

ATKINS

**Castle Hill
Conservation Management Plan**

March 2006



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1. ENHANCEMENT PROPOSALS

Section 1: Introduction



1. INTRODUCTION

Background

- 1.1 The Conservation Management Plan for Castle Hill (the “Plan”) was commissioned by Kirklees Metropolitan Council (the “Council”) with financial support from English Heritage (EH) in September 2005. The Plan has been prepared by Atkins Heritage in accordance with the brief issued by the Council and EH.
- 1.2 The Plan was commissioned to provide the Council, English Heritage and the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (WYAAS) with guidance on the future conservation, management and enhancement of Castle Hill. The Plan builds on work of the 1999 Feasibility Study (Headland Design Associates 1999) and other earlier reports and projects including amongst others, “Whither Castle Hill?” published by the Almondbury (Castle Hill) Civic Associates..
- 1.3 The commissioning of the Plan reflects the desire of the Council and its partners to secure a sustainable and positive future for the Hill that reflects its iconic status as well as conserving its rich and complex cultural and natural heritage.

What is a Conservation Management Plan?

- 1.4 A conservation management plan is a document that sets out what is currently understood about a place, what is significant about that place and what the issues facing that place are. From this understanding, a conservation management plan then sets out policies to guide the long-term-management and conservation of the place and proposes actions and management measures to help deliver a sustainable future for the place.
- 1.5 Conservation plans and conservation management plans have been prepared for many different types of sites across the UK and are now an accepted tool for helping manage and enhance cultural and natural heritage sites. Conservation management plans are also required by many funding bodies,

including the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and English Heritage as part of their funding processes. As such, these plans are recognised as the critical first step in the longer process of managing and conserving sites.

Scope and status of the Plan

- 1.6 This Plan is a non-statutory document. It has been prepared to supply guidance and direction for future management and decision making in relation to Castle Hill.
- 1.7 The Plan has been prepared for a study area focussed on Castle Hill (See Figures 1 and 2). Issues facing Castle Hill outside of this study area are discussed in the Plan but its focus is on this defined area. The extent of the study area was agreed with the Council, English Heritage and WYAAS in the lifetime of the project.

Partners involved in the development of the Plan

- 1.8 The Plan has been prepared in consultation with a client group chaired and managed by the Council's Partnerships and Procurement Service. Members of the client group also included:
 - Kirklees Metropolitan Council (KMC) Culture and Leisure Services;
 - English Heritage;
 - West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service.

Consultation

- 1.9 The development of the Plan has also involved extensive stakeholder and public consultation (see Appendix 10), this included the establishment of a web page on the Council's website and three consultation events. The first of these was held on Saturday the 8th of October 2005 at the Huddersfield Continental market, with the second being held at Castle Hill on Sunday the 9th of October. A final event was held on the 11th February 2006 in order to present the draft version of the Plan and Enhancement Proposals to the public. The first two events consisted of a staffed exhibition with a voluntary questionnaire, with the final event providing an opportunity for responses to the draft Plan and Enhancement Proposals. In total 508 people responded to the questionnaire, and over 300 people attended the three consultation events which clearly demonstrates the strength of local interest in Castle Hill. An analysis of the responses and a copy of the questionnaire can be found in Appendix 3.

Methodology

1.10 The Plan has been prepared in four stages all of which have been informed by a range of technical studies and the public and stakeholder consultations:

- **Stage 1: Understanding the Place** – This stage developed a robust understanding of Study Area from a number of technical studies including, landscape assessment, archaeological and historical analysis, ecological survey, analysis of the Site’s setting and review of how the Site is used. Public and stakeholder consultation also informed this stage. The results of this stage can be found in Appendix 3.
- **Stage 2: Defining Significance** – Based on the understanding of the site gained through Stage 1 a Statement of Significance was prepared. This identified what was important about Castle Hill and why. The results of this stage can be found in Section 3.
- **Stage 3: Identifying Issues** - As part of the technical studies undertaken in Stage 1 and through the consultation the key issues facing Castle Hill were identified; these are explored in Section 4.
- **Stage 4: Developing Policies** – Following the assessment of the issues, a series of Policies were developed to help address the issues and guide the future conservation and management of the Hill. These reflect many comments received during the public consultation and discussions with stakeholders. These can be found in Section 5. A timetable for the implementation of the policies, as well as the preparation of the management framework and enhancement proposals is set out in Section 7 ‘Next Steps’.
- **Stage 5: Preparation of the Management Framework** – A key stage of the plan process involved the preparation of a management framework for Castle Hill to allow the Council and its partners to better manage the Site. This is presented in Section 6.
- **Stage 6: Preparation of Enhancement Proposals** – The brief also required the Plan to examine a range of proposals for enhancing the hill and the facilities it offers the many visitors and users. Details of the enhancement proposals are set out in the document accompanying the Conservation Management Plan

Structure of the Plan

1.11 The Plan has been structured in broad accordance with current guidance on conservation management plans (HLF 2004, HLF 1996 and Kerr 1996).

