of a maximum 0.2m thickness. This will be achieved by use of an appropriate machine with a wide toothless ditching blade. Any machine work will be carried out under direct archaeological supervision and the machine halted if significant archaeological deposits are encountered. The top of the first significant archaeological horizon may be exposed by the machine, but it will then be cleaned by hand and inspected for features.
- 9.5 Once the extent of deposits relating to the 20th century and later has been identified, any further work to determine the depth of these will be established by the use of an appropriate machine using a wide toothless ditching blade. Any machine work will be carried out under direct archaeological supervision and the machine will be halted if archaeological deposits pre-dating the 20th century are encountered.
- 9.6 Earlier features/deposits identified during excavation or watching brief will be manually excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner, in order to meet the aims and objectives outlined above. All features identified are expected to be half-sectioned and the full depth of archaeological deposits assessed.
- 9.7 All features exposed will be sample excavated employing the following strategy:
- Linear features: sufficient excavation will be carried out to investigate the depth, profile and fills of a ditch or gully and to recover dating and environmental evidence from its fills. Normally this will involve a minimum of 20% sample dispersed along the length of the feature (each sample section to be not less than 1m). One 1m section will be located and recorded adjacent to the area edge where possible. Feature intersections will always be excavated in such a way to determine a stratigraphic relationship.

- Discrete features: pits, post-holes and other discrete features will normally be half-sectioned to determine and record their form. The complete excavation of such features may be appropriate, but only following consultation with Historic England.
- 9.8 A full written, drawn and photographic record of all material revealed during the course of all works will be made. The excavation and watching brief limits will be surveyed using electronic survey equipment with larger-scale, hand drawn plans of features, at 1:20 or 1:50, being created as appropriate. Sections of linear and discrete features will be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20. All sections, plans and elevations will include spot-heights related to Ordnance Datum in metres as correct to two decimal places. Tie-in information will be generated during the course of the excavations and will be fixed in relation to nearby permanent structures and roads and to the National Grid.
- 9.9 All excavated archaeological contexts will be fully recorded by written records, giving details of location, composition, shape, dimensions, relationships, finds, samples, and cross-references to other elements of the record and other relevant contexts, in accordance with best practice. All contexts, and any small finds and samples from them will be given unique numbers. Bulk finds will be collected by context.
- 9.10 As of April 2022 the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service no longer requires the use of 35mm black and white film photography. When archaeological remains are encountered good quality digital photography may be employed. Images must be archived with the Archaeology Data Service. These images will assume the role of the 'permanent photographic record' in place of monochrome 35mm photographs.
- 9.11 ASWYAS will plan for using this digital photography and prepare a Data Management Plan (see Chartered Institute for Archaeology <https://www.archaeologists.net/digidigital/>) to track the various components of the site archive and their archiving procedures. A copy of this plan should be included in the report and with any material supplied to the ADS. Images should be archived with the ADS following the using the ADS Guidelines for Depositors.
- 9.12 In general, good quality digital photography using cameras with a minimum resolution of 10 megapixels; RAW format may be used to capture images on site but these must be archived as .tiff Digital photography should follow the guidance given by Historic England in Digital Image Capture and File Storage: Guidelines for Best Practice, July 2015. ASWYAS will include metadata embedded in the image file. This metadata will include the following: the commonly used name for the site being photographed, the relevant centred OS grid coordinates for the site to at least six figures, the relevant township name, the date of photograph, the subject of the photograph, the direction of shot and the name of the organisation taking the photograph.

