

# **Castle Hill Setting Study**

Kirklees Council

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# 1. Introduction

## Background to the Study

- 1.1. Kirklees Council has commissioned Atkins to provide a description and assessment of the setting of Castle Hill in Huddersfield, to inform their Local Plan allocations and future development management functions. The study builds upon previous work undertaken to support the Conservation Management Plan in 2006, and reflects additional work undertaken subsequently.
- 1.2. This current study focuses wholly on the setting of Castle Hill and considers the extent to which the significance of Castle Hill is derived from its setting. It also examines current features which detract from this setting, outlines particularly sensitive aspects of the asset's setting and identifies future risks and issues related to the impact of further development in the surrounding area.
- 1.3. Castle Hill is a prominent landmark within Kirklees and Huddersfield and is widely used and appreciated by those living in and visiting the area. Set in a commanding position atop a hill to the south-east of Huddersfield, this highly unusual site (in the context of northern England) shows evidence of extensive continuing occupation, from the construction of a late Bronze Age hill fort, through its development into a medieval castle, and more recently the construction of Victoria Tower in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, which is a key feature of the Site today. There are few if any comparators in the region. The topography of the Site is closely linked to its continued use; it both commands views across the surrounding area and can be seen from a wide radius. Castle Hill is designated as a Scheduled Monument (NHLE1009846), with Victoria Tower further designated as a Grade II Listed Building (NHLE1210385)<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.4. The study builds primarily on the *Castle Hill Conservation Management Plan (2006)* produced for Kirklees Council. The Management Plan identified the need for careful management of the setting of Castle Hill over the coming decades to ensure that the key characteristics and features of this setting are appropriately conserved, and that new developments are appropriate in terms of scale, mass and design.
- 1.5. The primary purpose of the report is to provide baseline information that LPAs, Historic England, developers, applicants and other interested parties can use to inform their proposals and responses to proposals. It is not designed to provide all the answers for all the questions that such bodies will pose, but should form a starting point for further consideration. It is expected that the report will be used by:
  - Kirklees Council to inform their ongoing allocation process;
  - Kirklees Council to inform development control decision making for development that may alter the setting of Castle Hill;
  - Kirklees Council as a tool to for engaging with developers at the pre-application stage;
  - Historic England to inform their responses to developments that may alter the setting of Castle Hill;
  - developers as a starting point for their assessment of potential impacts on the setting of Castle Hill and, importantly, to inform their design proposals; and
  - other interested parties to inform their responses to developments.

## Methodology

- 1.6. Historic England's guidance document *The Setting of Heritage Assets, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 3* (2015) sets out a methodology for assessing the impact of proposed development on the setting of heritage assets, and the effect that impacts may have on an asset's significance. This report has used Steps 1 to 3 of Historic England's recommended methodology in such an assessment: firstly identifying the heritage asset, secondly assessing how and to what degree the setting makes a contribution to the significance of the asset, and

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<sup>1</sup> Scheduled monument description for Castle Hill: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1009846>. List description for Victoria Tower: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1210385>.

thirdly assessing the effect of the proposed development on the significance of the asset as a result.

- 1.7. Historic England have also published a guidance document on *The Historic Environment in Local Plans, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 1* (2015), which includes advice on how the historic environment can be considered in site allocations. This recommends that site allocations should be informed by an evidence base of heritage assets and an analysis of potential effect on these by the allocations. Further guidance on site allocations is emerging from Historic England, which advises that within analysis of potential effects on heritage assets, effects on setting which harm the significance of an asset should be avoided. While at the same time, site allocations can equally provide opportunities to be beneficial to the historic environment.
- 1.8. The consideration of the setting of Castle Hill has involved returning to analyse in more depth the contribution the setting of the Site makes to its significance, as summarised in the Conservation Management Plan. This has been built upon with data gathered on views to and from the hilltop and the character of the surrounding landscape to produce a wide-ranging discussion of Castle Hill's setting and significance, which has then informed an identification and discussion of existing and potential future detractors from that setting.
- 1.9. A number of site visits have been made to Castle Hill and its wider environs in order to gather data on its position in the landscape, and analyse the views to and from the site. The data gathered by the site visits has been used in conjunction with the use of digital surface and terrain models to create mapping of zones of theoretical vision (ZTVs) to and from the hilltop, as well as that already produced in the Conservation Management Plan, the *Kirklees District Landscape Character Assessment* (2015) and existing information and documents supporting the creation of the Kirklees Local Plan. This is combined to consider how the factors identified form the setting of the Site, and how this setting contributes to the significance of Castle Hill, as well as how this may be vulnerable to change and impact from future development.

## Structure of the Report

1.10. The Report is set out as follows:

- Section 1: Introduction
- Section 2: Description of Castle Hill
- Section 3: The Setting of Castle Hill – describing the different elements which contribute to the Site's setting
- Section 4: Contribution of Setting to Significance
- Section 5: Key Detractors – identifying those elements which detract from the Site's setting and its contribution to significance
- Section 6: Key Risks and Issues – identification and analysis of potential future development which may detract from the setting, and factors to mitigate against this.

## Planning Background

- 1.11. The *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) sets out the national planning policy on the historic environment, and identifies that local authorities should themselves set out their own positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of their heritage. Paragraph 129 identifies that local authorities should identify and assess the significance of historic assets potentially affected by planning proposals, and that developments affecting the setting of a heritage asset should be included in this. Paragraph 132 of the framework stated that substantial harm or loss to the significance of heritage assets of the highest significance, including scheduled monuments such as Castle Hill, should be wholly exceptional.
- 1.12. Setting is defined in the *National Planning Policy Framework* as "*The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of the asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.*"<sup>2</sup>
- 1.13. As identified above, *The Setting of Heritage Assets, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 3* (2015) provides guidance on the assessment of impacts of proposed

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<sup>2</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government, *National Planning Policy Framework* (2012), Annex 2: Glossary.

developments on the setting of heritage assets, while *The Historic Environment in Local Plans, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 1* (2015) provides guidance on local authorities approach to the historic environment in preparing local plans. This superseded the earlier document *The Setting of Heritage Assets* (2011). The *Good Practice Advice in Planning* documents are intended to be used in conjunction with, or in support of implementing, the *National Planning Policy Framework*.

- 1.14. This study is intended to help inform and aid the implementation of the planning policies in the Kirklees Local Plan, which is currently being produced. The Local Plan will set out areas of Kirklees which require protection, including valuable open spaces and areas of high environmental or historic value, in addition to addressing future housing development land allocations. Various documents and supporting information has already been published and is being used in the preparation of the plan. A number of these have helped to inform sections of this study, including the *South Pennines Wind Energy Landscape Study* (2014), the *Kirklees District Landscape Character Assessment* (2015) and the *Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment* (2014).



## 2. Description of Castle Hill

- 2.1. Castle Hill is an evocative place that plays a special role in the identity of Kirklees. It is a place that is valued and loved by the local population and for many people is an iconic symbol of the area. The continuity of its use as a place for settlement and recreation from potentially as early as the Late Neolithic period through to the present day has given it an almost unique standing not only in Kirklees, but in the whole of the north of England. This section explores these past and present relationships and provides a description of Castle Hill, as baseline information on which further analysis of setting can be based.
- 2.2. The section begins with an overview of current knowledge about the hill, its archaeology and history, an introduction to its setting, and looks into how it is used today by a range of visitors.

### Current data and knowledge

- 2.3. The understanding of Castle Hill, as presented in the Conservation Management Plan and below, is reliant on current knowledge and data. In terms of the geological, landscape and setting aspects, the Management Plan is founded on recent data collected as part of the Plan process, while in understanding how Castle Hill is currently used, this was based on the results of the Public Consultation conducted for the Plan process, field observation and discussions with the site's management team. Since the production of the Management Plan, further work relating to Castle Hill has been undertaken, including additional visitor surveys.
- 2.4. Archaeological and historical background information is based on an assessment of published excavation reports, mainly from excavations undertaken by William Varley between 1939 and 1972, and on more recent archaeological investigations and earthwork surveys undertaken during the 1990s. A full assessment of Varley's excavations and archive in the Tolson Museum has recently been undertaken, however Varley's evidence is still somewhat incomplete and constrained by the research methodologies employed. As a result, the archaeological and historical development of Castle Hill is still not fully understood, with unanswered questions regarding the chronology and occupation of the site. Given the nature of interpreting archaeological and historical remains, and their significance, the interpretations presented in this Study may not be supported by all archaeologists or historians. As interpretations of Castle Hill change through time, views on its significance or past functions may change, which in turn have the potential to lead to a requirement for the Study to be revised to accommodate and reflect new understandings.

### Site location, geology and topography

- 2.5. Castle Hill lies in the eastern foothills of the Pennines, above the upper reaches of the Holme and Colne Valleys, some 3km from the centre of Huddersfield. It is situated at the northern edge of a heavily dissected plateau block of land defined to east and west by the valleys of the Fenay Beck and River Holme. The hill is roughly oval-shaped in plan, with generally steep sides and a largely flat summit stepping down slightly to the north-east. The hill's shape and elevation reflect its geological formation which comprises alternating bands of sandstones and shales of the Lower Coal Measures series laid almost horizontally (Institute of Geological Sciences, 1978), capped by an outlier of resistant Grenoside rock (RCHME 1996). The location of Castle Hill is shown in Figure 1.
- 2.6. The topography immediately surrounding Castle Hill gives the hilltop a unique character. The mound of Castle Hill sits itself on a small plateau of land above the Fenay Beck to the east, and the lower plateau on which the suburb of Newsome sits to the west. This plateau in turn drops away to the Holme Valley, the river running north towards Huddersfield town centre, passing through the settlements of Honley and Brockholes to Holmfirth beyond. The steep sided hilltop, located above the plateau itself high up above the river valley, means that Castle Hill dominates the local landscape. From the surrounding plateau itself, Farnley Bank above Fenay Beck, and the opposite Holme Valley side, the hilltop rises up dominating the views and the skyline.
- 2.7. Castle Hill is one of the most distinctive landscape features in the region. It is visible from a wide area around the site and is a familiar and valued landmark. Victoria Tower, which lies on the south-western end of the hill top, accentuates this dramatic location and has become a key

feature of the area's skyline. Castle Hill is both a prominent landscape feature from afar within the Kirklees landscape, as well as dominating its immediate surroundings. The dramatic topographic form is the direct result of geomorphological processes and it is this topographic form that has led to the site being a focus of activity for over 4,000 years. The topography of the landscape around Castle Hill is shown in Figure 2.

## Current use of the Site

- 2.8. Castle Hill is a well-used and attractive recreational resource that serves Huddersfield in particular as well as the wider Kirklees area. The Conservation Management Plan and subsequent visitor surveys identify that there are a large number of regular users, who contribute significantly to the overall number of visits and many more people who come on a less frequent basis. The wide range of users come for different reasons, although not always at different times. There is undoubtedly a very regular group of (probably mostly local) users, who use the site as an accessible location for a walk or to walk the dog, with many locally based people also taking visitors to the hill. Other users, perhaps from further afield, tend to use the Site for the views it affords, maybe as a special trip on a relatively occasional basis.

## Archaeological and historical background

### Introduction

- 2.9. As highlighted above, despite the amount of work undertaken on Castle Hill, and recent assessment of the relevant archaeological resource, the current information available on its archaeological and historical development is not of sufficient detail and quality to provide a complete interpretation of its development over time. A large amount of research was undertaken during the production of the Conservation Management Plan, based primarily on the results of Varley's archaeological excavations, and an assessment of Varley's findings and archives at the Tolson Museum has subsequently been conducted. Nevertheless, the background presented here should not be considered to be final and will undoubtedly be subject to change based on the findings of any further future research. In spite of gaps in our knowledge of the archaeological and historical development of Castle Hill, a basic interpretation of the main phases of its development can be presented.

### Archaeological and Historical development

#### Pre-Phase 1 Palaeolithic – Early Neolithic (500,000 BC - 3,400 BC)

- 2.10. On Castle Hill there is currently no recorded evidence for activity from the earlier prehistoric periods i.e. Palaeolithic and Mesolithic. However, absence of evidence does not necessarily mean that there was no activity on the hill at this time. The wider area contains sites and finds from the Mesolithic period, with evidence of significant activity recorded on Saddleworth and Marsden Moors, roughly 15km to the south-east. This has provided evidence for substantial hunting and settlement activity across the Moors, and suggests that the area around Castle Hill and the hill itself, especially given its topographical prominence, was suitable for human occupation at this time (Spikins, 2002).

#### Phase 1: Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age (3,400 BC – 1,200 BC)

- 2.11. The earliest recorded evidence for settlement on Castle Hill is from the later Neolithic / Early Bronze Age. Though evidence for this activity was identified during Varley's excavations, further evidence in close proximity to the hill suggests that it would have been a suitable place for settlement and / or other activities. Varley's investigations identified that any settlement would most likely have been undefended, and was concentrated at the south-western extents of the hill, topographically the most prominent and easily-defended. The remnants of undisturbed Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age land surfaces with associated deposits were recorded here, although there did not appear to be any associated structural remains. From current understanding, the rest of the hilltop appears to have been unoccupied. There is evidence of activity during this period within the wider region and it is likely that settlement on Castle Hill was associated with other activities in the area. It is reasonable to assume that the hill's location and prominence would have made it an attractive place for temporary or longer term settlement.

