About the application

Application number: 2024/93494	
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?	Yes

I object to the proposed hotel development at Castle Hill due to the lack of supporting infrastructure and the significant harm it would pose to a designated nature reserve, an historic site, and the local environment.
Castle Hill is a nature reserve valued for its biodiversity, tranquillity, and ecological sensitivity. Increased footfall, vehicle movements, lighting, noise, and servicing associated with a hotel would be incompatible with the primary purpose of a nature reserve and would risk disturbance to wildlife and degradation of habitats.
In addition, Castle Hill is an historic site whose value lies in its existing character as a managed ruin. Heritage principles favour minimal intervention, and there is no requirement for commercial redevelopment in order to justify preservation. Information about the site is already provided through interpretation and information boards, allowing visitors to understand and engage with its history without the need for further development.
Introducing a hotel would fundamentally alter both the historic landscape and the quiet natural character of the site, with the potential for irreversible harm to archaeological remains and ecological features.
The surrounding area also lacks the infrastructure required to support a development of this scale. Access roads are narrow and constrained, public transport provision is limited, and there is insufficient capacity for increased traffic, servicing, and parking.
Of particular concern is the hairpin bend on the approach road, where vehicles already struggle in winter conditions. Cars frequently become stuck or lose control during icy weather, creating safety hazards and road blockages. Additional hotel traffic would significantly exacerbate these risks and could restrict access for residents and emergency services.
Increased vehicle numbers would also lead to higher levels of congestion, idling, and emissions at known pinch points, worsening air pollution in an environmentally sensitive and protected setting.
In the absence of a clear, funded, and deliverable plan to address ecological protection, infrastructure capacity, winter road safety, pollution, and heritage conservation, the proposed development is unsustainable and inappropriate for this location.