- 9.13 All artefacts will be removed from the site for assessment and analysis, except for modern material, and where it is appropriate, their find spots will be recorded three dimensionally. Non-modern artefacts from the excavated topsoil and subsoil will be collected. Finds material will be stored in controlled environments, where appropriate. All artefacts recovered will be retained, cleaned, labelled and stored as detailed in the guidelines laid out in the ClfA (2020c). Any necessary conservation work will be undertaken by approved conservators working to UKIC guidelines.
- 9.14 Spoil heaps are to be scanned for non-ferrous metal artefacts using a metal detector capable of making this discrimination, operated by an experienced metal detector user (if necessary, operating under the supervision of the contracting archaeologist). Modern artefacts will be noted but not retained.
- 9.15 If a non-professional archaeologist is to be used to carry out the metal-detecting, a formal agreement of their position as a sub-contractor working under direction must be agreed in advance of their use on site. This formal agreement will apply whether they are paid or not. To avoid financial claims under the Treasure Act a suggested wording for this formal agreement with the metal detectorist is: "In the process of working on the archaeological investigation at *[location of site]* between the dates of *[insert dates]*, *[name of person contributing to project]* is working under direction or permission of *[name of archaeological organisation]* and hereby waives all rights to rewards for objects discovered that could otherwise be payable under the Treasure Act 1996."
- 9.16 In the event of human remains being discovered they will, in the first instance, be left in situ, covered and protected. The removal of human remains will only take place in compliance with the Burial Act 1857. An exhumation licence will be obtained from the Ministry of Justice prior to the removal of the remains.
- 9.17 All finds defined as 'treasure' under the Treasure Act 1996 will be reported to HM Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act 1996.
- 9.18 A soil-sampling programme will be undertaken during the course of the investigations for the identification and recovery of carbonised remains, vertebrate remains, molluscs and small artefactual material. Appropriate specialists will advise on sampling strategies as required, including Historic England's Regional Science Advisor, and their suggested strategies will then be implemented. Provision will be made to recover material suitable for scientific dating. Contingency sums will be made available to undertake such dating. Further contingency provision will be made for additional specialist advice, e.g. for finds analysis and conservation.
- 9.19 The excavation and spoil locations will be secured by non-intrusive fencing which meets the ASWYAS's Health and Safety policy (section 13, below). The excavation upcast will be retained within the secured area. Where upcast has to be stored on Scheduled ground, it will be stored on a membrane which will

ensure the ground does not become contaminated with excavated material. The exact location of fencing and spoil will be determined in consultation with the representatives of the client and Historic England.

10. Analysis and Reporting Methodology

- 10.1 Following the conclusion of all fieldwork (excavation and watching briefs) an assessment of the results of the project will be carried out, designed to enable Historic England to take informed decisions on any recommendations for further work therein.
- 10.2 For all categories of material recovered, including finds, palaeo-environmental, industrial and other specialist samples, an assessment by an appropriately experienced specialist will be undertaken. Samples will be processed and sorted, and any artefacts recovered provided to the appropriate specialist(s) to be considered alongside the hand-recovered material. Stratigraphic information will be supplied to the project specialists. All finds will be treated in accordance with current best practice guidance. Finds will be cleaned and marked, according to accepted principles and in line with appropriate period/material guidelines.
- 10.3 In terms of ceramic assemblages, recording will be carried out in a manner compatible with existing typological series of local pottery reference collections in the Tolson Museum and in the WYAAS's Medieval Pottery Reference Collection. All ferrous objects which are not demonstrably of recent centuries, and a selection of similar non-ferrous objects (including all coins), will be x-radiographed. Where material suitable for scientific dating has been recovered, sufficient dating will be undertaken to meet the aims of the project.
- 10.4 The site archive will be assembled in line with the recommended composition provided in Historic England PPN3 (2008) and UKIC's document Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage and the ClfA's (2020d) "Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives. The integrity of the primary field record will be preserved. Security copies will be maintained where appropriate.
- 10.5 In addition to the site records, artefacts, ecofacts and other sample residues, the archive will contain all the data collected during the fieldwork, including records, finds and environmental samples. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. Archive consolidation will be undertaken immediately following the conclusion of fieldwork and will involve:
 - the site record being checked, cross-referenced and indexed as necessary;
 - retained finds being cleaned, stabilised, marked and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum;

- retained finds being assessed and recorded using pro forma recording sheets, by suitably qualified and experienced staff. Initial artefact dating will be integrated within the site matrix;
- environmental samples being processed by suitably experienced and qualified staff and recorded using pro forma recording sheets.

In addition to the site records, artefacts, ecofacts and other sample residues, the archive will contain:

- a summary report synthesising the context record;
- a summary of the artefact record;
- a summary of the environment record.

10.6 Provision will be made for the deposition of the archive, artefacts and environmental material with Kirklees Museums, as representatives of the landowner. The museum will be contacted in advance of commencement of fieldwork to ascertain their requirements for the archive (e.g. marking and labelling requirements, accession number). A budget to cover the museum's deposition charge will be allowed for. On completion of archiving, confirmation of deposition will be supplied to Historic England and WYAAS.

