



CastleHill

Project:

Castle Hill Visitors' Centre

Almondbury, Huddersfield HD4 6TA

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Background, Vision and Management

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RIBA 

Castle



The scheme design has gone through many refinements and adjustments over many years in achieving the appropriate balance of facilities, impact and financial sustainability. For example, a bar and its effect on financial plans has appeared and disappeared at different times.

Please be assured that the scheme drawings and business case included together in this document are in complete accord with each other.

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fig.1.1 Castle Hill view from South East



fig.1.2 View from Ashes Lane



fig.1.3 Existing car park looking back towards the tower



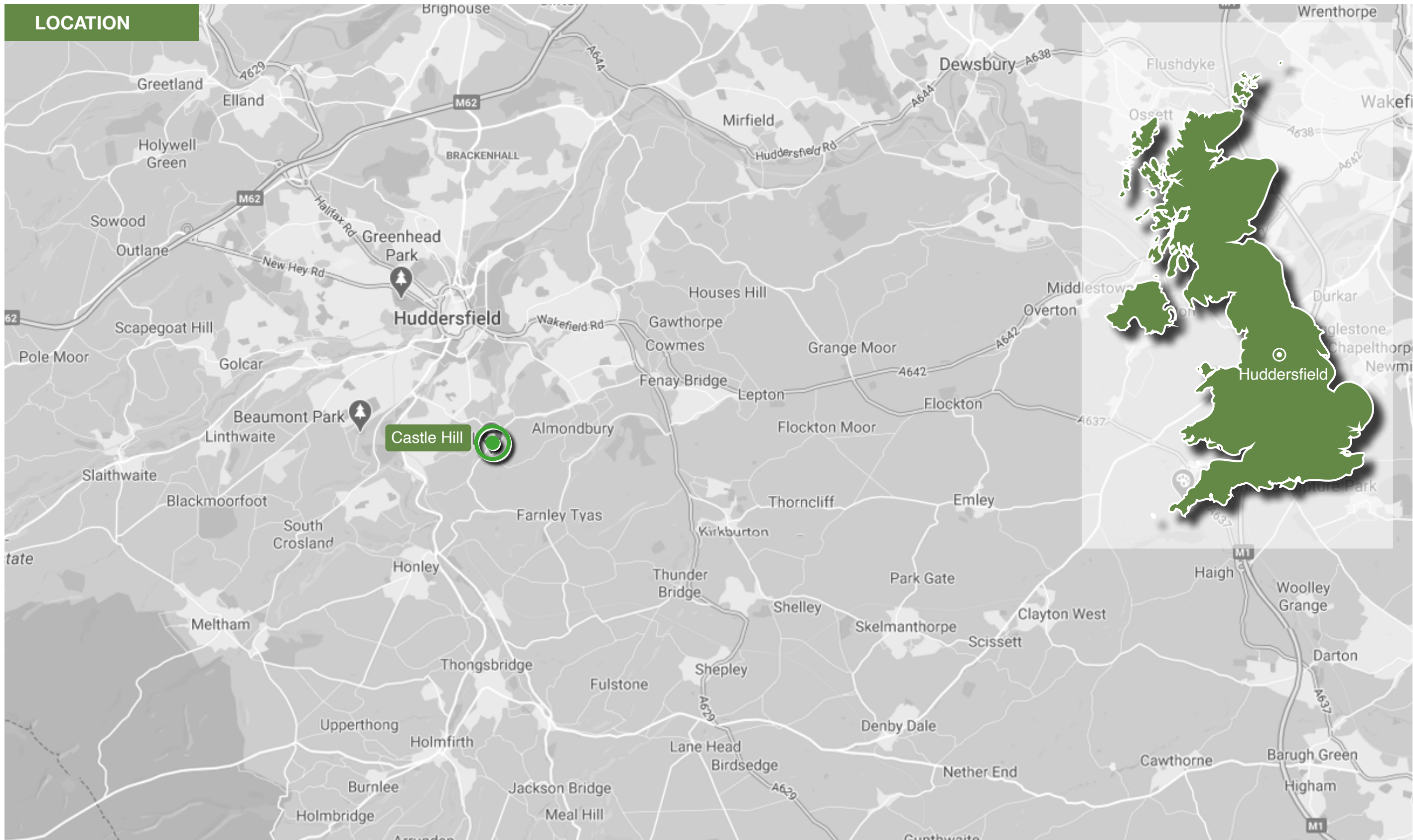
fig.1.4 Long distance view of Castle Hill

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.01 *“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 (of such monuments), 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.”*
- 1.02 This paragraph above is taken from the ancient monument official listing entry for Castle Hill (entry number 1009846). The hill is not just a rare example of its archaeological type in the north of England, it has a multi-layered history that has led to the use of the word ‘unique’(*see above). It is therefore of national, not just local, importance.
- 1.03 It is the premier heritage asset within Kirklees Metropolitan Council, yet many local residents and visitors are unaware of just how significant Castle Hill is. The site has not been promoted to visitors as one might expect, and those that do visit find little in the way of educational and interpretive material. Nevertheless, in large part because of the superb views available from the top, it is popular with local walkers and dog-owners
- 1.04 A tower, erected to celebrate Queen Victoria’s Jubilee, sits atop Castle Hill and is itself listed. Today it is so strongly identified with Castle Hill that it is often confused with the ancient monument on which it sits, but the Tower was never intended to be a castle. Graphic representations of Tower and Hill together are frequently used to symbolise Huddersfield (see fig. 3.5 & fig. 3.6).
- 1.05 Despite its importance both historically and symbolically there are today not even the most basic facilities such as toilets, shelter and refreshments available to visitors on the Hill.

- 1.06 The site is exposed and not easy to access. Despite being highly visible it is remote and the absence of monitoring or supervision of the site for long periods has made it susceptible to anti-social behaviour, further discouraging some visitors.
- 1.07 So although facilities are certainly needed, the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and any potential harm must be balanced against public benefit. The story of how this problem has been approached and the resulting solution is set out in this document.
- 1.08 This Heritage Statement/Assessment has been prepared as part of the Scheduled Monument Application (SMA) for a development scheme at Castle Hill, Almondbury, Huddersfield that aims to rectify this present situation.
- 1.09 The SMA follows the grant of conditional planning approval, as without Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) implementation of the planning approval would be impossible. This Statement logically draws on and further develops information first contained in the Heritage Statement prepared for the planning application. The planning approved scheme is for new visitor facilities and associated works on the top of Castle Hill on the site of the former Castle Hill Hotel (more information on the former hotel can be found later in this report). That application (2018/93591) was granted conditional approval by Kirklees MC in early 2022.
- 1.10 The Heritage Statement/Assessment has undergone several reviews and updates over the months and now years since work on this highly sensitive project first began. This extended period reflects the wide-ranging discussion, consultation and project development work that has brought the scheme to this point.
- 1.11 Historic England recommends that technical analysis in a SMA should be seen primarily as material supporting a clearly expressed and non- technical narrative argument that sets out “**what matters and why**” in terms of the heritage significance and setting of the assets affected, together with the effects of the development upon them.

- 1.12 For the sake of clarity, this Statement has been completely overhauled for the SMA since its earlier versions, in a format and layout that prioritises a non-technical narrative setting out what matters and why, providing further detail and removing minor discrepancies that had crept into previous versions. Technical analyses are presented as supporting material to the non-technical narrative.
- 1.13 Much early material for the original Heritage assessment was provided in a document prepared in late 2018 by Andrew Graham BA(Hons) MAued IHBC of The Urban Glow Design & Heritage Ltd consultancy. We acknowledge the contribution made by this earlier document to the present one and include a comment by Andrew Graham on the methodology he used at that time:
- a. The methodology used in the assessment exercise has been based on the references to significance in the National Planning Policy Framework (as revised 2018), as informed by two non-statutory Historic England documents namely, Managing Significance in Decision Taking in the Historic Environment (2015) and Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management (2016).
 - b. In order to fully appreciate the locality a number of thorough site visits were undertaken. Archive research and map regressions were undertaken in order to gain a greater understanding of the significance of Castle Hill with reference to the archives of West Yorkshire and the Thoresby Society Collection.
 - c. The site visits were undertaken in October 2018 and high quality photographs were taken using a Nikon D90 SLR with both 18-17mm and 55-200mm lenses.
 - d. The National Heritage List for England was used extensively in order to gain an understanding of the locations of designated heritage assets within the locality. Through this assessment, combined with topographical research, assets deemed to be more ‘at risk’ from impact were identified and these are reflected in this report.
- 1.14 The next section of the report provides more on the background to the present proposal, giving the context for the sought-after development.



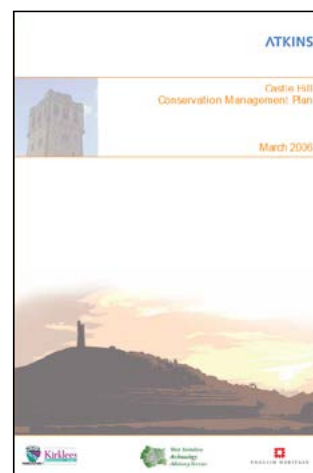


fig.2.1 Atkins report cover



fig.2.2 Jubilee Tower on the horizon



fig.2.3 Top of Castle Hill



fig.2.4 Castle Hill from Hall Bower

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 In 2006, at the request of Kirklees Metropolitan Council (KMC), consultants Atkins, in collaboration with English Heritage and WYAAS, produced a report outlining and exploring the significance and future directions for best practice conservation management of the Castle Hill site. This was part of Kirklees Council's attempts to create a long term, sustainable management plan for the area.
- 2.02 The Atkins report was focussed specifically upon the historic and archaeological management of the site and went to some lengths to communicate the complex archaeological aspects of the site. Two important points made in the report are as follows;
- 2.03 ***"It will be vital....to ensure that Castle Hill remains a treasured and widely used place..."*** (Atkins Summary Document)
- 2.04 ***"All decisions regarding the future management and enhancement of the Hill will be based on a clear and robust understanding of the Site and the potential issues and impacts that changes could cause"*** (Atkins Summary Document.)
- 2.05 The report also invited responses to a questionnaire regarding the use of the site. One particular statistic from the responses showed that 42% of respondents visited the site once a month at least (page 9 Atkins Management Plan); 92% of respondents felt that the views from the site were also important (page 32 Atkins Management Plan.) and 88% of respondents agreed, or agreed strongly, that there was a need for greater interpretation of the site for visitors.
- 2.06 The Atkins report goes on to state that the ***"Setting, and in particular, the immediate setting (of the site) will require careful management over the coming decades."*** (Page 32 Atkins Management Plan)
- 2.07 With these responses in mind, the report breaks down the Castle Hill site into Management Zones to aid interpretation of specific areas more carefully. The report highlights (section 4.0) the issues around events, access, management and the risks associated with (what was at the time becoming) increasing anti-social

behaviour around the site (e.g. on bonfire night 2018 when hedgerows were set alight.) and the impact that such instances can have upon the monument and its future sustainability.

- 2.08 Indeed, following this the report highlighted the consultants' survey results that overwhelmingly (68%) support a greater year-round presence upon Castle Hill. It did however note the opinions of a number of respondents that appreciate the current feeling of 'wildness' upon the hill and expressed a preference for nothing further to be located on the site. This prompts the report to highlight the need for any new facilities to be as unobtrusive as possible and that for any solution to be very carefully designed. (page 75 and Section 5 Atkins Management Plan)
- 2.09 The report concludes by outlining the following management points.
- The need for a formal management framework
 - The need to formalise the current maintenance strategy and staffing
 - The management of archaeological / historical research
 - The management of ecological habitats; and
 - The management of the Site's environs
- 2.10 With reference to new development there is therefore a re-emphasis upon the careful development of new structures and that opportunities for enhancement should be taken where possible (e.g removal of telegraph poles) and key policies in Section 5 of the report reiterate these points. (See policy list below)

RELEVANT KEY POLICIES FOR THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF CASTLE HILL FROM WS ATKINS REPORT (MARCH 2006)

- Key Policy 1:** Future decisions relating to management, conservation and enhancement of Castle Hill should respect and sustain all of its significances
- Key Policy 4:** The Site will be maintained as a premier recreational destination in Kirklees
- Key Policy 5:** The significances, story and sensitivities of Castle Hill should be communicated to as wide an audience as possible
- Policy FD1:** Any future development on Castle Hill should have no significant adverse impact on its:
- unique profile when viewed from outside the site;
 - open and exposed character;
 - archaeological remains; and
 - setting.
- Policy FD2:** Any decisions on future enhancement or development on Castle Hill should consider its archaeological potential
- Policy FD3:** The management and enhancement of Castle Hill should not adversely affect its open and exposed character
- Policy U2:** Basic visitor facilities should be provided
- Policy U6:** Antisocial behaviour should be discouraged by the introduction of measures to control it
- Policy U8:** High quality and accessible interpretation material should be provided on Site to enhance the visitor experience
- Policy U9:** The views and needs of users should be taken into account in future decisions relating to the management, conservation and enhancement of Castle Hill
- Policy U10:** Continue to review the need for further visitor facilities for the Hill
- Policy AC5:** The condition of the hilltop car park should be improved

- 2.11 The points and policies noted above and the overall thrust of the Atkins report were fundamental to the development of the scheme proposals. This statement sets out how these policies have been incorporated into the scheme and assess the impact of the proposed design upon the significance and/or setting of the designated heritage assets.
- 2.12 The history of Castle Hill is one of continuous human activity since early civilisation. Such a prominent feature in the landscape is a natural draw for people. The erection of the Tower and the beacon make it even more of a magnet so it is no surprise that Castle Hill has long been a popular venue for gatherings and events.
- 2.13 For long periods there were buildings atop the hill; most recently the very popular Castle Hill Hotel, which provided facilities for visitors to the Hill as well as hotel patrons. This was so successful that the operators applied for planning approval to extend the hotel. This was granted by KMC. Unfortunately, work on the approved extension was poorly organised and ultimately the entire building was demolished.
- 2.14 KMC understood that this changed Castle Hill as an attraction. The absence of visitor facilities and minimal interpretive and educational provision were now missed opportunities to promote Kirklees. Within the requirement to ensure that the heritage asset and in particular its setting were not harmed, KMC was happy to entertain proposals for some new development that would rectify – and ideally enhance – the visitor experience diminished since the loss of Castle Hill Hotel.
- 2.15 The operators of Castle Hill Hotel retained a lease on land at Castle Hill (owned by KMC) and were keen to try to revive some form of project. English Heritage (EH), now Historic England (HE), were legal custodians of the Ancient Monument and had to be involved in the development of any proposals for new construction on the site to ensure no unacceptable impact on the monument or its setting.
- 2.16 Thus began a search to find a way to provide facilities that would boost the missing educational and welfare opportunities at Castle Hill without harming the Monument or its setting. This search involved the local authority, HE and the site leaseholders with their professional team over several years.

3.0 HISTORY OF CASTLE HILL

- 3.01 ***“High as Almondbury is, Castle Hill is higher, and is crowned with a lofty tower, a striking landmark of the Victorian era. Holiday folk love to come here for the magnificent view of the Colne valley with Huddersfield in the hollow and the moors above. Below the tower is an ancient camp of 40 acres with high ramparts, a sunken way cut through the sandstone, and traces of a fort of 800 years ago.”***
Arthur Mee ‘The Kings England – Yorkshire West Riding’ Edited by Arthur Mee, first published 1941. Edition 1996 by Kings England Press.
- 3.02 Castle Hill has a long and interesting history, indeed the 800 years noted by Arthur Mee was always a conservative estimate of the monument’s age, even for his time! We now have direct evidence that the site formed part of an Iron Age encampment, and Neolithic and Bronze Age occupation is also considered likely due to the finding of flints and a polished axehead dating from around 3000BC. The majority of what is known about the site has been largely obtained through antiquarian accounts and, most notably, the work of William Varley, Archaeologist. More latterly subsequent work by West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisory Service and the RCHME has contributed and enabled the many strands of evidence to be better pieced together.
- 3.03 The site, being of such prominence, would have been an obvious location of interest for early peoples. Strikingly situated above what is now the Colne/Holme Valley, the site can even be seen from as far afield as the outskirts of Leeds, from where Castle Hill is clearly visible from the route around Roman Road 721 (as categorised by Margary 1957).



fig.3.1 Castle Hill with Huddersfield in the background

- 3.04 The site represents an example of a Multivallate hillfort, which is a rare type of multi embanked enclosure fort within this part of the country, and the site seems to have started out as a simple palisaded enclosure of around 2ha dating to around 550BC. There is substantial evidence for the site’s occupation in the later Iron Age when the castle was fortified and its flat plateau was occupied and cultivated. The defensive earthworks were subsequently enlarged around this time with defensive ditches containing large stone revetments.
- 3.05 The archaeological evidence halts around 100BC until the 12th Century AD and as such the likelihood of the site being occupied during the early Roman period is unfortunately lacking. As such the tantalising tales of the site being the abode of the Brigantian Queen Cartimandua and her husband are not supported by the archaeological evidence. During this time however two Roman forts were constructed nearby, at Slack and Castleshaw and as such it seems possible that the site would have some role to play within the Roman strategy or as a beacon site.



fig.3.2 Earth works on Castle Hill

- 3.06 The archaeological evidence picks up again in the 12th Century when many of the extant earthworks were substantially altered and rebuilt to create the motte and inner bailey associated with a small castle under the reign of King Stephen, whose license to crenulate was granted to the Barons Lacy of Pontefract in 1137. During

works to the castle, inner and outer baileys were created by the creation of a large ditch across the centre of the fort plateau, the infill of which was used to create a small motte to the south-western side. It may have been at this time that the associated village was established. The settlement was granted a market in 1294, although this ultimately failed and the castle was ruinous by the late 16th century.

- 3.07 The hill was noted in Camden's Magnus Britannia (1586) and described as follows;

"Six miles from hence (Halifax) and not far from the river Calder, neereunto Almondbury, a little town standing upon a high and steep hill, which hath no easy passage or even ground unto it but on one side, are seen the manifest tokens of a rampire, some ruine of walles and a castle, which was garded about with a triple strength of forts and bulwarks. Some will have this to be Olicana, but the truth said otherwise, and namely, this it is Cambodunum... Yet afterward, there was a castle built in the same place, which King Stephen, as I have read, confirmed to Henry Lacy".

