

**Newsome Panthers
ARLFC, Hall Bower,
Huddersfield
Heritage Statement**

Client: MR. DOMINIC NEWTON

AB Heritage Project No:64107

Date: 24/02/2026

Hall Bower, Huddersfield

Heritage Statement

Client	Mr. Dominic Newton
Project Number	64107
Prepared By	Elli Winterburn
Illustrated By	Pighill
Approved By	Daniel Dodds

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Enquiries To:

AB Heritage Limited, North Office (Head Office)

Unit 114 Jarrow Business Centre, Jarrow

Tyne and Wear, NE32 3DT

Email: info@abheritage.co.uk

Tel: 03333 440 206



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AB Heritage Limited have been commissioned by Mr Dominic Newton (on behalf of the Newsome Panthers ARLFC) to produce a Heritage Statement covering proposed works to build a new Club House and training facilities on the Club's sporting fields off Hall Bower Lane, Huddersfield HD4 6RN, replacing existing ageing changing rooms and other accommodation.

This report identifies the Castle Hill Scheduled Monument (and the associated Grade II Listed Victoria Tower building) as a heritage asset of Very High significance for its multi-period remains and its prominent topographic position overlooking Huddersfield and the surrounding landscape.

Its significance is attributed to archaeological interest (evidential value), historical associations, its artistic and architectural interest as a designed feature (combining natural and man-made forms) within the landscape, and its presence as an aesthetically impressive landmark within the wider landscape. The wider setting of the Scheduled Monument contributes to understanding, appreciation, and experience of the hillfort's heritage significance, making it another key contributor to the overall heritage significance of this unique site.

This report finds that the proposed scheme has been devised in cognisance of the considerations outlined in the Castle Hill Setting Study (Atkins, 2016) and the feedback received from the LPA during the pre-application, thus mitigating any adverse physical and visual changes arising from the proposed new construction to the extent that is reasonably practicable.

In line with the research and observation presented in Sections 4 and 5 of this report and in consideration of the design mitigation discussed in Section 6.1, it is concluded that the proposed scheme does not constitute an adverse change in the setting of the Scheduled Monument.

As no heritage harm is identified, there is no need to demonstrate public benefits arising from the proposed scheme (in line with para. 202 of NPPF). Nevertheless, it is noted that the proposed development provides clear and meaningful public benefit by improving opportunities for health and well-being, social inclusion, and community cohesion

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 AB Heritage Limited has been commissioned by Mr Dominic Newton (on behalf of the Newsome Panthers ARLFC) to produce a Heritage Statement covering proposed works to build new Club House and training facilities on the Club's sporting fields off Hall Bower Lane, Huddersfield HD4 6RN, replacing existing ageing changing rooms and other accommodation.
- 1.1.2 It was requested as part of a forthcoming planning application.
- 1.1.3 This report includes a description of the baseline conditions, from an examination of readily available sources on the history of the site, identifying any known and potential heritage assets subject to potential impact. It proposes a suitable mitigation strategy, where such works are deemed appropriate.

1.2 Site Location & Description

- 1.2.1 The Newsome Panthers ARLFC (Amateur Rugby League Football Club) site on Hall Bower Lane, Huddersfield HD4 6RN, comprises principally of c.3.3ha of flat, grassed rugby pitches, with a small changing room and club building located near the southern site boundary. Access to the site is via an unsurfaced track off Hall Bower Lane.
- 1.2.2 The Club's landholdings are indicated with the red line boundary on Plate 1. The footprint of the proposed new Club House is indicated with red hatching within the site boundary. The yellow line indicates a 500m buffer around the site boundary (to indicate the distance between the site and the Castle Hill Monument), and to the SE of the site, the extent of the Scheduled Monument at Castle Hill is shown in purple. It is from the outset acknowledged that the setting of this Scheduled Monument is the principal potential heritage constraint to be addressed in this report.



Plate 1. Site Location on Google imaging (Google, 2026)

- 1.2.3 The site is located c. 2.5km south of Huddersfield town centre, and (as shown on Plate 1) is on the outskirts of continuous urban settlement. The suburb of Newsome is to the NW of the proposal site boundary, and the historic village of Hall Bower is c. 200m to the south. The sporting pitch, batting nets, and a small club building of Hall Bower Cricket Club border the Newsome Panthers' Site to its immediate south.
- 1.2.4 In terms of elevation, the ARLFC site is a 198m AOD (above ordnance datum), and the prominent rise of Castle Hill c. 500m to the SE is c. 267m AOD. As a result, here are wide-ranging views over the surrounding Holme Valley (and beyond) from Castle Hill.

1.3 Overview of Proposed Development

- 1.3.1 The proposed changes to available facilities at Newsome Panthers ARLFC seeks the erection of replacement changing rooms with a new Club House and additional car parking adjacent to Hall Bower Cricket Club (See Figures 3 to 13).
- 1.3.2 The proposed footprint of the replacement building would be 708m². There are also plans for increased parking facilities.

1.4 Planning Background & Consultation

Pre-Application Consultation REF: 2025/20281

- 1.4.1 The client's planning consultants undertook a pre-application consultation with Kirklees Council in 2025, and the proposed scheme has been updated in line with the comments received.
- 1.4.2 The consultation resulted in detailed feedback covering a range of planning issues relevant to the proposed scheme. With regards to 'Visual Amenity and Historic Environment', the response to the feedback noted:

It is considered that the proposed materials may increase the visual prominence of the building, given the open character of the site. Officers therefore recommend further consideration of the proposed material palette and how it integrates with the surrounding context.

The site lies in close proximity to Castle Hill and Victoria Tower, which are scheduled monuments. Kirklees Council adopted the 'Castle Hill Setting Study' on 2 August 2016, which outlines the significance of the site, identifies key detractors, and highlights risks and issues associated with its setting.

Among these risks, the setting of Castle Hill is identified as a key contributor to its significance. The study emphasises the importance of managing development by considering the location, form, appearance, permanence, and long-term impacts of new proposals in order to preserve the asset's significance.

Although the development is not located within the immediate farmland that separates the site from the built-up area of Newsome, the wider area is noted as having potential to be visually intrusive. It is therefore considered that the proposed increase in footprint and massing, combined with the materials indicated, could heighten the prominence of the development within the landscape. Officers advise

that a contextual site plan would be beneficial to demonstrate how the proposal would be perceived within the setting of Castle Hill.

- 1.4.3 In summary, the pre-application feedback concluded that:

...based on the information provided, the principal of developing the site may be acceptable for the construction of a sport/leisure development providing it can be demonstrated that there would not be any significant concerns regarding visual amenity, the impact on the setting of a scheduled monument or highway safety.

AB Heritage Consultations

- 1.4.4 In preparation for this Heritage Statement, AB Heritage has undertaken further consultation with relevant cultural heritage curators and stakeholders.
- 1.4.5 Elli Winterburn, Principal Consultant, AB Heritage, contacted Kirklees Council Conservation and Design Team, WYAAS (West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisory Service) and Historic Environment Record (HER) on the 23rd of December, outlining the proposed development and suggesting a 500m study area (around the site boundary) as an appropriate level of detail for the baseline assessment in this report.
- 1.4.6 Rhona Finlayson (HER Officer) responded in agreement on the 6th of January 2026 and provided the HER data set on the 7th of January 2026.
- 1.4.7 WYAAS received the Team Manager David Williams' response on the 7th of January 2026 via email. The contents of the response are included below in full:

I've had a quick look at what we hold and clearly Castle Hill clearly dominates that landscape and the proximity to the hillfort might suggest that this area was used at any stage when the hillfort was in use. The site topographically looks to be an plateaux but how much of this is a product of landscaping is not clear. In the last decade there was some works undertaken at castle hill partly trying to reassess the 20th century excavations and some more newer geophysical survey, there is also plenty of historically published reports on Castle Hill from Varley being the main person, and the usual array of RCHME and HE reports but I don't think this will have much bearing on your site as they focus just on the hillfort rather than the wider landscape.

There is an undergrad dissertation that looks at the wider landscape but this is fairly basic and identified the data held in the HER it does suggest that the south of the hillfort has a density of prehistoric occupation but this has never been considered to extend to the north but I suspect this is a result of modern development and the fact no one has looked before.

As your site has preexisting sports pitches it would be useful to understand if they have been built up or truncated and the impact this might have had on the underlying archaeological resource. The site looks to be suitable for a geophysical survey but clearly the results will depend on what level of drainage and magnetic disturbance there might be.

- 1.4.8 Elli Winterburn, Principal Consultant, AB Heritage, also contacted Andrew Burn (Historic England Team Leader Development Advice Yorkshire – Regions Group) on the 27th of

January 2026 and Historic England formal pre-application response letter was received on 17th of February. This response is appended to this report in full as Appendix 2.

- 1.4.9 Having been provided with an advance copy of this Heritage Statement, Mr. Burn was able to concur that HE agree with the conclusions of this report and having no concerns about the proposed development, would not be objecting the proposals.

1.5 Project Qualifiers

- 1.5.1 This report is not an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and does not assess archaeological potential or impact.
- 1.5.2 This report has been prepared under instruction and solely for the use of Mr. Dominic Newton, and any associated parties they elect to share this information with.
- 1.5.3 Measurements and distances in this report are approximations only and should not be used for detailed design purposes.
- 1.5.4 All work undertaken is based upon the professional knowledge of AB Heritage and relevant standards, technology and legislation at the time of writing. Changes in these areas may occur in the future, causing changes to the conclusions, recommendations or advice given. AB Heritage is not responsible for advising any parties on the implications of such changes.
- 1.5.5 This report utilises information obtained from third party sources. AB Heritage takes no responsibility for the accuracy of such information.
- 1.5.6 Where recommendations are provided these need to be approved by the Local Planning Authority and do not themselves comprise mitigation of impacts.

2. AIMS & METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims of Report

- 2.1.1 Early assessment of the implications of proposed development on the heritage resource is key to informing reasonable planning decisions. Indeed, NPPF 207 requires local planning authorities to request descriptions on the significance of any heritage assets affected by a proposal, including any contribution made by their setting. This states that:

‘The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets’ importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance’.

- 2.1.2 This assessment therefore has the following objectives:

- To provide sufficient evidence on the heritage of the site and any potential impacts on such a resource, to inform the Local Planning Authority’s decision-making process in relation to the current planning application; and
- To develop appropriate recommendations / mitigation responses, where necessary, to assist the work of the planning team.

2.2 Methodology

Focus of Study

- 2.2.1 As detailed above in Section 1.4 a 500m study area (in terms of the Historic Environment Record Data) was established in consultation with WYAAS. This report will focus on the potential effects of the development on the setting and the significance of Castle Hill Scheduled Monument.

Standards & Guidance Used

- 2.2.2 The assessment has been carried out in line with the following guidance:
- *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* (CIfA, 2020).
 - *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings and Structures* (CIfA, 2020).
 - *Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets* (Historic England, 2019).
 - *The Setting of Heritage Assets* (Historic England, 2017).
 - *Understanding Historic Buildings* (Historic England, 2016).
 - *Conservation Principles, Policies & Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* (Historic England, 2008).

Setting as a Concept and Its Assessment in Heritage Context

- 2.2.3 The following sections of this report correspond with the 5-step approach to setting assessment contained HE Guidance note "*The Setting of Heritage Assets - Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (Second Edition)*: Part 2: Setting and View– A Staged Approach to Proportionate Decision-Taking (HE, 2017)
- Step 1: Identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected (in this report: Section 4)
 - Step 2: Assess the degree to which these settings and views make a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s) or allow significance to be appreciated (Section 5)
 - Step 3: Assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on the significance or on the ability to appreciate it (Section 6)
 - Step 4: Explore ways to maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm (Sections 6.1 and 7)
 - Step 5: Make and document the decision and monitor outcomes (This can only be done post-determination of any planning application)
- 2.2.4 In general terms, the interest in the 'setting' of a heritage asset and the associated visual experience of the same, are based on the following commonly held (HE, 2017; Australia ICOMOS, 2013; Mosler, 2009; ICOMOS, 2005) perspectives:
- Visually unsightly elements within the setting of a heritage asset can significantly influence how its significance is perceived and experienced. Such elements may disrupt visual coherence and diminish viewers' ability to engage emotionally and imaginatively with the historic environment.
 - This disruption can weaken perceptions of authenticity, as the presence of incongruous or intrusive features undermines the sense of historical continuity and integrity that contributes to heritage value.
 - As a result, the cultural, symbolic, and associative significance of the heritage asset may be perceived as diminished, even where its physical fabric remains unchanged.
 - The setting, therefore, plays an active role in mediating heritage significance, shaping not only aesthetic appreciation but also the experiential and emotional connections that underpin public understanding of it.