10.7 An assessment report will be prepared within an agreed timescale and will outline the archaeological significance of the deposits which have been identified, and it will provide an interpretation of the results in relation to earlier archaeological interventions on Castle Hill. It will also include the following:

- a non-technical summary of the results of the work;
- a summary of the project's background;
- the dates the fieldwork took place;
- the site location, including National Grid Reference;
- an account of the method;
- the results of the evaluation, including phasing and interpretation of the site sequence;
- conservation assessment;
- an assessment of the stratigraphic and other written, drawn and photographic records;
- a catalogue of the archaeological material recovered during the evaluation;

- assessments of each material category of finds recovered, including their types, quantities and concentrations, illustrations and/or photographs as appropriate;
- a summary of the contents of the project archive and its location;
- an overall plan of the site, accurately identifying the location of the evaluation and any findings.

10.8 Copies of the assessment report will be supplied to the client, to Historic England and to WYAAS. If there is a subsequent decision not to proceed with further stages of the project, the results will be made available to the wider archaeological community by submitting digital data and copies of reports online to OASIS. ASWYAS will complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>.

10.9 Given the importance of the site, a final archive report which will address any specialist recommendations will be required. A publication may also be necessary, and this will follow the production of an Update Project Design that will require approval by representatives of Historic England and WYAAS.

11. Public Engagement

11.1 As noted above by Dr Giles (2.10), the site at Almondbury offers significant opportunities for encouraging local communities to explore a monument which may well have played a major role in expressing and reinforcing community identity as early as the Iron Age. As far as long-term, sustained engagement is concerned, the development proposals will lead to the restaurant/hotel and other commercial elements supporting innovative exhibition and education facilities.

11.2 In the short term, the archaeological excavation will include opportunities for the public to experience on-site presentations of the work, and its progress and results will be disseminated through social media linked to Kirklees Museums Service and the WYAAS. Further engagement with the public and stakeholders of the site is proposed through having signage up during the excavation to provide information on the works. Depending upon the work schedule, it is also proposed that an archaeologist on site will be made available at set times to engage with the public detailing the work and findings. This would take the form of an informal site tour from the rampart overlooking the main excavation area.

11.3 Though this WSI does not envisage volunteer opportunities for the excavation process itself the likelihood of discovering significant quantities of artefacts from recent centuries provides an opportunity to encourage volunteers from local groups and societies – such as the Huddersfield and District Archaeological Society – to participate in this project.

12. Copyright, Confidentiality and Publicity

- 12.1 Copyright in the documentation prepared by ASWYAS and specialist sub-contractors will be the subject of additional licences in favour of the repository accepting the archive to use such documentation for their standard educational and museum service functions, and to provide copies to third parties as an incidental to such functions.
- 12.2 Under the Environmental Information Regulations 2005 (EIR), information submitted to the HER becomes publicly accessible, except where disclosure might lead to environmental damage, and reports cannot be embargoed as 'confidential' or 'commercially sensitive'.
- 12.3 Requests for sensitive information are subject to a public interest test, and if this is met, then the information has to be disclosed. ASWYAS will inform the client of EIR requirements, and will ensure that any information disclosure issues are resolved before completion of the work. Intellectual property rights are not affected by the EIR.
- 12.4 Unless the client commissioning the project wishes to state otherwise, the copyright of any written, graphic or photographic record and reports will rest with the originating body (Archaeological Services WYAS).

13. Health and Safety

- 13.1 ASWYAS has its own Health and Safety policy which has been compiled using national guidelines. These guidelines conform to all relevant Health and Safety legislation.
- 13.2 In addition, each project undergoes a 'Risk Assessment' which sets project specific Health and Safety requirements, which all members of staff are made aware of prior to on-site work commencing. Health and Safety will take priority over archaeological matters. Necessary precautions will be taken over underground services at the outset of the project.

14. Insurance

- 14.1 ASWYAS is covered by the insurance and indemnities of the West Yorkshire Joint Services Committee. Insurance has been arranged through: Zurich Municipal, Zurich House, 2 Gladiator Way, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU14 6GB (policy number QLA-03R896-0013). Any further enquiries should be directed to: Head of Finance, Wakefield Council, Wakefield One, PO Box 700, Wakefield, WF1 2EB.