- 3.08 It may have been this account that led to the erection of a beacon on the hill during the potential invasion of the Spanish Armada two years later, as part of the 'fire over England' system of warning beacons. This was again utilised as such during the Napoleonic Wars when another beacon was constructed as an early warning system. A beacon still stands on the hill following the 500th anniversary of the Armada in 1988 when the event was re-enacted. See fig 3.3.

- 3.09 The site seems to have fired local imagination throughout history and the social accounts of the site being used for leisure and for the amenity and enjoyment of local people are very common within Victorian antiquarian accounts. Rev Charles Augustus Hulbert (1882) states, in his beautifully romantic fashion, that the site is ***"much frequented for recreation by the inhabitants of Huddersfield (that flourishing daughter of Almondbury) which lies, by day, as a map below. And at night like a lower firmament, with its thousand lights."***

- 3.10 The site was so popular that in 1810 a pub was built atop the hill where accounts of everything from cock fighting to bare knuckle brawls can be found in the archives.



fig.3.3 Beacon with former Castle Hill hotel behind



fig.3.4 A gathering of the great and the good on Castle Hill

- 3.11 The idea of erecting a 'Victoria Prospect Tower' (Hulbert 1882) was first conceived in 1849, when a private company was formed for the purpose. The scheme was for an eighty foot tower, a museum of antiquities, refreshment rooms, an observation terrace and a private room for subscribers. As one observer put it; ***"Huddersfield, being without any place of attraction to the visitor, it is hoped that the deficiency will be rectified and that advantage will accrue to the village of Almondbury. At present the school excursions resort to Kirklees (meaning Kirklees priory, seat of the Armytage family and grave of Robin Hood near Brighouse)."***

- 3.12 A vast number of shares were sold but the scheme ultimately collapsed when Mr George Lock, Agent to the Ramsden Estate, objected to the building of a 'Castle in the air' on top of Castle Hill.

- 3.13 The idea never went away however and, due largely to the efforts of Mr Isaac Horden, Cashier to the Ramsden Estate, and Mr G.W. Tomlinson (who ultimately gained much of the credit for the scheme) the proposal for a tower, this time to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, was resurrected. To quote from a letter from Tomlinson to the Mayor: ***"Huddersfield with its widely extended municipal boundary has a feature within its borders which I believe to be unique. I know of no city or borough in the kingdom with an elevation of 900 feet above sea level such as we have on Castle Hill and I therefore propose that a Tower should be built on the summit of the Hill with a platform on the top, at least 100 feet high, making a total height of 1000ft."***

- 3.14 A committee was later formed, subscriptions collected and the estate was persuaded to lease the site to the Trustees of the Tower for 999 years. On the 25th June 1898, John Frechville Ramsden, in the presence of his father, Sir John W. Ramsden, officially laid the cornerstone, and on the 24th June 1899 the tower was officially opened by the Earl of Scarborough amongst a gathering of local people. The stone for the tower came from nearby Crosland Hill and the base of the tower was built four feet thick, tapering to two feet at the turret.
- 3.15 The Victoria Tower was not built without opposition; some people thought it was a waste of money and that a more useful building should have been erected for the occasion. Bearing in mind the fact that Huddersfield did not even have a public library at the time, it is possible to see their point!
- 3.16 In 1960 the tower, which had previously stood 1000 feet above sea-level, was renovated and the top seven feet were removed. The tower now stands at 996.7 feet precisely! The tower has become an icon for Kirklees and the people of the surrounding towns, especially those of the Heavy Woollen District north of Huddersfield, within whose sweeping, long distance vistas, the hill and its tower are so easily visible. This iconic status has seen the image of the tower being included on everything from 'Welcome to Kirklees' signs in the late 1990's, to the logo of the Huddersfield Examiner see fig 3.5 & fig 3.6.



fig.3.5 Castle Hill referenced on local signage



fig.3.6 The Examiner newspaper

- 3.17 The site still fulfils its long-held role as a focus of community pride and outdoor activities such as walking, exercising dogs, flying kites etc. The tower itself is open on school holidays and for certain special events. Noticeboards erected on the site attempt to communicate the history of the area and illustrate the community pride in the site as a destination but these have suffered from vandalism and weather erosion (see fig.3.7 & 3.8). This should come as no surprise.



fig.3.7 Inside the Tower today



fig.3.8

- 3.18 Despite communal interest in the site and huge anticipation generated by long-distance views, visitors often experience something of an anti-climax when reaching the peak. What seems to be a significant destination when viewed from afar often proves to be a rather unloved, windswept place with precious little quality interpretation of such an important heritage asset. In inclement weather the absence of any form of shelter further discourages spending time on the Hill.
- 3.19 Please note that further information on the history of Castle Hill can be found in the separate Archaeological Heritage Impact Assessment (Section 9.0).



fig.3.9 Long distance views from Castle Hill

4.0 THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CASTLE HILL

- 4.01 When considering the impact of proposals on heritage assets, Historic England's advice is to first consider the significance of the heritage asset in question and then establish the contribution made by its setting, before then considering the impact of proposals on both asset and setting.
- 4.02 The official list entry for Castle Hill (Appendix A) could not be clearer on its importance and significance on a national scale, due to its rarity as a Multivallate hillfort typology within the north of England; the length of time it has existed; the range of activities it has accommodated in that time and its multiple historical associations. The fact that it can be seen from over a vast area adds to its significance.
- 4.03 The archaeology of Castle Hill is the principal heritage asset. The setting of Castle Hill is intrinsic to its significance because it is the prominence of the topography of the hill that first attracted prehistoric human activity which has continued, on and off, to the present day. For many if not most people, the archaeology of Castle Hill is un- or under-appreciated because the majority is not visible. Remaining evidence of the earthworks that have been carried out over the history of the hill are visible but difficult to appreciate except close up and are poorly served in terms of interpretation at present. This contrasts with the fact that the prominence of the landform of Castle Hill can be appreciated from considerable distances with views available from virtually all directions.



fig.4.1 Dominant form of Castle Hill

- 4.04 The relatively recent Jubilee Tower (a separately listed building) has an intimate relationship with Castle Hill: it emphasises the prominence of the hill by acting as a marker aiding the identification of the hill from distance as well as reinforcing the understanding of the importance of the hill as a place of celebration and congregation for local people over centuries.



fig.4.2 Jubilee Tower



fig.4.3 Tower as marker in landscape

- 4.05 Similarly, the beacon erected on top of the hill is there because of the prominence of the landform as well as being another marker of the significance of the hill, and a focus of congregation, for local people in times of threat and celebration. The site has an ingrained and meaningful symbolism for local people. See fig 3.4.
- 4.06 Assessing significance is therefore an essential part of proactive conservation management and is synonymous with the Conservation Management Plan produced by Atkins consultants in 2006. Through such an assessment it is possible to understand what qualities of importance are manifest within an identified heritage asset, and this in turn allows ***“a clear and robust understanding of the Site and the potential issues and impacts that changes could cause.”*** (Atkins 2006)
- 4.07 Such an assessment can identify areas of particular sensitivity or, equally, areas of opportunity for enhancement, change, or for the greater appreciation of the asset as a whole. It is recognised (Atkins report) that Castle Hill is currently underutilised and that the future custodianship of the site is a priority for the Council and local community as a whole.

4.08 The Atkins report outlines several key themes that are important for understanding the significance of Castle Hill. These are as follows:

- Archaeological and historical significance
- Landscape significance
- Ecological significance
- Significance of the Site's Setting
- Geological significance
- Intangible significances

4.09 Since this Atkins report was published, Historic England has further distilled the ways to define significance in assets through a list of associations in the document 'Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance' (2008).

4.10 This provides an updated guide for assessing and understanding the types and subtleties of significance. They are:

- Evidential Value
- Historical Value
- Aesthetic Value
- Communal Value

4.11 **Evidential value:** the evidence which a building, structure or place can provide about the past. This is generally concerned with evidence through archaeological or physical recorded evidence of which there is no other written evidence available.

- In terms of Castle Hill the site has the potential to reveal much greater evidence of past people's and the use of the site, not only now, but in the future as technology and our greater understanding improve.
- Such evidence could involve a greater understanding of the early defences of the site or could reveal further evidence of the potential for Neolithic settlement in the area for example.

4.12 **Historical value:** the means through which past people, events or life can be associated or illustrated through a place in a way which present and future generations can comprehend.

- Castle Hill therefore has great historical significance that has and can continue to be revealed archaeologically, socially and visually.

4.13 **Aesthetic value:** this may derive from intentional design, including the work of an artist or craftsman, or it may be the fortuitous outcome of the way a building or place has evolved. It is concerned with the way people can draw stimulation from a place either sensory or intellectual.

- Castle Hill is an icon for the area and the experience of the visitor is enhanced through awareness of its historical and aesthetic aspects. The site appears to have been a place of inspiration for millennia and the Victoria Tower itself was built originally in part to aid visitors learn more about this site.

4.14 **Communal value:** many places have strong local connections through memory or collective experience. Such value is often intangible but no less important.

- The deep relationship with the site for the people of Kirklees through memory or past associations is well documented. The site's continued attraction for visitors, school groups and recreational activities such as kite flying and dog walking all enhance the site's communal value.

4.15 For the above reasons and the relatively low grade of other Listed Buildings within the surrounding area, the overall significance of Castle Hill as a designated scheduled monument is believed to be of High Significance. The application is considered in this context.

5.0 SETTING

- 5.01 The setting of Castle Hill encompasses the setting of the Victoria Tower in large part. The Tower is located where it is because of Castle Hill and for many people the two assets are inseparable. It is impossible today to discuss the setting of Castle Hill without considering that of the Victoria Tower. It is only once one has ascended Castle Hill that the setting of the Tower within the hilltop environment and its significance can be considered.
- 5.02 We therefore look first at the importance of the setting and views of Castle Hill itself, acknowledging that this automatically takes in the Victoria Tower as well.
- 5.03 The setting of Castle Hill is unusually large. As a prominent topographical feature on the lower slopes of the South Pennines and on the edge of the town of Huddersfield within landscape typical of this part of West Yorkshire, Castle Hill can be seen from an abundance of viewpoints from almost every direction of the compass. The prominence of the hill in the landscape means one can also obtain dynamic views as one moves along certain roads and footpaths. Understanding that the village of Almondbury was an important settlement long before central Huddersfield gained the significance it now has, and being aware of the relative positions of town, village and asset, can only bolster understanding of Castle Hill. The setting of Castle Hill plays a hugely important role in the appreciation of the asset.
- 5.04 The listed Jubilee Tower provides an ideal marker by which to identify Castle Hill for those who may be unsure. Confusion between the Hill and the Tower as the principal heritage asset on the part of some people unfamiliar with the site is understandable.
- 5.05 The prominence of Castle Hill as a topographical feature means that views from the site also form an important part of the setting, providing extensive views of the surrounding area and making evident the historical logic in the location of a settlement and use of the site from an early age.

5.06 As regards long distance views, depending on the direction of view, Castle Hill can appear as a prominent feature on the horizon (see fig 5.1) or standing against a backdrop of the South Pennines (see fig 5.2). Similarly, depending on direction of view, Castle Hill can appear to rise from a rural landscape (see fig 5.3) or to sit behind the distinctly urban landscape of Huddersfield town centre (see fig 5.4).



fig.5.1



fig.5.2



fig.5.3



fig.5.4

5.07 Mid-distance views are more variable, depending on the viewer's position because of the ability of landscaping features and buildings to mask the Hill. Thanks to its simple vertical prominence, the Tower becomes an easier point of orientation for mid distance views, compared to the greater mass of Castle Hill.

5.08 Close views make the scale of the Hill evident but because close views are only available from the base of the Hill (until one begins to ascend the mound) the top of the Hill is out of sight until the summit is reached. The closer one approaches Castle Hill the more evident its scale and prominence become, particularly if approached through the urban areas.



fig.5.5 Approaching on Ashes Lane



fig.5.6 Approaching on Ashes Lane



fig.5.7 Castle Hill Side (Access Road)



fig.5.8 View of Jubilee Tower from the car park

5.09 This setting, at the junction between urban, rural (agricultural) and rugged moorland landscape is unusual and powerful. It provides an intuitive understanding of why generation after generation has regarded the site as significant and important. The setting is therefore fundamental and integral to the importance of Castle Hill and hence to an understanding of its function through history.

5.10 As previously noted, the prominence of the hill means not only that it can be viewed from numerous directions and distances, but it can also be appreciated in a dynamic manner as a viewer traverses the surrounding area, appearing and disappearing, only to re-emerge in a slightly different stance. Castle Hill and in particular the Jubilee Tower become obvious reference points by which to orientate oneself as one moves around this part of West Yorkshire.



fig.5.9 Castle Hill long distance views

5.11 Despite the visibility of Castle Hill within the surrounding landscape it is arguably not until one emerges from the top of the access road or from a climb onto the top of the Hill that its true nature is revealed. This reduction in visibility of the heritage asset as one approaches from distance until the revelation when one is finally atop the Hill is one that is greatly to be valued (see fig 5.5 - 5.8).



fig.5.10 Top of monument (hill) only revealed at site entrance

5.12 On the other hand the strange and enigmatic landscape of the Hill does not reveal its history or significance to the general visitor even once he or she has arrived at the top. What may first have attracted the eye as simply an intriguing tower protruding from a prominent hilltop seen from a distance needs to be interpreted once one arrives on site to understand and appreciate the significance and history of Castle Hill.

5.13 If, at present, one is unfortunate enough to visit Castle Hill in inclement weather, there is little incentive to stay to learn more about the asset beyond appreciating that it is a good location from which to obtain excellent views of the surroundings. The proposal scheme with its educational and interpretive content will enable a far greater appreciation of what is without doubt the premier heritage asset of Kirklees and of national stature.



fig.5.11 Inclement weather - Credit: Yorkshire Live

5.14 The history of Castle Hill is one of continuous use and activity for over 4,000 years and in that time it has undergone various changes. The Castle Hill Management Plan prepared by W S Atkins in 2006, commissioned by Kirklees MC, the site owners, stresses the importance of the site as a heritage asset and as a visitor attraction for Kirklees. It also stresses the need for both visitor amenities and interpretation facilities. This cannot be achieved without some impact and explains the time and effort that has gone into the design and siting of the proposed building to minimise its impact whilst maximising the public benefits.

5.15 The vast scale of the setting, the careful sizing and placement of the new building and the changing views of Castle Hill from different distances mediate the impact of the scheme. From long range, the new building will appear as little more than a small smudge at a distance from the Tower. The topography of the setting (where by only long-distance views are only available from height) means that from closer views the new building is hidden except from the north west. From this direction only the top of the low building can be glimpsed from middle distance and, thanks to the earthworks on top of the Hill, even this disappears the closer one approaches.



fig.5.12 Roofline of new building just visible above rampart. Beacon sits between new building and Tower

5.16 Not until one emerges on to the top of the plateau of Castle Hill will the new building be fully revealed. The fact that it will occupy the site of former buildings and inform the thinking behind the location of those earlier buildings, will contribute to understanding of the heritage asset. The new scheme will revitalise the asset to play a more prominent role in the future of Kirklees for both residents and visitors alike.

5.17 Impact by the scheme on the setting of Castle Hill itself is small: the new building is hardly seen until one attains the top of the hill. It is then sited so that it is most prominent from the car park and on ground formerly occupied by now demolished buildings that themselves form part of the history of the Hill.



fig.5.13 Main entrance seen from car park

- 5.18 There will be a greater impact on the setting of the Jubilee Tower. Once at the summit, the Tower and the new building will be seen together. This juxtaposition can itself illustrate a number of interesting points. For example, within the lifespan of Castle Hill, both the Tower and the new building come very late in that timescale, although for many years there were buildings on the site of the new building before the Tower was erected.
- 5.19 The Tower subsequently coexisted with other buildings on the top of Castle Hill for many years. Whilst there is no one alive today who can have seen Castle Hill before the Tower was built, there are many who will remember times when the Tower was not the only building on top of the hill.
- 5.20 Since the Tower was built it has for periods stood in relation to other buildings. It is a vertical feature of no great formal function other than to signal its presence over as wide an area as possible. The new building is horizontal in form, contemporary in nature, hiding within the Hill earthworks – and incidentally, lower than the other most recently demolished buildings (fig. 5.12) – with a very specific public function. This contrast draws attention to the Tower but in a positive manner: one that begs the question why the Tower was built and what part it has played in the long history of the monument. The hill, the tower and their relationship will all form part of the educational and interpretative functions of the new scheme.

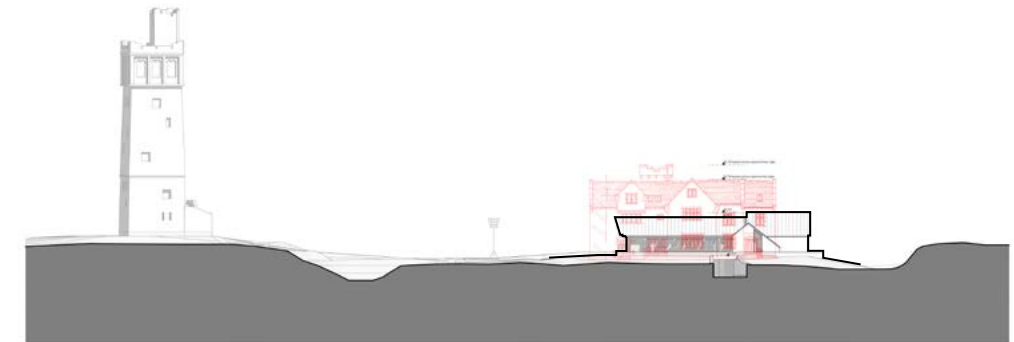


fig.5.14 Former approved planning in red with proposed comparison overlay in black

- 5.21 The new building is sited and orientated to acknowledge and reinforce the significance of the Tower. Within the principal educational space visitors cannot avoid paying attention to the Tower as it is the focus of the most important external view from that space. It is a powerful use of architectural design to draw attention to another building.



fig.5.15 Tower view from interpretation and education spaces

5.22 The grandeur and scale of the setting of Castle Hill ensure it will not be detrimentally impacted by the new building. The setting of the Jubilee Tower operates at two scales:

- where the Tower is read as a feature on the Hill, that setting will be no more affected than the Hill itself;
- where it is seen within the setting of the top of Castle Hill it will be impacted, but in a positive manner that reinforces why the Tower was built and its place in the history of the monument.