Selection and Assessment of Sources

- 2.2.5 In line with para 3.3.6 and Annex 1 of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment, this report considers appropriate sources of information and a rationale behind their use. These have been detailed in Table 1:

Table 1: Examination of Appropriate Sources

SOURCE	TYPE OF EVIDENCE	CONSULTED	COMMENT
West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record	The primary source of information concerning the current state of archaeological, heritage and architectural knowledge in this area. Contains published and unpublished archaeological and historical sources, including any previous investigations undertaken within the study area.	23/12/2025	In discussion with Rhona Finlayson (Historic Environment Records Officer) and David Williams (WYAAS Team Manager) a 500m study area around the site boundary was agreed as HER data procured.
Consult Kirklees Conservation Officer	Early discussion with the Local Planning Authority Planning Archaeologist and / or Conservation Officer is key to understanding the significance of an area and creating a tailored approach most appropriate to assessment of a site.	23/12/2025	No response to date (in addition to the pre-app comments already received).
Historic England - West Yorkshire	National Consultee commenting on development with potential to affect Scheduled Monument, Grade I and Grade II* Listed Buildings	27/01/2026	Andrew Burn (Historic England Team Leader Development Advice Yorkshire – Regions Group) responded on 17 th of February and having been provided with an advance copy of the this, was able to concur that HE agree with the conclusions of this report and would not be objecting the proposed development. The full consultation response letter is provided in Appendix 2 of this report.
Site Walkover	This task allows for development of a greater understanding of the on-site heritage resource, or any historic issues of the site, including information the general condition and setting of the area of proposed development and the site in which it stands.	16/01/2026	A site visit was undertaken by Elli Winterburn, Principal Heritage Consultant, AB Heritage, on the 16 th of January 2026.
National Heritage List for England	Information on statutory and non-statutory designated sites, including Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments.	09/01/2026	NHLE data accessed
Huddersfield Local Studies Library	Readily accessible information on the site's history from readily available historic documentary sources, maps and photographs.	16/01/2026	A local history file of collected newspaper articles regarding Castle Hill was available for study. This covers a period from the 19 th century to the present day.

SOURCE	TYPE OF EVIDENCE	CONSULTED	COMMENT
Archaeology Data Service	The ADS is a digital repository for heritage records that supports the long-term digital preservation of such data to support future research, learning and teaching.	27/01/2026	Consulted to provide a background to the understand of the origins and development of Castle Hill Scheduled Monument. Although there is a wealth of information about archaeological studies carried out within the Scheduled Monument of Castle Hill, no such information is available for the area within the red line site boundary.
Local Historic Societies	Using the British Association for Local History (https://www.balh.org.uk/) list of local societies, checks were made with relevant organisations where there was a specific and obvious benefit to consulting local expertise on the history of the proposed development site.	27/01/2026	Huddersfield Local History Society website https://www.huddersfieldhistory.org.uk/huddersfields-history/ contain useful background information about Huddersfield and the surrounding area, but again, while there is plenty of discussion of Castle Hill, its immediate surroundings have received less attention.

2.2.6 For reporting purposes, any relevant information gathered from the above sources has been allocated an AB numbers, which can be viewed in the Cultural Heritage Features Gazetteer (Appendix 1).

Assessment of Significance

- 2.2.7 Assessment of heritage significance is judged on various factors, including existing designation(s) and the perceived heritage interests or values of a feature and / or its setting in-line with criteria set out by English Heritage in '*Conservation Principles, Policies & Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment*' (2008) and Historic England's '*Advice Note 12*' (2019).
- 2.2.8 As a result, this report will assess significance against **Archaeological, Architectural, Artistic, Historic and Setting** interests. Each relevant category discussed will result in an overall level of significance being defined for the feature, in accordance with a five-point scale comprising Very High, High, Medium, Low and Uncertain.

Impact Assessment

- 2.2.9 The degree of impact upon the heritage resource is determined based on professional judgement as to the level of effect from a proposed development on the baseline conditions of the site and the cultural heritage resource identified. The criteria for assessing the level of impact will be expressed against a five-point scale comprising Very High, High, Medium, Low and Uncertain.
- 2.2.10 Overall, the degree of change will be assessed in terms of NPPF (as harmful or beneficial) and, where appropriate, against relevant local planning policy.

3. PLANNING & LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

3.1 Heritage Legislation

- 3.1.1 Current legislation, in the form of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, provides for the legal protection of important and well-preserved archaeological sites and monuments through their addition to a list, or 'schedule' of archaeological monuments.
- 3.1.2 Likewise, structures are afforded legal protection in the form of their addition to 'lists' of buildings of special architectural or historical interest, under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990. This legislation also allows for the creation and protection of Conservation Areas by local planning authorities to protect areas and groupings of historical significance.
- 3.1.3 The categories of assets with some form of legal protection have been extended in recent years, and now include Registered Parks and Gardens, and Historic Battlefields. While designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site is not a statutory designation under English planning law, such a designation is regarded as a material consideration in planning decisions.

3.2 National Planning Policy Framework 2024

- 3.2.1 The NPPF sets out government policy on the historic environment, which covers all elements, whether designated or not, that are identified as 'having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest'.
- 3.2.2 Paragraph 207 states that in determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail required in the assessment should be 'proportionate to the assets importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance'.
- 3.2.3 Paragraph 214 explains that 'where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to or total loss of significance of a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss.
- 3.2.4 Paragraph 215 advises that where a proposal involve less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including securing its optimum viable use. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non designated heritage assets, Paragraph 216 states that a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

3.3 Local Planning Policy

3.3.1 Kirklees Local Plan (2019).

Policy LP35 Historic Environment

- 3.3.2 Development proposals affecting a designated heritage asset (or an archaeological site of national importance) should preserve or enhance the significance of the asset. In cases likely to result in substantial harm or loss, development will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposals would bring substantial public benefits that clearly outweigh the harm, or all of the following are met:
- a. the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site;
 - b. no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation;
 - c. conservation by grant-funding or some form of charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and
 - d. the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.
- 3.3.3 Proposals which would remove, harm or undermine the significance of a non-designated heritage asset, or its contribution to the character of a place will be permitted only where benefits of the development outweigh the harm having regard to the scale of the harm and the significance of the heritage asset. In the case of developments affecting archaeological sites of less than national importance where development affecting such sites is acceptable in principle, mitigation of damage will be ensured through preservation of the remains in situ as a preferred solution. When in situ preservation is not justified, the developer will be required to make adequate provision for excavation and recording before or during development.
- 3.3.4 Proposals should retain those elements of the historic environment which contribute to the distinct identity of the Kirklees area and ensure they are appropriately conserved, to the extent warranted by their significance, also having regard to the wider benefits of development. Consideration should be given to the need to:
- a. ensure that proposals maintain and reinforce local distinctiveness and conserve the significance of designated and non-designated heritage assets;
 - b. ensure that proposals within Conservation Areas conserve those elements which contribute to their significance;
 - c. secure a sustainable future for heritage assets at risk and those associated with the local textile industry, historic farm buildings, places of worship and civic and institutional buildings constructed on the back of the wealth created by the textile industry as expressions of local civic pride and identity;
 - d. identify opportunities, including use of new technologies, to mitigate, and adapt to, the effects of climate change in ways that do not harm the significance of heritage assets and, where conflict is unavoidable, to balance the public benefit of climate change mitigation measures with the harm caused to the heritage assets' significance;

e. accommodate innovative design where this does not prejudice the significance of heritage assets;

f. preserve the setting of Castle Hill where appropriate and proposals which detrimentally impact on the setting of Castle Hill will not be permitted

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – Castle Hill Setting Study

3.3.5 Castle Hill Setting Study (Atkins, 2016) is an extensive Supplementary Planning Document produced for and adopted by Kirklees Council.

3.3.6 The report, states:

Given the importance of views towards Castle Hill in terms of appreciating its prominence and dominance in the landscape developers will need to support their applications with appropriate visualisations and material. In this context one approach that would support decision making at an early stage in the consideration of sites and developments is the use of annotated viewpoint photographs demonstrating how key aspects of setting are exhibited in those views. These can then be used to determine whether particular sites or developments would affect those aspects of setting in those views.

In discussing areas or views which could be particularly susceptible to intrusive development, and the broad areas of development, undeveloped land around Castle Hill is identified as one such area where particular attention is required. The comparative importance of undeveloped areas of land around Castle Hill itself is shown in Figure 16. This includes two high level categories: Critical and Important. The 'critical' category addresses areas of open land that make a highly important contribution to Castle Hill's dominance, its separation from nearby urban form and its relationship to the wider rural landscape. Development in these areas will require particular attention as it is likely to harm the setting of Castle Hill. The 'important' category addresses areas of open land which make a notable contribution to Castle Hill's dominance, its separation from nearby urban form and / or its relationship to the wider rural landscape. These areas are sensitive, and development within them has the potential to harm these aspects of the site's setting and would need to be examined on a case-by-case basis.

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – Castle Hill Management Plan

3.3.7 Atkins (2006) has also authored a Management Plan for the Castle Hill site. This is also an adopted supplementary planning document.

4. HERITAGE REVIEW OF THE SITE

- 4.1.1 The following heritage review will consider the historical background of the proposed development location at Newsome Panthers Amateur Rugby League Football Club (ARLFC) and the Scheduled Monument of Castle Hill [AB 1] under separate headings.
- 4.1.2 It was felt that this would be the best way of addressing the different timescales of the two foci of assessment, with the focus of assessment at the Newsome Panthers site being in the Post-Medieval and Modern periods and the history of the Iron Age hill fort at Castle Hill [AB 1] stretching back thousands of years.

4.2 Historic Development of the Site & Surrounding Area

Proposed Development Site / Newsome Panthers Amateur Rugby League Football Club

- 4.2.1 While the nearby settlements of Huddersfield and Almondbury are mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1069, the first written records of 'Hall Bower' are from the 16th century.
- 4.2.2 In terms of background to the proposed development site, it appears that the land area currently used as a rugby field has been part of an agricultural landscape at least since the 19th century and prior to this, it is indicated (by information on early OS mapping) that coal mining and small-scale stone quarrying have taken place in the vicinity of the site.
- 4.2.3 The village Sunday School was established in 1817 (located c. 180m east of the site), and Goodram Farmhouse [AB 20], which is the nearest Listed Building to the site boundary, is dated to the 18th to 19th centuries (HE, 2026). This historic farmstead is located c. 90m east of the site and is in the present day surrounded by later housing development.
- 4.2.4 The Listed Buildings within the Hall Bower village are also dated from the 18th and early 19th centuries [AB 6 to AB 17; c. 150m south of the site].
- 4.2.5 By the time of the Tithe map in 1847, Castle Hill and the surrounding lower ground (including the current proposed development site) were part of the extensive landholdings of Sir John William Ramsden, whose family estate also included most of Huddersfield.
- 4.2.6 On the 1847 Tithe map on Plate 2, the Castle Hill Scephudeld monument is indicated with a purple overlay. The Hall Bower village is directly to the south of the proposed development site. The proposed development site encompasses fields numbered 2131, 2131a, 2139 and 2143.
- 4.2.7 The ownership, occupier and utilisation of each plot is recorded as follows:

Table 2. Tithe Apportionment Details

	Field no.	Owner	Occupier	Utilisation
1	2131	Sir. John W. Ramsden	Thomas Beumont	Arable and Grass
2	2131a	Sir. John W. Ramsden	Jown Dews	Arable
3	2139	Sir. John W. Ramsden	Sarah Liversidge	Grass
4	2143	Thomas Brook	John Stringer	Arable



Plate 2. Site Boundary on 1847 Tithe Map (The Genealogist, 2026)

- 4.2.8 The latter 19th century OS mapping continues to show the proposal's site as part of the agricultural landscape, and little new development occurs in the vicinity until the 20th century.