## Phase 2 – Late Bronze Age (1,200 BC – 700 BC)

- 2.12. Evidence from Varley's excavations points to the first enclosure of Castle Hill occurring during the Late Bronze Age, when the initial defences were erected. An area of roughly 2ha at the south-western end of the hill was enclosed by a single bank and ditch (a univallate enclosure). There is little available evidence for settlement activity within the enclosed area, but this could well be down to the quality of Varley's excavations and recording. Though the majority of the hilltop remained unenclosed during this period, this is not to say that there was no activity within these areas. It appears that there was a period of reconstruction of the univallate fort during the latter stages of the Late Bronze Age; Varley's evidence appear to show that the first rampart fell into disuse. There is currently no evidence to say for how long this period of disuse lasted, although it is possible that it was succeeded by a period of open settlement when the hill was occupied but not defended. Across the wider region, there are a number of hilltop settlements which appear to be similar in shape and form to the Late Bronze Age enclosure on Castle Hill, and it appears likely that Castle Hill formed part of a wider network of Late Bronze Age settlement activity.

## Phase 3 – Iron Age: the development of the hillfort (700 BC – AD43)

- 2.13. The Iron Age saw the remodelling of the small Late Bronze Age enclosure into a larger formal hillfort, though the exact date for this is unknown; the surviving medieval earthworks were seemingly constructed over the prehistoric banks and ditches. It appears the first phase of hillfort development saw rebuilding of the Late Bronze Age bank and ditch, and the extending of these defences to enclose the entire hilltop, with additional defences added shortly afterwards. Later phases of development saw the construction of further banks and ditches, which were added to the eastern side of the hill and an outer enclosed area for pasture (Challis & Harding 1975).
- 2.14. Within the wider area Iron Age activity is recorded at Kirklees Park, roughly 9km to the north: a univallate, sub-rectangular earthwork. There are no known hillforts within the immediate area, unsurprising given that hillforts are rare in West Yorkshire, and in northern England as a whole. The closest known example is recorded at Barwick-in-Elmet, 34km to the north-east; significantly, like Castle Hill, also remodelled in the medieval period to create a motte and bailey.

## Phase 4 – Late Iron Age and early-Roman 100BC – AD450)

- 2.15. On Castle Hill there is no significant evidence for Roman activity, though the commanding topography of the hilltop could have seen a continuation of its use or occupation. The wider area does hold considerable evidence for a substantial Roman military and civilian presence. The main focus was centred on Slack Roman fort and *vicus* (town), known as Cambodunum, located 7km to the north-west, on the main road between Chester (*Deva*) and York (*Eboracum*), which would probably have housed a fairly large garrison and civilian population.

## Phase 5 - Early medieval (AD450 – 1066)

- 2.16. There is no significant evidence for substantial activity on the hill during this period. Given the prominent location of the hill it is possible that it was used for temporary settlement, or possibly the corralling of livestock. Early medieval activity has been identified in the area around Castle Hill, notably in ecclesiastical sites.

## Phase 6 - Medieval period (1066 – 1547)

- 2.17. The medieval period saw the next significant settlement activity on Castle Hill. At this time Almondbury formed part of the territory known as the Honour of Pontefract, which was held by the de Laci family who were likely responsible for the establishment of a castle on the hill. Documentary and archaeological evidence has suggested that the castle was complete and occupied by the 1140s. Its exact design is not known for certain; it is thought that it was either a motte and bailey, or ringwork and bailey; the former possesses a keep built on a mound, whereas a ringwork does not possess a mound, and is generally just a simple enclosure. The period's early development probably saw the summit divided into three baileys or wards. Within the wider area, Castle Hill appears to have formed part of a larger network of medieval motte and baileys, with examples in Mirfield, at Fartown, and further afield at Pontefract Castle, Sandal Castle and the redeveloped hillfort at Barwick-on-Elmet.
- 2.18. Activity on the hill during this time would have been varied. The inner bailey would have been fairly secure, the keep probably located on the site currently occupied by Victoria Tower and a hall near to the current location of the well. The centre bailey would have most likely been used for workshops, domestic activity and may have housed the garrison, with the outer bailey used for agricultural activity and maybe to give temporary shelter to local people and their livestock, or

perhaps more permanent settlement. Towards the turn of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, it appears that there was a change of function at the castle, with the outer bailey being turned over to agriculture and the buildings of the inner bailey becoming a hunting lodge. In the early 14<sup>th</sup> century there is evidence that there was an attempt to found a town on the hill. It has been suggested that this was laid out in the outer bailey, supported by aerial photography revealing what appears to be a central roadway flanked by regular plots. It is thought that the town was abandoned by the 1340s.

### Phase 7 – Post-medieval (1547 – 1901)

- 2.19. There appears to have been no attempt to settle the hilltop after the town's abandonment. Its prominent location was again used in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century, when it was the site for a warning beacon, first placed on Castle Hill in 1588 and replaced during the War of Spanish Succession, and again during the Napoleonic Wars. A tavern was built on the hill in 1810–11, which was subsequently demolished leading to the construction of the Castle Hill Hotel in 1852.
- 2.20. Victoria Tower was built to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 and was completed in 1899. Victoria Tower is approximately 33m high, a tall, square tower of deliberately medieval appearance, described by Pevsner (1959) as 'broad and heavy... [with] a high embattled stair turret'. The Tower has remained relatively unchanged during its lifetime although modernisation and other conservation work has been undertaken. The hilltop also hosted political action; a rally during the great weaver's strike of 1883 and at least four Chartist rallies took place on the hill.

### Phase 8 - Modern (1901 – present day)

- 2.21. While Castle Hill ceased to act as a place for major settlement, it has retained its function as a recreational and defensive site into the post-medieval and modern periods. Huddersfield District Council acquired the freehold of Castle Hill in 1920, while the Hotel remained in use throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, being demolished in 2005. The recreational use of the Site has continued to the present day, for walking and enjoying the views, although the variety of activities undertaken on the site today have increased. The prominent location of the hill was a valuable asset during the Second World War, as an ideal location for an observation post and anti-aircraft gun position against German raids on Manchester, Leeds and Liverpool. The remains of a Royal Observer Corp observation post, survive to this day on the north-eastern inner rampart, as do the remains of an anti-aircraft gun position just to the west of Castle Hill.

## Landscape Character Assessment

- 2.22. The character of the landscape around Castle Hill is analysed and assessed in the *Kirklees District Landscape Character Assessment* (2015). The assessment identifies eight landscape character types within Kirklees, and 19 landscape character areas within these. In the context of national landscape character (NCA), there are four National Character Areas which intersect the district: South Pennines; Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe; Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfields; and Dark Peak. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles>)
- 2.23. Castle Hill lies within Landscape Character Type E: Rural Fringes and Landscape Character Area E6: Landscape Fenay Beck Valley Rural Fringes. The assessment characterises this area as consisting of gently undulating plateaus with local variations in topography related to the course of Fenay Beck, with both farmed grassland pasture and large blocks of trees and woodland on the slopes. It is identified as having a strong historic landscape character, to which Castle Hill itself makes a major contribution. A mostly settled and rural landscape, the elevation of the area results in long views across the district and beyond. In the context of national landscape character, it lies in NCA 37: Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe.
- 2.24. The setting of Castle Hill, visible from the hilltop, incorporates almost the entire range of landscape character types within Kirklees. To the north and west, the centre of Huddersfield is characterised mainly as Urban in type, though with areas of both landscape character types M: Industrial Lowland Valleys and F: Settled Valleys also visible. These areas reflect the urban conurbation of Huddersfield, historically driven by industrial development and associated settlement along the river valleys. Further afield to the north and north-west, the edge of character area E2: Rural Fringe – Barkisland – Holwell Green can be seen as the urban spread of Huddersfield thins into farmland beyond the M62. To the east, the foreground view of the close ridgeline is characterised as G: Wooded Rural Valley, in this case Fenay Beck Valley and Tributaries (G9). Beyond, the distant ridgeline is part of character area N1: Rolling Wooded

Farmland – Emley Moor. These areas are representative of the rural character of the easterly aspect from the hilltop, with very little settlement visible in this direction. The view to the south is similar in character area make-up, with E6 Rural Fringe area in which the hilltop itself lies continuing to the south, between Wooded Rural Valleys (G8, G9), the tops of which are visible from the hilltop, as are the Settled Valleys of Holme and Hall Dike (F5). Beyond these areas of rural settlement and valley towns and villages, the landscape character gives way to higher moorland ground, characterised by less settlement and farmland, and more heathland and jagged topography. This is formed of character areas D7: Peak Fringe Upland Pasture and A2: North Peak (Wessenden and Meltham Moors).

# 3. The Setting of Castle Hill

## Introduction and Overview

- 3.1. This section provides a summary of Castle Hill's setting, which serves as a baseline to be expanded through the rest of this report. This includes a description and analysis of the extent and characteristics of the setting ranging from its general situation through to the identification of views to and from the site, and historical connections.
- 3.2. In summary, the numerous components of the site's setting produce a complex identity of Castle Hill as a highly prominent urban fringe site that overlooks the eastern slopes of the Pennines from the Peak District National Park in the south to the Calderdale moorland in the north, and which is generally surrounded by an open rural farmed landscape dissected by numerous steep-sided river valleys. Urban development is mainly confined to the valleys around the site, having little significance within the site's setting, with no major urban expansion within the immediate vicinity of the site. The town of Huddersfield itself sits at the confluence of the River Colne and River Holme, to the north-west of the hill. This particular urban conurbation does play a major part in the site's setting and helps tell the story of the wider landscapes development and industrialisation and urbanisation in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- 3.3. The underlying topography means that the site has a very extensive visual influence and viewshed, over 10km in some places. Within this area views of the site form part of the daily backdrop for thousands of people's lives and are particularly valued by these communities. In response to the public consultation for the Conservation Management Plan 97% of people indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that Castle Hill was a "Familiar local landmark that represents the area", whilst 96% felt that "Views of the Hill and Victoria Tower from the surrounding area" were important.
- 3.4. The topography also provides the site with a defined local setting. This local setting and overall setting can be defined by analysing the landscape character, theoretical viewsheds and views to and from the Site, and can be illustrated by plotting the significant ridgelines in the area (Figure 3). The Conservation Management Plan identified that this setting required careful management over the coming decades to ensure that key characteristics and features of this setting are appropriately conserved and that new developments are appropriate in terms of the location, scale and mass.
- 3.5. Castle Hill's position in the landscape ensures it is both a prominent feature within the wider landscape of Kirklees, and also dominates the local landscape around the hilltop. Both these elements contribute to Castle Hill's setting; its prominence lies at the heart of its identity as a familiar landmark, while its dominance, reinforced by the historic development of the defensive elements of the hilltop, defines its setting from the local surroundings. Victoria Tower does not always add to the dominance of the hilltop, but does contribute to the prominence of the hilltop when viewed across the wider landscape.
- 3.6. The position and identity of Castle Hill within the surrounding historic landscape means that the site has a series of identifiable relationships with chronologically related features in the wider area. These relationships include a series of defined views to and from key visible features in the wider landscape such as other medieval settlements and visible prehistoric sites. In addition, a series of non-visual relationships are also identifiable. These are analysed in more detail in Section 4. The visual relationships between chronologically related sites (that are in their own right visible) and Castle Hill both form part of its setting and are considered to contribute to the significance of the Site. The non-visual relationships and the visual relationships to sites with no visible surface expression may, under a strict definition of setting, be seen not to form part of Castle Hill's setting. These elements do however form part of its wider group value and historical and archaeological significance.
- 3.7. Within the hilltop itself there are various different character areas: the inner, centre and outer baileys. Each of the baileys, while uniting to form the overall character of Castle Hill, also have their own unique 'feel'. The inner bailey is characterised by the deep ditches separating it from the rest of the hilltop, and by Victoria Tower which not only dominates the bailey, but provides the unique appearance of the hill's profile. The centre bailey is characterised in main by the large open areas of disturbance of the former Hotel site, although it also has an open area to the south

which provides a more pleasant and open character. The outer bailey is characterised by its wide open space, and also provides a characteristic 'boat-shape' to the plan of the hill.

- 3.8. This open aspect allows visitors to experience extensive and wide ranging 360° views from most areas of the site and in particular from the outer bailey and the area around Victoria Tower (including its summit). The views from the hilltop make a major contribution to not only the setting of the Site but also to the significance of Castle Hill. These views and the general character of the hilltop are however affected by visual detractors on the hilltop itself. In addition, some windblown vegetation, in particular hawthorn trees, intrude on views across and out of the site.
- 3.9. Given the pressures that have faced the site and its setting over the past 100 years, especially over the past few decades, it is perhaps surprising that its setting has retained such a strong rural character and that the Site can still be readily appreciated in its local and wider topographical and landscape context. The visual connections between the site and the rural and urban areas around it are a fundamental aspect of its setting and allow viewers to appreciate and understand the complex story of the wider landscape's development through time.