5.23 The potential for artificial light from the new building impacting on the setting of Castle Hill has been raised. The Centre has been designed to minimise potential light pollution, whilst nevertheless making it evident that there is a presence on the Hill to discourage possible antisocial behaviour. The old Castle Hill Hotel and earlier buildings will of course have produced artificial light on the Hill in their time. But any such light cannot (and should not) compete against the night-time light shows that from time to time now take place on the Victoria Tower and that have proved so popular with many people.



fig.5.16 Night view of Castle Hill as existing

5.24 Discussion of the setting of Castle Hill overlaps in part with Section 10 of this document “Impact of the Proposal” to which reference should also be made.

6.0 THE POLICY CONTEXT

- 6.01 The scheme that forms the basis of this Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) application has received planning approval from Kirklees Metropolitan Council (KMC) within whose area Castle Hill is located.
- 6.02 The approval (ref.2018/93591) was qualified by various conditions which have been addressed for discharge in parallel with the preparation of this SMC application. However, the planning approval cannot be implemented without SMC because of the heritage status of the location of the work.
- 6.03 Although SMC applications are made to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, they are administered by Historic England which also advises the government on applications.
- 6.04 We acknowledge the help and advice (and patience) we have received from the York office of Historic England during the development of the project and compilation of the SMC application.

7.0 THE PROPOSAL

- 7.01 The proposed scheme has been many years in development through discussion with all stakeholders in the site. It abides by guidance contained within CABI/ Historic England design guidance 'Building in Context' amongst other best practice examples of integrating contemporary architecture into the historic environment. The scheme will:
- Improve access to a heritage asset of both local and national significance
 - Provide interpretive and educational materials and experiences to explain the monument and put it into context
 - Provide facilities that visitors to major ancient monuments (in exposed locations) have need of and expect
 - Act as a catalyst for regeneration in Kirklees
 - Improve management and oversight of Castle Hill to reduce risk of damage to the monument
 - Become a focus for cultural tourism in Kirklees
 - Enhance the experience of visitors to this major ancient monument
 - Demonstrate how public and private bodies can cooperate to provide essential facilities where a local authority cannot
- 7.02 The new building is the most visible feature of the scheme. Related improvements to external areas including the access road and the car park are also proposed. It is an example of contextual modernism that includes sufficient facilities and accommodation to create a viable, sustainable scheme (see Business Plan) whilst being responsive to its historic setting and context.
- 7.03 However, above all the proposal marks a new era for Kirklees and its heritage, announcing a positive view of the future, where the authority's premier heritage asset is recognised and celebrated as a unique venue that can be experienced physically, intellectually, emotionally and intuitively. The success of the project will reverberate far beyond the immediate environs of the site, reestablishing the status of Kirklees for scholars, visitors, residents and the public at large.
- 7.04 The brief that has produced this scheme developed originally from the recommendations of the Atkins report. A major problem with developing the scheme is the inability of KMC, the site owners, to find either the capital or

revenue costs required. It is therefore fortuitous that the owners and management of the former Castle Hill Hotel expressed an interest in becoming involved in the scheme, to provide both development capital and management for the completed scheme.

- 7.05 In order for this to happen, the scheme, unlike many other typical heritage visitor centres, would have to be financially viable over the long term without the need to seek subsidy. The experience of running the former Castle Hill Hotel on the site had given the operators the confidence that a viable scheme, with the appropriate mix of facilities, accommodation, capacity, opening times etc could be developed. On this basis they became part of the scheme development group.
- 7.06 A specialist heritage and museums consultancy (Bryn Jones Associates Ltd - BJA) with huge experience in this field, was appointed to provide input to the brief. BJA also provided financial modelling to arrive at the scheme now presented.
- 7.07 The new scheme needed to perform a delicate balancing act: it needed to meet (and ideally exceed) the expectations of KMC regarding heritage and tourism; to be no bigger or more complex than necessary to ensure financial viability; to have the least possible impact on the heritage assets within the framework of the other objectives and to provide all the other public benefits that local people, visitors and scholars should expect.
- 7.08 The importance of the monument from an historical and archaeological point of view led to the early and continued involvement of English Heritage and then Historic England. Archaeological consultancy was also provided throughout the scheme development by West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisory Service (WYAAS).

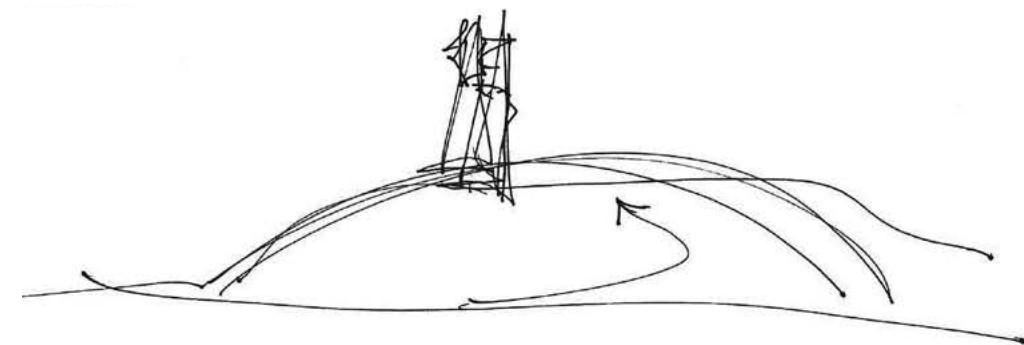


fig.7.1 Early analytic sketch

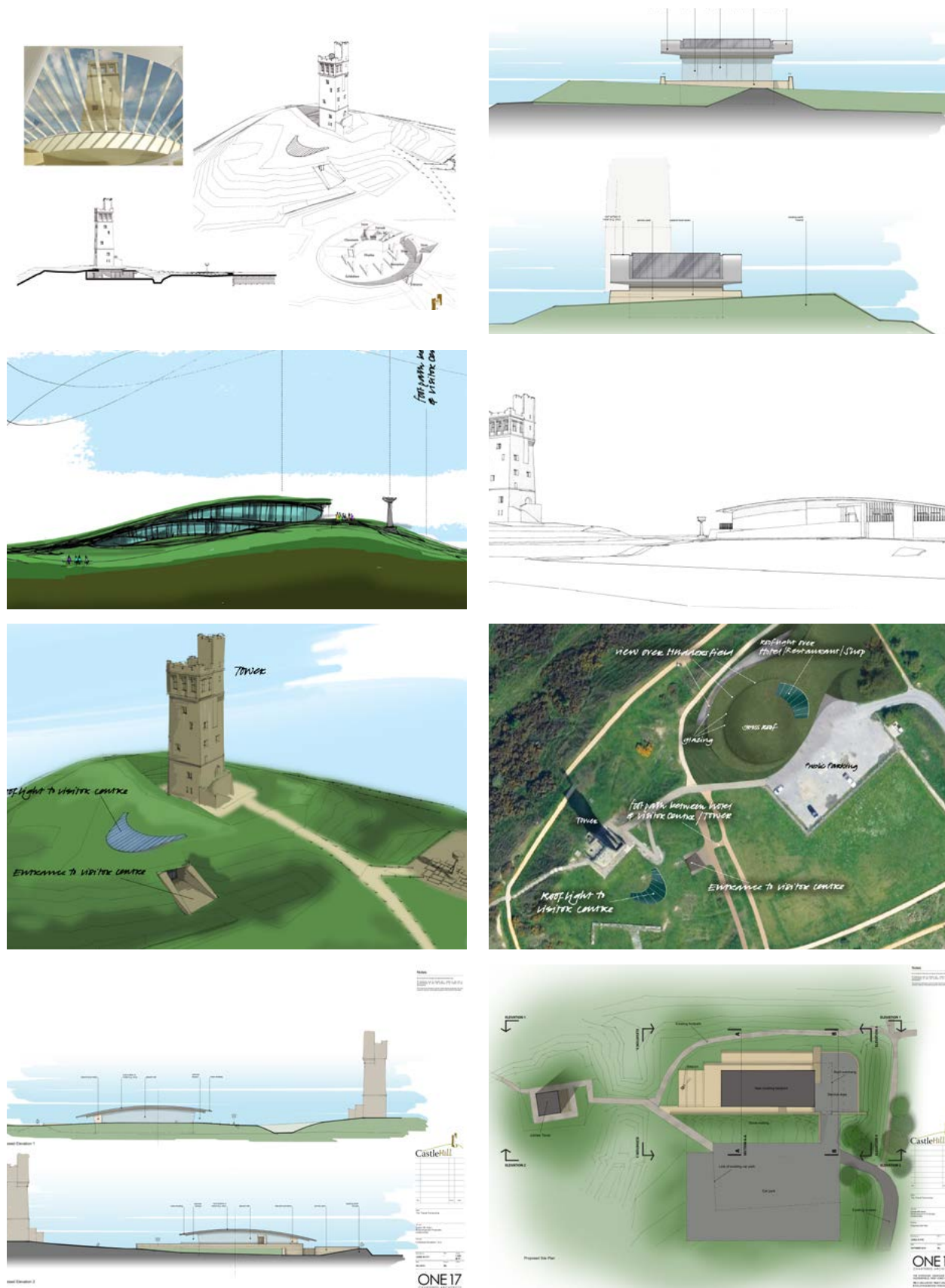


fig.7.2 Examples of illustrations from earlier scheme proposals

- 7.09 A variety of design approaches were considered in the early stages of the scheme. These included splitting the 'visitor museum' element of the scheme from the refreshment and lavatory facilities. The latter were sited on the footprint of the old Hotel and the 'museum' elements tucked below the Victoria Tower.
- 7.10 Although providing a radical and dramatic answer to the brief, it became clear that this latter proposal could not be taken further on the grounds of cost and impact on the archaeology of the asset.
- 7.11 In fact to ensure minimum impact on the archaeology, the decision was made to limit the new building to the footprint of the former Hotel. This also worked to minimise impact on the setting, allowing the building to sit down into the topology of the site, as well as relating logically to the vehicular entrance to the top of the Hill and the parking area.
- 7.12 Even once this decision had been taken, different forms for the building were explored and discussed with the working group. These included a clearly contemporary form with a curved room that echoed the adjoining landforms.
- 7.13 The building that finally developed from the numerous different approaches that were explored is a low-rise structure of traditional construction, echoing forms found in local buildings.
- 7.14 The decision to develop this more traditional approach was only finally agreed following feedback from members of Historic England's design advisory panel after a formal site visit and discussion with the design team.
- 7.15 Using quality natural materials, anchored by the robust, traditional sandstone of the local area, the building will not only provide highly necessary facilities but also take its place in the long and varied history of human activity on the Hill. It will be recognisably of the local area whilst ensuring greater access to and understanding of a sadly neglected important scheduled monument.
- 7.16 The drawings (see section A-A.) demonstrate how the new building sits within the site of the former Castle Hill Hotel and how it is orientated to emphasise key

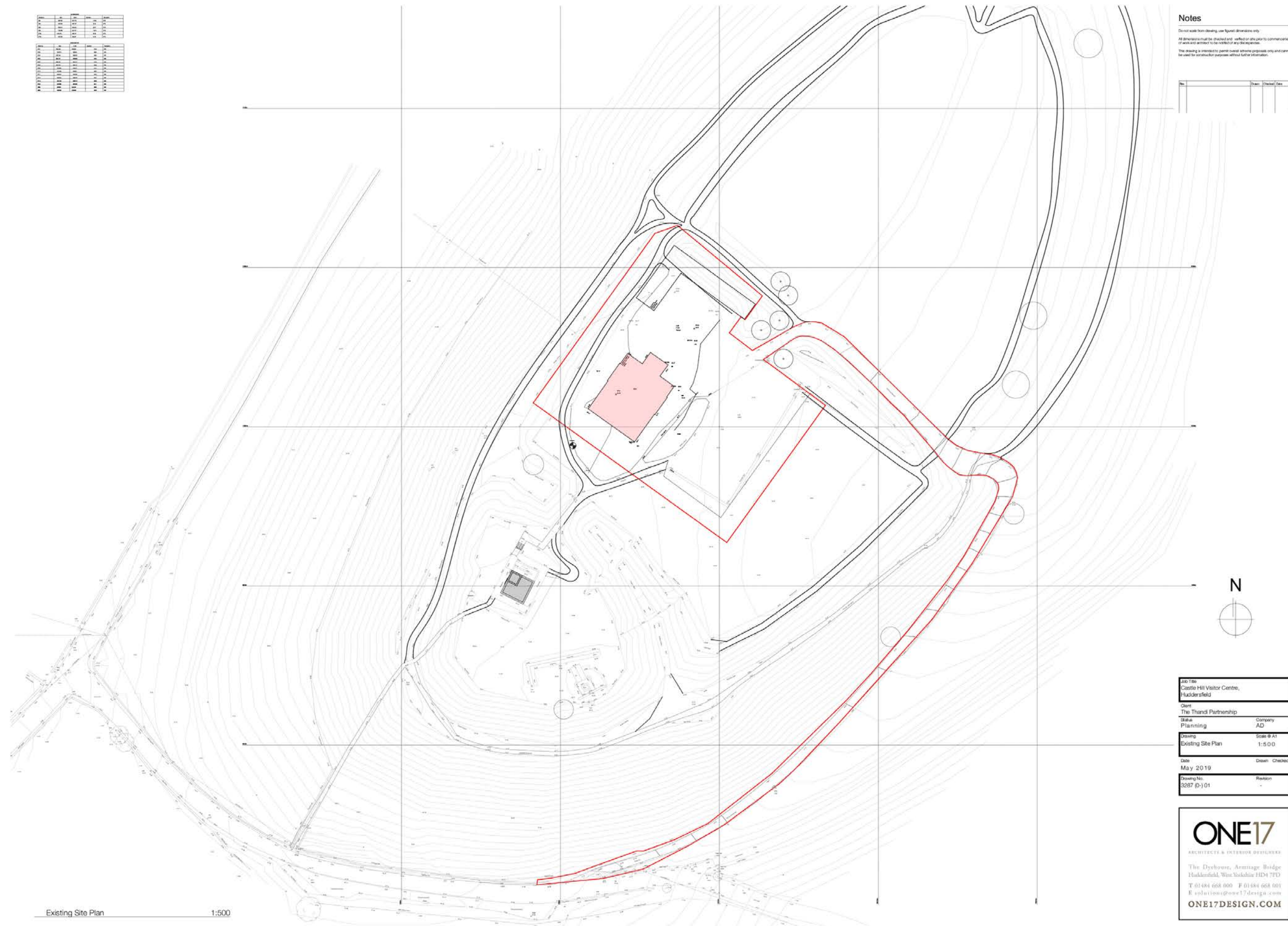
aspects of the monument. One of the principal benefits of the design is the way in which it cannot be seen on roads and paths approaching Castle Hill until the top of the access road is reached as it turns into the car park. Some very faint views are possible from certain long-distance standpoints but these are negligible when set against the visual impact of the Jubilee Tower.

- 7.17 Although very recent, the Jubilee Tower is now so intimately part of Castle Hill that the monument would exhibit a very different character were the building to be demolished. Thankfully this is unlikely, being listed in its own right and understanding of its role will become better known and understood with the educational and interpretation information available when the new scheme is completed.
- 7.18 The building is designed to provide the right mix of accommodation at the right scale to serve the projected visitor types and numbers. The need for flexibility has also been a key part of the brief, so that different areas might serve different purposes at different times of the week or of the year. Please take time to examine the drawings fully so that this critical flexibility can be understood.
- 7.19 Standard architectural drawings (plans, elevations etc) can be extremely difficult to picture as a completed building. Even perspective drawings give only a single fixed viewpoint. For this reason a computer generated 3D 'flythrough' of the scheme accompanies the drawings. We would suggest that the two forms of representation be viewed together to provide a better understanding of the scheme.
- 7.20 Although only one part of the broader scheme, the building itself will help tell the story of part of the Hill's history, being located on the site of the former Castle Hill Hotel. Combining comfort and sustenance with educational and interpretive content, the building will be fundamental in returning this prestigious ancient monument to its proper position in local and national understanding.
- 7.21 The project building will create a year-round presence on and supervision of the site and thereby significantly reduce the issues of anti-social behaviour that have grown at the site in recent years.

- 7.22 We must remember that Castle Hill has been a site shaped by human hands, probably for over five millennia! The main impacts seen today are the sequence of fortifications, palisades, retaining walls and ditches that have been built and altered over time.
- 7.23 The mid phase of development around the 12th century involved the restructuring of many of these earthworks and the creation of an artificial Motte upon which was placed a castle, well and, around this, a village. More latterly, the Victorian's focus upon Castle Hill as a destination, resulted in the most visibly dramatic change to the site through the erection of the Jubilee Tower.
- 7.24 The impact of all this activity was extreme and has resulted in the iconic status that the site now enjoys. The image of the Hill and Tower is an unofficial emblem for Huddersfield and Kirklees (see fig.3.5 & fig.3.6). Most recently, the integration of World War Two structures and the laying out of paths and sign boards have all had some form of impact upon the site.
- 7.25 This proposal aims to develop the asset's history at the same time as aiding its understanding and interpretation. Castle Hill is more than an enormous museum exhibit; it should continue to inspire and cater to the present and future generations as it has done already for millennia. Future generations must have the opportunity to appreciate the importance of the site and find their own ways to celebrate and enjoy this major heritage community asset.
- 7.26 We finish this section of the report by reiterating the broader, less immediately tangible effects of the proposal: marking a new era for Kirklees announcing a positive view of the future, where the authority's premier heritage asset is recognised and celebrated, with effects that will reverberate far beyond the immediate environs of the site, reestablishing the status of Kirklees.

8.0 PLANS & ELEVATIONS

PREDICTION				
DATE	IN	OUT	NET	STATUS
1/1/2017	1000	500	500	OK
2/1/2017	1200	600	600	OK
3/1/2017	1500	750	750	OK
4/1/2017	1800	900	900	OK
5/1/2017	2000	1000	1000	OK
6/1/2017	2200	1100	1100	OK
7/1/2017	2500	1250	1250	OK
8/1/2017	2800	1400	1400	OK
9/1/2017	3000	1500	1500	OK
10/1/2017	3200	1600	1600	OK
11/1/2017	3500	1750	1750	OK
12/1/2017	3800	1900	1900	OK
1/1/2018	4000	2000	2000	OK
2/1/2018	4200	2100	2100	OK
3/1/2018	4500	2250	2250	OK
4/1/2018	4800	2400	2400	OK
5/1/2018	5000	2500	2500	OK
6/1/2018	5200	2600	2600	OK
7/1/2018	5500	2750	2750	OK
8/1/2018	5800	2900	2900	OK
9/1/2018	6000	3000	3000	OK
10/1/2018	6200	3100	3100	OK
11/1/2018	6500	3250	3250	OK
12/1/2018	6800	3400	3400	OK
1/1/2019	7000	3500	3500	OK
2/1/2019	7200	3600	3600	OK
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5/1/2019	8000	4000	4000	OK
6/1/2019	8200	4100	4100	OK
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10/1/2019	9200	4600	4600	OK
11/1/2019	9500	4750	4750	OK
12/1/2019	9800	4900	4900	OK
1/1/2020	10000	5000	5000	OK



Existing Site Plan 1:500

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Notes

Do not scale from drawing, use figured dimensions only.