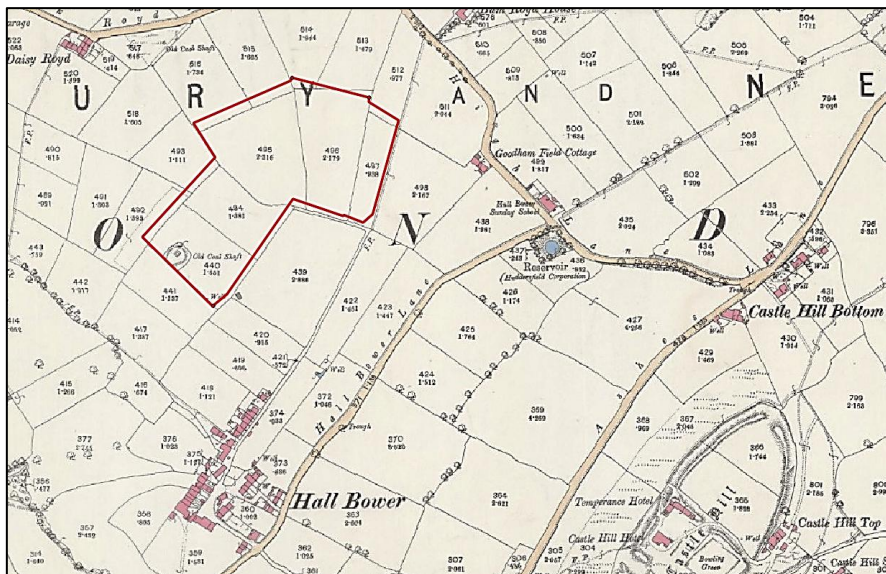


Plate 3. 1888 25-inch OS Map

- 4.2.9 Towards the mid-20th century, a new Huddersfield Corporation water reservoir was built to the west of the site (the rectangular area shown to the left of the site on Plate 4), and a 'ribbon' of semidetached houses was under construction on the SE side of Hall Bower Lane. This development is shown to the lower right on Plate 4. This ribbon of development continues to separate the proposed development site from the steeply rising slope of the Castle Hill Scheduled Monument today.
- 4.2.10 It is also noted that on Plate 4, the fields to the immediate SE of the site boundary are marked as being in use as a cricket pitch (and continue in this use to the present day).

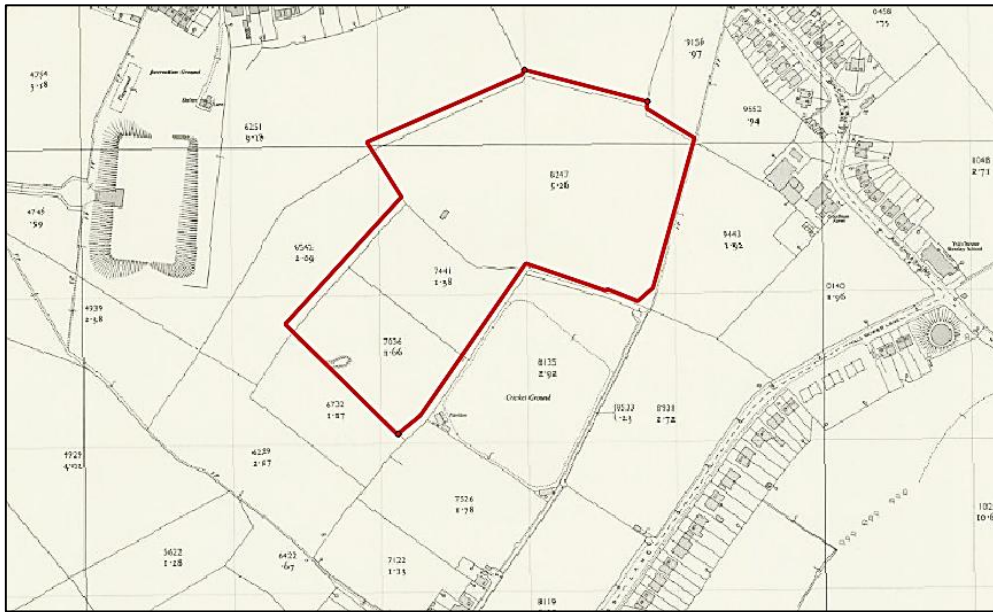


Plate 4. Site location on 1959 OS mapping

4.2.11 Newsome Panthers ARLFC have utilised the rugby fields at Hall Bower since 2006, and the existing club facilities were granted planning permissions under application reference:

- 2006/94139 *Erection of clubhouse building, storage containers and lpg tank and car park*. Approve 07/12/2006

Castle Hill Scheduled Monument

4.2.12 Castle Hill [AB 1] has a long and complex history of use (Atkins, 2016; WYHER, 2026; HE, 2026), reflecting its prominent and strategically advantageous location. The following paragraphs provide a short summary – there is more extensive discussion of the site's varied history in, e.g., Atkins 2006 and 2016.

4.2.13 The earliest evidence dates to the Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age, when parts of the south-western hilltop were used for likely undefended settlement or associated activities, leaving preserved land surfaces but no clear structural remains.

4.2.14 During the Late Bronze Age, the hill was first formally enclosed, with a small univallate enclosure established at its south-western end. Although evidence for settlement is limited, the enclosure appears to have formed part of a wider regional pattern of hilltop activity. This was later remodelled and expanded during the Iron Age into a substantial multivallate hillfort enclosing the entire hilltop, a rare monument type in West Yorkshire, with additional outer enclosures likely used for pasture.

4.2.15 There is little evidence for Roman or early Medieval occupation on the hill itself, although substantial activity occurred nearby, notably at the Roman fort and settlement of *Cambodunum* at Slack. The hill may have continued to be used intermittently due to its commanding position.



Plate 5. AP of the Hill Fort in 1975 (CUCAP, 2026) (CC-BY-NC)

- 4.2.16 In the Medieval period, Castle Hill was re-occupied as a castle, probably a motte-and-bailey or ringwork, established by the de Laci family and forming part of a wider network of defensive sites. The hilltop accommodated baileys with defensive, domestic, industrial and agricultural functions. By the early 14th century, parts of the site were adapted for agriculture and hunting, and a short-lived attempt to establish a planned town was abandoned by the mid-14th century.
- 4.2.17 Following abandonment, the hill was not permanently settled but continued to be used for strategic and communal purposes, including as a warning beacon, a tavern and hotel, political gatherings, and the construction of the Victoria Tower [**AB 2**] in 1899 (shown on Plate 5 above).
- 4.2.18 By the time the 1847 Tithe map (shown above as Plate 2) Castle Hill and the surrounding lower ground (including the current proposed development site) were part of the extensive landholdings of Sir John William Ramsden.
- 4.2.19 In the modern period, Castle Hill has retained its defensive and landmark role, serving as a military observation and anti-aircraft site during the Second World War and continuing to serve as an important recreational, historic and cultural landscape today.
- 4.2.20 At the time of writing, the 2022 proposals (and amended in 2024; Kirklees LPA Planning REF: 2024/62/93494/W) for the construction of a Visitor Centre at Castle Hill have now received support from Historic England (letter from Andrew Burn, HE Development Advice Team Leader dated 8th August 2025), but the application is yet to be determined by the LPA. It seems likely that the visitor centre will receive the necessary planning consents in the near future.

- 4.2.21 Plate 6 depicts a CGI visualisation of the new visitor centre in proximity to the Grade II Listed Victoria Tower [AB 2]. This development would represent a notable change to the future cultural heritage baseline of Castle Hill and the Victoria Tower.



Plate 6. Indicative 3D view of the proposed visitor centre at Castle Hill (Ref: 2024/62/93494/W)

- 4.2.22 The views from the visitor centre would principally be directed north (towards Huddersfield) and, in the middle distance, would also encompass the Newsome Panthers ARLFC site.
- 4.2.23 In reference to the 3D visualisation on Plate 6, the image of Plate 7 shows the view north from approximately the proposed visitor centre location on top of Castle Hill. The location of the existing Club House building is indicated with a yellow dash. The proposed new building would be built over the existing footprint (as per Figures 3 to 8).



Plate 7. Proposed development location as viewed from Castle Hill

- 4.2.24 It is noted that the proposed visitor centre location also broadly corresponds with the Control Viewpoint A used in the ZTV (Zone of Theoretical Visibility) analysis in the 2016 Setting Study (Atkins, 2016).
- 4.2.25 With regards to this view, The Castle Hill Setting Study notes:

The view north from the hilltop [shown in this report on Plate 7] stretches for some 12km to the northern ridgeline between Cleckheaton and Bradford, taking in the centre of Huddersfield, along with pockets of urban and suburban conurbation to the north and north-east of the town centre itself. The character of the view is largely urban, though with rural and wooded ridgelines beyond to the north and north-east. The zone of theoretical vision (ZTV) for the view from the hilltop to the north is shown in Figure 4.

The most striking element of the view is certainly the urban centre of the Huddersfield, which, while relatively compact, contains a number of tall buildings, both commercial and residential, as well as industrial features such as Victorian mill buildings and chimneys. A wooded ridgeline to the east of the town centre hides some of the urban area, including the John Smith's Stadium.

Similarly the ridgeline to the north of the town centre means that the towns of the valley beyond, and, to a large degree, the M62, are also hidden from view. Of particular note in the urban centre is the very tall white chimney of the Kirklees Energy from Waste Facility. Though the urban development of Huddersfield stretches towards Castle Hill, the valley immediately to the north of the hill contains only limited groups and estates of houses within the wooded valley sides.

Though the view north from Castle Hill is largely urban, the lack of extensive urban development up to the lower slopes of the hill, combined with the wooded ridgelines and rural hilltops beyond the centre of Huddersfield ensure that the character of the view remains mixed and not overpowering urban or industrial.

4.3 Current Site Condition

- 4.3.1 The site visit was undertaken by Elli Winterburn, Principal Heritage Consultant, AB Heritage, on the 16th of January 2026. The visit to Newsome ARLFC was facilitated by Mr Dominic Newton, who gave a brief outline of the project background and indicated where the new build facilities would be located on the site.
- 4.3.2 There is convenient public access to the top of Castle Hill **[AB 1]** inasmuch as there is a road all the way to the top with car parking available within the Scheduled Area – so the top of Castle Hill can be accessed prior to attending the proposed development site. Photographs 7 to 11 were captured during the initial part of the site visit.

Castle Hill **[AB 1] and the site as viewed from Castle Hill**

- 4.3.3 The elevation at the top of Castle Hill is c. 170m above its immediate surroundings, and, especially to the west and north, the slopes of the hill are steep, giving rise to wide-ranging, varied, and spectacular views across the surrounding landscape.
- 4.3.4 As shown on Plate 8, the remains of the Iron Age ramparts encircle the edge of the plateau at the top of Castle Hill, and at the western end of the hilltop is a late 19th-century masonry viewing tower known as Victoria Tower **[AB 2]**. The tower was inaccessible during the site visit.



Plate 8. The late 19th century 'Victoria Tower' [AB 2]: view SW

4.3.5 Plate 9 depicts the view west from the escarpment at the western end of Castle Hill.



Plate 9. View west from the escarpment at the western end of Castle Hill

4.3.6 Plate 10 depicts the long-distance view NE from Castle Hill, broadly towards Mirfield.



Plate 10. View NE from the eastern end of Castle Hill

- 4.3.7 Towards the south and east, the landscape is slightly more rolling, but there are nevertheless further long-distance views, and e.g. the Grade II Listed telecommunication mast at Emley Moor [NHLE id: 1350339] (c. 7km east of Castle Hill) can be observed (as shown on Plate 11).



Plate 11. View east/SE towards Emley Moor

- 4.3.8 Plates 12 to 14 follow the descent from Castle Hill (via Hall Bower village) to the proposed development site.
- 4.3.9 Plate 12 shows the view NE towards Castle Hill from Ashes Lane with the Listed cottages at 158 and 160 Ashes Lane [**AB 19**] in the middle distance below the Victoria Tower.



