Address: 150 Wakefield Road Huddersfield HD8 0LX

About the application

Application number: 2024/62/93494/W	
What is the application for?:	(amended plans) Erection of restaurant/café/bar, six guest rooms, exhibition/int
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?	No

This should be now my 4th or 5th representation of objection material.

This is based on "Environment Culture and Heritage"

please find the pdf representation here, my evidence ad opinion.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JtW250atqSzSzCqSQ1UVf7CMy36mdTxBNGNwv6IJLcY/edi
usp=sharing

I still affirm and uphold my previous representation's for interest in future ownership of the site witho
any building or development. So i hope it is correctly submitted

I will try to find a lawyer to check it before the closing date of the time to object period ends. Thank You and I hope that there are also some strong objections from other people as well. And i hope you find the representation interesting.

Thanks.

Castle Hill Univallate defended Settlement in Kirklees Park Schedule Monument Entry Number 1005806

ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

Representation opposing Kirklees Council 2024/62/93494/W

The site was First listed 10 December 1936 and was excavated 1939, 1946–47, 1969–70 and 1972. The first public house on Castle Hill in Huddersfield was built around 1810-1812. It was initially a small alehouse that later obtained a beerhouse license. This original pub was eventually replaced by a larger hotel and pub in the 1850s, which was then called the Castle Hill Hotel. It has had other uses including a Medieval village. Following the Norman Conquest, the De Lacy family built a motte and bailey castle on the hill and extensively re-dug the earthwork fortifications It is mentioned in a charter of King Stephen to Henry de Laci of about 1142 to 1154 which is approximately 76 years after the conquest. The Prehistoric site is said to have been burned or suffered fire damage around 150 BC

This site has seen a lot of action through the ages. It has therefore suffered an immensely unjustified amount of damage to it, from various assaults and take-over by forces and various peoples. But it always has been primarily a Prehistoric settlement and therefore its value as this is not only the most “Ancient” but priceless value to it. Therefore it is unfair for it to continue to be subjected to further ongoing damages, and building work. On whimsical business enterprises, that mainly seem profit and personal gain, and any archaeological enterprise should not itself damage or be incorporated onto the site. It is there to be observed and enjoyed for what it is and its surroundings. Not as a means to business..

We therefore on a historical basis totally object to any exhibition centre or cafe being built on the site. The site itself is the Exhibit. And its presence, form, shape and symbolism surroundings. That requires protection. Not any more massacre or disturbances.

Video approach drone flight up the valley towards Farnley Tyas side of the site from Fenay Bridge

https://drive.google.com/file/d/14dT8dBKl1lk0WP3bskkGLxG0vi31JvNL/view?usp=drive_link

We also want to express concerns about how the previous planning "incidents" breach of the past applications for this site came about. We know that Kirklees council has had a “Blueprint” that it heavily has been promoting and if the Hillfort “cafe” or exhibition centre was partly the will of the Council and not entirely down to the conduct of the “Thandi Partnership” we are suspicious of the true communications and notions that have been in the background the whole time through the ordeal.

Was it really the Thandis plan? Or was it partly to blame for Kirklees council's role to want to match the “development” of the town centre blueprint and therefore was the scandal not entirely the Thandis fault?

This is my painting from the 2022 Holmfirth art week entry. “Vale of the Briogantes” where I highlight and demonstrate that the ancient people of this area understood the relationship and distances, positions and layout of the whole

vale, valleys, rivers and that the positions of their homeland was very symbolic and had deep meaning.

There are no other major Hillforts in the Middle area of England, unlike the South and Scotland where there are many and many in close proximity. Therefore in terms of Prehistoric and later Iron age hillforts, it occupies a very secret and special quiet location in itself with a very charming natural surrounding, yet it is in respect to the other coastal and far reaches of the island very central therefore travel to the other ancient sites is convenient as a base. Or would have been.

The people who were very in touch with their environment and with the animals and plants, also would have placed great importance on the unique biodiversity created at the edge of a Pennine ridge particularly as the "beginning" of the natural cycle of formation of rivers and waterways, the primitive routes of trade and travel by water.
Which I hope my painting teaches people about the layout of the landscape and general positions which suggest that there was some "formation" and meaning here and alignments and watch points on hills and ridges, like Meltham Chap and Dalton hill/mound have very intended line of sight directly between each other. And being on these sites and experiencing these alignments also has meaning. And interpretation. Which we could write a separate report on.