All dimensions must be checked and verified on site prior to commencement of work and accepted to be noticed of any discrepancies.

The drawing is intended to permit overall scheme proposals only and cannot be used for construction purposes without further information.

No.	Drawn	Checked	Date

Job Title Castle Hill Visitor Centre, Huddersfield	
Client The Thrandi Partnership	
Status Planning	Company AD
Drawing Existing Site Plan	Scale @ A1 1:500
Date May 2019	Drawn Checked
Drawing No. 3287 (P)-01	Revision -

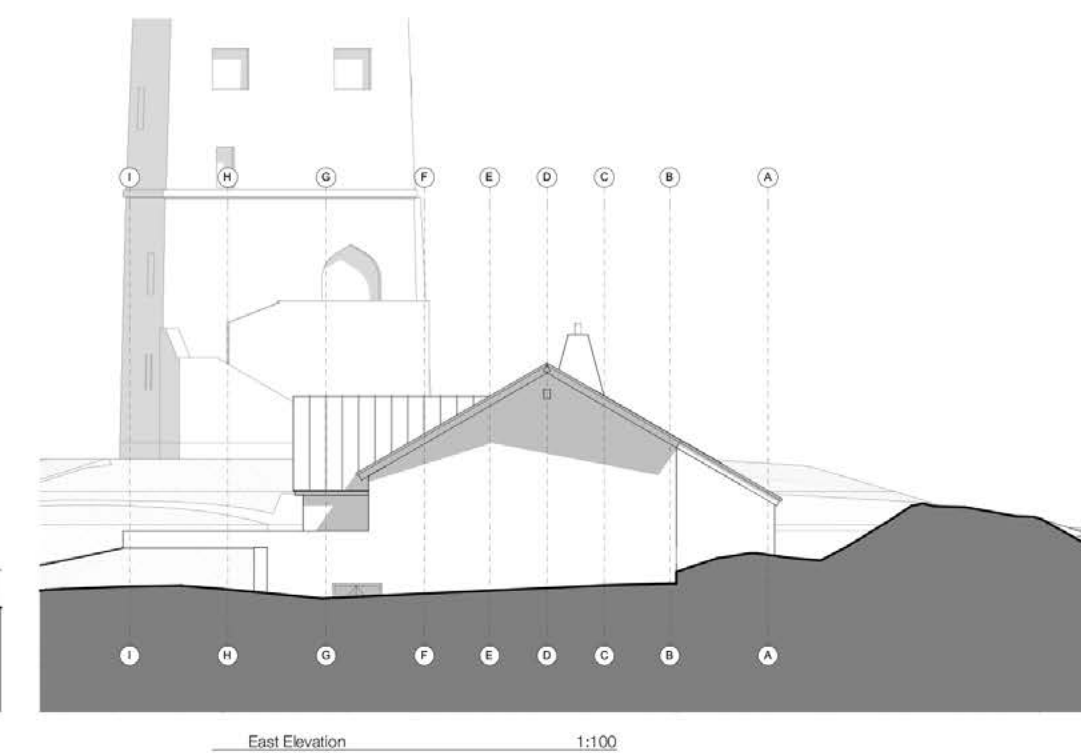
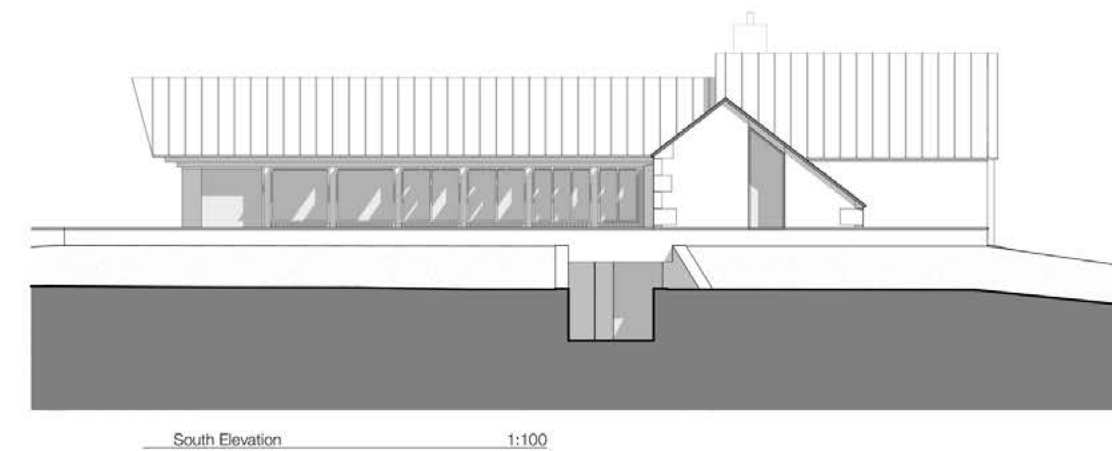
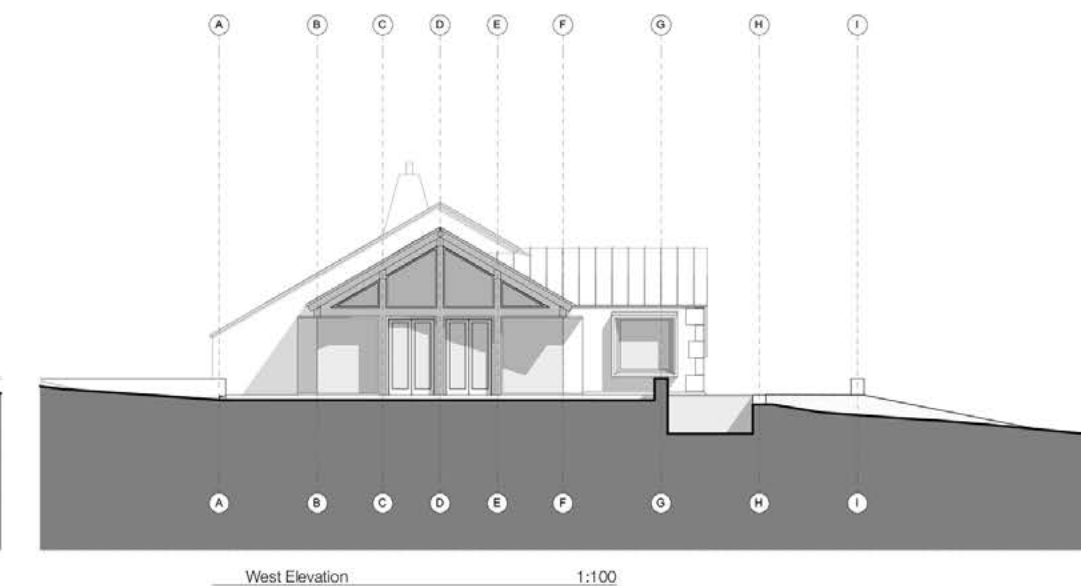
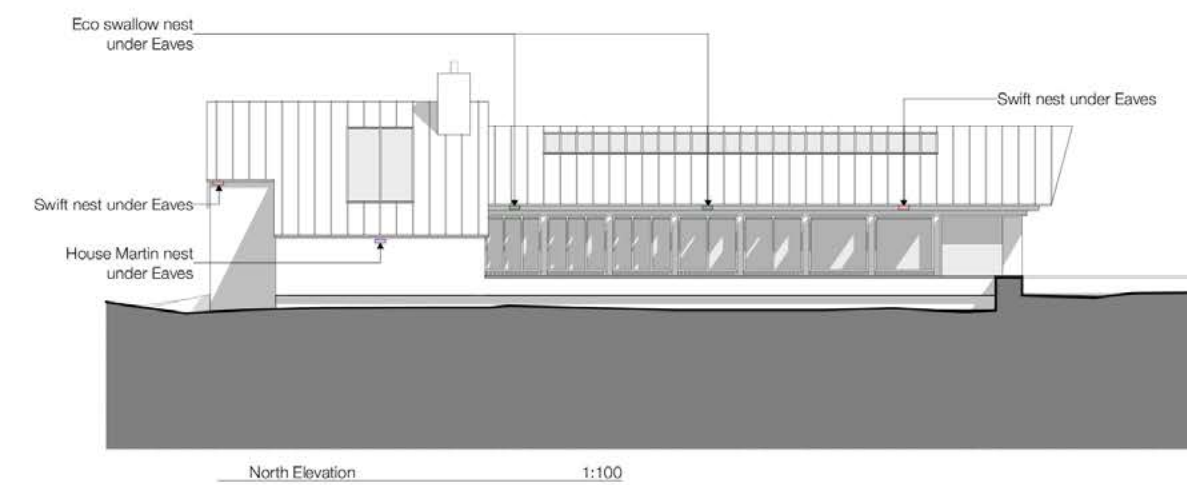
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Job Title	
Castle Hill Visitor Centre, Huddersfield	
Client	
The Thandi Partnership	
Status	Company
Planning	AD
Drawing	Scale @ A1
Proposed Elevation Protrusions	1:200
Date	Drawn Checked
October 2019	FWG
Drawing No.	Revision
3287 (A)-21	-

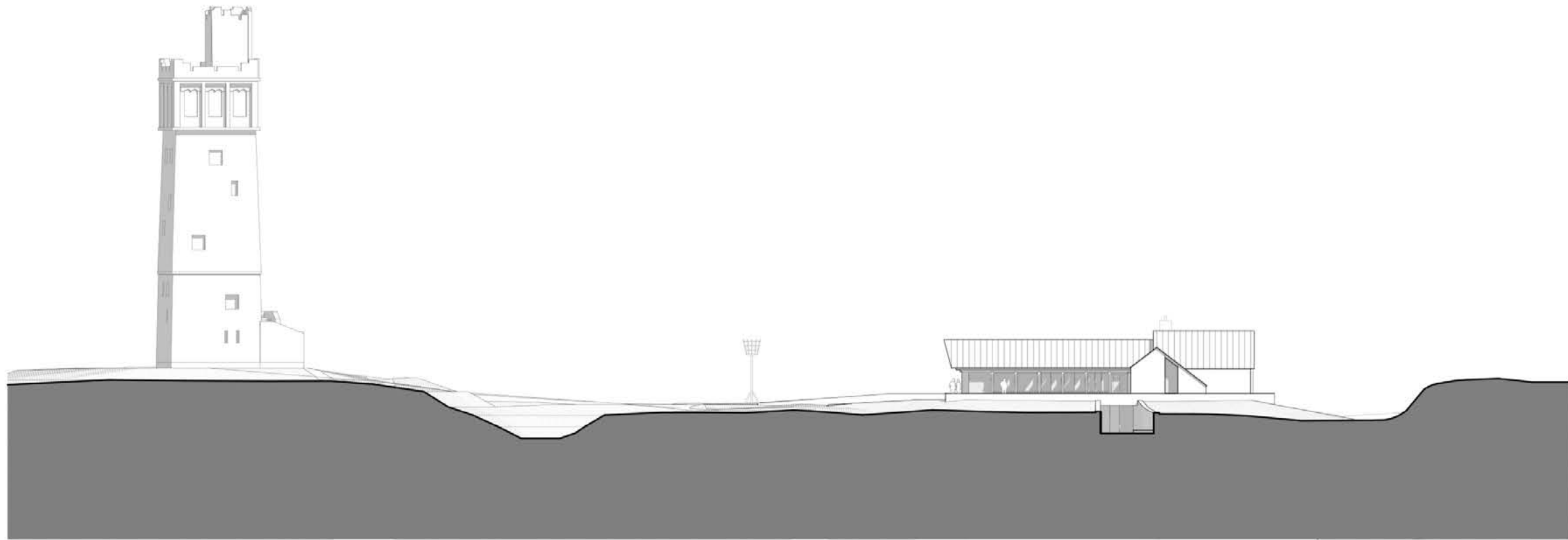
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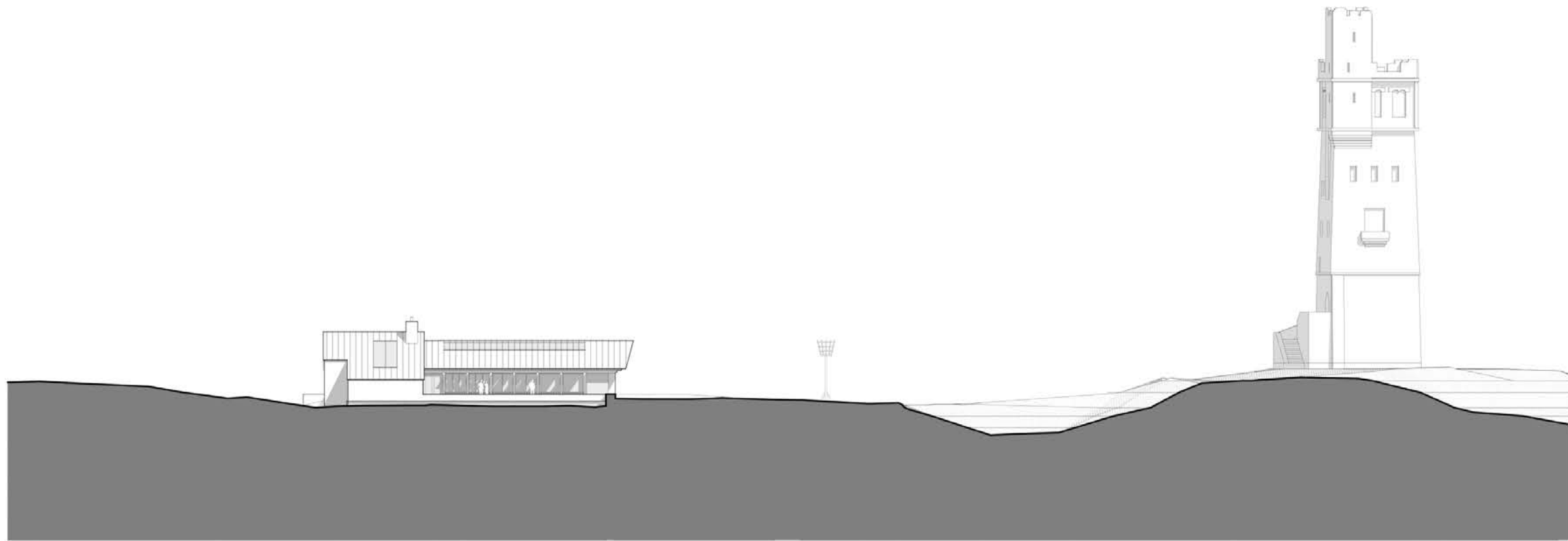
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Proposed South Elevation 1:200



Proposed North Elevation 1:200

Notes

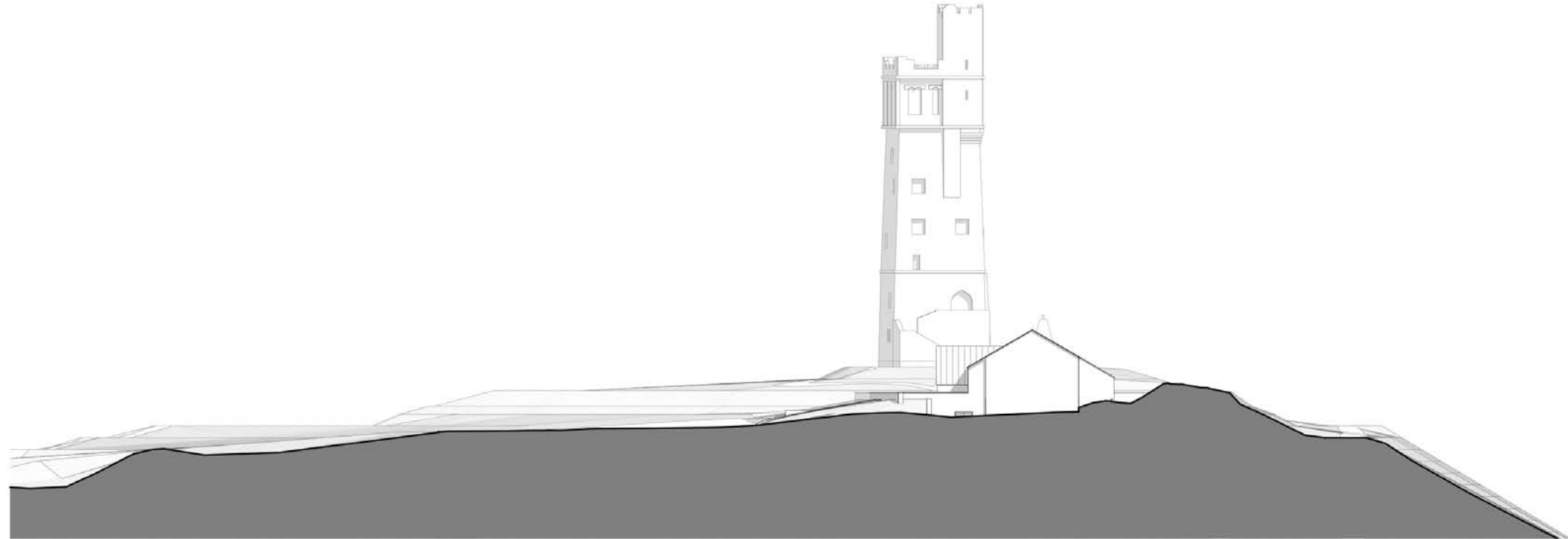
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No.	General revisions to	Drawn	Checked	Date
A	General revisions to	FWG		20/10/2019

Project Name Castle Hill Visitor Centre, Huddersfield	
Client The Thandi Partnership	Company AD
Discipline Planning	Scale A1
Drawing Proposed Elevations Sheet 1 of 2	
Date October 2019	Drawn FWG
Drawn by 20/10/2019	Revision A