## Character of the hilltop and immediate surrounding landscape

- 3.10. As identified above, the open and exposed nature of the hilltop is an integral part of the Site's setting and its character. This results from the flat topography of the hilltop, which both enables those visiting Castle Hill to enjoy open and uninterrupted views out across the surrounding landscape, and also which ensures views across the hilltop extends to the ridgelines beyond, as well as the open and undeveloped landscape immediately around the hilltop and on the slopes of the hill.
- 3.11. The hilltop itself (Plate 1) is largely open, interrupted only by the earthworks of the castle baileys and earlier hill fort. There is little topographical change across the hilltop, with only a slight sloping towards the north-east edge of the hilltop. Though the slopes of the site have some large gorse bushes and other undergrowth, there are no large trees or ecological features which severely restrict the view across the hilltop.
- 3.12. In addition to the banks and ditches between the inner, centre and outer baileys, the other prominent feature of the hilltop is of course Victoria Tower itself (Plate 2). Standing at the southern end of the site, it forms the focal point of the hilltop, but does not interfere significantly with the views across or from the hill into the surrounding landscape.
- 3.13. The character of the hilltop and the openness of the immediate surrounding landscape contributes to visitor's appreciation of Castle Hill. The intervisibility of areas across the site allows for appreciation of the relationships between the different phases of development in addition to the panoramic views which it provides. As stated above, the site's exposed nature is a defining characteristic of people's experience of it as a pleasant open recreational space.
- 3.14. The character of the hilltop and the immediate setting of Castle Hill contribute to the significance of the site through the distinctive open character, which both enables appreciation of the hilltop itself, and the views from it, as well as ensuring views of the site from afar are uninterrupted. As such the open character of the site makes a major contribution to the significance of Castle Hill.

## Views from Castle Hill

- 3.15. The extensive wide-ranging views from the hilltop across the surrounding landscape are a critical component of Castle Hill's setting. These views provide direct historical relevance to the chronology of the Site as a defended seat of power and settlement; they evidence both the prominence and dominance of the hilltop within the landscape. The views stretch for up to 10km in most directions, to distant ridgelines outside of the Kirklees area.
- 3.16. A detailed analysis of views from Castle Hill towards each compass point is undertaken in this section. For each direction, the view is described, and analysed in terms of general character, assets and areas which are visible, and any notable detractors which currently exist. The views from the hilltop are mapped through ZTV maps in each compass direction, and references to these figures are made in each section.

## North

- 3.17. The view north from the hilltop (Plate 3) 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.
- 3.18. 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.
- 3.19. 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 overpoweringly urban or industrial.

## East

- 3.20. The view east from the hilltop (Plate 4) does not stretch as far as the view north, with the far ridgeline of Flockton Moor, and the closer ridgeline along Woodsome Road restricting any views beyond approximately 6km. The character of the view is almost completely rural, with the farmland of the upper valleys and ridges combining with the wooded valley sides; for large portions of this view, no buildings are visible at all. The zone of theoretical vision (ZTV) for the view from the hilltop to the east is shown in Figure 5.
- 3.21. The foreground of the view is the valley immediately to the east of Castle Hill, consisting of pastoral farmland, with the close ridgeline wooded, and the village of Farnley Tyas just visible amongst the treeline to the south-east. The foreground view across the valley emphasises the dominance that the hilltop holds over this immediate landscape. Beyond to the north-east is the settlement of Fenay Bridge – the only larger urban pocket visible in this view – with the farmland of the Flockton Moor ridge extending south. The most notable element of this is Emley Moor Transmitting Tower, which dominates the ridgeline.
- 3.22. The view east from Castle Hill is distinctly rural in character, and contributes to the openness of the hilltop in its lack of visible urban development. As such, this view can be seen to have changed little through the continued historical development of the hilltop, and therefore contributes to the historical significance of the Site.

## South

- 3.23. The view south from the hilltop (Plate 5) extends across the steep river valleys before rising up to the ridgeline of Holme Moss and the Peak District National Park approximately 11km away. The character of the view is, once again, largely rural, though with some pockets of urban development stretching up the valley sides from the villages of the Holme Valley. The zone of theoretical vision (ZTV) for the view from the hilltop to the south is shown in Figure 6.
- 3.24. Immediately to the south of the Site is a plateau of pastoral farmland, with the Farnley Hey cemetery and the remains of the World War Two anti-aircraft battery visible before the hillside drops away into the Holme Valley. As with the view to the east, the commanding view over the plateau is evidence of the dominance over this area of the landscape which the hilltop commands. Beyond, the upper reaches of the villages of Holmfirth and Honley are visible extending up the hillsides of the middle distance ridgelines, with the areas around once again dominated by pastoral field systems. A couple of wind turbines are also visible on the hillside above Holmfirth. The view terminates with the moorland ridge of the Peak District National Park, with the Holme Moss radio mast visible atop the ridgeline.



- 3.25. Though the river valleys to the south of Castle Hill contain a number of large villages, these are largely hidden, resulting in the view south being similarly rural to that to the east. Again, this view is largely unchanged from the historical aspect of the site southwards, so maintains some historical value in contributing to the significance of Castle Hill.

## West

- 3.26. The view west from the hilltop (Plate 6) takes in a mixed landscape, with both the urban conurbation to the south of Huddersfield town centre extending up the valley sides, and the rural ridgelines beyond, right across beyond the M62 to the Calderdale moorland in the very distance, over 15km away. The zone of theoretical vision (ZTV) for the view from the hilltop to the west is shown in Figure 7.
- 3.27. The immediate view across the plateau to the west of the hilltop is a mix of small pockets of residential streets and individual properties, as well as the pitches of Hall Bower Cricket Club and Newsome Panthers rugby club, with the suburb of Newsome beyond with Newsome High School and Sports College visible on the crest of the nearest ridgeline. Once more, the hilltop's dominance over this plateau is emphasised by the commanding nature of this view.
- 3.28. Beyond are the wooded hillsides of the Holme Valley, with further small pockets of housing visible, including some high rise flats set within the river valley. The pastoral farmland of Crosland Moor provides the next ridgeline, with the Colne Valley beyond including the large village of Slaithwaite not visible from the hilltop. To the north-west of the view, the railway viaduct at Golcar is visible, with the urban conurbation of Huddersfield stretching up Nettleton and Scapegoat Hills towards the M62, though again split up by patches of farmland and woodland. The view terminates with the ridgeline above Slaithwaite to the west, with the radio masts atop this ridge visible.
- 3.29. As with the view to the north, the urban conurbation of Huddersfield forms a considerable part of this view, but in this case it is much more suburban, and is broken up by the wooded river valleys of the Colne and Holme, and by areas of farmland and woodland, in addition to the moorland ridges beyond. The view provides a good impression of the spread of urbanisation that occurred with the industrial growth of Huddersfield, and overall is very mixed in character.

## Views to Castle Hill

- 3.30. The visual prominence and dominance of Castle Hill, supported by the striking profile of Victoria Tower, directly relates to many of the Site's significances including its archaeological and historical values and iconic status. As a result of this, the views of Castle Hill, both distant and local, are a critical element of its setting, allowing people to appreciate the imposing topography of the Site, and the role this has played in its use as a site of power and settlement.
- 3.31. The views to Castle Hill vary in character, with ridgelines, urban development and landscape beyond defining the prominence of the hilltop and tower within the landscape, depending on the distance and height from which the view is taken. Due to the character of the hilltop, as discussed above, closer views of the monument have the hilltop as the skyline, while those from further away have an uninterrupted vista to the ridgelines beyond. For the most part, this difference defines the limits between those views in which Castle Hill is prominent (when viewed in the landscape from further afield), and those in which it dominates the landscape (when forming the skyline from closer to the hilltop). This can be appreciated through the comparison of photos from individual viewpoints, and this has been highlighted in the following sections. The approximate areas of the landscape from which Castle Hill dominates viewsheds are identified in Figure 8.
- 3.32. A detailed analysis of the views to Castle Hill from a variety of points is undertaken in this section. For each wider compass point, a number of viewpoints have been used to construct an analysis of the overall views of the Site from each direction; these viewpoints where possible cover different distances and directions. In particular, approaches to Huddersfield and Castle Hill specifically have been considered, as have the alternate impressions of Castle Hill as a prominent and dominant landscape feature. The viewpoints which have been used are mapped and shown in Figure 9.
- 3.33. The theoretical zone of visibility (ZTV) to Castle Hill from the surrounding landscape is shown in Figure 10. The height of Victoria Tower means that there are slight variations between the

viewshed to the hill, and the viewshed to the top of Victoria Tower. The theoretical zone of visibility (ZTV) to the upper part of Victoria Tower is shown in Figure 11.

## View from the North

- 3.34. Views to Castle Hill from the north often look across the centre of Huddersfield, or at least some urban conurbation within the Colne and Holme river valleys, and it is this element which forms the most dominant characteristic of the viewshed from these points. The ridgeline to the east and south-east of the town centre means that the Site is not clearly visible from Huddersfield town centre itself, but closer views from the Cowcliffe ridgeline to the north of the town, as well as the rural ridges around Kirkheaton, provide good examples of the character of the viewsheds from the north. The following analysis of the view of Castle Hill from the north is constructed using four areas of viewpoints.
- 3.35. The view of Castle Hill from Cockly Hill, Kirkheaton, (Viewpoint 1) approximately 5km to the north-east of the Site (Plate 7) demonstrates the largely urban character of the foreground from this direction. The hillside beneath Castle Hill is covered with patches of urban development, mostly small estates or lines of houses, with one smaller high rise development. The impact of this is reduced somewhat by the woodland which infills most of the gaps between estates, while approaching the hilltop itself, a 'band' of pastoral farmland separates Castle Hill from the urban spread. From this position, the Site almost forms the skyline, with the Peak District ridgeline beyond almost in line with the hilltop, and Victoria Tower prominent above both. In spite of this, the hilltop is more prominent within the landscape rather than dominating the viewshed. The radio mast on Holme Moss is the other prominent feature of the view, though from this position is to the east of Castle Hill, and so detracts little from the hilltop's overall prominence.
- 3.36. The view of Castle Hill from the Cowcliffe ridgeline, (Viewpoints 2, 3 and 4) approximately 5km to the north-north-west of the Site (Plates 8, 9 and 10) has a similar character. This time, it is the centre of Huddersfield itself which sits in the foreground of the view, with a number of tall buildings visible in the centre of the town. In spite of this, the relative depth of the Holme and Colne valley in which the town sits, means that Castle Hill again forms the majority of the skyline from the viewpoints on Netheroyd Hill Road, Cowcliffe Hill Road and South Cross Road. With the Peak District ridgeline being below the level of Castle Hill, there are no detracting features along the skyline behind the hilltop. While the foreground is distinctly urban, the hillside itself from this view is again largely free of urban development, with small groups or rows of houses, and large woodland areas and farmland in a band below the hilltop. Of the viewpoints from the north considered here, Castle Hill is most dominant from these examples, though the eye is equally drawn to the urban conurbation of Huddersfield; historically from these viewpoints, the hilltop would have been more dominant than it is today without the challenge of the town centre.
- 3.37. The view of Castle Hill from Grimescar Road, (Viewpoint 5) approximately 6km to the north-west of the Site (Plate 11) is slightly less dominated by urban development than those from similar distances on the north-east side of the Site. This is predominantly due to the Lindley and Birkby ridgeline in the foreground, which masks any view of the centre of the town beyond. Castle Hill lies above this ridgeline, and though again some patches of urban development are visible on the lower parts of the hillside, the undeveloped bands near the hilltop ensure the view is much more rural in character than others from the north. The ridgelines behind the hillside are also rural in character, though the blades from the windfarm are visible behind the hilltop, just adjacent to Victoria Tower, which impact the view slightly. As with the view from Cockly Hill, though the hilltop forms part of the skyline, it is very much a prominent feature of the wider landscape, rather than dominating the view.
- 3.38. The view of Castle Hill from further afield to the north-north-east, near Hartshead (Viewpoints 6, 7 and 8) approximately 10km from the Site (Plates 12, 13 and 14), again has a mixed character, with the patches of the urban centre of Huddersfield visible in the foreground. Once again, however, much of the urban centre of the town is hidden from view, set down in the river valleys, below the level of closer ridgelines. From this distance, the wooded tops of the river valleys give the view a more rural character, while the hillside band of undeveloped farmland immediately beneath the hilltop is again clearly visible, separating Castle Hill from the patches of urban spread below. The ridgeline of the Peak District National Park beyond Castle Hill is higher than the hilltop from these viewpoints, so the monument is no longer the skyline, though there are no features on this ridgeline to detract from the hilltop's prominence in the viewshed.

- 3.39. It is notable that Castle Hill is visible from the M62 near Hartshead Services (Viewpoint 6), one of the principle approach routes into the town and Kirklees generally. Though set beneath the ridgeline of the moorland beyond, the topography of the hilltop and Victoria Tower are still prominent within the landscape, and form a recognisable landscape feature on approaching the area.
- 3.40. The views of Castle Hill from the north are characterised by the urban conurbation of Huddersfield in the foreground, but the maintenance of a distinctly rural character on the hillside of Castle Hill itself. Though Huddersfield is often prominent in such views, the hilltop often forms the skyline horizon of the viewsheds from this direction, and the lack of development near the top of the hill separates the hilltop and Victoria Tower from the urban areas below. From the north, the hilltop is more likely to be a prominent feature of the landscape, along with Huddersfield itself, or the Peak District ridgelines beyond, rather than dominating views.