Plate 12. View NE towards Castle Hill from Ashes Lane

- 4.3.10 Plate 13 shows the view NW from approximately the same vantage point (at the start of the footpath that leads north from Ashes Lane to Hall Bower village). The village is at the bottom of the slope, and the proposed development site is in the far distance in the centre of the image.



Plate 13. View NW from Ashes Lane towards Hall Bower village and proposed development site

- 4.3.11 On descent to Hall Bower village, it becomes evident that the village's historical core is situated in a slight hollow, meaning the proposed development location is not visible from within the village. There are, however, glimpses between the buildings of higher ground to the south and of the Castle Hill monument.



Plate 14. View E/SE towards Castle Hill from Hall Bower

- 4.3.12 Another footpath leads from Hall Bower to Newsome on the outskirts of Huddersfield, and this track was used to circle around to the north development site boundary to assess views of the existing site buildings at the Castle Hill Monument. Plate 15 depicts a view SE along the footpath towards Castle Hill. The mid-20th century housing on Hall Bower Lane is visible in the middle distance.



Plate 15. View towards Castle Hill from the YWT area

- 4.3.13 The land adjoining the Newsome Panthers site to the SW (and shown on both sides of the foot path on Plate 15) is managed by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT) as a community farm.

- 4.3.14 Crossing across the land to the northwest of the Newsome Panthers site, it is clear that there is inevitably intervisibility between the Club sport pitches, the Club House building and Castle Hill to their SE.
- 4.3.15 Plate 16 depicts a view east/SE with current Club House building indicated with red arrow. The 20th century semidetached housing along Hall Bower Lane is then shown between the site and the rising ground of Castle Hill.



Plate 16. View E/SE with Hall Bower Lane in the middle distance

- 4.3.16 Moving closer to the proposed development location, Plates 17, 18, and 19 depict the existing Club House building in its landscape context. On Plate 17, the approximate extent of the new building is shown in yellow dashes.



Plate 17. The rugby pitches and the Club House; view S/SE



Plate 18. The rugby pitches and the Club House; view S



Plate 19. NW gable end of the current Club House with Castle Hill in the far distance

- 4.3.17 The Newsome Panthers ARLFC site is accessed via a gated unsurfaced driveway NW from Hall Bower Lane (Plate 20). The trackway is also used to access the Hall Bower Cricket Club site, which borders the ARLFC site to its SE.
- 4.3.18 The Cricket Club building and batting nets are shown to the left on Plate 20.



Plate 20. View NW towards the ARLFC site from Hall Bower Lane



Plate 21. View SW towards Hall Bower village along the footpath from ARLFC gates

- 4.3.19 Plate 21 also seeks to demonstrate how the topography to the north of the Castle Hill means that while there are excellent long distance views east to- west across the landscape (as such as that shown along foot path on Plate 21) , at ground level to a human observer these views do not always encompass both the Castle Hill monument and the Club site at the same time. It is possible to see one or the other by looking slightly north or south, but while in proximity to the entrance to the Club, it is not possible to see both at the same time.
- 4.3.20 Similarly, it was noted on walking from the site towards Huddersfield High Lane / Jack Royd Lane that, similar to the Hall Bower village the undulating topography means that there is no direct intervisibility between e.g. the Grade II Listed Jack Royd site **[AB 21]**, the Newsome Panthers proposal site and the Scheduled Monument of Castle Hill.

- 4.3.21 Plate 22 depicts a view south towards Castle Hill from the Grade II Listed Jack Royd [AB 21]—topography precludes a view of the Rugby Club, while keeping the Scheduled Monument in view. The Rugby Club is located over the brow of the hill on the right on Plate 22.



Plate 22. View south towards Castle Hill from Jack Royd [AB 21]

- 4.3.22 In summary, there are views from within the site boundary towards the Castle Hill Scheduled monument that encompass both the existing club premises and the impressive rise of the hillfort as a background to the flat, level sports fields.
- 4.3.23 Likewise, views northwards from Huddersfield to the hillfort also take in the whole proposal site area and the small existing buildings within it.

5. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

5.1 Focus of Study

- 5.1.1 In accordance with English Heritage guidance *Conservation Principles, Policies & Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* (2008), and Historic England's Advice Note 12 (2019), Heritage Assets derive their significance from a defined range of interests or values. These are **Archaeological**, **Architectural** or **Artistic**, **Historic** and **Setting** Interest. This report will assess those factors relevant to the overall understanding of the importance of the feature under consideration.
- 5.1.2 The site is in proximity to several heritage assets (see Fig. 1 & 2 and Appendix 1). However, based on observations from the site visit, historic research, and consultation, this report will focus on providing an understanding of the potential impacts to the Scheduled Monument of Castle Hill [AB 1] and the Grade II Listed Victoria Tower (Grade II – LB) [AB 2] only. Because the point of the assessment is for the impact to setting, these two heritage assets are discussed below together.
- 5.1.3 As outlined above in Section 4.3, other heritage assets within the study area have been scoped out as not likely to be impacted by the proposed development.

5.2 Castle Hill – SM and Victoria Tower (Grade II – LB) [AB 1 and AB 2]

Description & General Condition

- 5.2.1 In summary, Castle Hill Scheduled Monument (and the Grade II Listed Victoria Tower) is a nationally important archaeological landscape that illustrates long-term human activity from the late Bronze Age/Iron Age through the Medieval period to the present day.
- 5.2.2 It preserves a rare sequence of earthworks: an early, slight univallate hillfort that developed into a multivallate hillfort, alongside a well-preserved Norman motte-and-bailey castle and the remains of a deserted Medieval village.
- 5.2.3 The site has been extensively studied and is known to contain extensive and well-preserved deposits, including unexcavated archaeological evidence, providing exceptional potential for understanding prehistoric settlement, social organisation, and later Medieval life in northern England. Its elevated setting above the Holme Valley contributes both to its historical role and its prominence in the historic landscape.

Assessment of Significance

Archaeological Interest

- 5.2.4 Castle Hill is of exceptional archaeological significance as the site of a large, multi-period hilltop enclosure with evidence of occupation and use spanning several millennia. The most substantial remains relate to a late Iron Age hillfort, defined by extensive earthworks including ramparts, ditches and terracing, which survive well despite later interventions. These remains provide important evidence for prehistoric defensive strategies, settlement patterns and social organisation in West Yorkshire.

- 5.2.5 Earlier activity is also evidenced by Bronze Age and possibly Neolithic material, demonstrating the site's long-term strategic importance. Subsurface archaeological deposits are likely to survive across the hilltop and within the earthworks, preserving information about construction methods, domestic activity, economy and landscape use. As a Scheduled Monument, Castle Hill has high potential to yield further archaeological evidence that would contribute significantly to regional and national understanding of later prehistoric activity in upland northern England.

Architectural and Artistic Interest

- 5.2.6 While primarily of archaeological importance, Castle Hill also has strong architectural and artistic significance, notably the Victoria Tower (1899), a prominent stone landmark erected to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Designed in a robust, castellated style, the tower is an accomplished example of late Victorian civic monumentality, intentionally evoking the hill's defensive character and historic associations.
- 5.2.7 The tower's architectural form, materials, and commanding vertical emphasis contribute strongly to the site's character and visual identity. It represents a conscious artistic and architectural response to the historic landscape, layering a Victorian commemorative structure onto a site already rich in symbolic meaning. The tower has become an iconic feature of the Huddersfield skyline and a powerful visual marker of place.

Historical Interest

- 5.2.8 Castle Hill holds outstanding historical and communal value, reflecting its continuous significance from prehistory to the present day. Historically, the site illustrates changing patterns of power, defence and commemoration, from prehistoric fortification to Victorian civic pride.
- 5.2.9 Communally, Castle Hill is deeply embedded in local identity and collective memory. It has long been a place of gathering, celebration and recreation, hosting public events, walks and viewpoints enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. The site is widely recognised as a symbol of Huddersfield and the surrounding area, contributing strongly to local distinctiveness and a shared sense of heritage.
- 5.2.10 The continued public access to the site reinforces its social value, allowing on-going engagement with both its ancient past and more recent history.

Setting

- 5.2.11 The Castle Hill Setting Study (Atkins, 2016) includes the following summary:
- 5.2.12 *Castle Hill's significance is inexorably bound up with its setting. Its dramatic topography is central to its occupation and continued use throughout its history; providing it with a commanding position location both in terms of its visibility and the visibility it afforded its occupants. Consequently, many aspects of its setting are directly linked to its significance as a prominent defensive and territorial marker and site of settlement and power:*
- *The position of Castle Hill within the topography of the surrounding landscape provides it with its prominence and defensive strength, which are still evident today*

- *The views from Castle Hill embody the prominence and dominance of the hilltop within the surrounding landscape*
- *The views to Castle Hill from the surrounding ridgelines and hillsides reinforce the significance of the site as a visible point of power and settlement within the historic landscape*
- *Visual and non-visual connections to other historic sites within Kirklees contribute to the significance of the hilltop as a central point of settlement and power within the area*
- *Approaches to Castle Hill, particularly those offering views, contribute to the significance of the site both in its historic use and importance, and its importance today as a symbol of Huddersfield and Kirklees.*

- 5.2.13 The setting of Castle Hill makes a fundamental contribution to its overall significance. Positioned on a prominent hilltop overlooking Huddersfield and the wider Colne Valley, the monuments elevated location was central to its original defensive and strategic function and remains key to understanding its archaeological importance.
- 5.2.14 Long-distance views to and from the hill emphasise its dominance within the landscape, enhancing both the legibility of the Iron Age earthworks and the landmark status of Victoria Tower. The surrounding open moorland and undeveloped slopes allow the historic form of the hillfort to be clearly appreciated and preserve the visual relationship between the monument and the wider landscape it once controlled.
- 5.2.15 The setting also underscores the monument's communal and symbolic value, as its visibility across the town reinforces its role as a shared point of reference and identity. Any change affecting this setting has the potential to impact the ability to understand, appreciate and experience the monument's archaeological, historical and cultural significance. However, the setting of Castle Hill, if it is interpreted as encompassing the entirety of the the ZTV as identified in the 2016 setting study is vast and presents a continuously evolving dynamic vista around the hillfort that has gradually changed over thousands of years.
- 5.2.16 It is suggested that while the sandstone summit of the hill fort appears permanent and the hill seemingly has an unchanging presence in the landscape, it is the surroundings of the hillfort that, in effect, hold up a mirror to its long history, revealing its true age. It is this contrast and coexistence that make the Scheduled Monument of Castle Hill such a unique, impressive and striking heritage site to experience.
- 5.2.17 As such, it is assessed that well-managed and designed change within the setting of the hillfort need not automatically be regarded as harmful to the significance of this asset but as a contributory part of its long and on-going history.

5.3 Summary of Heritage Significance

- 5.3.1 Castle Hill [AB 1 and AB 2] is a Scheduled Monument (and associated Grade II Listed Building) of very high overall heritage significance for its multi-period remains and its prominent topographic position overlooking Huddersfield and the surrounding landscape. Its significance derives from its archaeological interest (evidential value), its archaeological and historical associations, its artistic and architectural interest as a designed intervention

(combining natural and man-made forms) in the landscape, and its aesthetically impressive landmark presence within the wider landscape.

- 5.3.2 The wider setting of the Scheduled Monument contributes substantially to the understanding, appreciation, and experience of the hill fort's heritage significance, making it another key contributor to the overall heritage significance of this unique site.

6. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 Mitigation by Design

- 6.1.1 The Castle Hill Setting Study (Atkins, 2016) notes how there are no existing detractors (adverse impacts) in the setting of Castle Hill in its immediate surroundings, and this includes the proposed development site and its current buildings.
- 6.1.2 The proposed design of the new Club House, etc., has been developed to mitigate the scale, materiality, and siting of the new building structure to ensure that the new facilities do not become a detracting factor in the setting of Castle Hill.
- 6.1.3 The chosen siting, materiality and massing of the proposed new sports club facilities have also been designed considering advice from the Castle Hill Setting Study (Atkins, 2016, p. 36), which suggests that the following factors should be taken into account:
- *Location and siting of development – position within the landscape, extent and proximity to the asset*
 - The proposed development represents a modest increase in the overall extent of the built environment within a 3.3ha site. The new building will be sited on a similar alignment to the existing Club House (in relation to Castle Hill). The new building will be sited over the existing building's footprint. It is assessed that retaining this alignment reduces the visual impact of the new building as far as is reasonably practicable.
 - *Form and appearance of development – prominence, any competition or detracting from the asset, dimensions, scale and mass, materials and design*
 - The proposed new building will be located over the existing building's footprint. The width of the elevation facing south towards Castle Hill will not be wider than the current extent of the Club House and the adjacent existing shipping containers. The new building would not be taller than the existing building.
 - The proposed scheme would also present an opportunity to tidy up the site's appearance, as temporary features (such as the shipping containers) can be replaced with a properly designed and constructed permanent building. The materiality of the proposed new building combines elements of local agricultural vernacular, using locally sourced rubble stone with vertical larch cladding and a low-pitched aluminium roof. There are two main elements of the proposed new building with a flat, green-roofed lobby area that will connect them.
 - The materiality of the proposed new building reflects comments received from Kirklees Council in pre-application.
 - *Other effects of the development – changes to surroundings, land use, skyline, access and noise of the development*
 - The existing sports pitches and club facilities will continue in their current use. The siting and height of the development would not alter long distance views of the

skyline from Castle Hill or create new noise that would adversely affect the appreciation of the hillfort

- *Permanence of the development – anticipated lifetime and reversibility*
 - While the new club premises have been designed as permanent buildings, in the context of, e.g., the c. 2,500-year-old Iron Age hillfort, permanence means something quite different, and any construction on the site could be regarded as temporary. It would theoretically be possible to remove any buildings and services constructed now at some point in the future, and to restore the fields to e.g. agricultural use if this were a desired outcome.
- *Longer term or consequential effects of the development – changes to ownership, and the economic, communal and social viability*
 - Improved sporting facilities will enable the Newsome Panthers ARLFC to apply for future funding from Sport England for their grassroots sporting activities, to offer increased coaching facilities and generate income from the use of the premises. This contributes to the financial viability of the club, allowing it to remain a positive community facility. Without better facilities, the Club's long-term future as a social and community facility could be in jeopardy.

6.1.4 In summary, the proposed scheme has been devised in cognisance of the considerations outlined in the Castle Hill Setting Study (Atkins, 2016) and the feedback received from the LPA during the pre-application, thus mitigating any adverse physical and visual changes arising from the proposed new construction to the reasonably practicable extent.

6.2 Proposal and Assessment of Change

- 6.2.1 The proposed changes to the available facilities at Newsome Panthers ARLFC include the erection of replacement changing rooms, a new clubhouse, and additional car parking adjacent to Hall Bower Cricket Club (See Figures 3 to 13).
- 6.2.2 The existing modestly proportioned club facilities were brought to the site in 2006 and are in deteriorating condition, and the facilities offered do not meet Sport England standards.
- 6.2.3 The existing structures on site have a total footprint of 180 sqm, with the changing rooms at 46 sqm. The proposed footprint of the replacement building would be 708 sqm.
- 6.2.4 The facilities would include four changing rooms, a wrestling room and gym, a storage room, a social room, a bar, a kitchen, a meeting/classroom and bathroom facilities.
- 6.2.5 Proposed plans also include increased parking facilities on site.
- 6.2.6 The design and materiality of the proposed new building have been revised following pre-application consultation.
- 6.2.7 Please refer to Figures 3 to 13.

Indirect Changes

- 6.2.8 In numeric terms, the current built form within the site boundary occupies 180 sqm of the 3.3ha site (meaning 180 sqm represents about 0.55% of 3.3ha). The larger proposal building at 708 sqm would represent about 2.15% of the 3.3 hectares.
- 6.2.9 As acknowledged above, there is clear intervisibility between the Newsome Panther's ARLFC site and the northern side of the Castle Hill Scheduled Monument. While visibility is not always the same as 'setting' in the heritage context, it is acknowledged in this report and the adopted Supplementary Planning Documentation (Atkins, 2006 and 2016) that the heritage setting of the Castle Hill Scheduled Monument encompasses the proposed development site, and that setting is a positive contributor to how the heritage significance of the Scheduled Monument is understood, experienced and appreciated.
- 6.2.10 However, in line with the research and observation presented in Sections 4 and 5 of this report and in consideration of the design mitigation discussed above, it is concluded that the proposed scheme does not constitute an adverse change in the setting of the Scheduled Monument.

6.3 Impact Assessment

- 6.3.1 Visual impact on the setting: The proposed development would introduce a minor visual change within the wider setting of the heritage asset. Given the scale of the surrounding environment and the proposal's considered siting and design, this change would be discreet. It would not interrupt key longer-distance views or visual relationships that contribute to the asset's significance. The Scheduled Monument would remain clearly legible and dominant within its setting.
- 6.3.2 Impact on experiential value: The ability to experience, understand, and appreciate Castle Hill as a large-scale Schedule Monument that remains a prominent landscape-scale feature would remain unaffected. The asset's historic character and sense of place would be preserved, and the proposal would not materially alter how the asset is perceived or experienced by the public.
- 6.3.3 Physical impacts: No direct physical impact on the monument or its archaeological fabric would occur. There are no direct (physical) heritage impacts associated with the proposed development; the archaeological interest (evidential value) of the Scheduled Monument would not be adversely affected.
- 6.3.4 As no heritage harm has been identified, there is no need to demonstrate public benefits arising from the proposed scheme (para. 202 of NPPF). Nevertheless, the proposed development provides clear and meaningful public benefit by expanding opportunities for health and well-being, social inclusion, and community cohesion.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Outline Recommendations

- 7.1.1 No further recommendations for cultural heritage mitigation are made.

7.2 Conclusion

- 7.2.1 AB Heritage Limited were commissioned by Mr Dominic Newton (on behalf of the Newsome Panthers ARLFC) to produce a Heritage Statement covering proposed works to build new Club House and training facilities on the Club's sporting fields off Hall Bower Lane, Huddersfield HD4 6RN, replacing existing ageing changing rooms and other accommodation.
- 7.2.2 This report has identified the Castle Hill Scheduled Monument (and associated Grade II Listed Building) [**AB 1** and **AB 2**] as a heritage asset of very high significance for its multi-period remains and its prominent topographic position overlooking Huddersfield and the surrounding landscape.
- 7.2.3 Its significance has been attributed to archaeological interest (evidential value), and historical associations, its artistic and architectural interest as a designed feature (combining natural and man-made forms) in the landscape, and its aesthetically impressive landmark presence within the wider landscape. The wider setting of the Scheduled Monument enhances understanding, appreciation, and experience of the hillfort's heritage significance, making it another key contributor to the overall heritage significance of this unique site.
- 7.2.4 This report has found that the proposed scheme has been devised in cognisance of the considerations outlined in the Castle Hill Setting Study (Atkins, 2016) and the feedback received from the LPA during the pre-application, thus mitigating any adverse physical and visual changes arising from the proposed new construction to the extent that is reasonably practicable.
- 7.2.5 In line with the research and observation presented in Sections 4 and 5 of this report and in consideration of the design mitigation discussed in Section 6.1, it is concluded that the proposed scheme does not constitute an adverse change in the setting of the Scheduled Monument.
- 7.2.6 As no heritage harm has been identified, there is no need to demonstrate public benefits arising from the proposed scheme (in line with para. 202 of NPPF). Nevertheless, the proposed development provides clear and meaningful public benefit by expanding opportunities for health and well-being, social inclusion, and community cohesion.

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Appendix 1 Cultural Heritage Features Gazetteer

This gazetteer incorporates relevant archaeological, heritage and historic environment assets identified during a search of sources listed in Table 1 within 500m of the site.

Abbreviations

II – Grade II Listed Building

SM – Scheduled Monument

MWY / DWY: West Yorkshire HER Monument Prefix and UID

AB No.	Period	Description	Status	Ref. No.
AB 1	Pre-historic	Castle Hill: slight univallate hillfort, small multivallate hillfort, motte and bailey castle and deserted village	SM	MWY1
AB 2	Post-Medieval	VICTORIA TOWER - 1897-9. Architect: Isaac Jones, of Herne Hill, London. Contractors: Messrs Ben Graham of Crosland Moor. Hammer-dressed stone. Slightly battered tower, square in plan. Machicolations. Crenellated parapet. Slightly higher stair tower corbelled out on north-east corner. Various single-light windows. Built to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee, instead of a Free Public Library, the alternative suggestion.	II	DWY3981
AB 3	Post-Medieval	155, ASHES LANE - ASHES LANE 1. 5113 (South Side) Almondbury No 155 SE 1514 44/136 II 2. C18 or C19. Hammer-dressed stone. Pitched stone slate roof. 2 storeys. Three 2-light stone mullioned windows on 1st floor. One 2-light and one 4-light window on ground floor. Barn to rear with 2 pairs of planked doors.	II	DWY9224
AB 4	Post-Medieval	165-169, ASHES LANE - ASHES LANE 1. 5113 (South Side) Almondbury Nos 165 to 169 (odd) SE 1413 48/138 II 2. C18 or C19. Hammer-dressed stone. Rendered front. Pitched stone slate roof. 2 storeys. 1st floor has four 2-light and two 3-light stone mullioned windows. Ground floor has two 2-light and one 3-light stone mullioned windows, and one modern casement. West of No 169 is a barn with segment-headed archway, planked doors and lean-to outshut to south.	II	DWY9225
AB 5	Post-Medieval	WILLOW COTTAGE - HALL BOWER 1. 5113 Willow Cottage SE 1414 44/638 II GV 2. Probably C19. Hammer-dressed stone. Pitched stone slate roof. 2 storeys. Two 2-light stone mullioned sashes on 1st floor, one on ground floor.	II	DWY1808
AB 6	Post-Medieval	9, HALL BOWER - Probably C19. Hammer-dressed stone. Pitched stone slate roof. Two storeys. Two sashes on first floor, one on ground floor.	II	DWY8295

AB 7	Post-Medieval	11, HALL BOWER - HALL BOWER 1. 5113 No 11 SE 1414 44/640 II GV 2. Probably C19. Hammer-dressed stone. Pitched stone slate roof. 2 storeys. 2 sashes on 1st floor, one on ground floor.	II	DWY9310
AB 8	Post-Medieval	13, HALL BOWER - HALL BOWER 1. 5113 No 13 SE 1414 44/641 II GV 2. Probably C19. Hammer-dressed stone. Pitched stone slate roof. 2 storeys. 2 modern windows on 1st floor, one on ground floor.	II	DWY1809
AB 9	Post-Medieval	15, HALL BOWER - HALL BOWER 1. 5113 No 15 SE 1414 44/642 II GV 2. Probably C19. Hammer-dressed stone. Pitched stone slate roof. 2 storeys. 2 modern windows on 1st floor, one on ground floor.	II	DWY4054
AB 10	Post-Medieval	23, HALL BOWER - HALL BOWER 1. 5113 No 23 SE 1414 44/643 II GV 2. C18 or early C19. Hammer-dressed stone. Pitched stone slate roof. 2 storeys. Three 3-light stone mullioned windows on 1st floor, two 4-light stone mullioned windows on ground floor.	II	DWY9311
AB 11	Post-Medieval	27, HALL BOWER - HALL BOWER 1. 5113 No 27 SE 1414 44/644 II GV 2. C18 or early C19. Hammer-dressed stone. Pitched stone slate roof. 2 storeys. Two 3-light stone mullioned windows on 1st floor. One 4-light stone mullioned window on ground floor.	II	DWY4055
AB 12	Post-Medieval	29, HALL BOWER - HALL BOWER 1. 5113 No 29 SE 1414 44/645 II GV 2. C18 or early C19. Hammer-dressed stone. Pitched stone slate roof. 2 storeys. Two 3-light stone mullioned windows on 1st floor. One 4-light stone mullioned window on ground floor.	II	DWY1810
AB 13	Post-Medieval	31, HALL BOWER - HALL BOWER 1. 5113 No 31 SE 1414 44/646 II GV 2. C18 or early C19. Hammer-dressed stone. Pitched stone slate roof. 2 storeys. Two 3-light stone mullioned windows on 1st floor, one on ground floor.	II	DWY9312
AB 14	Post-Medieval	33, HALL BOWER - HALL BOWER 1. 5113 No 33 SE 1414 44/647 II GV 2. C18 or early C19. Hammer-dressed stone. Pitched stone slate roof. 2 storeys. Two 3-light stone mullioned windows on 1st floor, one on ground floor.	II	DWY8294
AB 15	Post-Medieval	57 AND 59, HALL BOWER - HALL BOWER 1. 5113 Nos 57 and 59 SE 1414 44/651 II 2. Probably C19. Rendered. Pitched slurried stone slate roof. 2 storeys. 2 casements, one 3-light and one 2-light stone mullioned window on 1st floor. One 3-light stone mullioned window on ground floor.	II	DWY4056
AB 16	Post-Medieval	HALL BOWER WORKING MENS ATHLETIC CLUB - HALL BOWER 1. 5113 Hall Bower Working Men's Athletic Club and No 55 SE 1414 44/650 II 2. Probably C19. Hammer-dressed stone. 1st floor rendered. Pitched stone slate roof. 2 storeys. 2 sashes and 2 stone mullioned sashes on 1st floor. One stone mullioned casement, and one modern neo-Georgian bay on ground floor.	II	DWY1812
AB 17	Post-Medieval	MISTAL TO WEST OF NUMBER 37 - HALL BOWER 1. 5113 Nos 35, 37 and Mistal to west of No 37 SE 1414 44/648 II GV 2. C18 or early C19. Hammer-	II	DWY1811