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Proposed South Elevation 1:200



Proposed North Elevation 1:200

Notes

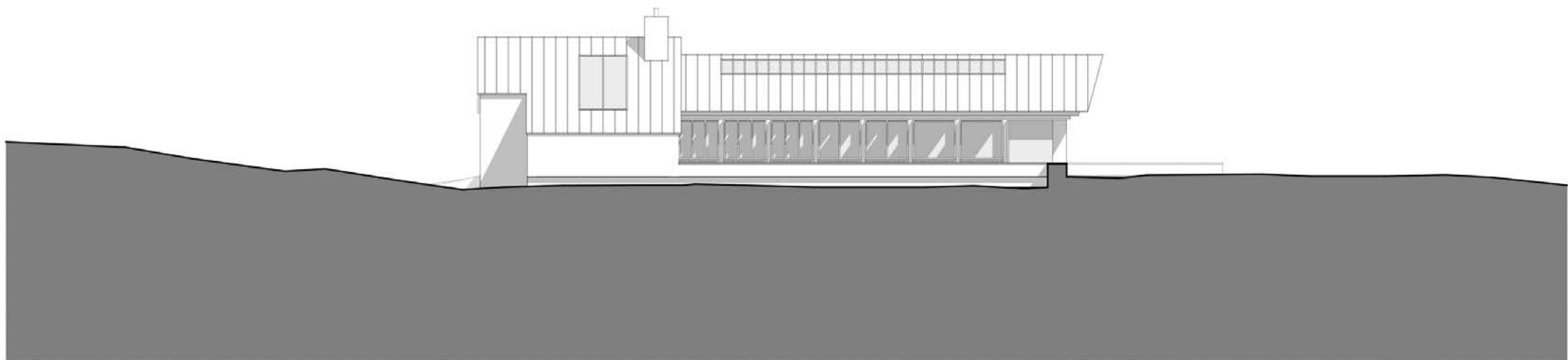
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No.	General revisions to	Drawn	Checked	Date
A	General revisions to	FWG		20/10/2019

Project Name Castle Hill Visitor Centre, Huddersfield	
Client The Thandi Partnership	Company AD
Discipline Planning	Scale A1
Drawing Proposed Elevations Sheet 2 of 2	
Date October 2019	Drawn FWG
Drawn by 20/10/2019	Revision A

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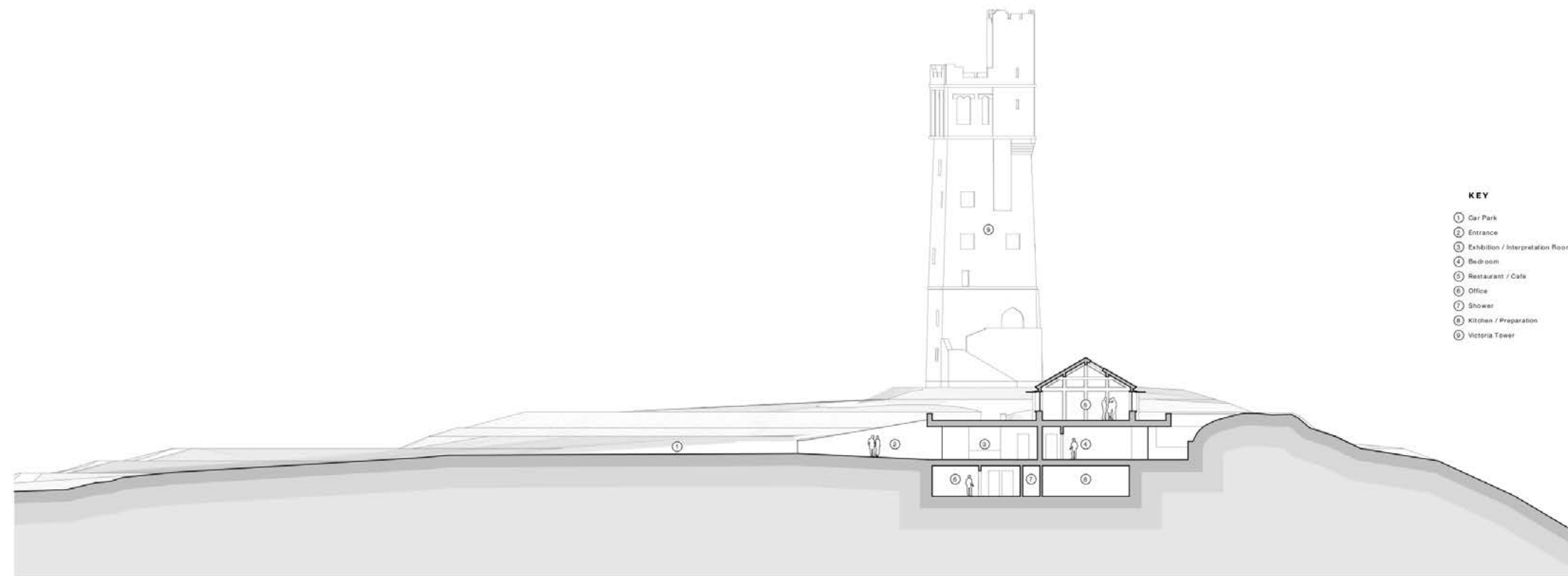


Proposed South Elevation 1:100

Notes

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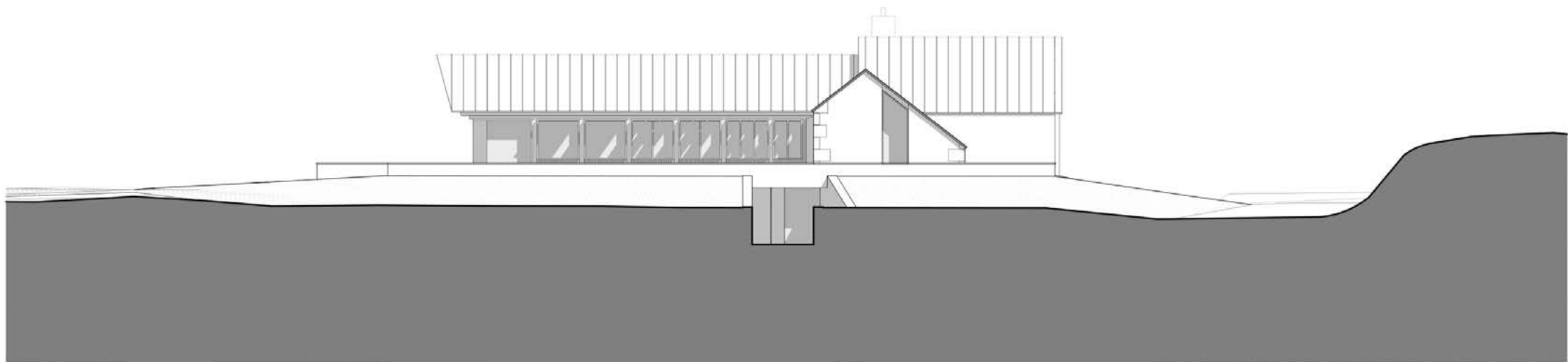
No.	Drawn	Checked	Date



Proposed Section A-A 1:200

KEY

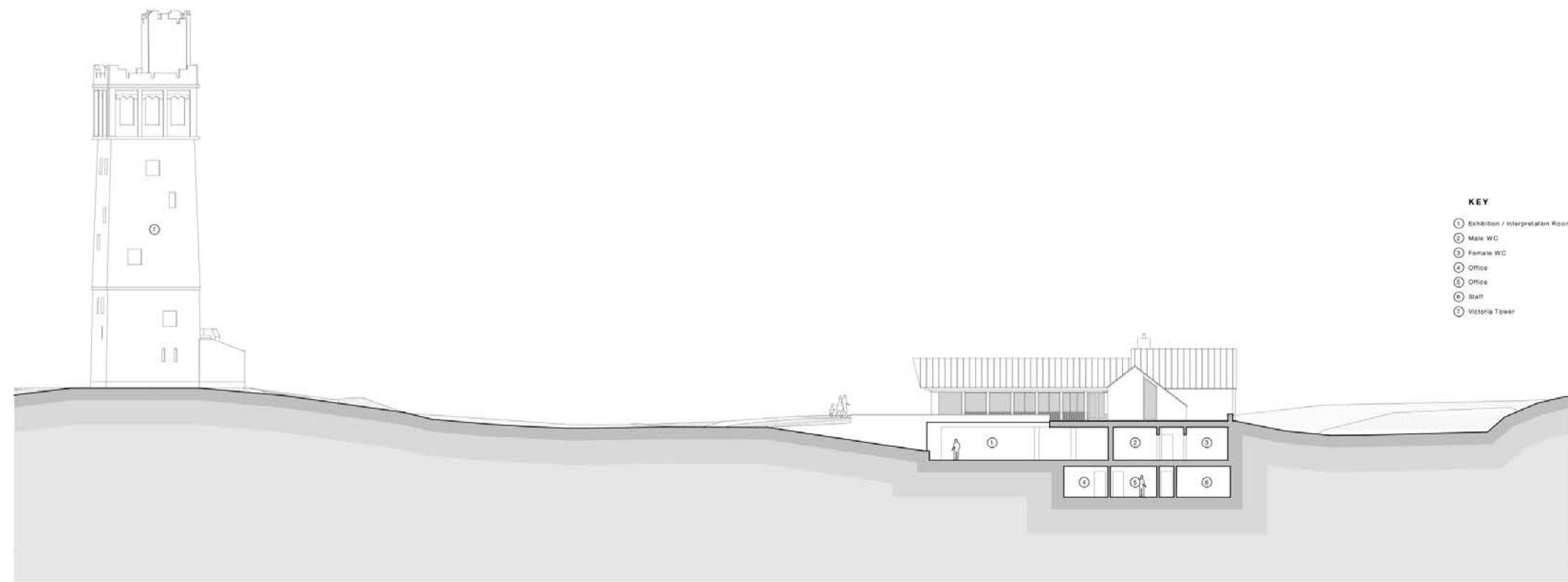
- ① Car Park
- ② Entrance
- ③ Exhibition / Interpretation Room
- ④ Bedroom
- ⑤ Restaurant / Cafe
- ⑥ Office
- ⑦ Shower
- ⑧ Kitchen / Preparation
- ⑨ Victoria Tower



Proposed North Elevation 1:100

For The	Castle Hill Visitor Centre, Huddersfield
Client	The Thandi Partnership
Scale	AD
Planning	AD
Design	Scale ① A1
Proposed Elevations	1:200
Date	October 2019
Drawn	FWG
Checked	FWG
Drawing No.	5287 (D) 10
Revision	-

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Proposed Section B-B 1:200

KEY

- ① Exhibition / Interpretation Room
- ② Male WC
- ③ Female WC
- ④ Office
- ⑤ Office
- ⑥ Staff
- ⑦ Victoria Tower

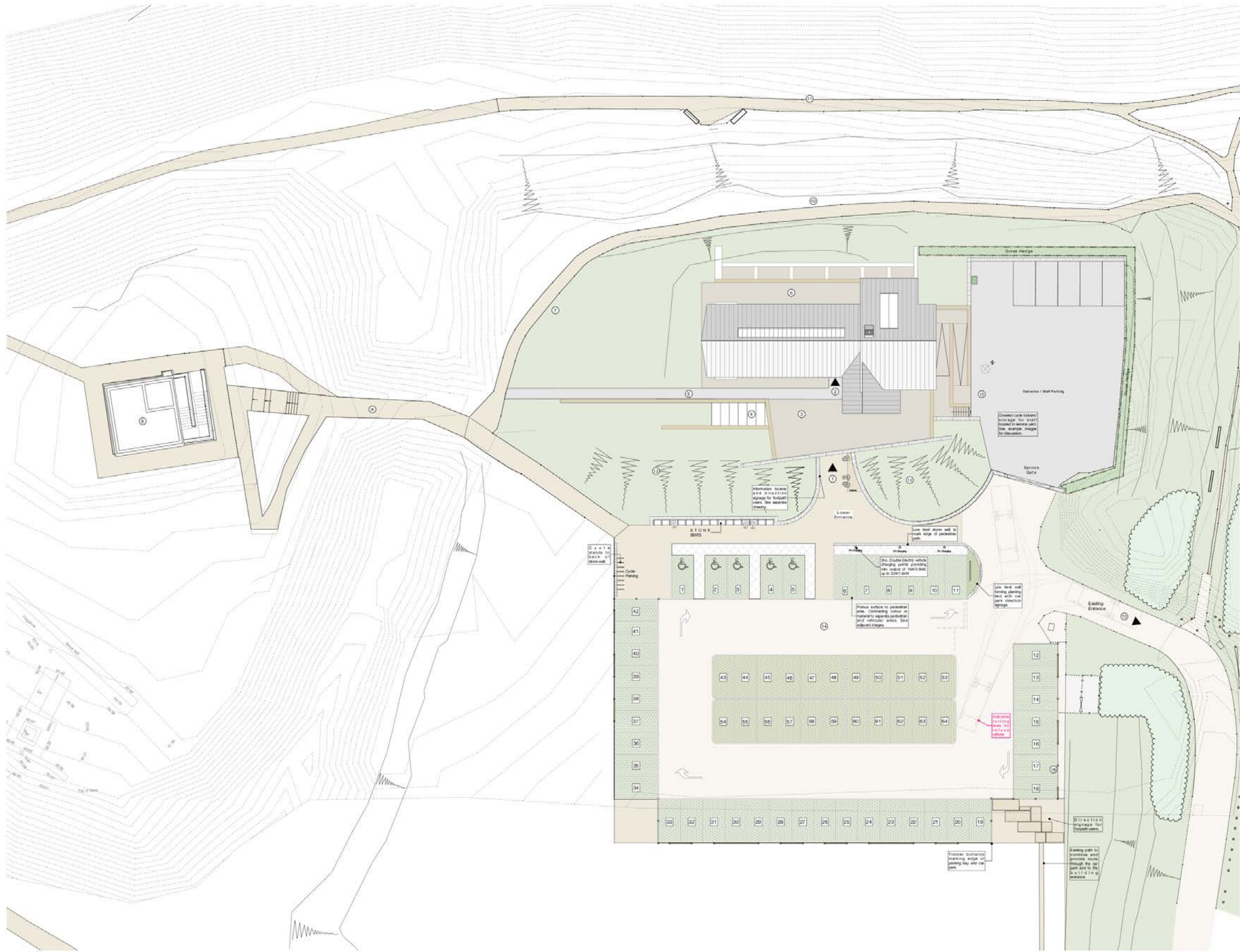
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No.	Drawn	Checked	Date
A	General Revision to: 5287 (D) 10	FWG	20.10.20

For The	Castle Hill Visitor Centre, Huddersfield
Client	The Thandi Partnership
Scale	AD
Planning	AD
Design	Scale ① A1
Proposed Site Sections	1:200
Date	November 2019
Drawn	FWG
Checked	FWG
Drawing No.	5287 (D) 10
Revision	A

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Proposed Site Plan 1:200

Notes

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Rev	Description	Drawn	Check	Date
A	General revisions	FWG	AD	10.02.20
B	Entrance wall revised to allow for footpath 2m in width	FWG	AD	27.03.20
C	Car park revised following comments from highway	FWG	AD	27.03.20
D	Car park and entrance revised MUN in line with business plan	FWG	AD	18.03.23



KEY

- 1 Main Entrance
- 2 Secondary Entrance
- 3 Cafe Terrace
- 4 Roof Glazing Over Exhibition
- 5 Footpath
- 6 Viewing Terrace
- 7 Beacon
- 8 Footpath to Tower
- 9 Victoria Tower
- 10 Existing Upper Path
- 11 Existing Lower Path
- 12 Contoured Banking
- 13 Delivery / Staff parking
- 14 Car Park (See Space)
- 15 Exit to Castle Hill Side
- 16 Unobstructed access to carpark



Site File
Castle Hill Visitor Centre,
Huddersfield

Client
The Thandi Partnership

Project
Proposed Site Plan

Scale 1:200

Date
October 2019

Drawing No.
5287 (D) 05

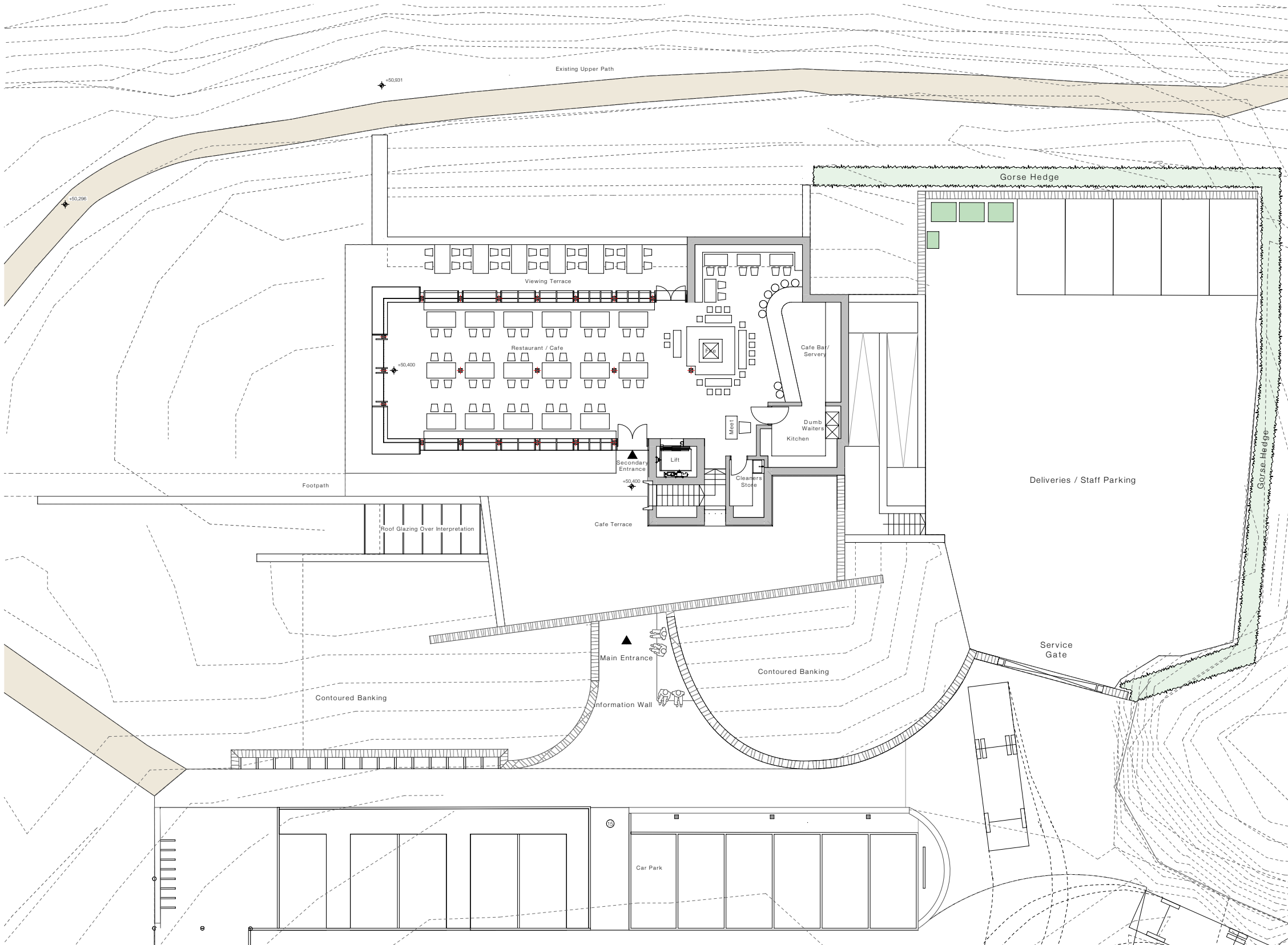
Drawn
FWG

Checked
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Proposed Ground Floor Plan 1:100

Notes

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This drawing is intended to provide overall information only and cannot be used for construction purposes without further information.