## View from the East

- 3.41. Views to Castle Hill from the east are largely rural in nature; those from close to the hilltop such as along the Woodsome ridgeline look across the pastoral farmland valley to the site, while those from further afield are still more rural than urban in character, in spite of featuring some of the urban and suburban conurbation of Huddersfield in their foreground. These viewsheds are notable for the historic integrity of their character and the positioning of Castle Hill within the landscape. The following analysis of the view of Castle Hill from the north is constructed using three viewpoints.
- 3.42. The view of Castle Hill from Woodsome Road, near Farnley Tyas (Viewpoint 9), approximately 1.5km to the east-south-east of the Site (Plate 15) provides a viewshed which is completely rural in character, and in which the hilltop dominates. The view looks across the valley to the east of the site, with a bank of woodland in the foreground, and pastoral fields rising up the hillside to the hilltop and monument beyond. There are small pockets of buildings, groups of farm buildings and single dwellings, but these do not detract from the rural character of the view. The slopes of the hilltop itself from this side are undeveloped and consist of rough ground with gorse bushes and small trees visible. From this position, slightly below the height of the hilltop, Castle Hill forms the skyline, dominating the valley below, though with the ridge above Slaithwaite visible beyond, including the two radio masts. However, these masts only detract slightly from the prominence of Victoria Tower on the skyline.
- 3.43. The view of Castle Hill from Paul Lane, Flockton Moor (Viewpoint 10), approximately 6km to the east of the Site (Plate 16) takes in much more of the urban conurbation to the north and north-east of the centre of Huddersfield. In the foreground are the villages of Fenay Bridge and Rowley Hill, which sit on the closest ridgeline to the viewpoint. Across the Fenay Beck valley beyond are heavily wooded hillsides, and though small amounts of urban development is visible stretching up from the Holme and Colne valleys, the character of this is still largely rural. To the north of the hilltop, the centre of Huddersfield and the urban development to the north is visible, but from this viewpoint it does not detract from the view of the rural landscape immediately to the east and north-east of the Site. The rural 'banding' of the hilltop is less clear from this viewpoint, perhaps because the rural character never really changes up the hillside. Castle Hill is a prominent feature of this landscape, the moorland ridgeline beyond the hilltop is also visible from this viewpoint, though Victoria Tower still rises above it, and the only feature beyond the site which detracts from the view is a single wind turbine near Meltham.
- 3.44. The view of Castle Hill from Highfield Lane, Lascelles (Viewpoint 11), approximately 4km to the east-north-east of the Site (Plate 17) is closer in character to that from Cockly Hill, Kirkheaton (Viewpoint 1) than those viewpoints further east. The foreground of the view contains more urban development of the suburban settlement of Almondbury, stretching up the ridgeline with the Site beyond, albeit set within large banks of woodland. The hilltop beyond again forms the skyline from this viewpoint, albeit with the Peak District ridgeline visible beyond to the left of the Site; though forming the skyline the hilltop is much more a prominent feature than the dominant one. The continuation of the ridgeline to the east of the Site, and slopes up to the hilltop itself, are rural in character with pastoral fields and woodland forming these sections of the view. Though the view is more mixed than those from the above viewpoints further to the east, there is still a more rural than urban character to this viewshed.
- 3.45. A view of Castle Hill features in another approach route to Huddersfield and Kirklees from the east; the A642 from Wakefield descends from Flockton Moor through Lepton and Fenay Bridge,

and those driving along it are afforded a similar view of Castle Hill to that from nearby Paul Lane (Viewpoint 10). From this direction, Castle Hill is more prominent in the landscape than it is from the north along the M62 (see above), while its character as a Site distinctly removed from the urban development of the Colne and Holme valleys and Huddersfield town centre is very much visible.

- 3.46. The views of Castle Hill from the east are characterised by the very rural nature of the landscape to this side of the Site. Though, in the case of views from the north-east, more of the urban conurbation of Huddersfield is visible in the foreground of views, there is still a lot of farmland and woodland visible, while the hilltop itself is separated by rural 'banding' from any large groups of buildings. From the east, Castle Hill also often forms the skyline for views, with little of the ridgelines beyond to detract from the viewshed, though this doesn't always demonstrate dominance. From the valley immediately to the east of the hilltop, below the Woodsome Road, Castle Hill dominates, but from further afield it is more a prominent feature of the wider landscape of largely rural ridgelines.

## View from the South

- 3.47. Views to Castle Hill from the south vary depending how much of the town centre of Huddersfield is visible beyond the hilltop. For those views from closer to the hilltop, the character is similarly rural to those from viewpoints to the east, with Castle Hill dominating the landscape and viewshed. Further away, where more urban settlement is visible, either in villages in the foreground of views extending out of the Holme river valley, or from the centre of Huddersfield itself, the views have a more mixed character, though still retain more rural features than urban. With the relatively low ridgelines beyond, a common characteristic of such views is the prominence of Castle Hill on the skyline; the hilltop doesn't always dominate, but the distance for which it is the dominant feature is slightly more extensive to the south than to the other directions. The following analysis of the view of Castle Hill from the south is constructed using five groups of viewpoints.
- 3.48. The view of Castle Hill from Honley Road in Farnley Tyas (Viewpoint 12), approximately 1.5km to the south-east of the Site (Plate 18) is similar in character to the view from Woodsome Road to the east (Viewpoint 9). The viewshed is dominated by the hilltop, with the farmland of the valley in the foreground rising up to it and containing only small groups of farm buildings or single dwellings. The undeveloped undergrowth of the slopes up to the hilltop are evident from this viewpoint too, again providing a break between the hilltop and the landscape below. Though some of the ridgelines to the west are visible in the distance to the left of the hilltop, Castle Hill forms the skyline, dominating the valley, with Victoria Tower adding to its prominence and no features to detract from its dominance of the view.
- 3.49. The view of Castle Hill from Knoll Lane, near Honley (Viewpoint 13), approximately 5km to the south-south-west of the Site (Plate 19) again has a rural character, in spite of more patches of urban development being visible. Small groups of houses on the edge of Newsome and Honley are visible on the fringes of the view, but aside from this the landscape is made up of pastoral farmland and patches of woodland. A very distinct band of fields at the base of the hilltop completely separates the Site from the landscape below, with a secondary plateau of open land to the west of the Site above the suburb of Newsome. Though the ridgeline to the north near Bradford is visible beyond, the topography of the Site forms the skyline, and Victoria Tower the dominant feature of this skyline. Castle Hill doesn't dominate the view in quite the same way as from the valleys closer to the hilltop, but the dominance it holds over its immediate surroundings can still be very much appreciated from this view.
- 3.50. The view of Castle Hill from Dunford Road, Longley (Viewpoint 14), approximately 7.5km to the south of the Site (Plate 20) again has the hilltop forming part of the skyline, prominent within the rural character of the landscape around it, albeit with the buildings of the village of Longley prominent in the foreground. The view is still distinctly rural, with the urban settlement being visibly that of a rural village rather than industrial conurbation, though Longley itself grows out of the valley settlement of Holmfirth. The ridgelines at the top of the Holme valley hide any of the larger urban areas along the river valley, while the plateau of fields to the west of the site above Newsome masks any view of the centre of Huddersfield. The various ridgelines within the view mean the hilltop is prominent within the landscape, as opposed to dominating the view. There is a single wind turbine to the immediate north-east of the viewpoint, and though this does not detract from the view from this particular viewpoint, it may prove a detractor from other potential viewpoints nearby.

- 3.51. The view of Castle Hill from Cartworth Moor Road, near Holmfirth (Viewpoint 15), approximately 7.5km to the south-south-west of the Site (Plate 21) is similar to that from Dunford Road, though being slightly further west, the urban and industrial conurbation of central Huddersfield is more visible. The upper part of Holmfirth and Upperthong are visible in the foreground, though these only form a small pocket of housing within the pastoral farmland landscape. Beyond, the Holme Valley is once more hidden by the ridgelines, and the rolling landscape up to Castle Hill is exclusively rural. Though the centre of Huddersfield, including the tall chimney of the Energy from Waste plant, is visible, this does not detract from the prominence of the hilltop in the landscape. The hilltop does not form the skyline here, with the ridgeline to the north completely visible beyond, and though still a prominent feature, it is not as prominent as from Dunford Road, for example. Again, the rural bands and plateaus beneath the Site are a striking feature of the viewshed.
- 3.52. The view of Castle Hill from the Peak District ridgeline to the south (Viewpoints 16 and 17), both from the Wessenden Head Road south of Meltham (Plate 22) approximately 9km to the south-west, and the A6024 on Holme Moss (Plate 23) approximately 11km to the south-south-west, are more wide-ranging than those closer to the Site. In these viewsheds, Castle Hill is less prominent in the landscape, with the ridgelines beyond and, to a certain extent, the centre of Huddersfield visible. Nevertheless, the topography of the Site is still clear, and Victoria Tower a notable landmark within the view which adds to its prominence within the wider landscape around Huddersfield. As with the other views from the south, no substantial residential or urban development is visible on the lower slopes around the Site, again emphasising the openness of the Site and its separation from the conurbation of Huddersfield.
- 3.53. Both Viewpoint 16 and 17 are located on major approaches to Huddersfield and Kirklees from the south. Though the approaches to the town all drop into the river valleys as they get closer to the town, from where Castle Hill is not visible, the hilltop and monument are prominent features in the landscape as one approaches Kirklees from over the Peak District ridgeline.
- 3.54. The views of Castle Hill from the south are notable for the open and rural character of the landscape in the immediate vicinity of the hilltop, with the plateaus and 'banding' of farmland separating the Site from any urban development. The ridgelines often hide both the settlement of the Holme valley and the centre of Huddersfield, which enhance the views of the Site and emphasise its open nature. Though the ridgelines to the north are sometimes visible beyond the Site, there are few features which detract from the prominence of the hilltop and Victoria Tower within the landscape. Those viewpoints closer to the site, both on the plateau immediately south of the hilltop, and from across the closest valleys, Castle Hill dominates the view, forming the skyline of the viewsheds.

## View from the West

- 3.55. Views to Castle Hill from the west tend to have more of an urban, residential or industrial character than those from the south and east. Nevertheless, the separation of the hilltop from these elements of the Kirklees landscape is still evident. This, in addition to the closer ridgelines to the east behind the hilltop, means that there are also more detractors compromising the prominence of Castle Hill and Victoria Tower in these viewsheds, as well as reducing the extent of the hilltop's dominance compared to views from the south. The following analysis of the view of Castle Hill from the west is constructed using four groups of viewpoints.
- 3.56. The view of Castle Hill from the closest urban areas to the west (Viewpoints 18 and 19), both from Castle Avenue, Newsome (Plate 24) approximately 1.5km to the west-north-west and Moor Lane, Netherton (Plate 25) approximately 2km to the west-south-west, provide examples of the dominance of Castle Hill from within an urban landscape when residential streets are aligned with the hilltop. From within the residential settlements and estates along the ridgelines above the Holme Valley, the hilltop forms the skyline in such viewsheds, dominating the area in much the same way it dominates the rural valley to the east. Though the foreground is obviously lined with residential streets, the lack of development up the western slopes of the hill, as on the other sides, emphasise the separation of the hilltop from the urban landscape below to the west. The lack of building on the hillside mean there are no detractors from the prominence of Victoria Tower atop the hill, which serves to further enhance the hill's dominance from this area.
- 3.57. The view of Castle Hill from Beaumont Park (Viewpoint 20) approximately 2.5km to the west of the Site (Plate 26) has a similar mixed character. Beaumont Park sits on the east-facing valley side above the River Holme, and the view of Castle Hill stretches across the valley itself. The

valley is largely wooded, with rows of houses and some industrial buildings visible both on the opposite valley side and along the valley floor. There are a number of high rise blocks of flat to the south in the valley floor, and the railway viaduct of the Huddersfield to Sheffield rail line to the north. Castle Hill once again forms the skyline above these features, with the bands of fields once more separating the hilltop from the wooded and developed valley below. The urban development in the valley, in particular the high rise flats, detract slightly from the view of Castle Hill, though there are no features that detract from the prominence of Victoria Tower on the skyline. Castle Hill is still the dominant feature of the landscape, though the urban development within the wooded valley distracts the viewer somewhat from its form; as with view across Huddersfield from the north it is possible to appreciate the dominance over the valley which the hilltop historically held, prior to the spread of development.