Alignments The view of Castle Hill from Meltham Chap has a very present impression of two vessels or ships... sailing in formation, one behind the other headed in the same direction.. As if two ships at sea . You need to be on the site at Meltham to appreciate this. These observations and meanings in symbology are lost with modern culture and distractions, and it is a shame because we pay a lot less attention to our surroundings now and the form of our holme valley and homeland.

One of the main disappointments with West Yorkshire and this "Area" is that other than more modern Characters such as "Compo" from the Last of the Summer Wine BBC series who is famous for the "Holmfirth" area Colne valley and even Holme Valley, is that we do not really other than a vague and less prominent connection to the "Robin Hood" legends, have any actual prehistoric or Medieval Mythology associated with, or recognised with the area.

What I find with the people who enjoy and travel to Wiltshire, the Cotswolds and Scotland, is that their ancient sites have a very prominent involvement with Mythological characters, and it is part of the appeal of the ancient heritage there ... whether it is Arthur and Merlin, or Scottish Clansmen or Dragons or other fictional characters, as the Welsh people

celebrate. There are not any “fantasy” or “Myths” that seem to me.. From growing up around the site and going to it.. And listening to and having conversations .. There is no veneer of “Magic” or “imagination” that has brought people here. And that people dwell on thinking about and writing books or making stories about. At least not in the same way that it is the case with Glastonbury Tor or Avebury Circle for example.
And really therefore, i think it might be a reason why when people go to the site at Castle Hill, they seem to be drawn to other distractions or entertainment, such as Fish n chips, coffee, ice creams, pies, sausage rolls.. Or the “need” to want an exhibition centre” on the site to find something “more” of interest.. Rather than just purely to enjoy being on the site itself or the surroundings. And that, I think is possibly why people might be searching for these other distractions or indulgences... because actually the locals get bored with the site after going there so many times and they don't have something to “think” about and fantasy mental imagination element.. To add to it.. Which i think with the South of England.. Merlin and the Druids.. It brings an entire mental world to superimpose over their landscapes and ancient sites... And I think that is one of the drawbacks with our site.

I also don't think the name “Castle Hill” is very imaginative and it seems to be suggesting “castles” or buildings. Therefore is in fact an influence of how people see and talk about the site. Rather than if it was referred to as “Farnley Tyas” it is a much more imaginative name.. That is more favorable to the type of names that J. R. R. Tolkien invented and imagines in the 1930s with his words such as “Rivendell” and “Isengard” and laketown. Characters like “Galadriel” I think that when people think of “Farnley Tyas” it is much more inspiring and ancient sounding and Celtic or Prehistoric sounding to invoking the imagination than “Castle Hill”. Unless you are thinking of Castles like “York City Walls”. But the Victoria tower is not very classical, unless you have more of a Normal Medieval idea of the site.

Just on an Ideological basis, And talking about the area and its surroundings now.. In respect of potential tourism, In my painting i draw attention to the Dalton mound and alignments and past celebrations of bonfires on there before 1954 make the site very possible as being part of a complex of sites that were connected to the formation and ancient local culture.

I have said that, i do not think it is co-incidence that the ancient river maps give evidence that it might have been surrounded by water or a flood plain river. And due to its exact size being near identical in size and shape to “Liberty Island" in New York, It is clear that the Dalton site had a major symbolic or real usage to the same people who created Castle Hill prehistoric site. And it needs to be recognised.

And although that is a real fact, and there is still a lot unknown.. After I had made the general assessment of the position of the sites and their form and how the ancestors saw them in their landscape... I can not but help to think of the Dalton mound when I think of the title of the fictional movie “Jewel of the Nile”.

There was no such exact term in the Bible, but it was the “LIFE” of the river the water that brought the magic with it “life giving water”

The "Jewel of the Nile" in the context of the Bible refers to the Nile River, which is a symbol of life, sustenance, and judgment in the biblical narrative. It is central to the stories of Egypt, particularly in the book of Exodus, where it is associated with both the plagues and the Israelites' deliverance. While the term "Jewel of the Nile" is not explicitly used in the Bible, the Nile itself is described as a source of life for Egypt and a symbol of God's power.
Here's a more detailed explanation:

Symbolism:
The Nile is depicted as a vital life source for Egypt, with its annual flooding depositing fertile silt that sustains agriculture. However, the river is also associated with judgment, as seen in the plagues, where its waters turn to blood, symbolizing God's power over Egypt.