Rev	Description	Drawn	Check	Date
A	General revisions to	FWG	AD	10.02.20
B	Entrance wall revised to allow for footpath 2m in width	FWG	AD	27.03.20
C	Revised in line with business plan	MUN	AD	18.03.23
D	Bar area updated in line with business plan	MUN	AD	18.03.23



Site File
Castle Hill Visitor Centre,
Huddersfield

Client
The Thandi Partnership

Project
Proposed Ground Floor Plan

Scale 1:100

Date
May 2019

Drawing No.
5287 (D) 02

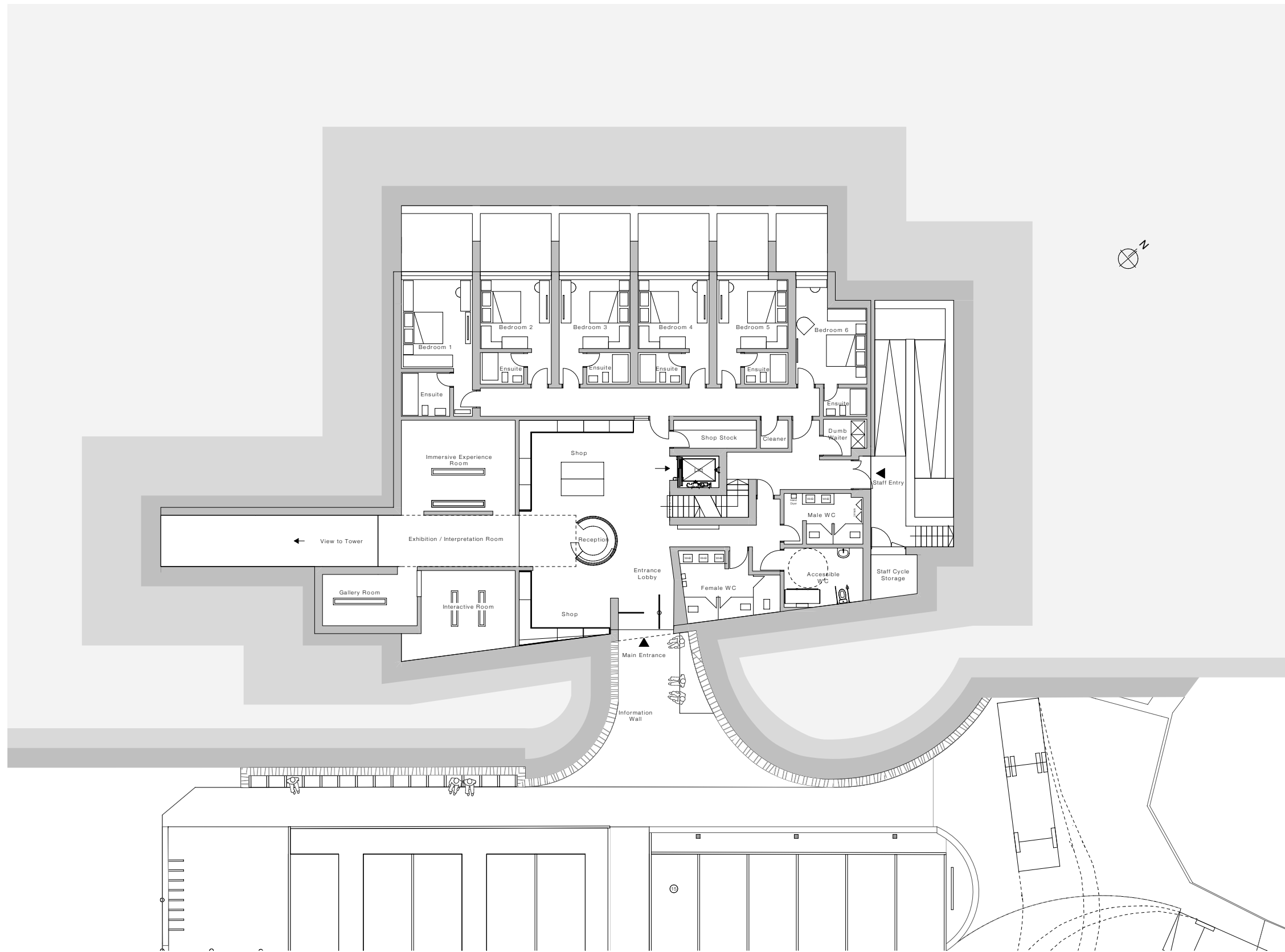
Drawn
FWG

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D

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Notes			
Do not scale from drawing, use figure dimensions only.			
All dimensions must be checked and verified on site prior to commencement of work and entered to be noted on any documentation.			
This drawing is intended to permit overall scheme proposals only and cannot be used for construction purposes without further elaboration.			
No.	Item	Drawn	Check
A	General revisions to entrance	FWG	20.02.03
B	Entrance wall revised to allow for footpath 2m in width	FWG	20.10.07
C	Revised in line with business plan	MJN	18.03.22
D	Interpretation room updated in line with business plan	MJN	18.03.24

Site File	
Castle Hill Visitor Centre, Huddersfield	
Client	The Thandi Partnership
Scale	AD
Drawing	Scale 9 A1
Proposed Lower Ground Floor 1:100	
Plan	
Date	May 2019
Drawn	FWG
Checked	
Drawing No.	3287 (0-1) 03
Revision	D

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Proposed Basement Floor Plan 1:100

Notes			
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No.	Item	Drawn	Check
A	General revisions to entrance	FWG	20.02.03

Site File	
Castle Hill Visitor Centre, Huddersfield	
Client	The Thandi Partnership
Scale	AD
Drawing	Scale 9 A1
Proposed Basement Plan 1:100	
Plan	
Date	May 2019
Drawn	FWG
Checked	
Drawing No.	3287 (0-1) 04
Revision	A

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9.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATTERS

Please note the paragraph numbering has been retained from the original WYAS document.



**Castle Hill,
Almondbury,
West Yorkshire**

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

Prepared by: Jane Richardson and Stuart Wrathmell
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On behalf of: The Thandi Partnership

Nat. grid ref.: SE 15222 14067

October 2023



**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 of 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 brothers 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 cellarage**, is included.

9.2 All archaeological works will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant standards (CIfA 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	-	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. 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.
		Sterile soil bund – can architects provide detail about this? Will need to add something here? Not sure what this entails. If bund is being placed onto an existing ground surface, does an archaeologist need to be present? Decision for HE, not ASWYAS

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/digdigital/>) 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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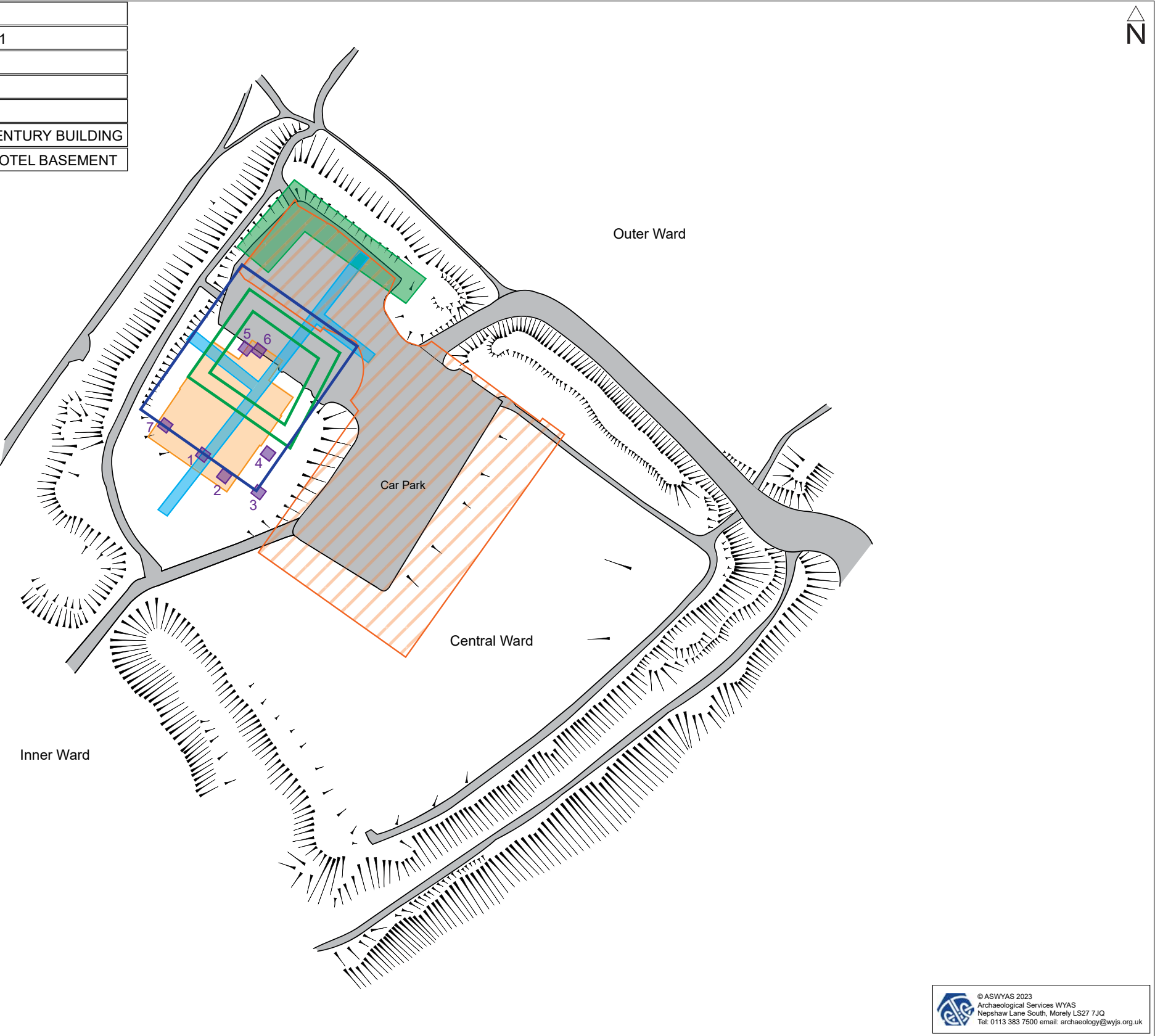
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Cert. No. 125QM8003



	TRIAL TRENCHES 2018
	TRIAL TRENCHES 1998 and 2001
	LOWER GROUND EXCAVATION
	BASEMENT EXCAVATION
	EXTENT OF CAR PARK
	FOOTPRINT OF EARLY 19TH CENTURY BUILDING
	FOOTPRINT OF CASTLE HILL HOTEL BASEMENT



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Castle Hill central ward (1:750 @ A3)

0 50m (1:750)

10.0 IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL (Read in conjunction with ‘5.0 Setting’)

- 10.01 The proposal has the potential to harm designated heritage assets and/or their setting through the introduction of a new development within that setting. Impact is often automatically assumed to be harmful, but this is not always the case. Any harm, perceived or actual, must be weighed against the public benefits of the work. These benefits are substantial and covered in depth at Section 11 of the documents.
- 10.02 Because of the prominence of Castle Hill and its ability to be viewed from distance in many directions, the impact of the scheme could extend over a great distance. The element of the scheme with potential to affect long-distance views is the new building. This is a building whose form, materials and location the designers have gone to great lengths to integrate into the setting. Other than views from distance, visual impact will largely be contained within the immediate area of the Scheduled Monument, and then really only when visitors reach the top of the monument itself; the defensive outer banking of Castle Hill largely shields views of the new building from around the bottom of the hill.
- 10.03 The two main issues of impact to address are therefore:

A) Impact of the proposal within the monument site and impact upon the Jubilee Tower; and

B) Impact of the proposal without the monument site and any impact upon local heritage assets in the surrounding area.
- A. IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL UPON THE INTERIOR (TOP PLATEAU) OF CASTLE HILL AND THE VICTORIA TOWER.
- A1. One experience of the Scheduled Monument site is anticipation, generated by long-distance views, followed by eventual arrival upon the high plateau of Castle Hill. Arrival by car or by foot will have been preceded by the disappearance of the top plateau during the approach thanks to the steep incline and the curved access road, threading its way beneath the defensive embankments, all of which contribute to a sense of reward upon arrival. See fig.5.5 - 5.8
- 78
- A2. For the pedestrian, the focus tends to be upon the tower and this is often the first port of call (for first time visitors at any rate). The site of the tower, and the possible Motte site are at the highest point within the complex, and as such some of the best views of the surrounding landscape may be obtained from there. If access can be gained to the top of the Tower, such views are even more impressive.
- A topographic map of Castle Hill. The map shows contour lines indicating elevation. A small rectangular area, representing the proposed building site, is circled in green. To the right of this area, there is a larger, irregularly shaped area outlined in red, which likely represents the Motte site mentioned in the text. The map also shows various paths and other features of the landscape.
- fig.10.1 Best views of surroundings from high point of the hill
- A3. The new building is sited on the area once occupied by the Castle Hill Hotel. This is an important link with the more recent history of Castle Hill. The dominance of the Motte with the Victoria Tower will be maintained thanks to the defensive inner ditch and the topography of the man-made (medieval) landscape. The integration of the new building, which is set down within the site, follow the historical tradition for ancillary buildings in such situations, where halls, kitchens, stores, barracks etc would be clustered at the feet of the Keep. Even an Iron Age site would observe this hierarchy where higher status roundhouses would be located within the inner, more protected/significant areas.

A4. The proposed building abides by historical hierarchical traditions to complement the defensive earthworks and the Victoria Tower. The aesthetics of the building with its horizontal vernacular form, set down into the site and revealing itself only really to visitors as they approach the summit, are carefully chosen. The form as well as use of both traditional local and contemporary materials, will aid its key purposes, those being to provide information about Castle Hill and related heritage assets, to educate visitors and to provide refreshment, shelter and welcome whilst doing so.
- 79

- A5. The scheme has the potential to increase traffic to the Hill. This is acknowledged and taken into account in terms of parking, highways and the business plan. One concern that has been raised during development is the impact that large functions being hosted in the new building might have. Management has acknowledged this concern and has confirmed that it is willing to enter a legal agreement that such functions will not be promoted nor hosted at the venue.

B. IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL UPON HERITAGE ASSETS WITHOUT THE CASTLE HILL SITE

- B1. ***“Castle Hill is the dominant feature of the landscape. It rises above the surrounding settlements, and affords unspoilt views to and from Huddersfield and the surrounding settlements. Its height, compared with the relative low-lying areas around it, means that it can be seen from an area of at least 10km around the Site, with the impressive structure of Victoria Tower further enhancing its appearance from afar, and providing what many consider to be an iconic representation of Huddersfield”***
(Atkins para 3.317 page 50 Management Plan)

- B2. As noted above the visual impact of Castle Hill reaches far and wide, and within this sphere there are several designated heritage assets to be considered. The topography of the area means that visible impact is limited to certain areas. Although harm to setting can occur in areas where there is no intervisibility, for instance where development affects a main approach or is considered important due to historic ownership etc, such impact in this case will be unlikely. An exception is the Grade II* Longley Hall, the seat of the Ramsden family, which has been more fully assessed.
- B3. Assessment shows that actual visible impact of the proposal scheme within a one mile radius (fig.10.2) will be greatly limited by topography. Almondbury, for instance, will have negligible intervisibility. Therefore the likelihood of harm to designated heritage assets there or within the Almondbury Conservation area is negligible and of mainly historical associative impact.



fig.10.2 See paragraph B3

- B4. Assets to the south of Castle Hill are also rarely exposed to visibility of the proposed building. These assets generally occupy the lower slopes of Castle Hill and the Colne Valley and, due to the topography and height of the site, impact will be nominal.
- B5. Conversely, the village of Farnley Tyas occupies a high ridge of land almost on eye level with Castle Hill. Impact on heritage assets within the village are therefore considered below.



fig.10.3 See paragraph B5

Heritage Assets Around Longley

- B6. Longley Hall is a Grade II* Listed house dating to at least the 14th Century. The Hall was the seat of the Ramsden family from the 16th to the early 20th centuries. As landowners of the extensive titular Ramsden Estate they virtually owned the whole of Huddersfield until its sale to the Corporation in 1920.
- B7. Longley is a small hamlet of cottages and ancillary buildings associated with the Hall. Castle Hill is dominant above the settlement. However mid twentieth century development of suburban semi-detached housing has contributed much to the erosion of this relationship. The proposal will in no way dilute this physical relationship or the dominance of Castle Hill and the proposed building will likely not be visible from the immediate locality of the Hall.
- B8. NB: 19thC Diagram showing a view of Longley Hall with Castle Hill in the background. It is unclear whether this particular view was ever available, as tree cover and topography would now make this particular view near impossible to obtain. As such the illustration may involve a certain amount of artistic licence.