- 3.58. The view of Castle Hill from Crosland Moor to the south-west of the Site (Viewpoints 21, 22 and 23), provides more evidence of the impact that urban development has on the views of the Site from the west. The view from Sandy Lane (Plate 27) approximately 4km from Castle Hill again features more residential buildings on the side of the Holme valley beneath the site, with the high rise flats prominent. Nevertheless, the clear band of fields below the slopes of the hilltop separate Castle Hill from this urban spread. From further away on Nopper Road (Plate 28) the Crosland Moor hillside obscures most of this urban development, though the easternmost rows of houses in Newsome are still visible beneath the hilltop. The ridgelines have a similar effect on the view from the side of Meltham Cop (Plate 29), while the elevation from this viewpoint also means the ridgeline to the north-east behind Castle Hill is now also visible. The progression of the character of these viewpoints demonstrate that the viewsheds of Castle Hill become increasingly rural and less mixed, the further south-west one travels away from the hilltop. Similarly, these viewpoints demonstrate how the hilltop becomes less dominant, as though it always forms at least part of the skyline, it is more dominant in the view from Sandy Lane, than it is from Meltham Cop; for the most part by this distance from the hilltop it is more a prominent feature of the landscape than dominating the viewshed.
- 3.59. The view of Castle Hill from Nettleton Hill (Viewpoint 24) approximately 7km to the west-north-west of the Site (Plate 30) is again of mixed character, being sufficiently far north and far away to look across the urban spread along both Colne and Holme valleys, albeit much of this hidden from view. Below the hilltop nevertheless the spread of estates and urban development up the hillside is visible. However, this viewpoint provides one of the clearest demonstrations of the effect of the band of fields beneath the hilltop, and the separation it provides, maintaining the hilltop as an open space. Beyond Castle Hill, the ridgeline of Flockton Moor forms the skyline, with Emley Mast the prominent feature detracting from the prominence of Victoria Tower; Castle Hill is much less prominent within this view than from the other viewpoints from the west. To the south, the blade tips of wind turbines at Royd Moor are also visible, and though noticeable these are a considerable distance away from the hilltop itself.
- 3.60. It is notable that Castle Hill is visible from the railway lines approaching Huddersfield, in particular the lines from Sheffield and Manchester to the west of the site along the Colne and Holme valleys. For much of the approach route to the town, the hilltop isn't visible, with the lines being too far down in the valley. However, at certain points closer to the town where the line emerges from cuttings or crosses rivers, travellers are provided with clear views of the Site. This is an important viewshed for those approaching Kirklees and Huddersfield, considering the iconic status of the hilltop in the area.
- 3.61. The views of Castle Hill from the west are more closely related to those from the north in that they include more of the urban landscape of Kirklees, and more detractors to the prominence of the topography of the hilltop and Victoria Tower. Nevertheless, the lack of urban development on the upper slopes of the hill mean that the impression of the Site's separation from the urban spread of Huddersfield is very clear in these viewsheds. From close to the hilltop, it is a very dominant feature of views, though those detractors and ridgelines behind mean that its prominence is reduced as viewpoints climb towards the M62 to the west.

## Related historic features and assets

- 3.62. A number of visual and non-visual relationships between Castle Hill and other potentially related archaeological or historical features form an aspect of the Site's setting. Though these are not as significant as the views to and from the Site, they nevertheless contribute to Castle Hill's setting, particularly where there are strong visual connections supported by contemporary activity.

- 3.63. The considerable views which are afforded by the prominent location of Castle Hill means that a large number of listed buildings, scheduled monuments and registered parks and gardens lie within the viewshed from the hilltop. These designated heritage assets are shown in Figure 12. These are included in the historic sites mentioned in the Archaeological and Historical Background in Section 2. Many of these have only a limited visual or historical connection to the Site; the majority of the listed buildings for example have little or no historical connection to Castle Hill, aside from being constructed in a location visible from the Site, or from which the Site can be seen. However, a number of scheduled monuments and registered parks and gardens have visual or non-visual relationships with the Site which contribute to its setting. The possible importance of these relationships, along with whether they are visual or non-visual, is shown in Figure 13.
- 3.64. A number of prehistoric sites lie within the theoretical viewshed of Castle Hill, and have a development chronology that could be contemporary with the earliest activity on the hilltop. Two late prehistoric enclosed settlements (NHLE1018558 and NHLE1017272) are located to the south-west of Meltham, close to Viewpoint 16 on the Wessenden Head Road. Both these settlements would have had views of Castle Hill to the north-east, evidencing possible visual and non-visual relationships with the hilltop. The site of another late prehistoric enclosed settlement is located approximately 8.5km to the south-east of the site at High Flatts (NHLE1018554), and a fourth such site is close to Holmbridge approximately 9km to the south-west (NHLE1018256). Both these sites are on the very edge of the zone of visibility to Castle Hill, but may have had non-visual historic relationships with the Site.
- 3.65. A number of scheduled cairnfields also lie within the viewshed of and to Castle Hill. These are located approximately 3.5km to the south-west near Honley (NHLE1018555, NHLE1018556, NHLE1018557). Cairnfields most commonly date from the Bronze Age, so it is possible that the construction of these examples is contemporary with the construction and reconstruction of the earliest hillfort at Castle Hill. The nature of any relationship between cairnfields and the hillfort is uncertain, but there were potentially both visual and non-visual relationships between the assets.
- 3.66. Though there is no evidence for Roman activity on Castle Hill (see paragraph 2.28) there are, as identified above, other Roman sites within sight of the hilltop, or which may have had non-visual relationships with the Site. The site of Roman tiling is located on the Grimescar ridgeline (NHLE1016315) close to Viewpoint 5; though now a wooded valley, the Site would previously have been visible from here. The most significant Roman site in the area is the Roman Camp of Cambodonum (NHLE1005804), approximately 8km to the west-north-west of Castle Hill. This is located just over the Nettleton Hill ridgeline, and therefore is not visible from the Site. However, it is possible that the Camp had a non-visual relationship with the hilltop, were there any activity at Castle Hill during the period.
- 3.67. Approximately 8.5km to the north-east of Castle Hill, in the settlement of Mirfield, lies Castle Hill Motte and Bailey (NHLE1009929). This castle was built between 1086 and 1159 for the overseeing of some of the estates of the Honour of Pontefract by two of the more powerful knights of the region, Svein, son of Alric, and his son Adam. The castle continued to be occupied, if not as important, through the Middle Ages. Given Castle Hill's almost contemporary development into a motte and bailey, it is likely that a non-visual relationship would have existed between the two sites.
- 3.68. To the south-west of Honley, approximately 4km from the Site, is the moated site of Crosland Lower Hall (NHLE1013896). The construction of a hall on the site may date from as early as the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and during the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century, the site would have had a relationship with Castle Hill through undoubted connections to the de Laci family. The site sits in the valley of Mag Brook, so it has no visual relationship with Castle Hill.
- 3.69. Approximately 8km to the north-west of the Site lies Kirklees Park (NHLE1413828). This registered park dates from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but contains remains of a priory and subsequent house from the 16<sup>th</sup> century (NHLE1417240), and significantly a late prehistoric univallate defensive settlement (NHLE1001510). From the parkland, it is possible to see Castle Hill over the ridgeline to the east of Huddersfield town centre, and the site may have had both a visual and non-visual relationship with the Site across multiple periods.
- 3.70. There are two Victorian planned registered parks within view of Castle Hill: Beaumont Park to the west (NHLE1001432) and Greenhead Park to the north-west (NHLE1001510). The latter, dating from the 1870s, does not offer a clear view of Castle Hill due to the surrounding tree landscaping

and urban development, though it is within the zone of visual influence. Beaumont Park has the clearest visual relationship with Castle Hill; as discussed above, it is one of the viewpoints which is used in this report for viewshed analysis, and the park offers many viewpoint locations from where the public could view the Holme valley with Castle Hill beyond.

- 3.71. Though many archaeological sites, historic buildings and registered parks lie within the zones of visual influence to and from Castle Hill, it is difficult to determine the extent of the non-visual relationships most of them had with the site during their periods of use. It is likely that a number of them did have a non-visual relationship, particularly the later prehistoric sites and medieval moated manor. The most significant visual relationships with the site would be the views from Beaumont Park, where Castle Hill plays a considerable role as a subject of the viewpoints within the parkland, and the prehistoric sites which may have been contemporary with the earliest phases of occupation on the hilltop. Though no sites aside from Beaumont Park lie within areas where Castle Hill is the notable dominant feature of the views, the historic lack of detractors such as tall buildings and structures within the urban conurbation of Huddersfield, mean that it would have formed a more dominant feature of the landscape in views than it does today. While these do contribute to the significance of the Site via setting to a certain degree, their contribution is not as considerable that of the views to and from the Site generally.



## 4. Contribution of Setting to Significance

- 4.1. As identified in Section 3, Castle Hill derives significance extensively from many elements of its setting. Though these were introduced and discussed in general terms in the Conservation Management Plan, along with the wider significances of the hilltop, the following section considers these elements in more detail. This includes particular analysis of views to and from the hilltop and Victoria Tower, their character and contribution to overall significance.
- 4.2. Historic England's guidance document *The Setting of Heritage Assets, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 3* (2015) identifies that the setting of a heritage asset, while not an asset in itself, is important in its contribution to the overall significance. This can be through a wide range of physical elements, as well as perceptual and associational attributes pertaining to the heritage asset. In paragraph 21 of the document, an (albeit non-exhaustive) list of potential attributes of a setting are identified which may elucidate the contribution of the setting of a heritage asset to its significance. A number of these are applicable to the setting of Castle Hill, and are discussed below.
- 4.3. Aspects of the asset's physical surroundings identified by Historic England as factors in which an asset can derive significance from its setting are:
- Topography
  - Other heritage assets (including buildings, structures, landscapes, areas of archaeological remains)
  - Definition, scale and grain of surrounding streetscape, landscape and spaces
  - Formal design
  - Historic materials and surfaces
  - Land use
  - Green space, trees and vegetation
  - Openness, enclosure and boundaries
  - Functional relationships and communications
  - History and degree of change over time
  - Integrity
  - Issues such as soil chemistry and hydrology
- 4.4. Aspects of the experience of the asset which are identified as factors from which an asset can derive significance from its setting are:
- Surrounding landscape or townscape character
  - Views from, towards, through, across and including the asset
  - Visual dominance, prominence or role as focal point
  - Intentional intervisibility with other historic and natural features
  - Noise, vibration and other pollutants or nuisances
  - Tranquillity, remoteness, 'wildness'
  - Sense of enclosure, seclusion, intimacy or privacy
  - Dynamism and activity
  - Accessibility, permeability and patterns of movement
  - Degree of interpretation and promotion to the public
  - The rarity of comparable survivals of setting
  - The asset's associative attributes
  - Associative relationships between heritage assets
  - Cultural associations
  - Celebrated artistic representations
  - Traditions

## Summary Statement of Significance

- 4.5. The Conservation Management Plan contains a Statement of Significance, which is included in Appendix A of this report. This statement identifies what is significant about Castle Hill, and why those aspects are significant, including the contribution which setting makes to the significance of the Site. The following are the key themes under which the significances of Castle Hill are explored in the management plan:
- Archaeological and historical significance
  - Landscape significance
  - Ecological significance
  - Significance of the Site's Setting
  - Geological significance
  - Intangible significances
- 4.6. Castle Hill is a significant place for many different reasons; archaeologically and historically it represents one of only few such sites in the county displaying continuity of human activity for over 4,000 years, ecologically it boasts rare acid grassland and nesting birds, and socially it is an iconic representation of Huddersfield and is loved and valued by the local population. These significances are both tangible, expressed physically at the Site itself, and intangible, either relating to the contemporary use of the Site or residing within local communities and memory. Its significance is further acknowledged by its designation as a Scheduled Monument, and Victoria Tower's listed building status.
- 4.7. Castle Hill is one of the most distinctive and prominent landscape features in the region and is widely visible within Kirklees. It is an instantly recognisable landmark and an icon for Almondbury, Huddersfield and Kirklees and forms a visual backdrop for the daily lives of thousands of people. As such it is an important aspect of the wider area's and communities' identities. The powerful landscape presence of Castle Hill has attracted people to its summit for millennia and ensured that it has served as a prominent local landmark equally as long. This activity and landscape prominence has ensured that the Site has become imbued with a wide range of significances, all of which are ultimately reliant on the fact that it is a prominent hill.
- 4.8. In many respects Castle Hill's significances stem from this topographic form and its underlying geology. Without the topography Castle Hill would never have formed the focus for continued human occupation, use and reuse; it would not be the iconic landmark for Almondbury, Huddersfield and Kirklees; and it would not be the highly valued recreational area that it is now. This topographic form has in effect created two Castle Hills – one that is viewed from afar as a dramatic feature of the wider landscape; the other experienced from atop the hill as a place from which you can see the world and the world can see you. Moreover, when viewed within its landscape, Castle Hill is both a dominant presence over its immediate surroundings, and also a prominent feature within a wider landscape of ridgelines and valleys. As such the topographic form of Castle Hill is critical to the Site's overall significance. In terms of the influence that Castle Hill has in the wider landscape this extends for many kilometres in all directions, and it could be viewed as a Regionally Significant landscape feature.
- 4.9. The geology of the Site is significant in its own right and is being promoted as a possible Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS), due to its importance and visible interrelationship between underlying geology and surface topography, demonstrating how differential weathering of different rock types has produced this distinctive landform.
- 4.10. In terms of the tangible physical significances, the complexity and longevity of the Site's archaeological and historical record, representing millennia of human use, re-use and adaptation, makes it a nationally significant monument and one of the most important archaeological sites in West Yorkshire. This value is not due solely to any single period of development but rather its many phases of use and re-use over the last 4000 years; had the development of the Hill ceased at any one key phase then it would undoubtedly be considered to be interesting but not outstanding. It is this complexity that gives Castle Hill its archaeological and historical significance.
- 4.11. The character of Castle Hill as a prominent location from where people could see and be seen related closely to such episodes of use. Such occupation could demonstrate power, both real and

imagined, over a wide area as well as providing a defensible location in times of strife and conflict, which dominates over its surrounding plateaus and valleys. As a result, the hill has remained constantly attractive to humans. This attraction has persisted into more recent periods and the modern day, whether through the Victorian development of the hotel and Victoria Tower, the defensive purpose of the Site during the Second World War, or its highly valued community and recreational uses today, itself a critical aspect of the Site's significance.