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Cert. No. 125QM8003

Appendix 1: Castle Hill Scheduling List Entry

Castle Hill: slight univallate hillfort, small multivallate hillfort, motte and bailey castle and deserted village

Official list entry

Heritage Category: **Scheduled Monument**

List Entry Number: **1009846**

Date first listed: **30-Mar-1925**

Date of most recent amendment: **10-Mar-1992**

Location

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

District: **Kirklees (Metropolitan Authority)**

Parish: **Non Civil Parish**

National Grid Reference: **SE 15215 14052**

Reasons for Designation

Slight univallate hillforts are enclosures defined by a single line of earthworks located on or near the tops of hills. The scale of the earthworks, which may comprise a rampart, a ditch and a counterscarp bank, is small. This and the fact that they are not necessarily located on the highest or most inaccessible hills but almost exclusively above river valleys, implies they were not primarily defensive features but were sited for ease of communication and access to the greatest variety of resources. Most slight univallate hillforts were built in the late Bronze Age and

early Iron Age. Approximately 150 examples are recorded nationally, with only a small number lying outside central southern England. In area they vary between 1 and 10ha though, again, those at the upper end of the scale tend to be concentrated in the south. Common features of the internal layouts of slight univallate hillforts include the postholes, stakeholes and trenches of timber buildings, storage pits and hearths, and small finds such as spindle whorls, wool combs, tools and personal adornments. These are indicative of temporary or permanent occupation though some slight univallate hill forts have been interpreted as stock enclosures or redistribution centres. Slight univallate hillforts are one of the rarer types of monument that characterise the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age and, as such, are important for the understanding of the transition between the two periods. All examples surviving comparatively well and with the potential for the recovery of further archaeological remains are considered worthy of protection. A number of slight univallate hill forts were remodelled during the later Iron Age to become more strongly defended and multivallate in form. Small multivallate hill forts are those which have an internal area of less than 5ha, with the majority measuring between 1 and 3.5ha. All were built between the sixth century BC and the mid-first century AD though most originated in the fourth to second centuries BC and only a small number date from the period before 400BC. The boundaries of small multivallate hillforts comprise two or more lines of close-set earthworks generally spaced at intervals of less than 15m, though wider spacing is known from a small sample. Each line will consist of a rampart and ditch or a rampart only, and a large number also possess counterscarp banks. The most favoured locations were the hills above rivers and the construction of multiple earthworks is believed not only to have been for protection but as a means of displaying power. Small multivallate hill forts were permanently occupied and sometimes were the foci for large areas of the surrounding countryside. A small number possessed extra-mural settlements and most were connected with the processing of agricultural produce and are likely to have controlled its distribution. The internal structures of most small multivallate hillforts support the view that they were places of high status, with finds such as weapons, Gallo-Belgic coins and goods from distant locations demonstrating this and indicating a period of social development characterised by increased competition between different social groups. Similarly, although the primary function of multiple enclosures may not have been defensive, the number of small multivallate hill forts with vitrified inner ramparts, burnt entrances and hoards of slingshot suggests an increase in raiding and possibly warfare. Small multivallate hill forts therefore provide an important commentary on the nature of settlement and social organisation in the Iron Age and, with only c.100 examples known nationally, are one of the rarer classes of monument belonging to the period. All examples with surviving archaeological deposits are considered to be of national importance. Motte and bailey castles are medieval fortifications of a type introduced into Britain by the Normans. They comprised a large conical mound of earth or rubble, the motte, surmounted by a palisade and a stone or timber tower and adjoined by an embanked enclosure, the bailey, which contained additional buildings. Motte and bailey castles had several functions. They were strongholds, acted as garrison forts during offensive military operations, were often aristocratic residences and were the centres of local and royal administration. Built in towns, villages and open countryside, they generally occupied strategic positions, dominating their immediate locality. Over 600 are recorded nationally, with examples known from most regions. As such, and as

one of a restricted range of early post-Conquest monuments, they are particularly important for the study of Norman Britain and the development of the feudal system. Although many were occupied for only a short time, they continued to be built and occupied from the eleventh to the thirteenth centuries. Castle Hill, Almondbury is a good and well-preserved example of a slight univallate hillfort which developed into a small multivallate hillfort. Not only does it lie outside the main distribution, it belongs to an extremely small group of northern single-banked hillforts with an internal area of more than 1ha. It is, in addition, one of the very few small multivallate hillforts datable to the period before 400BC and is unique in that, during its multi-banked phase, the bivallate interior was surrounded by two outer earthworks set in places more than 30m apart. It also possesses other rare features, including an outwork, and its earliest ramparts preserve the pre- enclosure ground surface contemporary with earlier Prehistoric use of the site. A substantial part of the monument remains unexcavated, making it of great importance to the study of hillforts of these two types. Equally important are the well-preserved remains of the motte and bailey castle. Furthermore, in addition to the garrison and ancillary buildings whose remains survive in the bailey, the well-preserved earthworks of an associated medieval settlement are contained in the area adjacent.

