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 strongly object to the planning application for a number of reasons:
Castle Hill is iconic, special and rare and the latest submission would have a hugely detrimental impact on the site; it is recognised as an iron age hillfort and is protected through designation as a scheduled monument.
The proposals are an inappropriate in the Green Belt that surrounds the location.
The development is vastly commercial, a mere 10% of space allocated for the 'visitor centre'
Due to the environmentally sensitive area of the site an Environmental Impact Assessment should be submitted.
Historic England states that changes to the environment must be considered - noise, light pollution, urbanization, access etc, along with physical changes to the asset; many of these considerations have been ignored.
The absence of an archaeological impact assessment is a major cause for concern.
The proposed building requires a large yard, staff parking, waste bins, lighting, CCTV, charging points and an ugly, oppressive 8 foot high security fencing/gates all of which will have a very negative impact on the natural beauty of the site.
The relatively recently installed barrier (ensuring closure overnight to vehicular traffic) has proved to be highly successful in deterring anti social behaviour at the site after dark - drug dealing, fly tipping, wild fires, lewd behaviour; with free access that the proposal affords this will undoubtably return.
Vehicular access will be highly problematic both during the build and after - a large increase in volume and type (lorry, goods wagons, refuse trucks + visitor traffic) - how can this be safely achieved without further eroding the fabric of the site?
'Underpass supporting the Public Right of Way' - this statement is not explained or shown on any plans and is therefore another huge red flag.
The site is a designated Local Nature Reserve; it is clear that the proposals will disrupt an important habitat, along with our beautiful badgers, foxes, deer and hare that make their home on and around Castle Hill, Linnets, Yellowhammers and Short-Eared Owl are notable as being mentioned in survey work undertaken by Atkins and the Ranger.
A visitors centre could quite easily, and more appropriately be housed at the Victoria Tower.
In view of this, I respectfully urge the committee to REFUSE this planning application.