About the application

Application number: 2024/93494	
What is the application for?:	Erection of restaurant/café/bar, six guest rooms, exhibition/interpretation room
Address of the site or building:	Victoria Tower, Castle Hill, Lumb Lane, Almondbury, Huddersfield, HD4 6TA
Postcode:	

User comments

Type of comment: An objection	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	Yes

I am writing to formally object to the proposed planning application for the construction of a cafe on Castle Hill, Kirklees. I believe this development will have a significantly detrimental impact on this historic and environmentally sensitive site, for the following reasons:

Lack of Regard for Conservation: Previous building work undertaken at Castle Hill demonstrates a clear lack of respect for the conservation of both built heritage and the natural environment. This raises serious concerns about the applicants' ability and commitment to protect the site during and after construction of the proposed cafe.

Inappropriate Design: The proposed modern design of the cafe is completely incongruous with the historic character of Castle Hill. Such a building will be visually intrusive and will detract from the historical significance and aesthetic appeal of the site. It fails to respect the existing landscape and the historical context.

Environmental Damage from Construction: The use of heavy excavation equipment will inevitably cause damage to the land, leading to soil erosion and instability on the hillside. This will have long-term consequences for the landscape and potentially impact the stability of the historic monument itself.

Increased Traffic and Reduced Pedestrian Access: The construction of a cafe is likely to significantly increase vehicular traffic accessing Castle Hill. This will not only exacerbate existing parking issues but also potentially discourage people from walking to the site, undermining its current appeal as a destination for walkers and nature enthusiasts. The increased traffic will also contribute to congestion in the surrounding area.

Detrimental Impact on Landscape and Green Belt: The proposed building will irrevocably alter the landscape, negatively impacting views from all angles. This development represents an encroachment into the green belt and will be detrimental to the protection of the local environment, including wildlife habitats and open spaces.
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Noise, Litter, and Pollution: The introduction of a cafe will inevitably lead to increased noise pollution, litter, and carbon emissions due to increased traffic. This will disrupt the peaceful atmosphere of Castle Hill, which is currently valued as a tranquil countryside location where nature thrives.

Environmental Pollution and Erosion: The increased vehicle traffic, including service and emergency vehicles, will contribute to air and land pollution. Run-off from the site and increased erosion caused by vehicles will further degrade the environment.

Safety Concerns: Increased traffic will likely lead to more traffic accidents, making the hill less safe for all users, particularly vulnerable individuals such as children and the elderly. The character of the hill as a safe and accessible space for families will be compromised.

Impact on Wildlife: The construction and operation of the cafe, along with increased visitor numbers, will inevitably disturb existing wildlife habitats and negatively impact the biodiversity of the area.

For all of the above reasons, I strongly urge Kirklees Council to refuse planning permission for this inappropriate and damaging development on Castle Hill. This site deserves protection for its historical significance, environmental value, and the enjoyment of the local community.