1.12 The Plan contains four interrelated elements:

- **Summary**
- **Conservation Management Plan**
- **Appendices**
- **Enhancement Proposals**

1.13 Further information on the content of the major elements is provided below:

Conservation Management Plan

- **Section 1** outlines the background to the plan; its scope and aims; the key stakeholders involved in the Plan; and the structure of the Plan.
- **Section 2** provides a description of Castle Hill and its general context in terms of its archaeology, history, setting, ecology and current uses.
- **Section 3** presents the Statement of Significance for Castle Hill.
- **Section 4** examines the key issues facing Castle Hill.
- **Section 5** presents the policies for the future management of Castle Hill.
- **Section 6** presents the Management Framework.
- **Section 7** presents the Next Steps.

Appendices

- **Appendix 1** – Glossary of Terms: this lists and explains some terms that might be unfamiliar.
- **Appendix 2** - Gazetteer: this lists the sites identified within the Study Area and should be read in conjunction with Figure 24.
- **Appendix 3** – Public Consultation: this summarises the results of the public consultation exercise.
- **Appendix 4** – Condition Survey: this presents the results of the condition survey undertaken of the Hill.
- **Appendix 5** – Concept of Setting: provides a descriptive note on the concept of setting in legal and planning terms.
- **Appendix 6** – Ecological Data: provides additional data to support the understanding of the site's ecology as presented in Section 2.
- **Appendix 7:** Condition Survey of Victoria Tower –a brief appraisal of the overall condition of Victoria Tower.
- **Appendix 8:** Setting of the Site - provides a detailed analysis of the setting of Castle Hill.
- **Appendix 9:** Other Relevant Plans and Policies – this lists other relevant plans and policies which are relevant to Castle Hill.
- **Appendix 10:** Key stakeholder consultation – this lists the stakeholders.

Enhancement Proposals

- Section 1 presents the proposed approach to the enhancement of Castle Hill.

Project Team

- 1.14 In addition to the key stakeholders identified above, the following team members from Atkins were responsible for the production of the Plan: Janet Miller (Project Director), Andrew Croft (Project Manager), Gareth Talbot (Project Coordinator), Tim Gorton, Tim Hunter-Rowe, Richard Shortridge, Julia Bennett, Christopher Garratt, Barry Stow (of Barry Stow Architects), Johnny Turner, Katie Rees-Gill and the Atkins Graphics team.

Section 2: Castle Hill



2. CASTLE HILL

Introduction

- 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 probably at least 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 which forms a common baseline and level of understanding from which the future management of the Site can be developed.
- 2.2 The section begins with an overview of current knowledge about the hill, its archaeology and history, its ecology, and its setting, and looks into how it is used today by a range of visitors. These elements are then drawn together to define a series of Management Zones on the Site.

Current data and knowledge

- 2.3 The understanding of the study area (shown in Figure 2) presented below is reliant on current knowledge and data. In terms of the ecological, geological, landscape and setting aspects the Plan is founded on recent data collected as part of the Plan process, and in the case of the ecological aspects information collected from previous appraisals undertaken in the 1990s. This provides an appropriate level of information for the Plan. In terms of understanding how the Site is currently used this is based on the results of the Public Consultation (see Appendix 3), field observation and discussions with the Site's management team. This information is sufficient to support the plan that future analysis on patterns of usage and numbers of visitors would be beneficial.
- 2.4 The archaeological and historical background information is based on an assessment of published excavation reports, mainly from William Varley's

excavations, and on more recent archaeological investigations and earthwork surveys undertaken during the 1990s.