		dressed stone. Pitched stone slate roof. 2 storeys. Two 3-light stone mullioned windows on 1st floor, one on ground floor. One range of C19 casements at east end. Mistal has 3 planked loft doors and various blocked openings on ground floor.		
AB 18	Post-Medieval	157 AND 159, ASHES LANE - ASHES LANE 1. 5113 (South Side) Almondbury Nos 157 and 159 SE 1514 44/137 II 2. C18 or C19. Long house type farm house. Roughcast. Pitched stone slate roof. 2 storeys. House has one window with 4 stone mullions on ground floor, 2 with 2 stone mullions on 1st floor and one modern window. One door. Barn has one door and one window to loft. 2 hammer-dressed stone lean-to's to rear with stone slate roofs, one with 4-light stone mullioned window.	II	DWY2014
AB 19	Post-Medieval	158 AND 160, ASHES LANE - ASHES LANE 1. 5113 (North Side) Almondbury Nos 158 and 160 SE 1413 48/140 SE 1513 48/140 SE 1514 44/140 II 2. C18 or C19. But a house on this site is shown on Senior's Map of the Parish of Almondbury, 1634. Hammer-dressed stone. Pitched stone slate roof. 2 storeys. Six 2-light stone mullioned casements on 1st floor (and intervening lights blocked). Ground floor has two 3-light, one 2-light and one 5-light stone mullioned casements. Row of 3 adjacent barns to east.	II	DWY2016
AB 20	Post-Medieval	GOODHAM FARMHOUSE - C18 or C19. Long house type farmhouse. Hammer dressed stone. Pitched stone slate roof. 2 storeys. Three 2-light stone mullioned casements on 1st floor, one 2-light, and one 3-light on ground floor. Barn has lean-to outshut to east, with various planked openings.	II	DWY4064
AB 21	Post-Medieval	JACK ROYD - JACK ROYD LANE 1. 5113 (North Side) Newsome Nos 75 and 77 (Jack Royd) SE 1414 44/680 II 2. C18 or C19. Hammer dressed stone. Pitched stone slate roof. 2 storeys. No 75 has two 3-light stone mullioned casements on 1st floor, and one 4-light stone mullioned casement on ground floor. No 77 has three 2-light stone mullioned casements on 1st floor and modern windows on ground floor.	II	DWY1783
AB 22	Post-Medieval	1 AND 3, TOWNGATE - 2. C18 or C19. Hammer dressed stone. Pitched stone slate roof. 2 storeys. 1st floor has one 2-light and one 3-light stone mullioned casement arch. Ground floor of No 1 has modern shop window, of No 3 has one 3-light stone mullioned casement.	II	DWY5854
AB 23	Post-Medieval	27-31, TOWNGATE - TOWNGATE 1. 5113 (South Side) Newsome SE 1414 44/1283 Nos 27 to 31 (odd) II 2. Probably early C19. Hammer dressed stone. Pitched stone slate roof. 2 storeys. 2 ranges of 3-light casements each; No 31 has sashes.	II	DWY7576

AB 24	Post-Medieval	30-40, TOWNGATE - TOWNGATE 1. 5113 (North Side) Newsome SE 1414 44/1284 Nos 30 to 40 (even) II 2. Probably early C19. Hammer dressed stone. Nos 30 and 32 rendered. Pitched stone slate roof. 2 storeys. Stone mullioned casements, No 30's 6-light, rest mainly 3-light.	II	DWY4411
AB 25	Post-Medieval	Newsome Mills	HER	MWY2670
AB 26	Post-Medieval	Victoria Public House, Jackroyd Lane	HER	MWY8532
AB 27	Modern	World War II searchlight site at Hall Bower	HER	MWY4623
AB 28	Post-Medieval	The Round House, Almondbury	HER	MWY5511

Appendix 2 Historic England Consultation Response



Ms Elli Winterburn
AB Heritage Ltd
2 Infirmary Street
Leeds
LS1 2JP

Direct Dial: 01904 601859

Our ref: PA01205295

17 February 2026

Dear Ms Winterburn

Pre-application Advice

NEWSOME PANTHERS ARLFC, HALL BOWER, HUDDERSFIELD, HD4 6RR

Thank you for your preapplication consultation regarding the above application for planning permission for the construction of a new clubhouse, associated rugby pitch and car parking. On the basis of the information available, we offer the following advice.

Advice

Summary

The application proposes the construction of a modest single-storey clubhouse building and associated facilities to serve Newsome Panthers ARLFC, located to the north of the existing cricket pitches on the lower slopes of Castle Hill.

Castle Hill is a Scheduled Monument and the proposed development has the potential to affect its setting. Having reviewed the submitted Heritage Statement and accompanying information, Historic England concurs with the applicant's assessment.

While the development would introduce built form within the wider setting of the monument, the scale, siting and design mean that the proposal would represent only a limited change within the wider landscape context. In our view this change would not result in harm to the significance of the Scheduled Monument.

Significance

Castle Hill is an evocative place which plays a special role in the identity of Kirklees. It is a place valued and loved by the local population and for many people it is an iconic symbol of the area.

The closest parallel for its landscape impact and iconic status is Glastonbury Tor, with both places sharing a similar dramatic and recognisable silhouette composed of simple memorable forms. The continuity of use as a place for settlement and recreation from at least the later prehistoric period to the present day has given it a



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unique standing within the north of England. Its form as a planned medieval hilltop settlement further contributes to its importance.

Castle Hill is significant for multiple reasons. Archaeologically and historically, it represents rare continuity of human activity over more than four millennia. Ecologically it supports acid grassland and associated habitats. Socially it has long been a gathering place for recreation, celebration and public expression. These values are both tangible, expressed in surviving earthworks and built remains, and intangible, residing within community memory and identity. The importance of the site is reflected in its designation as a Scheduled Monument and in the listed status of Victoria Tower.

The open land on the western slopes and plateaus beneath the hill continues to provide a clear visual buffer between Castle Hill and the surrounding settlements. This separation is critical in maintaining the hill's prominence and reinforcing its historic role as a dominant feature in the landscape. The monument's significance is therefore closely tied to its topography, skyline presence and the ability to appreciate it as a prominent and isolated landmark.

The significance of Castle Hill has been recognised in key documents produced by Kirklees Council and partners, including the Conservation Management Plan (2006) and the Castle Hill Setting Study (2016).

Impact on Significance

The proposed development would be located on lower ground, physically and visually separated from the summit and principal archaeological remains. The building is single storey, modest in scale and uses natural materials including stone and timber cladding, which reduces its visual prominence within the wider landscape.

Although the development introduces new built form into the monument's wider setting, it does not interrupt key views of the hill, does not compete with the skyline silhouette of the monument, and does not diminish the ability to appreciate Castle Hill as a dominant landmark. The important open slopes and plateau areas that maintain visual separation between the monument and surrounding settlement would remain legible.

Historic England therefore considers that the proposal would result in no harm to the significance of the Scheduled Monument.

We agree with the conclusions of the submitted Heritage Statement and consider that the scheme has been devised with due regard to the Castle Hill Setting Study and responds appropriately to its findings.



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Position of Historic England

Historic England has no concerns and, should the proposals be submitted in their current form, would not object to the application.

We consider the scale, location and design of the development to be appropriate in heritage terms and that the proposal has been carefully considered in relation to the monument's setting. The development would not undermine the landmark qualities, archaeological interest or communal value of Castle Hill.

Next Steps

Thank you for involving us at the pre-application stage. We consider your proposals have now reached a stage where they address any heritage considerations we may have.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Burn
Development Advice Team Leader
E-mail: andrew.burn@historicengland.org.uk

cc:

NEWSOME PANTHERS ARLFC, HALL BOWER, HUDDERSFIELD, HD4 6RR Pre-application Advice

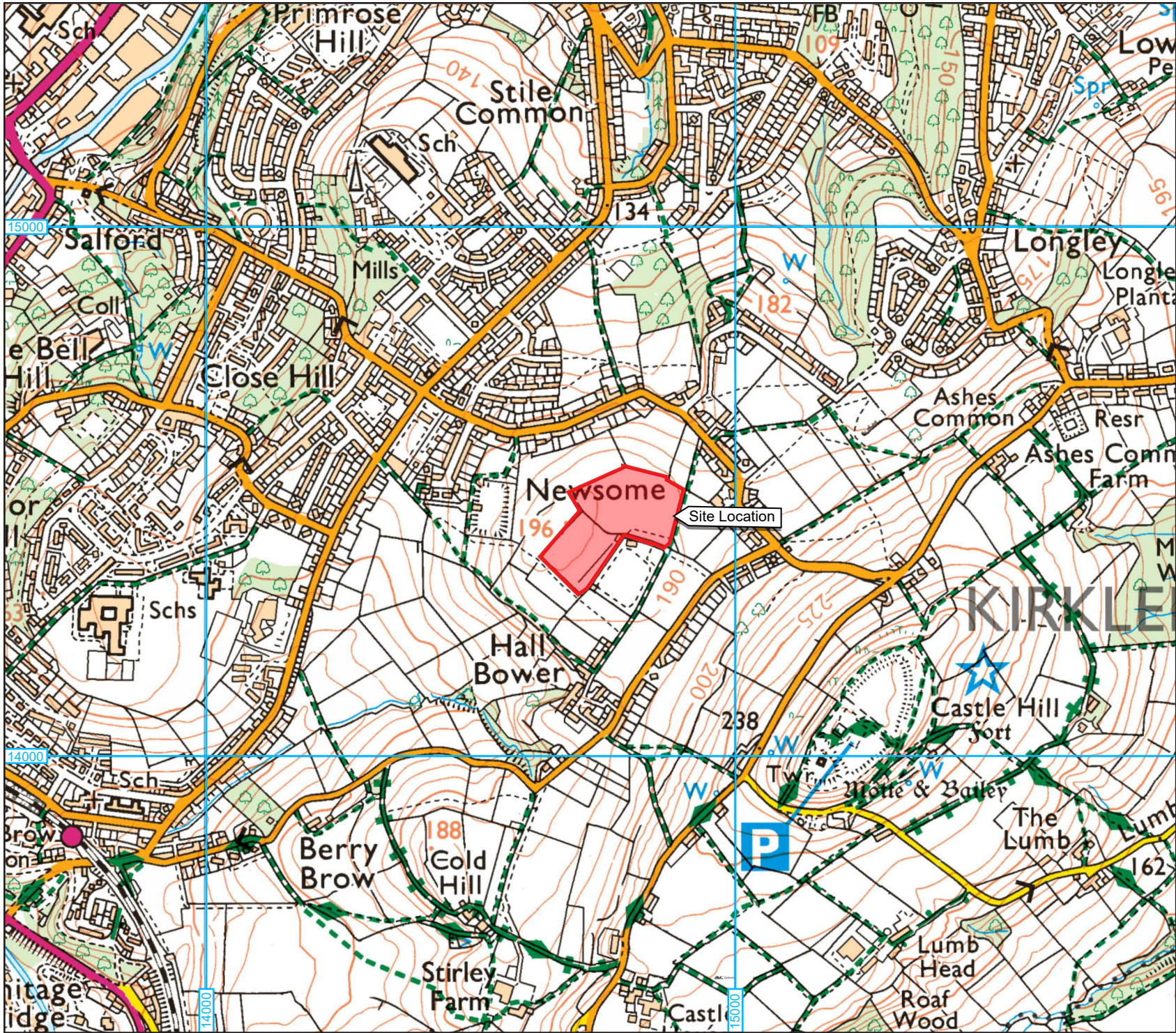
List of information on which the above advice is based