- 4.12. Castle Hill is home to a number of important ecological habitats and species, which form another tangible significance of the Site. The extensive areas of dry acid grassland are of local significance, supporting key bird populations such as linnets and yellowhammers, along with invertebrates, all of which are probably absent or present in very low numbers in the surrounding farmland. Other habitat types add structural diversity to the Site; the gorse scrub, not common in the north of England, for example provides breeding sites and shelter for linnet and yellowhammer.
- 4.13. Castle Hill is far more than a physical place. The Site has many contemporary intangible significances associated with it, relating to its identity within the local area, its current use by the local and regional population, and its value within the tourism sector of Kirklees. Castle Hill's striking landscape presence coupled with the distinctive visual form of Victoria Tower means that it has become a key symbol in the identity of Huddersfield and Kirklees. Its distinctive profile now adorns many of the publications produced by bodies such as Kirklees Council and it is used by both Huddersfield Town FC and the Huddersfield Examiner in their logos.
- 4.14. This sense of identity extends beyond these official bodies: Castle Hill is a treasured and valued place for members of the local communities who consider it to be part of their and the area's identity. The hilltop is significant as an extremely valuable local recreation site, drawing in considerable numbers of people from local and more distant communities every year who come for a range of leisure activities. Castle Hill features strongly in tourism literature as an icon of the area: a distinctive site that is seen from afar rather than experienced from within, used by local communities as a place to bring visitors, and former residents of the area to go on their visits home. Such use reflects the strong sense of local pride in the Site as an icon of the wider area. Other intangible significances related to Castle Hill include its infrequent use as an educational resource and study destination by different school groups, its use as a base for events, including celebratory fireworks displays and the use of the beacon, and its use for small scale ritual activity.

## Significance of the Site's Setting

- 4.15. In addition to the elements summarised above, the Conservation Management Plan identifies a number of key components and themes relating to the setting of Castle Hill from which the Site derives its significance. This section expands on this, using the features of the setting explored in Section 3 to convey the importance of the setting of the Site to its overall significance.
- 4.16. The setting of Castle Hill undoubtedly makes a fundamental contribution to the significance of the Site. This is through the prominence and dominance of the hilltop within the landscape as a result of its topography, and the resulting views to and from the hilltop, as well as the character of the hilltop itself, and the role which visual and non-visual historic relationships with related features and heritage assets.

## General character of surrounding landscape

- 4.17. As identified in Section 3, the wide expanse of landscape visible from Castle Hill is a fundamental component of its setting, and the character of this landscape is in turn an important feature of this component. This landscape structures and defines all the views from the hilltop, creates the views to the Site and encapsulates both the immediate buffer around the Site, and the character of the ridgelines further afield.
- 4.18. The character of the immediate surroundings of the landscape plays an important part in the contribution which this aspect of Castle Hill's setting makes to its significance. As emphasised above, the rural 'band' of undeveloped farmland on the hillside between Newsome and the hilltop, and in the plateau and valley to the south and east, separate the hilltop from the urban development of Huddersfield. The fact the hilltop has been untouched by development and is surrounded by such landscape contributes to the historic integrity of the landscape character; the hilltop stands alone in the current landscape, just as it stood alone as a point of settlement and power in the historic landscape.

- 4.19. That Castle Hill commands views across and from landscape areas of different character is also significant, again emphasising the hilltop as a prominent point of territorial control which historically connected these areas. Though there have been landscape changes in the urban conurbation of Huddersfield to the north-west, the retention of moorland, wooded hillsides and valleys, and farmland landscapes without development adds historic integrity to this landscape, and reinforces the prominence of the hilltop within a historically rural landscape. The rural landscape around the hilltop probably bears little resemblance to the landscape in which the Iron Age or even medieval Castle Hill would have been situated. However, although it may have altered physically the fact that the bulk of the landscape around the Site has remained rural is significant. This would have been its dominant character throughout Castle Hill's history, and in this respect the overall setting characteristics of the site have been maintained.
- 4.20. The urban and industrial character of the landscape to the north and west of the Site does not necessarily contribute to the aesthetic significance of the hilltop, in terms of quality of views for example, but this landscape character is equally important in the historic development of Kirklees as the rural landscape further afield and to the south and east. The views offered from the hilltop enable the appreciation of the development of Huddersfield and the Colne and Holme valleys. This also contributes to the significance of Castle Hill as a viewpoint over a historically changing landscape.

### The character of the hilltop

- 4.21. The character of the hilltop itself enhances the views to and from Castle Hill, and as a result further enables significance of the Site to be derived from its setting. The open and exposed nature of the hilltop is an integral part of the setting, allowing for unbroken views out into the landscape and from further afield across the hilltop to ridgelines beyond; this aspect helps to place Castle Hill within the landscape and again help to emphasise both its prominence and the wide panoramic vision offered from the hilltop, thus contributing to the significance of the Site as a position of historic settlement and power.
- 4.22. On the hilltop itself, the open ground of the baileys, without interruption from buildings or infrastructure, enables the appreciation of the earthworks spanning the periods of occupation of the Site. That the hilltop itself can be appreciated as a single entity within a view from one end of the hilltop to the other, with visible archaeological and historical evidence of its use and reuse over time, also contributes to its significance. This open nature is also a defining characteristic of people's experience of it as a pleasant open recreational space, an important part of the Site's historical development through the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries especially.

### Views from Castle Hill

- 4.23. The appreciation of the landscape around Castle Hill is enabled through the wide ranging viewshed from the hilltop. These views are an integral aspect not only of the setting of Castle Hill, but also in how the Site derives significance from its setting. They provide a direct visible connection with the historic importance of the hilltop as a prominent and dominant location for settlement and territorial power.
- 4.24. The panoramic views from the hilltop continue to be relatively unbroken by modern development or changes in the landscape. As such, they add historic integrity to the character of the Site's setting, reflecting as they do the vision which was offered over the same landscape by millennia of settlers, inhabitants and visitors to Castle Hill. Those aspects of the landscape which have changed, such as the urban and industrial growth of Huddersfield in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, can be appreciated and understood in these views, just as much as the rural pastoral farmland, moorland ridgelines or woodland valleys, which have experienced little change. Such views add to the significance of the hilltop as a location from which to appreciate the historic landscape of Kirklees.
- 4.25. The impressive views from the hilltop make their greatest contribution to the significance of Castle Hill by their emphasising the historic importance of the site as a prominent and defensible position. The topographical prominence of the hilltop within its setting has been the key factor in its settlement, use and reuse over thousands of years, whether through its lifetime as an Iron Age hillfort, a medieval castle, or as a suitable location for a monument such as Victoria Tower. The panoramic views offered from the hilltop demonstrate the field of vision which was such a vital component for such uses. The viewer can appreciate the dominance of the hilltop over the plateaus and valleys immediately surrounding the hill, as well as the clear lines of site to far ridgelines which make the site a prominent location within the wider landscape. The views from

Castle Hill are a direct visual connection to the character of the hilltop as a seat of power within a landscape, where inhabitants could be safe from attack, and those in power had surveillance over their territory.

## Views to Castle Hill

- 4.26. The views to Castle Hill from the landscape surrounding the Site and across Kirklees are just as important a factor in the Site deriving significance from its setting as those views out from the hilltop. Once again, they provide visual evidence of both the prominence and dominance of Castle Hill within the landscape, and its significance as a defensible position of settlement and power.
- 4.27. As identified in Section 3, the hilltop of Castle Hill features prominently in views across Kirklees; from close to the hilltop it forms the skyline and dominates the viewshed, while further away and from higher ridgelines it sits within the wider landscape, often with ridgelines behind it, but still as a, or the, prominent feature which draws the eye. This wide ranging visibility is an important part of the historical significance of the Site, being an important aspect of the reason for its occupation and continued settlement and use, and in capturing this, the views to the hilltop contribute to this significance. They represent the power and territorial control which Castle Hill has held for much of its millennia of use.
- 4.28. The prominence and dominance of Castle Hill within its surrounding landscape, as reinforced and evidenced in views to the site, contribute to the significance of the site in slightly different ways. From close to the hilltop, the site dominates the area, emphasising the power associated with the site and its significance as a defensible position; indeed this dominance is reinforced by the Iron Age hillfort development of the site.
- 4.29. From further afield, the prominence of the hilltop within the landscape, often enhanced by Victoria Tower, contributes to the significance of Castle Hill as a landmark of the region, as well as being a visible point of settlement. As identified above, this can be seen by comparing views of the hilltop from viewpoints of differing distance in the same direction, such as considering that from Woodsome Road (Plate 15) with that from Paul Lane (Plate 16), or that from Beaumont Park (Plate 26) with that from Nettleton Hill (Plate 30).
- 4.30. The views to the hilltop, and the extent to which Castle Hill derives its significance from them, are enhanced by the landscape character which is experienced within them. The 'band' of farmland without urban development which lies around the hilltop is clearly visible, and emphasises its prominence within the landscape. On the contrary, where there are detractors from this prominence, whether in the form of tall buildings in the foreground of views to the hilltop, or in features breaking ridgelines and skylines beyond, such as blade tips of wind turbines, this reduces the contribution such a view makes to the significance of the Site (this is discussed in more detail in Sections 5 and 6).
- 4.31. As with the views from the hilltop, those to Castle Hill vary in the historic character of the landscape which features within them; some areas retain their historic rural character, while others are urban and industrial following the areas growth and development in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The prominence and/or dominance of Castle Hill within views across a changing landscape is significant, as it highlights the hilltop as a point of consistency within the landscape, which reflects the significance of the consistent use and reuse of the Site.
- 4.32. The intangible significance of Castle Hill as an iconic landmark for Huddersfield and Kirklees is derived from the prominent shape of the hilltop and Victoria Tower, experienced within such views. The views to Castle Hill which capture this distinctive landform, and especially the Tower, are physical evidence of these intangible values. The views of the Site allow people to appreciate its role in current and past landscapes.

## Related features and approaches

- 4.33. The wide ranging viewshed to and from Castle Hill means that the Site has a number of visual relationships with other historic features and assets within Kirklees, as well as non-visual relationships with others within its setting. The significance of the Site as a prominent point of settlement and power, can be derived from such relationships, particularly where visual relationships also exist.

- 4.34. Where related features have visual relationships with Castle Hill, such as prehistoric sites on ridgelines and hillsides, or the designed views from Beaumont Park, this aspect of the hilltop's setting makes an important contribution to the significance of the Site. Its identity as a prominent point of settlement and territorial power, characterised by millennia of use and reuse, visible from the surrounding landscape, is emphasised by such surviving visual connections. Though such views feature Castle Hill as a prominent, rather than dominant, landmark today, it is possible to appreciate that in an historic undeveloped landscape, it would have been considerably more dominant. The views of the hilltop afforded from such locations are likely to be as recognisable today as they were during their contemporary periods of use, and this historic integrity enhances the extent to which Castle Hill's significance can be derived from such visual relationships.
- 4.35. As identified in Section 3, it is difficult to say for certain which heritage assets within the setting of Castle Hill would have had non-visual relationships with the hilltop at different points in its history, and, as a result of this, the contribution that related features within its setting make to the significance of the Castle Hill is not as substantial as that made by views to and from the hilltop, for example. Nevertheless, that a number of features have visual relationships with Castle Hill, and share contemporary occupation and use chronology with the Site does still contribute to the overall significance of the hilltop as a prominent point of settlement and power over thousands of years.
- 4.36. The character of the landscape of Kirklees means that the approaches to Huddersfield often run along valley floors, or over ridgelines, providing a variety of views and experiences of the landscape as visitors approach the area. Major approaches along the M62, A roads and rail lines are shown in Figure 14. The prominence of Castle Hill in the landscape means that it is visible from a number of these key approaches to Huddersfield and the wider Kirklees area. In a number of these examples, this prominence turns to dominance of the landscape, as the route approaches and passes the hilltop. The relationship the site has with these approaches, as well as with approaches to the hilltop itself, are also a factor in which the overall significance of the hilltop can be derived from its setting. Castle Hill's identity as a landmark for the area, not just today but historically across the centuries, is an important part of its significance. The visual relationships the hilltop has with approaches to the area therefore not only form an aspect of its setting, but contribute to the significance of the Site as a prominent marker within the wider landscape, whether as a symbol of Huddersfield and Kirklees, or historically as a point of safety and occupation.

## Summary

- 4.37. 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.
- 4.38. Views to and from the hilltop are the most important factor in the setting of the site, and are the most substantial factor in which Castle Hill's significance can be derived from its setting. This aspect of the setting of the hilltop provides visual connections, from across the Kirklees area, to its historical significance as a prominent point of power and territorial control, as well as

settlement, use and reuse. Views to the Site reflect the historic visibility of the hilltop from the surrounding landscape, while those from the hilltop itself convey the visibility and surveillance afforded from such a position within the landscape. Castle Hill is appreciated as both having dominance over its immediate surroundings, and also being a prominent landmark feature within the wider landscape.