- 2.5 The principal issues with regard to current data and knowledge relate to the archaeological and historical development of Castle Hill, and the significance of the remains within the Study Area. Archaeological research excavations undertaken by William Varley between 1939 and 1972 produced a large body of evidence relating to the development of Castle Hill seemingly from the Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age through to the medieval period. However, it must be stressed that this evidence is largely incomplete and constrained by factors such as the research methodologies employed, the accuracies of interpretations based on these methodologies, and Varley's focus on the prehistoric periods. It must also be noted that the results of Varley's work have never been satisfactorily published. All this contributes towards the fact that the archaeological and historical development of Castle Hill is not fully understood, despite a substantial body of archaeological work being carried out since the late 1930s. Important questions regarding the chronology of the site and nature of past occupation remain to be answered.
- 2.6 This situation presents a number of issues for the Plan. However, these issues are common to all conservation management plans, especially those for archaeological sites, as a full and complete understanding of a place can never be achieved. New data, further research and new approaches can all reveal new information about a place. Conservation planning is not a static thing; it is based on changing knowledge and therefore approaches to the conservation and management of a place need to change through time to reflect changing knowledge and data.
- 2.7 The interpretation of archaeological remains and the assessment of their significance is also not a clear cut exercise. There are many approaches to interpreting archaeological and historical documents and consequently a number of possible interpretations about the function and significance of any given set of remains can co-exist. The interpretation of the archaeological remains and historical documents and the assessment of their significance presented in this Plan may therefore not be supported by all archaeologists and historians. As interpretations of Castle Hill change through time, views of its relative significance and past functions are also likely to alter. This will eventually lead to the need for the Plan to be revised to accommodate and reflect these new understandings.

- 2.8 Overall, there is sufficient data and knowledge to begin the conservation and management process for Castle Hill and to define the policies for its long-term conservation (see Section 5), the approach to its future management (Section 6) and an approach to enhancing the Site (Enhancement Proposals document). Further work will be required over the coming decades to answer particular questions relating to the archaeological and historical development of Castle Hill and its relationships with the surrounding area and similar sites. The results of such work will also inform the future management and conservation of the Site.

Site location, geology and topography

- 2.9 Castle Hill lies in the eastern foothills of the Pennines, immediately above the upper reaches of the Colne Valley some 3km from the centre of Huddersfield (see Figure 1 and Plate 1). 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 flattish 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).
- 2.10 Castle Hill is one of the most distinctive and prominent landscape features in the region. It is visible from a wide area around the Site (see Setting of the Site below) 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. 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.

Current Use of the Site

- 2.11 Castle Hill is a well-used recreational facility that serves Kirklees, Almondbury and Huddersfield in particular. The Public Consultation undertaken to inform the development of the Plan provided some insights into how and why the Site is used (see Appendix 3).
- 2.12 Of the 508 responses to the questionnaire 51% stated that their main reason for visiting the Hill was "For the Views". 33% stated that "Walking" was the main reason for their visit whilst a further 9% indicated that "Walking the Dog"

was their main reason. The Site is well served by public rights of way and other paths (see Figure 21) and this contributes to its popularity as a walking destination. In addition, some people came to “Enjoy the Wildlife” and for “Study / Research Purposes”. Field observation and discussions with the Site managers have identified a number of other uses that occur regularly at the site including cycling, kite flying, kite buggying and informal play e.g. kick-arounds and picnics. In terms of kite flying and the use of kite buggies the Site is used by the Castle Hill Flyers, a local kite flying group.

- 2.13 Currently, there are no exact figures for the numbers of visits made to the Site in any given year. Figures of c.100,000 have been estimated based on a visitor snapshot count over the year. It is clear from discussions with managers and field observation that Castle Hill attracts large number of visitors throughout the year with a noticeable peak in the summer and at weekends. The exposed nature of the Site does however reduce its use in the winter months.
- 2.14 In terms of frequency 42% of respondents to the questionnaire stated that they visited once a month, whilst a further 32% stated they visited once a year. These groups were mainly coming for the views. About 3% of respondents indicated that they came daily, once again mainly for the views, but also for walking the dog. About 13% of respondents visited once a week or 2 / 3 times a week. These visitors predominately came to go walking and in the case of the 2/3 times a week group for walking the dog.
- 2.15 There is undoubtedly a very regular group of users, probably locally based, who use the site as an accessible location for a walk or to walk the dog, although many locally based people also take 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. Other users, such as kite flyers and those coming for picnics and / or play were not identified in the questionnaire but are seemingly a regular group of users on the Site.
- 2.16 Overall, it is clear that the hill is a well used and attractive recreational resource. It attracts a wide range of users who come for different reasons, although not always at different times. There are a large number of regular users, who contribute significantly to the overall number of visits and many more people come on a less frequent basis. This diverse visitor profile creates both opportunities and challenges for the long-term management of the Site (see Sections 4, 5 and 6).