Details

Castle Hill is situated south of Huddersfield at Almondbury, on a hill top above the Holme Valley south of its confluence with the River Colne. The monument includes the remains of a late Bronze Age or early Iron Age univallate hillfort, a later Iron Age multivallate hillfort, a twelfth century motte and bailey castle and the site of a deserted medieval village. Evidence for the occupation and development of Castle Hill comes from a series of partial excavations carried out by W.J.Varley between 1939 and 1973. The earliest period of use was approximately four thousand years ago, as shown by the discovery of Late Neolithic flint tools and part of a polished stone axe. This predated the first hillfort by circa one and a half thousand years. The earthworks encircling the hill were constructed in stages over a period of roughly two hundred years. The earliest enclosure, dated by radiocarbon and thermoluminescence techniques to the late seventh century BC, consisted of an area of c.2ha at the south-west end of the hill enclosed by a single bank measuring c.3m wide. This first enclosure did not have an external ditch but the bank would have been surmounted by a wooden palisade. A simple inturned entrance bisected the bank that crossed the hill and had a small guard room to one side. Early in the sixth century BC, the first enclosure was surrounded by a wide, flat-bottomed ditch and the upcast was used to construct a new bank, also 3m wide, which roughly followed the line of the old bank but in places had a different alignment. In the mid-sixth century BC, this univallate hill fort was refortified and expanded to become a complex double-banked and ditched enclosure. New ramparts, of identical structure to the earlier, were built across the ends of the transverse ditch and were continued round the north-eastern half of the hill, effectively doubling the size of the enclosure. A new entrance was created at the north-east approach and the single bank and ditch of the original enclosure were reinforced by the addition of a second rampart. Post-holes at the front and rear of these defences

were found to be contemporary and would have supported the timbers of a shelter attached to the rampart. Approximately one hundred years later this bivallate hill fort was fundamentally rebuilt. The inner rampart was widened and raised and now almost entirely consisted of two parallel drystone revetments separated by horizontal timber lacing infilled with shale and clay. A deeper V-shaped ditch was cut beyond the rampart and a short length of shale rampart was added parallel to the north-east extension. A longer stretch was built outside it and continued to the north-east entrance where an outwork was also added. This outwork shared the outer ditch of the latter rampart and created an oblique approach to the hillfort, carried along a holloway from the north-east. Two new banks, almost continuous and spaced wide apart, were built lower down the hill to entirely surround the complex. By the end of the fifth century BC, however, this multivallate hillfort had been abandoned. The vitrification of the inner rampart indicates that it was destroyed by fire at about that time, possibly during hostilities. The site does not appear to have been occupied again until the early twelfth century AD when the earthworks were modified and reconstructed to create a motte and bailey castle. A broad ditch, 27m wide and 9m deep, was cut across the top of the hill, south-west of the transverse ditch belonging to the original univallate hillfort. The upcast from the ditch was used to build a motte with a surrounding rampart. In the first half of the twelfth century, licence to fortify was granted by King Stephen and the timber palisade that would originally have surmounted the motte was replaced by a stone wall. The remains of timber buildings, and others of timber and stone, have been found on the motte. These had a number of functions and were accompanied by a 27m deep well in which was found well-preserved organic material of the medieval period in addition to medieval pottery and metalwork. Ancillary and garrison buildings, and pens for cattle and horses, would have occupied the bailey and the remains of these will survive in the south-western half of the site overlying deposits relating to the internal layout of the hillfort. The north-eastern half was, at this time, the site of a small medieval settlement which survived the abandonment of the castle by circa two centuries, being still occupied in the fifteenth century. This settlement was characterised by a row of dwellings on either side of a track that ran from the north-east entrance to the gap in the rampart of the univallate hillfort. Each building occupied a strip of land which lay at right-angles to the track and was separated from its neighbours by a shallow ditch. After the desertion of the settlement, Castle Hill remained unoccupied until the nineteenth century when a tavern was built that is still in use as a hotel and public house. In the interim it was twice used as a beacon hill, with one fire being lit there at the time of the Spanish Armada and another being prepared in the event of a Napoleonic invasion. Traditionally, in the past, it has been held to be the site of Camelot and, less fancifully, a Roman fort or the headquarters of the Brigantian Queen Cartimandua. These theories have been discounted, however, due to the complete break in occupation between the fourth century BC and the Middle Ages. A number of features are excluded from the scheduling. These include the surfaces of the approach road, carpark, drives and paths up to and round the monument, all modern walling and fencing, the Victorian Jubilee Tower which is Grade II Listed, the buildings and fixtures of Castle Hill Hotel and the buildings of the house on Hill Side, the safety grille over the well, the Armada anniversary beacon, all modern steps up to and on the monument and the telephone poles crossing the monument. The ground beneath these exclusions, however, with the exception of that beneath the hotel which

will have been disrupted by cellarage, is included.