- 4.39. The extent to which significance is derived from such views is specifically enhanced by the character of the hilltop itself, and the surrounding landscape, which both retains to a large degree its historic rural character, in particular in the immediate vicinity of the hilltop thus separating it from the spread of urban development, while also in areas offering a position of visual experience of the change and development which Huddersfield has undergone.
- 4.40. The visual and non-visual relationships which Castle Hill has with other historic features in the area, and with approaches both to the hilltop itself and to Kirklees generally, make less of a contribution to the significance of the Site, but significance can nevertheless still be derived from them. Where visual relationships exist, in particular, these again reflect the importance of the prominence of the hilltop within the landscape in its continued occupation and identity as a point of settlement and power. Today, the use of Victoria Tower and Castle Hill as an identifying feature for the Kirklees area, gives the Site intangible significance, and its visual prominence within views on approaching the area provides a tangible manifestation of this significance.
- 4.41. A number of the key features of Castle Hill's setting are shown in a composite map (Figure 15), including key designated related heritage assets, approaches to the site, and the surrounding ridgelines. The rural 'band' of land around the hilltop which separates the hilltop from the urban spread of Huddersfield is also shown.

## 5. Key Detractors

- 5.1. The wide ranging views to and from Castle Hill mean that the setting of the Site is vulnerable to structures or other factors which can detract from its integrity and contribution to the significance of the Site. As identified in Section 4, the significance of Castle Hill can be derived from its setting through its prominence in and dominance of the landscape, and the links with its historical importance and use which are emphasised by the views to and from the hilltop. Structures or features which impact on views to and from the Site can have a negative impact on these elements, and in turn reduce the extent to which significance is derived from such aspects of setting.
- 5.2. The existing detractors which currently impact on the setting of Castle Hill are discussed in this section, and are grouped into six areas:
- Urban conurbation and development – the existing spread of the urban centre of Huddersfield, including tall residential buildings
  - Industrial development – the existing industrial buildings within view of the Site, including associated tall structures such as chimneys
  - Tall structures – other tall structures, such as aeriels and masts
  - Wind turbines – both individual turbines and wind farms
  - Transport infrastructure – roads and railways within view of the Site
  - The hilltop – detractors from the integrity of the setting located on the hilltop itself
- 5.3. There are a number of detractors in these categories which currently impact on the setting of the Site. It is notable that in the immediate vicinity of the Site, such as the slopes around the hilltop and the plateau of farmland immediately below, there are currently no detractors, with the openness of the hilltop maintained and enhanced by this lack of encroachment.

### Urban Conurbation and Development

- 5.4. As Huddersfield expanded during the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the growth in the textile and other industries along the floors of the Colne and Holme valleys, the urban areas around the town centre grew considerably, swallowing smaller villages in the valley floors, and expanding up the hillsides towards the ridges above the town. The latter periods of this expansion, mostly early 20<sup>th</sup> century residential estates stretched up towards Castle Hill, with the expansion of Newsome and Almondbury. Additionally, in the post-war development of housing along the Holme valley, a number of high rise blocks of flats were also constructed.
- 5.5. The urban conurbation around the centre of Huddersfield impacts on the views of Castle Hill from the north, many of which are from ridgelines across the town centre. Though the town centre does not feature many high rise structures, and none which directly impact the sightlines from ridgelines and viewpoints to Castle Hill, there are nevertheless taller residential structures which are notable within the viewshed. From the south, some of the views of Castle Hill feature the spread of Huddersfield beyond to the north-west, which also impact slightly on the view. In detracting slightly within these views, this reduces the dominance of Castle Hill in some respects, certainly compared to its historic dominance over such areas.
- 5.6. The urban spread of residential houses in the Newsome ward impact on views from the west, especially those from Beaumont Park, along with the development along the Holme river valley. Though, as identified above, the hilltop is separated from the spread of this residential estate and areas by the band of pastoral farmland below slopes of the Site. Nevertheless, this does detract somewhat from the historical integrity of the view, and the contribution it makes to deriving significance from setting.
- 5.7. Similarly, the views from Castle Hill to the north and west take in the centre of Huddersfield, and the closer urban development on the lower area of the hillside. The centre of the town draws the eye away from the ridgelines beyond in such views, and the residential streets at the eastern edge of Newsome form a major part of the views to the west from the hilltop. The extent to which these detract from the quality of the view is limited by the sheer expanse of viewshed beyond, but the urban conurbation does have an impact on these views.



- 5.8. As identified in the analysis of views to and from the Site, the views to and from the east are not impacted by the urban conurbation, with no residential development detracting from the integrity of the view.

## Industrial Development

- 5.9. The expansion of the urban conurbation around Huddersfield during the 19<sup>th</sup> century was the result of a similar growth in industry in the town and along the surrounding river valleys. While the growth of industry was most rapid in this period, the development of industrial buildings in the area continued through the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Views to and from Castle Hill do currently feature some detractors from such industrial development.
- 5.10. Views of Castle Hill from the north, south and west, which incorporate the town centre of Huddersfield and the associated industrial development, feature a number of industrial features which detract from the setting of the hilltop. The most striking example is the tall white chimney of the Kirklees Energy from Waste plant close to the town centre, which features prominently in the views of Castle Hill from the northern ridgelines. The height and colour of this chimney is particularly incongruous in the foreground of the wooded ridgeline and open hilltop beyond. Additional industrial buildings, including 19<sup>th</sup> century mill buildings and later 20<sup>th</sup> century factory units are also visible within this viewshed, though do not detract as much as the chimney. Views across the site, especially those from the south, also feature retail and industrial parks on the northern ridgelines beyond the city, which detract slightly from the setting.
- 5.11. The industrial features identified above are also largely visible in the views from Castle Hill to the north and west across the town centre. The mill buildings and smaller 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial structures within the town centre are less of a detractor than the chimney of the waste plant in the view to the north-west; the density of buildings in Huddersfield are very much a part of the town's historic character. From the elevated position of the hilltop, the expanses of industrial and retail parks on the northern ridgelines is particularly noticeable.
- 5.12. As identified in the analysis of views to and from the Site, the views to and from the east are not impacted by industrial development, with no such buildings detracting from the integrity of the view.
- 5.13. It is notable that those industrial features which detract most from the setting of Castle Hill are those which are not in keeping with the historic character of the 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial development of the town. The prominent bright chimneys or modern industrial units detract far more from the setting than the lower stone-built mill and factory buildings.

## Tall Structures

- 5.14. The prominent position of Castle Hill in the landscape and the hilltop's topography and viewshed means that its setting is susceptible to impacts from tall structures such as aeriels and masts on the ridgelines around it, due to their prominence within long range views of the Site. Tall structures impact on the dominance and prominence of Castle Hill in slightly different ways, often reducing the site's dominance as the primary topographic feature, though rarely effecting how prominent the hilltop is within the landscape. From a number of the viewpoints on the surrounding ridgelines, Victoria Tower's identity as the prominent structure on the skyline is challenged by aerial masts and in particular the Emley Moor transmitter.
- 5.15. Emley Moor transmitter dominates the ridgeline beyond the hilltop in views of the Site from the west, detracting from the prominence of Victoria Tower and the topography of the hilltop in the landscape. Views of the site from the north often feature the radio mast on Holme Moss to the south beyond the hilltop, though the impact of this is less than that of Emley. Similarly, views from the east are impacted slightly by the two larger radio masts above Slaithwaite on the ridgeline to the west beyond the Site.
- 5.16. Views from the hilltop of Castle Hill take in all these tall structures. To the east, Emley Moor transmitter is the dominant feature of the landscape. To the south, the radio mast on Holme Moss is visible along the Peak District ridgeline above Holmfirth. The two radio masts above Slaithwaite are visible on the ridgeline to the west, with another four smaller masts along the same ridgeline slightly further to the north, and a large electricity pylon visible close to the M62. On the furthest ridgeline west the Stoodley Pike Monument can be seen, though only on clear days. To the

north-west across the town centre, a number of pylons and aerial masts can be seen on the ridgelines beyond.

## Wind Turbines

- 5.17. The prominent position of Castle Hill in the landscape and the hilltop's topography and viewshed means that its setting is also impacted by wind turbines within the surrounding landscape, in particular on ridgelines beyond the Site. The hilltop's dominance of the landscape is challenged by these in a similar way to the impact of tall structures discussed above, though its prominence can also be impacted slightly.
- 5.18. The current provision of wind energy within the Kirklees area, covering the landscape in viewsheds to and from Castle Hill, is outlined in the *Kirklees Unitary Development Plan Supplementary Planning Guidance of Wind Energy* and the *South Pennines Wind Energy Landscape Study* (2014). The latter document identifies 28 existing wind turbines developments (including both single turbines and larger groups) within Kirklees, with an additional seven in Barnsley and two in Calderdale which may be visible from Castle Hill.
- 5.19. Two prominent larger windfarms are visible along and beyond ridgelines to the north-west and south-east of the site. The wind turbines at Royd Moor, to the south-east in the Metropolitan Borough of Barnsley, are visible both from the hilltop, and in views to the Site from the west. When looking towards the hilltop, the blade tips break the ridgelines behind Castle Hill, which reduces the dominance of the hilltop in the landscape by drawing the eye away, though the hilltop is still prominent. This effects the significance of the hilltop as the dominant point of power in the area. Views from the hilltop to the north-west feature the wind farm at Ovenden beyond Halifax, which is prominent on the ridgeline, especially on a clear day. These larger windfarms also compromise the historic character of the ridgeline and rural views, by introducing modern development into largely unchanged parts of the historic landscape.
- 5.20. A number of smaller and single wind turbines are visible within the surrounding landscape in a variety of views to and from the Site. Views from the hilltop, in particular, feature wind turbines in viewsheds in almost all directions. These are prominent within the landscape, though do not make as large an impact on the setting of the site as those larger wind farms which are visible in views to the site as identified above. Being smaller, they are less prominent in views to the hilltop and therefore detract from the prominence and dominance of the site less, and also make a smaller impact on the compromising of the historically rural landscape than the larger groups of turbines.

## Transport Infrastructure

- 5.21. The development of transport infrastructure within Kirklees has resulted in a number of features which impact on the setting of Castle Hill, in particular in views from the hilltop itself. These features are often associated with urban and industrial development, and in themselves are not major detractors, but do nevertheless impact on the setting.
- 5.22. The most notable infrastructure feature in views from the hilltop to the west and north is the M62, which runs along and behind the ridgeline beyond the town centre. The motorway, and the traffic on it, is visible for short stretches of its length through Kirklees, most notably to the west. Though a major feature within the landscape generally, though visible from the hilltop, its impact on the setting of the Site is only minor, due to only small sections of it being visible, and the urban development stretching up the hillside towards it, mitigating some of its impact.
- 5.23. The railway lines into Huddersfield from Sheffield, Leeds and Manchester also feature in views to and from the hilltop. In views of the Site from the north across the town centre the viaduct carrying the line from Leeds is visible within the urban conurbation of Huddersfield in the foreground. The viaduct carrying the Sheffield line over the Holme valley is a prominent feature of views to the Site from Beaumont Park and the Holme valley hillside to the west, while the viaduct on the same line across the Colne valley is visible from the hilltop looking west. Though these are all clearly visible, particularly when trains pass over the viaducts, the railways sit within the urban landscape of the river valleys and as such their impact on the setting of Castle Hill is mitigated by their surroundings.

## The Hilltop

- 5.24. As identified in Section 4, the openness of the hilltop allowing for extensive views from it as well as uninterrupted views across it to ridgelines beyond, is an aspect of the setting of Castle Hill which contributes to its overall significance. As a result, features on the hilltop itself can also detract from the setting of the Site.
- 5.25. The Conservation Management Plan identified that the views across and out from the hilltop and the general character of the Site are affected by a number of visual detractors on the hilltop, such as telegraph poles and vegetation. Since the publication of the management plan, the telegraph poles have been removed from the hilltop, and though the vegetation remains, its restrictions on views across the hilltop are limited.
- 5.26. Since the Conservation Management Plan was produced, a small fenced compound including a toilet has been provided for those working on the hilltop, located in the eastern half of the car park. Though screened from view from the outer bailey by vegetation, it is nevertheless incongruous in the setting, and detracts from the views across the hilltop from the inner bailey and Victoria Tower.

## 6. Key Risks and Issues

- 6.1. As demonstrated in Sections 3 and 4, the setting of Castle Hill contributes substantially to its significance. Its setting is also complex and multifaceted. Section 5 has outlined how some past development decisions have detracted from the setting of Castle Hill. In this context it is clear that future development in the setting of Castle Hill has the potential to harm its setting and significance. Future development is the key risk and issue facing the setting of Castle Hill.
- 6.2. This section provides high level guidance on approaches to the management of development in the setting of Castle Hill in terms of processes and existing guidance; alongside further guidance on the key issues associated with particular forms of development, namely:
- Small scale development – individual buildings or small groups of houses
  - Medium sized development – groups of 30 houses or more, or large building complexes
  - Major development – large urban expansion developments, or those developments which trigger Environmental Impact Assessment regulations
  - Tall structures – including high rise domestic or business properties, wind turbines, pylons, chimneys, masts and aerals.