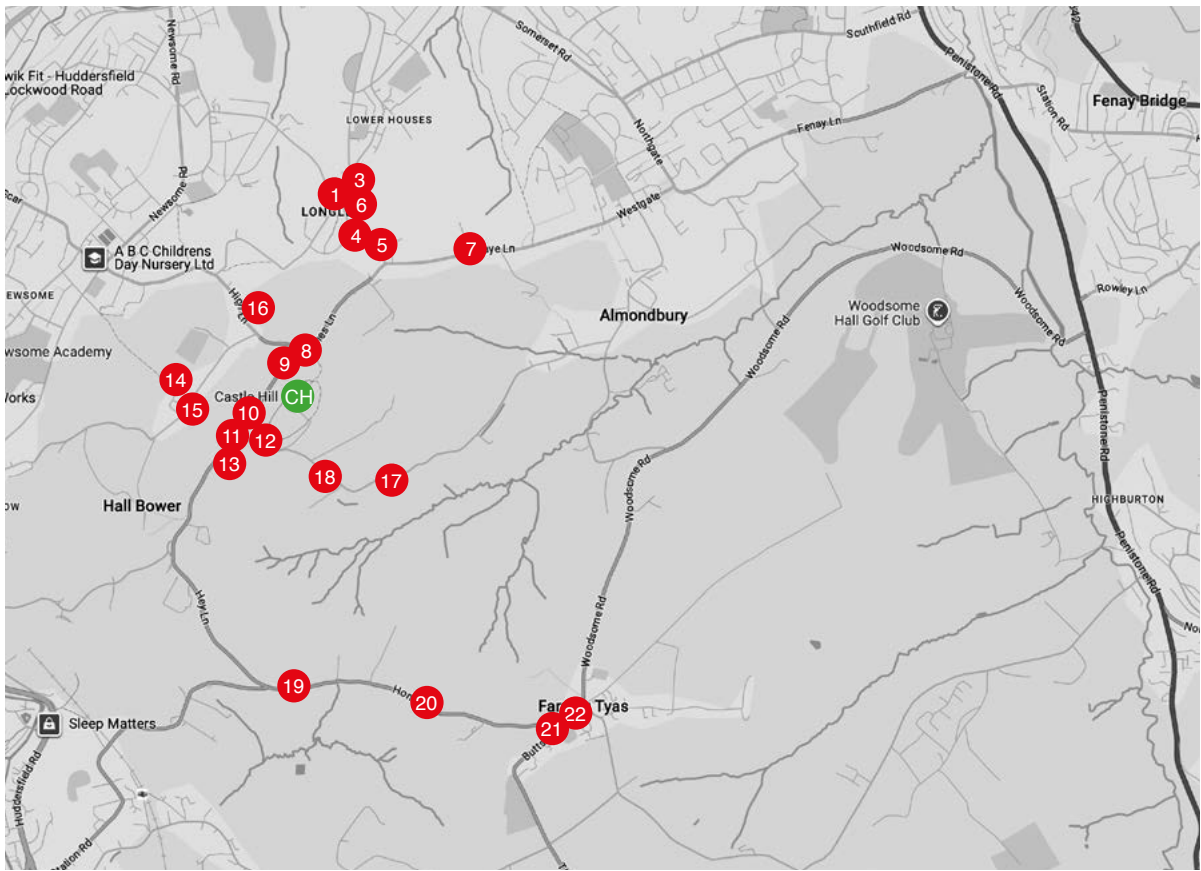


fig.10.4 Image Key Plan



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3.



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B9. Images:

1. Longley Hall front view.
2. Sketch drawing from Rev Hubert's History of Almondbury 1882.
3. Other ancillary cottages within the Longley complex.
4. View of Longley Hall from the approach towards Ashes Lane.
5. Highly characterful lane next to Longley hall.
6. View of Castle Hill from in front of Longley Hall.

Heritage Assets Around Ashes Lane

B10. Ashes Lane runs along the cusp of the hillside around the North side of Castle Hill. It is home to several dispersed farmsteads that have a direct relationship to Castle Hill. Views of the application site are limited, although some minor encroachment over the Castle defences may occur. In light of this, some impact may occur to the immediate outlook of some of these listed cottages. However, the forms of the building and its strong relationship to the landscape will help to mitigate any harm.

B11. Images:

- 7. 112 Kaye Lane, Grade II
- 8. View of Castle Hill from Ashes Lane around 155 Ashes Lane.
- 9. 155 Ashes Lane seen from the West.
- 10. 157-159 Ashes Lane.
- 11. 158 Ashes Lane that stands at the end of Castle Hill Side lane.
- 12. View from Castle Hill Side towards 158 Ashes Lane.
- 13. View from Ashes Lane towards isolated (possibly Lathe houses) of 165 Ashes Lane.



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13.

Heritage Assets Around Hall Bower and Newsome

- B12. Hall Bower is a collection of mainly 18th century cottages that have a direct outlook onto the north of Castle Hill. The long terraces rely upon their rural setting for much of their significance and, despite this having been eroded through later development, the isolated semi agricultural character is important for the appreciation of several Listed buildings.
- B13. The view of Castle Hill will be slightly impacted upon by the proposal, but the proposed building will be much less prominent than the previous public house and the curvature of the hill side will remain, thereby substantially mitigating any harm.

B14. Images:

14. View of Castle Hill from Listed cottages in Hall Bower with number 158 Ashes Lane immediately to the right of Victoria Tower. Note the dominance of the tower asserting the dominance of the Motte. The proposed building will be farther to the left of this scene and reflect the contour of the land as well as being hidden by trees.
15. Cottages of Hall Bower.
16. Non Listed former church in Hall Bower, illustrating the dominance of Castle Hill and Jubilee Tower.



14.



15.



16.

Heritage Assets to the South of Castle Hill

- B15. To the south of Castle Hill are located several listed farmsteads and houses linked with early yeoman farmers. These include some early examples of encased timber frame structures. Many of these buildings rely upon Castle Hill for their setting, however, in terms of visibility at least, there will be very little impact upon the designated assets, due mainly to the steep topography and the impossibility of inter-visibility between the assets in the valley and the top of Castle Hill. Even Victoria Tower is barely visible from some places.
- B16. Longer distance views, from around Farnley Tyas for example, would show the proposed structure being within the visible setting of the assets. However, the contextual and sunken design of the building means a reduction in relation to the impact created by the old Castle Hill Hotel over many years.

B17. Images:

17. Clay Hall Grade II Listed building, Victoria Tower just visible behind the garage.
18. 'Lumb' and associated farm buildings Grade II. Tucked away within the valley.
19. Panoramic image of Castle Hill showing the above two listed buildings in the foreground to the right.



17.



18.



19.

Heritage Assets Around Farnley Tyas

- B18. Farnley Tyas stands high upon the opposite escarpment to Castle Hill to the south. The two main Listed buildings within the village are the Church of St Lucius Grade II and Yew Tree Farm Grade II.
- B19. Castle Hill is obviously an important landmark within the vicinity but any views of the hill itself from the listed buildings are now obscured by other buildings that enclose the village street. As such only select glimpses can be obtained towards Castle Hill. Any impact will therefore be similar to that on other long-distance viewpoints. The new building will likely be capable of being seen only by those specifically seeking views or by those very familiar with the landscape.

B20. Images:

20. View of Castle Hill as glimpsed from Farnley Tyas. This view is only very limited.
21. Church of St Lucius.
22. Barn at Yew Tree Farm.



20.



21.



22.

- B21. As a closing note impact need not inevitably mean harm. Castle Hill, the principal heritage asset within Kirklees, has been poorly served for a considerable time. Widespread lack of awareness and understanding of this nationally significant monument has certainly not helped awareness and understanding of lesser heritage assets within the authority area.
- B22. The beneficial impact that the Castle Hill proposal will have on the monument itself must increase attention and interest on other lesser, but nonetheless perhaps surprisingly abundant, heritage assets that Kirklees contains. This can only enhance the opportunities for cultural tourism in a neglected area, with consequent spin-off benefits for the entire district.

11.0 PUBLIC BENEFITS

- 11.01 Regardless of changes in short term political and economic fortunes, Castle Hill will persist as a monument of national importance and the jewel in Kirklees' heritage crown. The profound and broad-ranging changes Castle Hill has witnessed in its history constitute an unparalleled record for the locality. Given the more than 4,000-year history of the Hill, changes within any individual's lifespan are put into perspective. Such a dense and compendious resource is woefully underserved at the present time. The opportunities to learn from Castle Hill are immense but need decisive intervention to make them available to more people.
- 11.02 A monument of the stature of Castle Hill demands that local people, scholars and visitors be given the option fully to understand and appreciate its history and how that history illuminates the broader story of local life over more than 4,000 years.
- 11.03 Castle Hill is not an exhibit that can be viewed from the comfort of a museum display. Visiting the Hill is a visceral experience, where landscape, history and meteorology come together to provide a memorable encounter. The impact of such an experience can only be amplified with an awareness and understanding of the history of the ground on which the visitor stands.
- 11.04 It must also be acknowledged that access to Castle Hill is presently restricted for various members of the public because of the topography of the site and the complete absence of any of the facilities that are essential for many visitors: shelter, WC provision, the opportunity for refreshment etc.
- 11.05 Castle Hill needs a first-rate exhibition and interpretation facility and the place where that will have greatest benefit is on the Hill itself. However, any harm to the monument (and by extension the listed Tower) must be minimal to avoid reducing the value of the asset.
- 11.06 In terms of a location on Castle Hill for what we shall refer to as a visitor centre, the site of the former Castle Hill Hotel rapidly emerged as the logical one. The official listing document tells us that "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.**”(our emphasis).

11.07 By working as far as possible within the extents of the existing access road, parking areas and site of the former hotel, the avowed aim is to minimise as far as possible any physical harm to the monument. The scheme approved for planning has a smaller footprint and is lower than the old Castle Hill Hotel. The impact on the setting of the monument is covered separately in Section 5 of this document.



fig.11.1 Former infilled basement shown in red, proposed basement shown in green

11.08 What the Heritage Project must contain is determined by the interpretation and educational strategy required and the facilities reasonably expected by visitors to ancient monuments of national standing. It must also be sustainable.

11.09 The economics of the scheme depend on the ability to service the capital cost of the works and run an operating profit that will enable the management of the entire Castle Hill site. Such management includes staffing, supervision, maintenance, renewals, continued development of interpretive programmes and materials amongst other things. A specialist consultant, Bryn Jones Associates Ltd (BJA Ltd), was engaged to explore this aspect of the scheme. As a specialist in developing financially sustainable heritage venues with great experience in its

field, the company examined the context within which the reinvigorated asset would operate (including similar or comparable projects nationwide) before looking at business and financial models.

- 11.10 The full findings of the consultant’s work can be found at Section 12.0 of this document. These have been used to tune elements and details of the scheme (without affecting the planning approval) to the point it is here presented.
- 11.11 BJA Ltd’s work shows that it is not a simple exercise to produce a sustainable project but that it is possible. The almost unique manner in which the scheme has been devised whereby a private operator works together with a local authority to make possible a major advance for Kirklees in difficult times, signals a much-needed commitment to the future of Kirklees.
- 11.12 This possibly unprecedented arrangement in Kirklees to provide a Heritage Project for a heritage asset of national standing has, not surprisingly, generated scepticism in some quarters as to the motives of the private operator, leading to a reluctance to give unqualified support to the scheme. It is here that the work of the specialist consultants Bryn Jones Associates Ltd has proved particularly helpful (see separate reports).
- 11.13 First of all BJA Ltd has demonstrated the obvious benefits of bringing together the management of Castle Hill and the Jubilee Tower. The two heritage assets are – literally – inextricably connected and to create some notional managerial separation between them is most certainly not in the public interest. The financial benefits alone as shown in the business plans make it imperative to explore such an arrangement.
- 11.14 The logic of this amalgamation has been recognised by KMC during discussions but may give even greater concern to those sceptical about the involvement of a private business. Here BJA Ltd’s work has provided a masterstroke: it has put forward the vehicle of a Community Interest Company (CIC) to run the new Visitor Centre, managing both Castle Hill and the Tower as a unified visitor attraction. BJA Ltd explains that a CIC:
- a. “is expected to make a profit, whereas a charity is not for profit. A CIC usually has a mix of income including contracts, trading income and grants and is not dependent on donations and fundraising....

- b. The benefits of being a CIC include being easy and quick to set up; less strictly monitored than charities; can employ Directors and pay them a salary (the Board of Directors are usually the same people as those working/employed by it); and like a charity, a CIC can still access (public sources of) funding.“
- 11.15 By using the vehicle of a CIC to manage the Visitor Centre and from this to manage the whole visitor experience for the unified heritage asset, several potential objections are overcome. As Section 12.0 of the business plan notes, CICs can employ Directors and pay them a salary, and the Board will usually be composed of people working for the enterprise. The most important qualities for the CIC Board is having the right skills mix and experience. The spectre of handing over KMC's principal heritage asset to a private company is extinguished, and all necessary talents, abilities and interests can be combined to monitor, manage, renew and refresh the visitor experience on an ongoing basis. A CIC must specify a community it will benefit (e.g. a geographical area or group of people) making it ideally suited to this project.
- 11.16 Henceforward reference to Castle Hill in terms of management should be understood to include the Tower, and vice versa.
- 11.17 The public benefits of the scheme are not limited to those who will visit the site once work is complete. It will raise the profile of Kirklees locally and nationally; it will signal a confidence within the local authority in the future of the area and confirm the importance placed on the heritage of the area. The scheme could and indeed should act as a catalyst to raise awareness of and interest in the other heritage assets within the authority's area.
- 11.18 Section 11 of the archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation emphasises how public engagement and hence public benefit relating directly to Castle Hill could begin whilst work is on site, with on-site presentations, informal tours, signage, question and answer sessions with an archaeologist etc. subject to securing specific funding. The benefits of the scheme would thus begin to be felt well before the completed scheme is open, with this 'run-up' period enabling higher and further engagement once the project is complete.

- 11.19 Castle Hill is just one of the many heritage assets that Historic England curates for the public. It is however, one of the more important ones and yet this is not presently evident to visitors to the site. The public benefits of this scheme are quantifiable at the local level but could be greatly multiplied across the country and beyond.
- 11.20 A summary of the public benefits of the scheme:
- o Increased awareness of this premier heritage asset and for Kirklees cultural tourism more widely.*
 - o Greater promotion of the heritage asset with improved interpretation and educational materials, managed and reviewed on a regular basis.*
 - o Increased knowledge about and understanding of the asset which should engender a greater sense of value and care in the public.*
 - o Provision of comfort visitor facilities in particular free access to high-quality WC facilities maintained, cleaned and monitored by the management at all times that the building is open. There will be full disability access and it is not necessary to engage with the broader facilities of the centre to use the WCs.*
 - o Shelter for visitors to the Hill during inclement weather both externally and internally; internal spaces are heated.*
 - o Availability of hot and cold refreshments from simple hot and cold beverages to full hot meals.*
 - o Detailed, high-quality educational and interpretation materials across the site, internally and externally, in formats accessible to all, regularly reviewed covering Castle Hill, its history, flora and fauna etc all monitored as part of the ongoing management of the site.*
 - o Opportunities for promotion of the heritage asset both locally and across the region to raise awareness of the monument and the improved visitor facilities available, raising the visitor profile of Kirklees.*

- o *The inclusion of interpretive material mounted external to the building and thus accessible at all times, as well as internally.*
- o *Whilst the entire scheme is to be used to convey information about Castle Hill, a dedicated educational and information suite is included, where a concise history of Castle Hill will be available for all. This will encourage exploration of the site itself to help understand the landforms, how and when they were created, and why.*
- o *Information boards will explain and interpret Castle Hill in situ, meaning visitors can experience the impact of history immediately. Further work will be required to devise details of educational material to be provided but this needs to happen during the development phase of the scheme when schools and outreach programmes can be considered with input from the relevant departments of the local authority.*
- o *The management team is acutely aware of the educational opportunities for schoolchildren that the scheme represents, starting even before completion (see above). Recognition of the importance of school groups is given not only by the dedicated interpretation and educational areas (including the Immersive Experience room, the Interactive Room and the Gallery) but by the fact – in common with other visitors – that there will be free entry for school groups. As a further incentive, organised school groups will be eligible for free refreshments courtesy of the management*
- o *A 24 hr/365 days a year supervisory presence on the Hill. This will include video surveillance (recorded) and a night porter service to discourage antisocial behaviour, theft, vandalism, substance abuse etc. This commitment to security can only enhance the visitor experience, reduce the need for police intervention and provide long-term site integrity.*
- o *Improved access for all and improved parking with designated disability parking spaces. Access road and parking improvements will not impinge on the archaeology of the site.*
- o *Management will be able to make arrangements for group visits as*

- desired and make information on public transport, foot and cycle access routes available throughout the local area.*
 - o *There will be new employment opportunities in both the short and longer terms during both the construction and operational phases. Commitment to creating a sustainable development means that the new employment opportunities will be for the long-term, not merely short part-time positions.*
 - o *Increased economic activity in local businesses and wider supply chains both during development and on completion. The increase in visitor numbers will boost economic growth throughout Kirklees.*
 - o *Publicity for and focus on Castle Hill during development of the works, preparing visitors and generating interest in advance.*
- 11.21 Whilst it has been agreed by key stakeholders that such facilities are greatly needed at Castle Hill, neither Kirklees Council nor any other potential funding body is in a position to fund the building and operation of such a facility.
- 11.22 A ‘minimal’ visitor provision along the lines of a small roadside services would not only be inappropriate at the site of an asset of national standing and Kirklees’ premier heritage attraction, but more pertinently it could not generate the revenue necessary to repay capital outlay and materials to operate the centre in the sustainable manner expected of such a scheme. This is covered in greater detail in Section X, The Business Plan.
- 11.23 The knowledge and experience of the owners and managers of the old Castle Hill Hotel plus investigation of new income streams, has been used to determine the mix of accommodation and facilities necessary to provide a scheme that delivers all the public benefits noted above and which can be operated in a sustainable manner. Consultants BJA Ltd, are specialists in developing financially sustainable visitor attractions.
- 11.24 It is critically important to understand that the business model is unusual because it relies on an integration of commercial with educational/cultural activities throughout the scheme. Although certain spaces are designed primarily for particular uses, they are not exclusively so. Various parts of the building can adapt to different uses depending on requirements. A viewing of the 3D computer

‘flythrough’ that has been prepared is highly recommended, in conjunction with study of the orthographic drawings, to appreciate the full potential of the scheme.