MAP EXTRACT The site of the monument is shown on the attached map extract.

Legacy

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System number: **13297**

Legacy System: **RSM**

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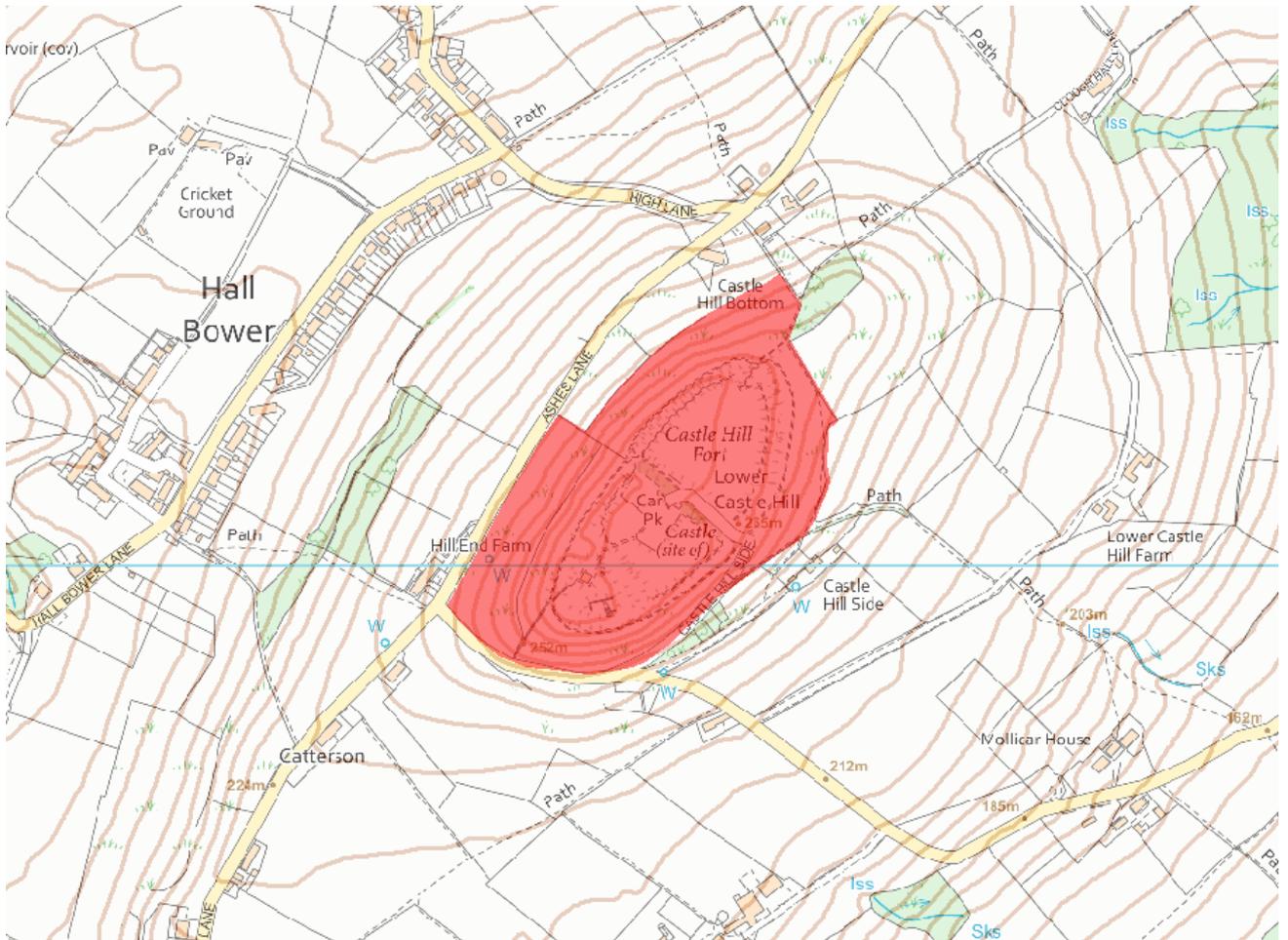
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Legal

This monument is scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as amended as it appears to the Secretary of State to be of national importance. This entry is a copy, the original is held by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.



Map

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