### Management of Development

- 6.3. Change within the setting of Castle Hill is inevitable. Management of that change is required to meet the requirements of the NPPF and to ensure that appropriate consideration is given the conservation of the significance of Castle Hill and Victoria Tower. In this context, Historic England's guidance document *The Setting of Heritage Assets, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 3* (2015) sets out a methodology for assessing the impact of proposed development on the setting of heritage assets, and the effect that impacts may have on the significance of the asset. In assessing this effect, a non-exhaustive list of factors to consider is suggested:
- Location and siting of development – position within the landscape, extent and proximity to asset
  - Form and appearance of development – prominence, any competition or detracting from the asset, dimensions, scale and mass, materials and design
  - Other effects of the development – changes to surroundings, land use, skyline, access and noise of the development
  - Permanence of the development – anticipated lifetime and reversibility
  - Longer term or consequential effects of the development – changes to ownership, and the economic, communal and social viability
- 6.4. Bearing in mind the extent to which the overall significance of Castle Hill is derived from its setting, it is recommended that this methodology is employed when making decisions regarding proposed developments which lie within the setting of the Site, to consider the extent to which development might harm the significance of Castle Hill.
- 6.5. Sections 3 and 4 of this report describe the setting of Castle Hill and the contribution this setting makes to its significance (as summarised in paragraphs 4.37 to 4.41). This material should provide the starting point for developers and the planning authority in assessing potential harm and determining the acceptability of any proposed changes.
- 6.6. It is important to note in this context that the impact on setting is not just restricted to developments which lie within the viewshed from or to Castle Hill e.g. potential impacts on contextual relationships between Castle Hill and other sites in Kirklees; or on key approaches to Castle Hill. However, given the importance of the views to and from the hilltop, and the extent to which Castle Hill derives significance from such views, those developments which would be visible within such viewsheds carry a particularly high risk of harming Castle Hill's setting. Mapping of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to and from Castle Hill and Victoria Tower (Figures 4-7, 10-11) identifies the areas in which developments or changes may introduce detractors into such views.

- 6.7. Given the importance of views towards Castel 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. Appendix C includes examples of this approach.
- 6.8. 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.

## Small Scale Development

- 6.9. Small scale development constitutes the building of individual houses, industrial or agricultural buildings, up to groups of fewer than 30 houses. The impact of the development of a single dwelling can vary considerably from the development of a larger group of houses, therefore blanket recommendations over specific controls on such developments in the context of the setting of the Site is not possible. However, it is possible to identify those areas where this size of development would have the greatest impact on the setting of the hilltop.
- 6.10. When assessing potential impact on the setting of Caste Hill, small scale development should be considered on a case-by-case basis. In general, where small scale development is located within or adjacent to areas of existing urban development, the impact on the setting of Castle Hill will not be substantial or warrant much consideration. Where such development is located away from existing urban development, such as on greenfield sites, there is the potential for it to detract from the setting of the site.
- 6.11. Areas where particular attention is required in relation to the form, location, size and design of small scale development include:
- **The undeveloped land around Castle Hill:** The bands of farmland below the slopes of the hilltop, which separate the hilltop from the urban development of Newsome (see Section 3 and 4) greatly enhance the setting of the Site; as do other undeveloped areas of land around the hill. In these areas, small scale development has the potential to be visually highly intrusive and also to lessen the separation of Castle Hill from the nearby urban / suburban form. Individual houses or very small groups (five or fewer), located close to existing rows or groups of houses in Newsome, would have a minor impact, but any larger groups, constructed in the open green spaces to the west of the hilltop could have a substantial impact on the setting of Castle Hill. Similarly, small scale development to the east of Castle Hill, in the rural character landscape across the valley to Woodsome and Farnley Tyas, has the potential to be highly visual intrusive in views towards and from the site and are likely to detractor from the setting of the Site.
  - **Ridgelines / Scarp edges around Castle Hill:** The currently largely undeveloped ridgelines / scarp edges in the vicinity of Castle Hill help define its topographic form and separate it from the local landscape. Small scale development in these locations has the potential to clutter these ridgelines / scarp edges and consequently degrade the setting of Castle Hill.
  - **Distant Ridgelines:** Similarly to the above, the more distinct ridgelines play an important role in defining the setting of Castle Hill and small scale development which breaks and clutter their uninterrupted form has the potential to adversely affect the setting of Castle Hill.

- **Slopes and summit of Castle Hill:** The profile of the upper slopes of Castle Hill and its rural and essentially undeveloped character are key characteristics of the site and contribute to its setting and significance. These aspects would be adversely affected by small-scale development and it is unlikely that such development could be accommodated on the hill itself.

6.12. Developers bringing forward development in the areas identified above should provide evidence that demonstrates the scale of impact of their proposals on the setting and significance of Castle Hill.

## Medium Sized Development

6.13. Medium sized development constitutes the building of groups of 30 or more houses, or larger complexes of industrial, retail or agricultural buildings. With the requirement for new residential building to meet housing allocations in the future, these developments are likely to be proposed, though still not as frequently as small scale development.

6.14. Development of this scale immediately adjacent to the major urban areas is unlikely to pose and significant issues in relation to impacts on the setting and significance of Castle Hill (unless factors outlined below are also present). New greenfield development, particularly closer to Castle Hill does however pose a potential risk and further detailed assessment would need to be undertaken to inform decision making.

6.15. Key areas of concern for development of this scale include:

- **The undeveloped land and Ridgelines / Scarp edges around Castle Hill:** Development of this size and scale would almost certainly have a notable harmful impact on the setting and significance of Castle Hill if it was situated within the areas of important undeveloped land around the hill and along the local ridges and scarp edges. Even in locations adjacent to existing development there is a high risk that new medium sized development would intrude on and degrade the setting of the site.
- **Distant Ridgelines:** development of this scale on more distant ridgelines around Castle Hill would most probably adversely affect the setting of Castle Hill depending on its location and scale in relation to the exposed ridgelines when viewed from Castle Hill or seen in the backdrop of views of Castle Hill. Careful review of location and design would be required to address potential impacts.
- **Slopes and summit of Castle Hill:** Medium-scale development on the slopes or summit of Castle Hill would undoubtedly seriously degrade its character and form; adversely affecting its significance. These areas are not suitable for development of this scale.

6.16. Other potential issues may arise where development of this scale is situated alongside key approaches to the site or in the foreground of key views of the site. Here development has the potential to interrupt views and degrade the quality of approaches; situations would need to be considered on a case by case basis.

6.17. Developers bringing forward development in the areas identified above should provide evidence that demonstrates the scale of impact of their proposals on the setting and significance of Castle Hill.

6.18. In general, where such development is located within or immediately adjacent to areas of existing urban development, and is not out of scale with the design of surrounding existing buildings, the impact on the setting of Castle Hill will not be substantial. Similarly, where such development does not lie on a ridgeline, and would therefore not alter the character of views to and from the hilltop across such ridgelines, or challenge Castle Hill's prominence within the landscape, there is low risk of harm to setting.

## Major Development

6.19. Major development constitutes the construction of large urban expansions, or other major developments which trigger EIA requirements (The Town and Country Planning (Environmental

Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011, amended in part by The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment (Amendment) Regulations 2015).

- 6.20. These forms of development are relatively uncommon and require detailed environmental impact assessment (EIA). Given this requirement it is recommended that Castle Hill's setting is considered in all EIA Scoping Reports for major developments within Kirklees and if potential harm is identified (by either the developer, LPA or statutory stakeholder) then a full assessment of the potential impact would need to be undertaken and published in the Environmental Statement. This assessment should follow the methodology established in Historic England's guidance "*The Setting of Heritage Assets, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 3*" (2015), or more recent versions of that guidance if relevant.
- 6.21. This approach will ensure that potential impacts are identified early in the development design process and hence designs can be amended and mitigation included to reduce / eliminate impacts. Residual impacts can then be described and reported enabling the setting of Castle Hill to be given appropriate weight by the LPA when determining the application.

## Tall Structures

- 6.22. A variety of tall structures may be proposed in the future within the area, which could potentially impact on the setting of Castle Hill. These may include high rise domestic or business properties, wind turbines, industrial units incorporating chimneys, pylons and aerial masts. CABE & English Heritage *Guidance on Tall Buildings* (2007: Section 4.1) broadly defines tall buildings as:
- Buildings significantly taller than the surrounding buildings; and / or
  - Buildings that have a significant impact on a town or city's skyline
- 6.23. The impact of tall structures can vary depending on their design, height and prominence in the landscape. By their nature, tall structures can impact on setting particularly when altering the character of views, by introducing prominent structures which challenge the historical dominance of a historic site like Castle Hill within the landscape. The wide ranging viewshed from the hilltop means that tall structures are likely to be much more visible from the Site, and in views to and across the Site, than lower developments. The height of such structures also means that even when located outside of the zone of visibility to and from the hilltop, the upper parts of such structures may still be visible breaking ridgelines.
- 6.24. The height at which new development would be visible from the hilltop of Castle Hill is shown in Figure 17. The purpose of this figure is to demonstrate where tall development could impact on the views from the hilltop, and it should not be seen to define specific areas for development or otherwise.

## Tall Buildings and Chimneys

- 6.25. The existing high rise blocks of flats in the Holme river valley to the south-west of the Site, discussed in Section 4 and 5, provides evidence of the adverse impact which a prominent tall residential building can have on the setting of Castle Hill. The impact of these buildings is increased as they are out of keeping with the other development along the valleys, which tend to be rows of small dwellings or mill buildings which do not protrude significantly from the valley floor. The construction of similar tall buildings, above five storeys, has the potential to impact on the setting of Castle Hill. This is particularly the case when constructed in areas which currently do not feature such structures.
- 6.26. The centre of Huddersfield features a number of high rise residential or office blocks, though the impact of these is reduced with them being located in the town centre. The construction of new high rise structures in the centre of the town is less likely to impact on the setting of the Site than those constructed elsewhere in the urban conurbation. Proposals for high rise residential or business buildings should be assessed to determine how substantial their impact on the setting of Castle Hill would be.
- 6.27. The existing chimney of the Kirklees Energy from Waste plant, discussed in Section 4 and 5, provides evidence of the adverse impact which a prominent chimney and industrial unit can have on the setting of Castle Hill. The impact of this example is increased due to its bright white colour, which makes it particularly noticeable against the rest of the town centre. The construction of such industrial chimneys should be avoided where they may introduce an overly prominent

feature into views to the hilltop, challenging the extent to which Castle Hill derives significance from its historic landscape prominence and dominance. Similarly, the construction of such features on ridgelines visible from the hilltop should also be avoided as such tall structures on ridgelines reduce the prominence or dominance of Castle Hill within the wider landscape.

- 6.28. Developers bringing forward proposals for tall buildings / structures should provide evidence that demonstrates the scale of impact of their proposals on the setting and significance of Castle Hill.

### Wind turbines

- 6.29. The *South Pennines Wind Energy Landscape Study* (2014) identifies potential future wind turbines, the consent for which has been approved. The document identifies 33 wind turbine developments (including both single turbines and larger groups) within Kirklees for which consent has been granted, with an additional four in Barnsley and ten in Calderdale which may be visible from Castle Hill. Paragraph 6.1 of the *Kirklees Unitary Development Plan Supplementary Planning Guidance of Wind Energy* states that the council will require proposals for the construction of wind turbines to take full account of the setting and character of heritage assets.
- 6.30. As identified from the analysis of existing detractors above, wind turbines are prominent in the landscape, and have the potential to impact on the setting of the Site. Their colour and movement means that they have particular potential for reducing the extent to which Castle Hill derives significance from its prominence within views and its dominance of its surrounding landscape, as well as views outwards across the landscape from the hilltop. In particular, where turbines crest ridgelines around Castle Hill, the dominance and prominence of the hilltop and Tower would be adversely affected and this would harm the setting and significance of Castle Hill.
- 6.31. Individual turbines are likely to only have a minor impact on the views to and from Castle Hill, if not located close to the hilltop itself, or on close ridgelines immediately in front or behind the Site. It is still recommended that developers bringing forward proposals for individual turbines should provide evidence that demonstrates the scale of impact of their proposals on the setting and significance of Castle Hill; even if that evidence is merely to demonstrate that there will be no impact.
- 6.32. Larger wind farm developments are more likely to have a substantial impact on the setting of the hilltop. This is particularly the case if located either close to the Site, or prominently on ridgelines which form skylines in views from the hilltop, or those behind the hilltop which would be clearly visible in views to the Site.
- 6.33. Large wind turbine developments would generally trigger the EIA requirements (The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011, amended in part by The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment (Amendment) Regulations 2015). Consequently they should be treated as major developments and the advice set out in paragraphs 6.20 and 6.21 should be followed.

### Other tall structures

- 6.34. The prominent ridgelines around the Site mean that the setting of Castle Hill can be impacted by tall radio masts, aerials and electricity pylons, particularly where they appear in views to or from the hilltop. There are already notable examples, discussed in Sections 4 and 5, which detract from such views, and reduce the extent to which significance can be derived from them. The construction of such structures both close to Castle Hill, and on ridgelines beyond the Site, are likely to impact on the setting of the hilltop.
- 6.35. Proposals for the construction of such tall structures should be assessed on a case-by-case basis as the regulatory regime that they will be brought forward under is likely to be varied. Some will come forward under the auspices of the Town and Country Planning Acts(s) (TCPA), some may be Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), others may be proposed under the Electricity Act and others will potentially be Permitted Development. Some will require formal EIA (see Major Development above) and others will not. It will be important for proposers, the LPA and key statutory bodies to work closely together to minimise and eliminate harm to the setting and significance of Castle Hill.



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