- 11.25 There will be no public/private separation of functions or standard of accommodation; these will be consistently high throughout the scheme. The formation of a Community Enterprise Company (CIC) to manage the building and unified heritage assets ensures there will be the right balance of facilities and activities in the public interest.
- 11.26 The CIC will have flexibility to maximise utilisation and income initially through the framework of the S106 Agreement, which is the formal vehicle forming the constitution of the CIC that will ensure that public benefit facilities are maintained.
- 11.27 The work of BJA Ltd (see Section 12.0) has shown the benefits of bringing the management of the Heritage Centre, Castle Hill, and the Victoria Tower, under single control. It is difficult to see how this could be other than a public benefit, avoiding as it would any confusion for the visiting public and possibly conflicting styles and standards of operation. A single point of contact for the public for all matters concerning Castle Hill.
- 11.28 There is enormous scope for the project to knit together and enhance so many aspects of the social, cultural and artistic life of Kirklees. One simple example being that the gift shop to be incorporated will provide an outlet for local craftspeople and artisans for their work.
- 11.29 Dog walkers, with whom Castle Hill has always been popular, will now be able to extend their stay with a drink, use of a toilet and proper provision for their pets. In bad weather, the respite that can be provided by the interior of the Heritage building and the chance to meet and talk with fellow dogwalkers out of the weather will no doubt become a much-loved feature.
- 11.30 To enumerate all such opportunities is unnecessary and unlikely to encompass the ingenuity of local people. What is clear is this can be the beginning of a vibrant new chapter for Castle Hill and Kirklees.

12.0 MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

- 12.01 Castle Hill is owned by Kirklees Metropolitan Council (KMC). Part of the site is leased under a long-term agreement with the operators of the former Castle Hill Hotel (the Developer). As the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) of national importance, Historic England (HE) as the government's voice on such matters, is critically concerned in all proposals for the site. Lastly, it is a much-loved heritage asset for the public locally and beyond, with numerous interest groups deeply concerned with its welfare.
- 12.02 To ensure that all relevant stakeholders have a voice in the management of the new arrangement where the Hill, the Tower and the Visitor Centre are brought under single superintendence, a Community Interest Company (CIC) structure is proposed. Both the Developer and KMC will be represented on the Board of the CIC. The Company must adhere to strict governing principles and is an ideal vehicle to benefit from KMC's experience in managing public assets. Working together, the CIC and its Board will ensure that Castle Hill is carefully maintained, protected, and enhanced at every stage of its evolution.
- 12.03 Developer and local authority are committed to a strong collaborative partnership to develop a comprehensive management plan for Castle Hill. The CIC Board can then take advantage of other expertise and experience available to them. A full range of talents can thus contribute to joint decision-making in the development, implementation, and oversight of the Castle Hill management plan. Part of the plan is to enable KMC to benefit financially from the project, instead of seeing this asset as a liability on the council's books. As the site continues to mature and thrive, a sustainable future for this cultural jewel is assured.
- 12.04 Our shared goal is to preserve the heritage of this historically significant site and ensure its effective management throughout all phases—before, during, and after new development. The completed works will enable many more people to learn about and enjoy this historic and iconic site in comfort without detracting from those who cherish the wild and rugged landscape. Castle Hill's value as a

viewpoint and recreational resource can only be enhanced by the proposals and make it accessible to a much wider community than has been possible previously.

- 12.05 In C.03 above we mention a sustainable future for Castle Hill. This major heritage asset has been the emblem for the area since the beginning of modern history and long before. The Visitor Centre and associated works, under the management of the CIC as explained above, has been devised with sustainability at the forefront of our thinking.
- 12.06 The unified management of the entire Castle Hill estate, brought together for the first time under the new CIC structure, permits an holistic approach to all facets of the scheme. This includes the development process (getting the new scheme built), the day to day management of the facilities, the preservation and enhancement of the ecology and biodiversity of the site and implementing strategies for the long-term future.
- 12.07 The CIC's community-centred format, whereby reinvestment of revenue is prioritised for maintenance, ecological conservation and enhancements to the visitor experience, is a key element of the scheme.
- 12.08 Prediction of the future is a high-risk enterprise, but the diversity of revenue streams that comprise the economic structure of the new regime, provides the necessary flexibility to ensure a sustainable future for Castle Hill.

13.0 INTERPRETATION STRATEGY

- 13.01 Whilst it is neither possible nor appropriate at this stage to attempt to present a fully detailed interpretation plan for the project, it is possible to make evident the themes and intended outcomes of that interpretation such as to guide further development and detail as partners and stakeholders become engaged. It will also ensure, as funding opportunities are clarified, where emphasis and priorities for interpretation should be placed.
- 13.02 Castle Hill has been intimately connected with the people of Huddersfield and beyond for millennia and much work has been done in the past to interpret the monument to visitors. Today however, key messages about this asset are failing to be conveyed. The Heritage project is an obvious opportunity to revisit and reinvigorate the interpretation strategy.
- 13.03 Our overarching aim for interpretation at Castle Hill is to develop understanding and appreciation of the national importance of the monument, in terms of its archaeological significance, its long and varied history, and its role as both a place and emblem for local people throughout that history.
- 13.04 Some of the factors interpretation should aim to reveal:
- the specialness of the Hill;
 - what makes it so;
 - why it looks the way it does;
 - why it is where it is;
 - the physical experience of being on Castle Hill;
 - what's happened there over the centuries;
 - how it relates to other local heritage assets;
 - where it stands in the national hierarchy of ancient monuments;
 - why it holds such a powerful grip on many local people;
 - why it deserves care and attention at the same time as all the ways in which it can be enjoyed.
- 13.05 There is huge scope to increase the audience. For example:
- those presently unable to attain the top of the hill;
 - those for whom unmediated exposure on Castle Hill may be problematic;
 - people for whom English is not their first language;
 - those for whom physical disabilities militate against enjoyment of the asset;

- those who seek a broader understanding of the context of this strange landform;
- those who wish to spend longer periods on the hill to absorb the experience.

This is by no means an exhaustive list.

- 13.06 Some of the key messages that interpretation needs visitors to understand include:
- That Castle Hill is a natural landform modified by human activity
 - That there has been human activity at Castle Hill for thousands of years
 - How rare an example of this type of monument it is – particularly in the north of England
 - That Castle Hill probably holds many secrets as yet undiscovered
- 13.07 The interpretation should help people understand the intangible ‘specialness’ of the place and go some way to explain the many reasons for this. From the amazing views of the surrounding landscapes that are available, to the reasons why buildings, including the Victoria Tower, have been erected – and destroyed – on Castle Hill over the centuries.
- 13.08 The interpretation will benefit from the full range of authorities available to contribute, from historians and archaeologists all the way through to local people for whom the site has more emotional resonances.
- 13.09 So wide is the audience that an equally wide range of interpretation materials and techniques will be appropriate, subject as always to financial constraints. The Heritage Project would permit an in-situ video exhibition for the first time, capable of conveying a lot of information in a short time and capable also of pointing visitors to other sources of information, such as that available at Tolson Park.
- 13.10 Standard media such as signboards and printed guides will of course be essential. Wherever possible existing signboard locations will be used to avoid unnecessary damage to below ground assets.
- 13.11 A critically important feature should be an immersive timeline experience to convey the long lifetime of Castle Hill and the different activities it has hosted from its origins and early history through Iron Age, Roman, Middle Ages, Victorian and so on. It is essential that the scheme development and business plan enable free access for all to this exhilarating educational resource.

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- 13.12 There is also scope for activities such as guided walks, dramatic re-enactments (perhaps involving the beacon!), guest lectures etc. Much of this will depend upon volunteers coming forward, and the willingness of drama, outdoor experience and similar organisations to become involved. The scope, because of the scale and dramatic setting of Castle Hill, is almost boundless.
- 13.13 The visitor experience will be transformed from what it is at present (see Section 16.1 of the Business Plan). Visitors will feel like they have arrived at a very special place, which is valued and cherished by authorities, agencies and ordinary local people alike.
- 13.14 Welcome and directional signage will orientate from the off. The managed and monitored feel of the site with discreet lighting, dedicated disabled parking areas, better litter bin provision and so on will contrast greatly with the rather sad quality at present. The new Heritage building itself, where visitors can pick up information leaflets, watch explanatory media, obtain tickets for the Tower and prepare for their exploration of the site in comfort, will transform the visitor experience.
- 13.15 No longer a remote, unsupervised, slightly scary place where antisocial activity may be encountered, visitors will now experience the myriad opportunities Castle Hill offers for recreation and education (which are not mutually exclusive!) and realise that this is an asset which will repay repeated visits. Exit notices will encourage precisely that.
- 13.16 We should not attempt to build interpretation Rome in a day. The early years of the new Castle Hill Heritage Centre and visitor experience will generate feedback on the initial offering that must be used to develop and modify the interpretation materials and techniques. This must form part of the management function of the Centre, relating as always to the finance that can be made available to continue this work.
- 13.17 Through the course of scheme development, the interpretation, education and presentation spaces included in the scheme have evolved and developed, requiring adjustments to other parts of the building. Reference to earlier iterations of the floor plans as compared with those of the present application scheme make this abundantly clear. Viewing of the computer generated interactive 3D virtual tour of the building makes the extent and quality of provision comprehensible for those unused to reading orthographic drawings or single point static 3D images.

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- 13.18 Within this mixture of spaces, visitors will be able to access static and projected information and displays using the long – and continuing – history of Castle Hill to gain an understanding of the geographical, archaeological, social and cultural importance of the site. In purely historical terms it will set out a timeline starting with the origins and early history through the Iron Age period, Roman influences, the mediaeval period, post-Conquest influences, buildings, earthworks etc, all of which can be related, through drone imagery, to the physical environment outside the door.
- 13.19 The timeline will emphasise the long history of the Hill: the periods of activity and inactivity; the physical changes brought about; how social and cultural events have affected the site: the erection of a beacon; the genesis of the Tower.
- 13.20 Archaeological information will link to Hill material at Tolson Museum and beyond and there is scope for activities such as workshops and talks, school group activities and guided walking trails.
- 13.21 All this will be available free of charge to all, with entry available whenever the building is open to the public.
- 13.22 The support and input of the Council's key departments and experts will ensure that an informed, immersive and exciting experience awaits each and every visitor regardless of age, level of knowledge, interest, background or place of residence.

14.0 SUMMARY

- 14.01 When compiling a Scheduled Monument Consent application Historic England asks applicants for a ***“clearly expressed and non-technical narrative argument that sets out ‘what matters and why’ in terms of the heritage significance and setting of the assets affected, together with the effects of the development upon them.”*** All other material, in terms of detailed studies and reports should be supportive of and subservient to this clear non-technical narrative. We hope such a clear narrative thread runs throughout this application. This brief summary aims to distil the essence of the argument.
- 14.02 Castle Hill is an example of a rare category of ancient monument of national significance, and which is arguably unique with regard to its history, location and condition. It is without doubt the premier heritage asset within the Kirklees Metropolitan Council area.
- 14.03 For some time Castle Hill has lacked the facilities necessary to ensure that local residents and visitors from further afield can understand and appreciate the importance and significance of the asset. The prominence of the hill within the topography, amplified by the listed Jubilee Tower that sits atop the landform, means that it can be viewed over a very wide area from virtually all directions. This visual prominence alone evokes intrigue and makes it a magnet for visitors.
- 14.04 Unfortunately, on reaching Castle Hill, the casual visitor is presented with little in the way of information or interpretive material to make clear the long and complex history of the site or its importance either regionally or nationally.
- 14.05 Furthermore, the prominence of the asset also means that it is very exposed to the elements, and weather conditions on the hill are often less than clement. The absence of any form of shelter or comfort facilities discourages all but the most determined and physically capable of visitors from remaining on site for more than a brief period at many times of the year.

- 14.06 Today anyone making the effort to visit the top of Castle Hill, having been drawn by long-range sightings but with little or no further knowledge about the asset, will be greeted by some magnificent views, a rather enigmatic tower (unless they coincide with its limited opening times) and a broad area of poorly surfaced car park. They may enjoy wandering across the undulations and following the footpaths cut into the vegetation whilst taking in the views but if without a dog, a kite or information from off-site they will soon exhaust what Castle Hill now has to offer.
- 14.07 For many years a hostelry, the Castle Hill Hotel, stood atop this important monument. It provided accommodation, shelter, refreshment and publicly accessible toilets. It is not difficult to understand why it was popular and well-used.
- 14.08 Since the demise of the hotel, Castle Hill has gained something of a reputation as a focus for antisocial behaviour, with its remoteness and only intermittent supervision attracting some visitors with little interest in ancient monuments.
- 14.09 The owners of the former Hotel retain a lease over that part of the Hill which the hotel once occupied. The lease was granted by Kirklees Council which owns all the land.
- 14.10 There is widespread belief that Castle Hill warrants visitor facilities that can combine simple comforts such as refreshment and toilets, with comprehensive and engaging interpretative and educational resources. Obviously, any such development would have to balance and outweigh any potential harm to the heritage asset.
- 14.11 The local authority has no budget to provide the sort of facility envisioned above. However, the lessees of the leased land (and owners of the former hotel) expressed a willingness to consider funding a new development, on the site of the former hotel, that would combine interpretive and educational functions appropriate to the jewel in Kirklees’ heritage crown, with the typical range of catering and comfort facilities expected by visitors to premier league heritage destinations nowadays.

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- 14.12 It was axiomatic that such a project would demand close cooperation between lessor and lessee, as well as advice and approval from Historic England, acting on behalf of the Secretary of State, for the Scheduled Monument Consent required for the scheme to proceed..
- 14.13 Thus began a process to explore what such a scheme would involve, how it might operate, where it might be sited and what it might look like. It rapidly became clear that although the scheme would represent a groundbreaking collaboration between a commercial operator and a local authority to provide heritage visitor facilities, there should be a seamless integration of all aspects of any development be they educational, interpretive or those meeting the need for shelter, sustenance and comfort. Only in this way could the flexibility needed by management to adapt and tune the building and surrounds be achieved to meet both educational and interpretive goals as well as, critically, ensuring that a sustainable business could be operated that would guarantee long-term security.
- 14.14 After several years of painstaking work a scheme was conceived that it was believed met most of the requirements and crucially this was granted conditional Planning Approval in 2018 (ref.2018/93591)
- 14.15 Since then the scheme has been evolved in detail in parallel with a business plan developed by one of the foremost heritage and museum consultants that enables a secure financial future for the project. However, the necessary return on investment has to be made without harmful impact on the heritage assets and with clear, comprehensive educational and interpretive content that meets Kirklees' needs.
- 14.16 Work has brought the applicant to the point where an application for Scheduled Monument Consent can be formally submitted. A timetable was set by the conditional planning approval requiring a start on site by February 2025. Without SMC this cannot be achieved notwithstanding completion and agreement of all other legislative requirements. This application is therefore the critical step in achieving the long-term future demanded by this most enigmatic and symbolic feature of Kirklees.



fig.14.1 Proposed external visuals



fig.14.2 Proposed visitor's main entrance



fig.14.3 Reception and retail space



fig.14.5 Restaurant level external view



fig.14.4 Interactive and immersive sensory room



fig.14.6 Internal viewing of Jubilee tower from interpretation space



fig.14.7 Internal views of bar and restaurant



15.0 APPENDIX A

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.

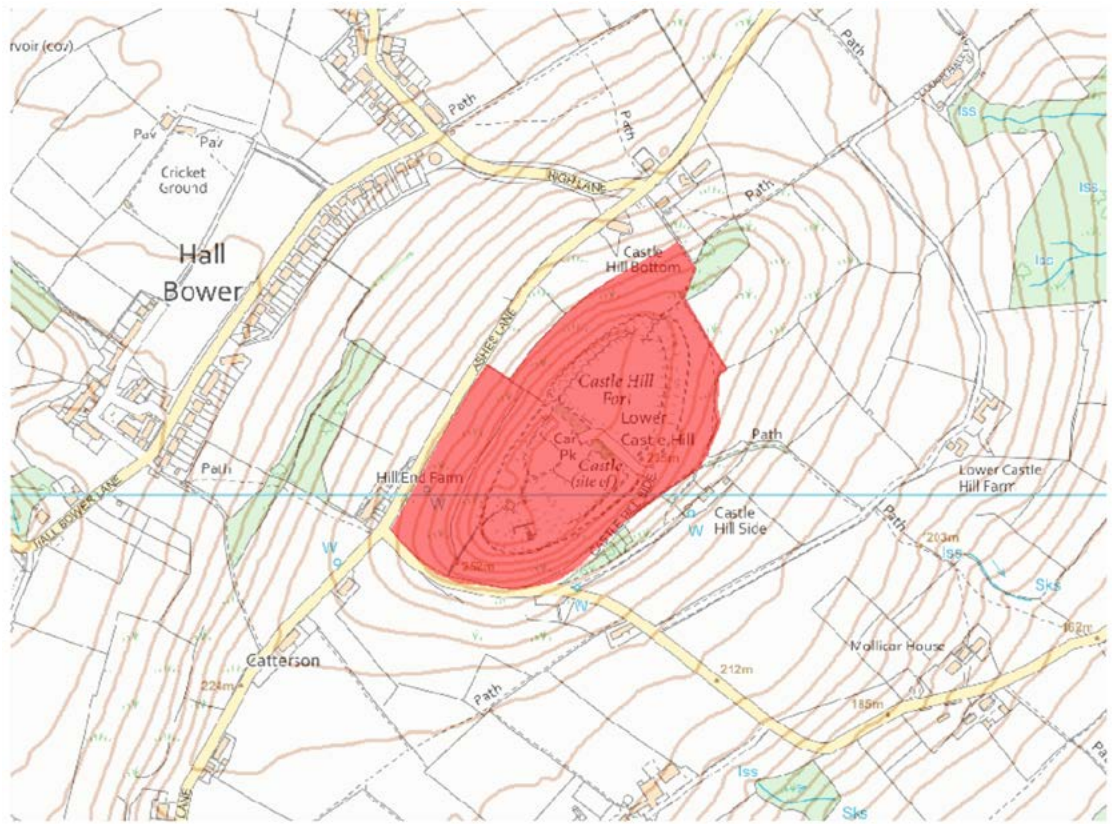
Details

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 cellarge, is included.

The site of the monument is shown here.



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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15.0 APPENDIX B

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