I wanted to mention this, because although these are movies and have nothing to do with our area, it is something that I have often been thinking about since I discovered that the Dalton site is significant to Castle Hill. And it could very much have had an “symbolic” importance. To our Ancestors even if they did not live on top of it.

Elmet in fact is one of the proper names for our area. And was being used when the Council headquarters was based in Wakefield still.. I think that our ancient site and area took a very major setback when it became “Kirklees” because the name “Elmet” is more in its speaking and terminology evocative of “Helmets” and the Romans and or ancient Celts... just by its sound and being heard mentioned more.

You might not see any connection between “Elm Tree” and “Helmet” Helm and Elm.
But if I were to mention the place name in Essex “*Brain Tree*” then you might think of a further association to the Elm and Helm when the tree is seen as a brain stem form. A natural biological occurrence in most mammals. And therefore the “growth” you might symbolically see on the more well known plume of the Roman soldiers helmet.

I did find some notable names and historic people from our area, but generally these are not really anything that people discuss or show any interest in. In our area.

Cartimandua or **Cartismandua** (reigned c. AD 43 – c. 69) was a 1st-century queen of the Brigantes, a Celtic people living in what is now northern England. She is known through the writings of Roman historian Tacitus. Venutius, Caratacus (Colchester)

Prior to the Anglo-Saxon conquest, the area of West Yorkshire, including Kirkburton, was part of the British Celtic kingdom of Elmet. Elmet was a distinct political entity, likely centered around Loidis (Leeds), that existed after the Roman withdrawal and before being absorbed by the Kingdom of Northumbria in 617 AD. The name Elmet is thought to derive from the Latin for "elm forest".

- **Prominent Individuals:**
  Several individuals held significant landholdings before the Conquest, including:
  - **Ailric[h] FitzRichard:** Held land in Cawthorne, Penistone, Flockton, and other areas.
  -
  - **Arnbjorn:** Held land in Crofton, Lepton, Darton, and other places.
  -
  - **Asulfr:** Held land in High Hoyland.
  -
  - **Cola:** Held land in Honley and Meltham.
  -
  - **Dolgfinnrin:** Held land in Bradley.
  -
  - **Dunstan:** Held land in Morley.
  -
  - **Earl Harold Godwinsone:** Held land in Conisbrough.
  -
  - **Earnwine:** Held land in Snydale.
  -
  - **Gamall (Gamel):** Held land in Thornhill, Flockton, Quarmby, and other areas. This Gamall is a key figure as his descendants include the Eland family of Elland, and the families of Thormhill, Everingham, Birkin and Midgley.

So, I just dont think that a few exhibits in an exhibition centre is going to be evocative of enhancing the imagination of the site, going by what has already been in the museum and in respect of the plans for the size and scope of the building. I think that the development proposal will in fact spoil the site, further damage it and distract from the surroundings and environment and again I will reiterate that the Hill itself IS the exhibit.
I therefore do not think that the proposed development by Thandi or their vision as it is, will bring any benefit or much tourism enhancement to the site or area .. other than some musings and refreshments. It is not going

to generate the magnitude of interest or inspiration for our site that is needed, by passing the proposed development.
Here's a more detailed breakdown:

- **Elmet's Existence:**
  Elmet is recognized as a kingdom in historical texts, notably by Bede, and is associated with the period after Roman rule and before the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms became dominant.
- **Geographic Location:**
  It's believed to have been centered around Loidis (Leeds), but also included areas like Slack near Huddersfield.
- **Celtic Origins:**
  The kingdom's people were likely descendants of the Corieltauvi/Coritani tribe, who inhabited the area before the Roman conquest.
- **End of Elmet:**
  The Kingdom of Elmet was annexed by King Edwin of Northumbria in 617 AD,

Even if there was a exhibition centre a small one on the Hillfort, and even if we did manage to get exhibits like this in.... (which were not found at the site) but for example to invoke inspiration of the Prehistoric, Iron age or Celtic peoples

These Celtic Torcs ranging from the Bronze age to the Iron age for example, none has been actually found together with its owner, but they clearly are holding an “importance” to the shape and form of the psilocybe semilanceata mushroom.. They would not feature on such a valuable and prestigious work of artisans for Tribal Chiefs and or Religious leaders if it was not important enough to be made from Gold.