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- 3D-11-A3-compressed.pdf
- 3D-3-A3-compressed.pdf
- 3D-7-A3-compressed.pdf
- 3D-9-A3-compressed.pdf
- 64107_AB Heritage_Hall Bower Huddersfield_HS_final PDF_combined.pdf
- A100-Location Plan.pdf
- Elevations - sheet 1 of 2.pdf
- Elevations - sheet 2 of 2.pdf
- Ground Floor Plan.pdf
- Newsome Panthers Pre-application response.pdf
- PA01 - Initial Enquiry - Agreement to Advise.pdf
- Roof Plan.pdf
- Site Plan.pdf



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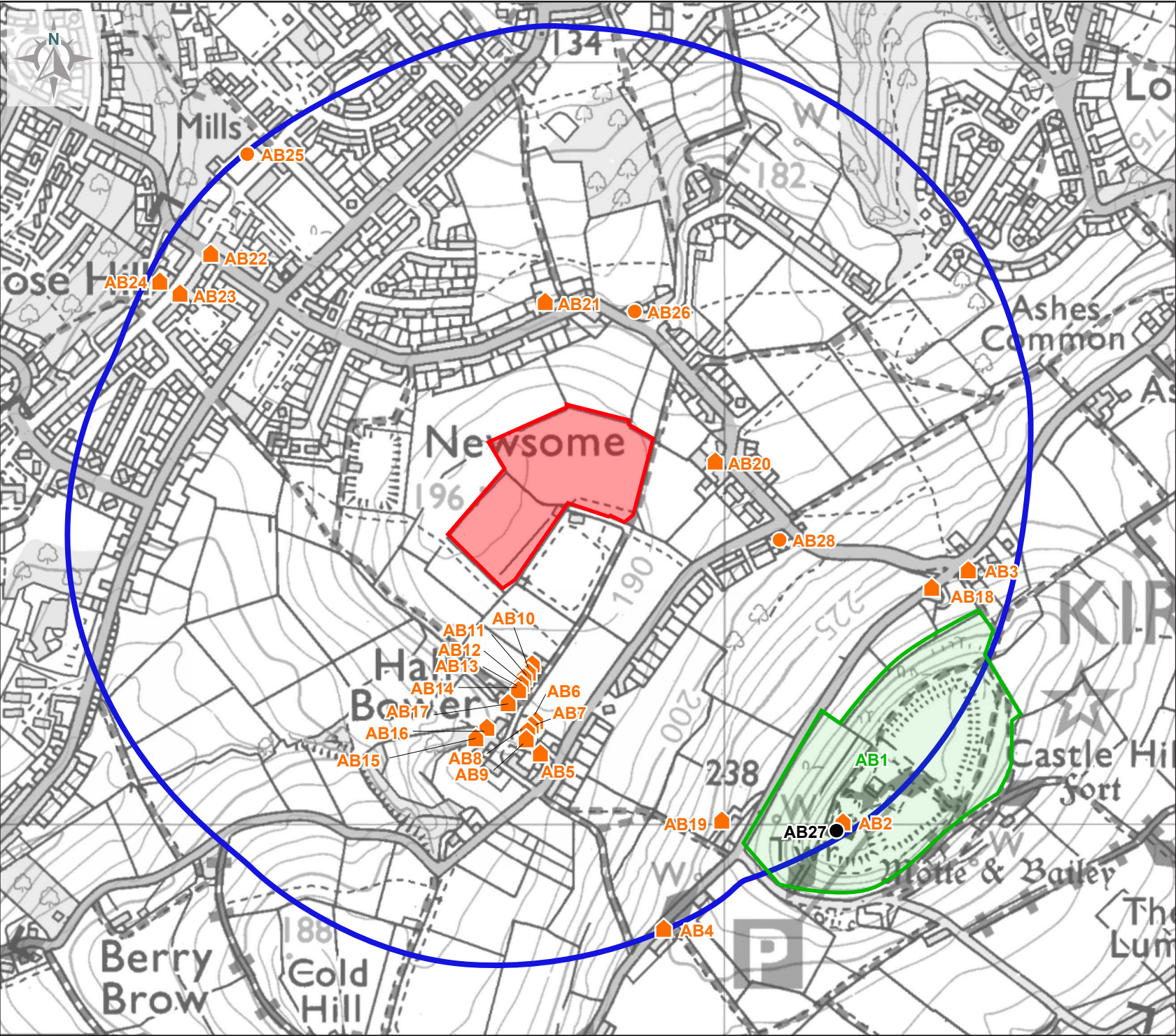


KEY

- Site Location (inset)
- Site Boundary

0 500m
1:10,000

Figure 1: Site Location	
Project: Newsome Panther ARLF	
Date: 14/01/26	Job No: 64107



KEY

Site Boundary

Search Area (500m)

Scheduled Monument

Listed Building

Archaeological Features (point)

Archaeological Features (poly)

PERIOD

Prehistoric

Roman

Medieval

Post Medieval

Modern

Undated

0

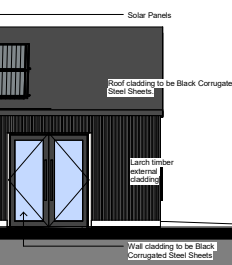
300m

1:7,000

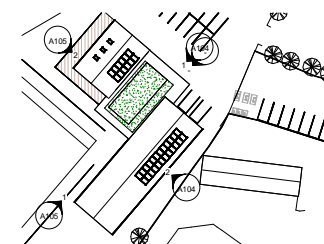
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1 : 50



1 : 50



Rev	Date	By	Chk	Description
2	24/10/25			Update to internal comments
1	29/1/25			First issue

Project Title
Hall Bower Rugby Club

Client
Newsome Panthers ARLFC

Drawing Title
Elevations - Sheet 1 of 2

Drawing No.
A102

Date	Drawn By	Revision
10/05/24	RD	2

Drawing Stage
Planning

As Issued ☒ A1 indicator

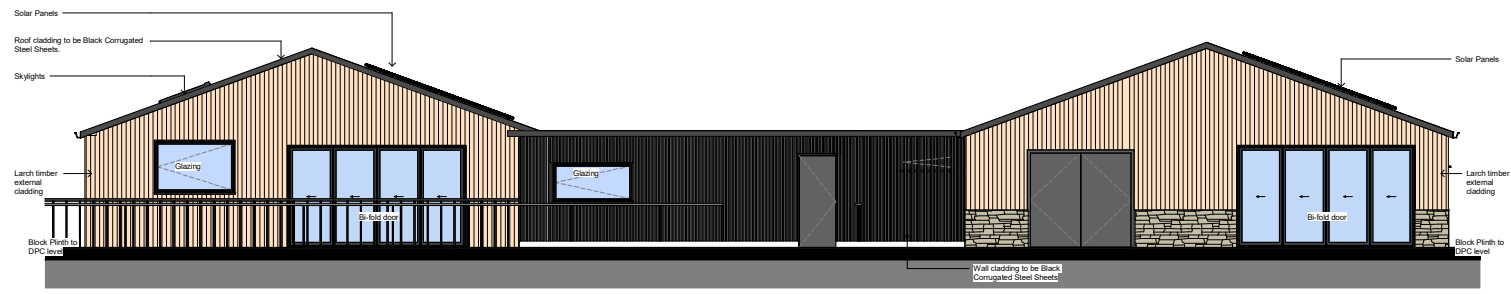
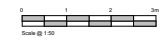
Notes

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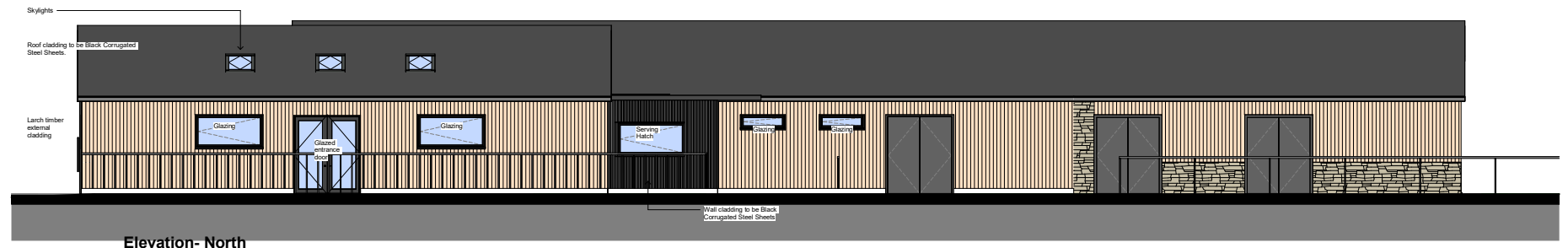
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All structural components shown are illustrative only. Details, calculations, or structural forms to be provided by the Structural Engineer.

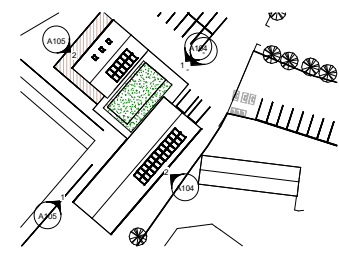
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Elevation- West
1 : 50



Elevation- North
1 : 50



3	12/01/20			Updated to post pre planning meeting
2	24/02/20			Update to internal comments
1	20/01/20			Final Issue
Rev	Date	By	C/N	Description

Project Title
Hall Bower Rugby Club

Client
Newsome Panthers ARLFC

Drawing Title
Elevations - Sheet 2 of 2

Drawing No.
A102

Date	Drawn By	Revision
10/02/04	RD	3
Drawing Stage	Scale	
Planning	As	② A1
	Indicated	