So there IS evidence here, very strong evidence of Religious value and importance

And our area is known to be very very very rich in the habitat of these species as well as Amanita Muscaria in the Pone forests on the edge of the Pennines.. And because there was such an importance of these objects in the ancient religions, It is very factual to say that therefore their usage and value was “Significant” or “very significant” and therefore you might ask where did they get them from? Somewhere that had them in abundance. And that is why I believe that our area could have had an important role in “supply” and habitat environment for these religious sacraments IF¬ they did have such an importance as the Torcs design suggests.

Further Examples

If these “resources” had a very prominent value symbolically ... It does not mean that merely having a local exhibit with items such as these would bring any more benefit to the site here or tourism because they can go and see these

anyway at the National Museum. The Question is WHY were they important? To the ancient leaders, religion? If the evidence suggests this importance?

In order to answer this I want to include some statements from Professor David Nutt.

Professor David Nutt is a leading doctor, psychiatrist, psychopharmacologist, researcher, author and communicator. He is very well recognised in professional science. So his evidence is not "doubtful"

EVIDENCE
https://youtu.be/tYnmAbP7sIk

https://youtu.be/fqRz4TSjPL0

https://youtu.be/SHIMB-P9SOE

https://youtu.be/NAdhj7dd3i4
So, the evidence from this British Professor is that these sacraments have absolutely a part to play and a role in the "development" of the human mind. Its evolution and the diversity of the imagination. And if it is the case, then our area being a rich environmental resource in this asset would have been considerable and important IF we recognise the "importance" that placed on these resources by them being featured and symbolic of some of the most important and valuable objects that are associated with those cultures. The "Torc".

The only current issue, which the professor noted was that they are currently "illegal" and therefore if there ever was a religion or practice in our history that was of such importance... Nobody is officially allowed to practice it now. So we cannot learn about it, outside of the science laboratory.

Therefore we have an legal obstruction from being able to properly "appreciate" understand or learn about our heritage here or be it all around the UK in relation to any past religion. Effectively the religion is illegal.

But... what we can do... is that we can still appreciate the environment and nature here and around us for the other wildlife and plants and do it naturally or as natural as possible. Which is why I drew attention in the previous objections and representations .. to channels like this

Danni in the Wild, that present more healthier and community friendly ideas and projects that can fit in with ancient site conservation and do not damage or spoil the heritage to any extent that "Building" and construction does.

Danni in the Wild - YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/@danniinthewild

Even at Hadrian's Wall near Hexham, there was vandalism and destruction to just 1 tree, a Sycamore Tree. And the public outrage was immense around the whole country.

Damages to the public interest Hadrian's Wall Sycamore Tree case

https://youtu.be/UB9sViJsW60?si=lG5J2u31MRJhwD7i

Therefore we need to hold our ancient hillfort and its surroundings with as much if not more value and respect than what happened at Hadrians wall to the one tree. And i think that ideas with conservation and nature therefore a vision as presented with this channel here, is a much healthier and conservational ideology than just a cafe and exhibition centre building on the site, when it is the site itself that is the exhibit.

Another thing that I want to mention in relation to objecting against the proposed Thandi development. ... and it is this.... The Thandi Partnership had a vision. That vision was partly business and profit orientated, but they justify it with the basis that they will provide Refreshments" and "exhibition facilities".

That there is somehow little to no value in a "All natural" or bare minimum ancient site with nothing there. And that only a building, requiring planning consent and construction, on a protected site is the solution to the future of the site.

Well, I would like to say this, on that point. Many many people pay a lot of money to go to the cinema. And watch "movies". These movies are known to show peoples dreams and fantasy.. But also very very nice and prestigious places that people really want to go to, really want to visit and even will travel, fly very very long distances to get there... even across the planet. By plane or boat. And I want to give evidence and make the point, that in fact... some of these "experiences" and some of these scenes and "dream" places.... Like for example in this 007 movie... people seem to want this, dream of it. Travel very far for it.

But a lot of these scenes and places are very simple and bare minimum. Like this scene on the beach where someone is cooking.... These are meant to be the "exotic" and "wishfull" places that people want to go to if they do win the lottery of have a successful business.

Video: scene James Bond 007

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oT3-5fVCiESba4Bo3vPEtsYUjpqSXBUL/view?usp=sharing

The fact is that, You do not need a permanent exhibition centre, cafe building or hotel, to create very very magical places that in fact are very very simple. Maybe thandi might scoff at the example image of the beach... but the truth is.. People travel the world to experience that simplicity. So... in terms or creating a very authentic experience even if very basic and not having to use construction development that harms a protected prehistoric site... It just is fact that people actually can very much enjoy and create fantastic memory and experience for a very simple and basic feature that does not cost lots of money and in fact can be very very beautiful and people appreciate it and enjoy it.