Notes

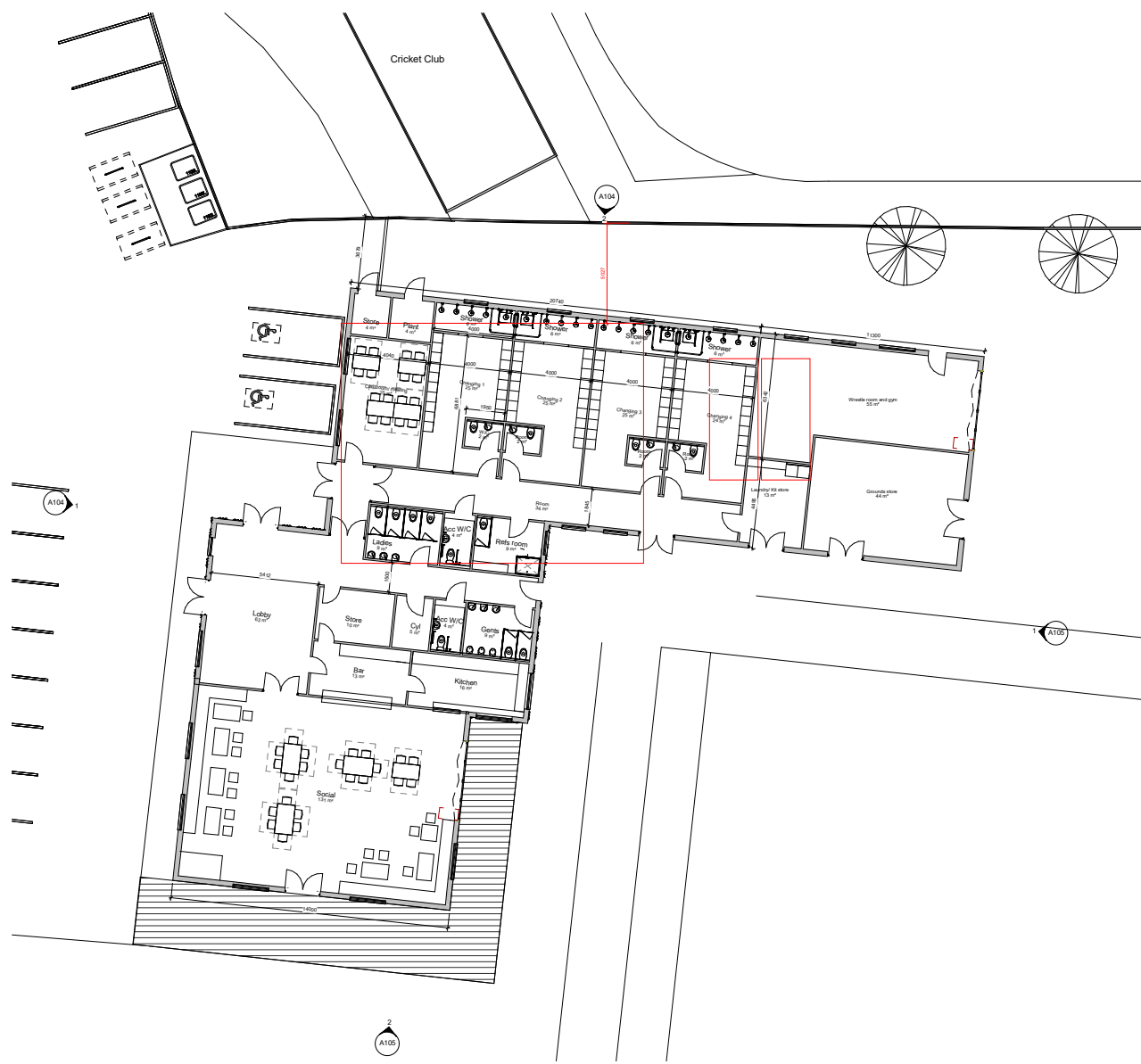
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Use only Imperial dimensions.

All structural components shown are illustrative only. Details, calculations, of structure forms to be provided by the Structural Engineer.

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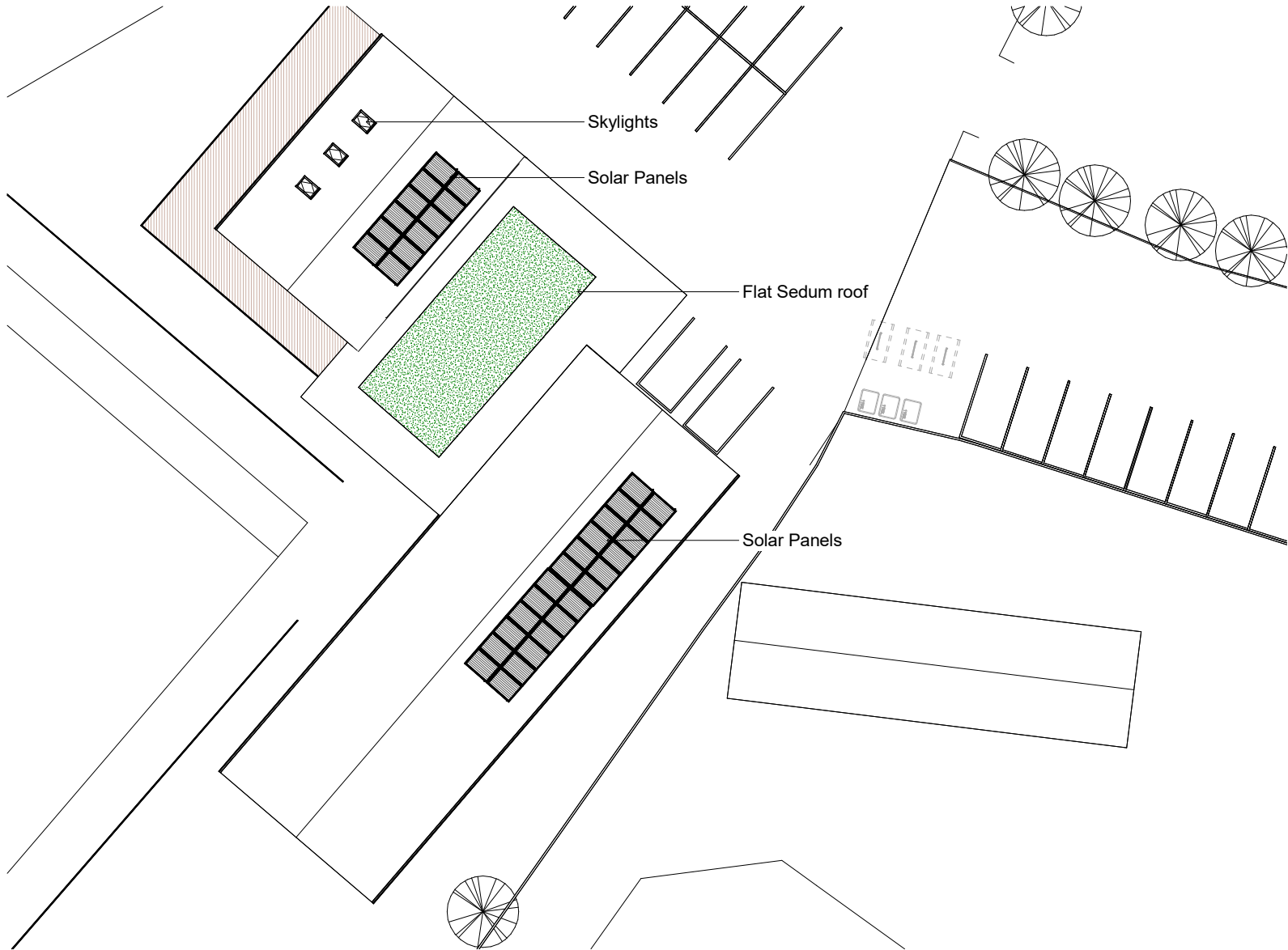
— Indicates existing footprint: 227m²



Ground Floor plan
1:100

4	13/01/25	Updated for Committee meeting		
3	23/11/25	Updated after pre planning		
2	24/05/25	Updated to internal comments		
1	29/01/25	Final Issue		
Rev	Date	By	Chk	Description
Project Title				
Hall Bower Rugby Club				
Client				
Newsome Panthers ARLFC				
Drawing Title				
Ground Floor Plan				
Drawing No.				
A102				
Date	Drawn By	Scale	Revision	
27/01/24	RD	As	4	
Drawing Stage	Scale	@ A1		
Planning	As indicated			





Notes

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Use only Imperial dimensions.

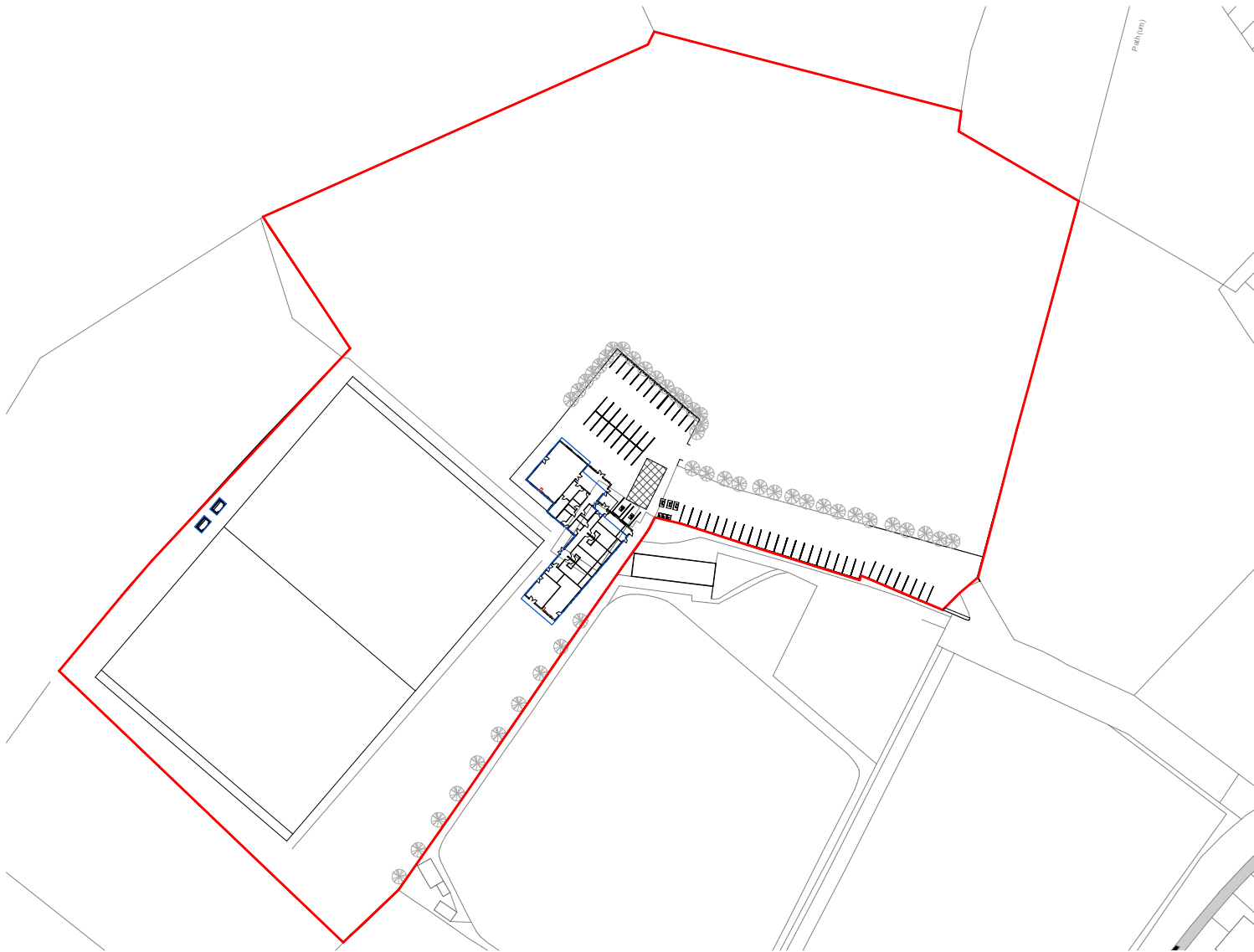
All structural components shown are illustrative only. Details, calculations, or structure forms to be provided by the Structural Engineer.

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Roof Plan
1 : 100

3	12/01/25			Updated to post pre planning meeting
3	23/11/25			Updated after pre planning
2	02/01/25			Update to internal comments
1	29/01/25			Final issue
Rev	Date	By	CHK	Description
Project Title				
Hall Bower Rugby Club				
Client				
Newsome Panthers ARLFC				
Drawing Title				
Roof Plan				
Drawing No.				
A102				
Date		Drawn By		Revision
27/01/25		RD		4
Drawing Stage		Scale		
Planning		As @ A1		
		Indicated		



Notes

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Use only Standard dimensions.

All structural components shown are illustrative only. Details, calculations of structure forms to be provided by the Structural Engineer.

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- Boundary Line
- Proposed clubhouse m²: 619m²
- Proposed dugouts m²: 20m²
- Ground source heat pump location



Site Plan
1 : 500

3	13/01/25	Updated for Committee meeting		
2	24/03/25	Update to internal comments		
1	28/01/25	Final Issue		
Rev	Date	By	Chk	Description
Project Title				
Hall Bower Rugby Club				
Client				
Newsome Panthers ARLFC				
Drawing Title				
Site Plan				
Drawing No.				
A102				
Date	Drawn By	RD	Check By	Revision
13/03/24				3
Drawing Stage	Scale			
Planning	As Indicated @ A1			













AB Heritage Limited (Head Office)
Jarrow Business Centre
Rolling Mill Road, Jarrow
Tyne & Wear, NE32 3DT
Tel: 03333 440 206
e-mail: info@abheritage.co.uk