We are not short of restaurants. The Cinnamon Lounge at Flockton Paul Lane had a drive of turning a country pub into a restaurant. It did not last that long because people just did not travel there.

Paul Lane Cinnamon Lounge

And they ended up closing down and moving to Middlestown instead Where it is much less countryside location but they just have more customers where there are more people.

If pubs and restaurants generally are struggling now, and closing down , maybe there is just less demand. And I think that “Using a listed scheduled monument” prehistoric site... as a pitch and reason that might pull in more customers just because of the novelty of being on the hillfort... I think that it is a unfair excuse to usage of the protected monument to find ways to attempt to avoid the decline in demand for business, when people cannot afford to eat out as much, or buy food or travel due to the cost of living crisis.

A Prehistoric hillfort should not be there to protect restaurants and cafes from going out of business. As a “novelty” even if they have a true interest in the history and culture and heritage.

SCIENTIFIC and FACTUAL evidence

In addition to the Ideas, feelings and opinions expressed in this representation, we need to also look at FACTS.

There was once a Statement issued from Kirklees council and the Thandi Development that a “cafe/exhibition centre” could be an “archaeological base” I find this idea preposterous .. If the site was in Snowdonia, or Windermere, or Alston moor or even in the Highlands I could entertain the idea of a research base. But when the castle hill site is literally 5 Minutes walk in any direction and 1 to 2 minutes drive from “Civilisation” and at least 3 village centres, the Need for a base is absolutely ridiculous. In fact building ON the site in any form or way will HINDER archaeology. Varleys investigations I believe were very insufficient.

If you look at these Modern technology findings at Maiden Castle Hillfort in Dorchester... Here:

https://archaeology.co.uk/articles/features/iron-age-interior-design.htm and here: https://heritageportal.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/api/LibraryLinkWebServiceProxy/FetchResource/47979/full_47979.pdf

The magnetometry reveals all of the positions of actual roundhouses!!! There are actually where our ancestors lived!! Their real houses!!

Here is another site also that had magnetometry, if you look close or zoom in, you can see all of the roundhouses traces where they were!

There are many other methods that can be used, like "Remote Sensing:

Purpose:

Detects subsurface features and patterns from a distance, often before or during excavation.

Methods:

Aerial and UAV imaging: Uses cameras and sensors on airplanes, drones (UAVs), and satellites to capture images of the landscape.

Multispectral and Hyperspectral sensors: Analyze different wavelengths of light to identify subtle variations in the landscape related to buried features.

Thermal Infrared Multispectral Scanner (TIMS): Detects variations in surface temperature that can indicate buried structures or features.

Laser altimeters (LiDAR): Measures distances to the ground surface using laser pulses, creating detailed topographic maps.

Ground-based methods: Ground-penetrating radar (GPR) and magnetometry are used to map subsurface features."

But this technology is still being developed.

If Castle Hill, Huddersfield has another permanent building placed there, it is going to cover up an area of the scheduled monument.

I think that it realistically is still possible with science and technology to identify traces of where real actual roundhouses might have been positioned on Castle Hill. And those findings would be priceless and it would be absolutely historical to find these and as it is still possible, any chance that there is, should be given patience.

I really want to learn and find where these might have been positioned and the layout. I think it is important. I think it is the most valuable and potentially rewarding discovery that can be made at our ancient site.

Therefore on that basis, we can not accept the Thandi development to be approved by the Council.

We need to put the priority on the condition of the site and its future. As a site for the sake of the site. Itself. And not for the sake of profit or business.

Therefore this is my evidence and briefing of Environment, Culture and Heritage. And If i had more time I would write more. But I strongly object to the development of the application and I want to own the site in the future and that it is a more wider vision something that really is a Jewel in the Nile, even if it is the River Calder or Holme. And even if it rains here and is not as warm as Egypt. The weather did not bother our ancestors here.

We need to really have a much better effort and vision than a cafe , exhibition centre on the site itself, Its just lazy to want to eat on there when it is so very close to civilization and not in any way in the Peak District or in the Lakes where there are not residents already all around. And other eating places and hotels so close.

Please protect this site and let's not rush into this development . I have therefore claimed interest in future ownership in my other submissions and hereby in order to protect this Scheduled Monument.

Thank you