Archaeological and historical background

Introduction

- 2.17 Castle Hill has been investigated by excavation, evaluation, earthwork survey and geophysical survey at various times between 1939 and 2004, with some limited antiquarian investigations in the 19th century. The main body of work undertaken on the site was by William Varley between 1939 and 1972, under the auspices of the Castle Hill Excavation Committee, with small-scale rescue recording carried out by the Tolson Memorial Museum in 1965 (RCHME 1996). A detailed earthwork survey was published by the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England (RCHME) in 1996, which was the first time a survey of such detail was undertaken of the Site (see Figure 11), although an earlier measured survey was made of the Site in 1916 (see Figure 8). Various programmes of geophysical survey and intrusive archaeological works have also been undertaken as part of the development work at the Castle Hill Hotel. Archaeology Services WYAS (ASWYAS) have also undertaken the initial cataloguing of Varley's excavation archive now held at the Tolson Memorial Museum. A full list of publications produced by these various episodes of archaeological investigations are included in the bibliography.
- 2.18 Despite the amount of work undertaken on Castle Hill the current information available on its archaeological and historical development is not of sufficient detail and quality to provide a detailed interpretation of its development over time. A large amount of research has been undertaken during the production of this Plan, although this has been based primarily on the results of the archaeological excavations undertaken by William Varley between 1939 and 1972, the majority of which has not been fully written up and is not fully understood. For this reason, the Archaeological and Historical Background presented here should not be considered to be final and will undoubtedly be subject to change based on the findings of any future research.
- 2.19 The need for further research has been identified in this Plan as being necessary to answer particular questions relating to the Site's archaeological and historical development. This may include further fieldwork but it is more important in the short to medium term to bring together the surviving excavation archives and material left by Varley and analyse these. This work can then be used to produce a more detailed and targeted research strategy for the Site (see Sections 4, 5 and 6).

- 2.20 This strategy should initially focus on key gaps in our knowledge, in particular questions relating to its early settlement in the Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age, the development of the first enclosure in the Late Bronze Age, the development and abandonment of the Iron Age hillfort, the pre-castle use of the hill in the early-medieval period and the nature, extent and significance of settlement within the castle. It should be noted however, that whilst key gaps in our knowledge have been identified, there is also the need to ensure that the whole chronology of the Hill is better understood and that Varley's interpretations in all cases will require some element of re-assessment.
- 2.21 Despite the fact that there are some gaps in our knowledge of the archaeological and historical development of Castle Hill, there is enough available information to allow us to present a basic interpretation of the main phases of its development, starting in the Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age, with major episodes of activity during the Iron Age and medieval periods, leading to the abandonment of the hill as a settlement and its development as a recreational area. The phases of development are discussed in more detail below, and are illustrated on Figures 3a and 3b.

Archaeological and Historical development

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

- 2.22 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. As has already been identified, the current excavation archive from Varley's excavations is not fully understood and it is possible that there is evidence from this period within it that has yet to be identified.
- 2.23 The wider area surrounding Castle Hill contains a wealth of information from the Mesolithic period, for which evidence of significant activity has been recorded on Saddleworth Moor and Marsden Moor, roughly 15km to the south-east. This research has provided evidence for substantial hunting and settlement activity across the Moors, and suggests that the area around Castle Hill and the hill itself was an area suitable for human occupation at this time (Spikins, 2002).

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

- 2.24 On Castle Hill evidence has been recorded for settlement activity during the later Neolithic / Early Bronze Age period. This evidence was identified during Varley's excavations, and should be treated with the same caution as the rest of his interpretations. However, the evidence for activity at this time in close proximity to the hill suggests that it is possible that it would have been used as a suitable place for settlement and / or other activities. The evidence from Varley's investigations identified that the settlement would most likely have been undefended, and was concentrated at the south-western extents of the hill, within the area now defined by the medieval inner bailey (see Figure 3a). The remnants of undisturbed Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age land surfaces with associated charcoal spreads and lithic finds were recorded here, although there did not appear to be any associated structural remains such as post-holes and ditches. The rest of the hilltop does not appear to have been occupied at this time, although future research may well prove otherwise.
- 2.25 Within the wider region there is some evidence for activity during this Phase, evidenced mainly by finds of polished axe heads and lithic tools. At Farnley Tyas, 2km to the south of Castle Hill, a polished stone axehead was recovered by a farmer during the ploughing of a field. At Moldgreen and Fixby Park in Huddersfield, and at Kirkburton, Holme Valley and Denby Dale there have been various finds of leaf arrowheads and other flint tools. Evidence for Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age funerary activity includes a bowl barrow some 12km to the north-west at Beacon Hill.
- 2.26 It would appear possible that the settlement activity on Castle Hill during this period was associated with other activities in the wider region. Significant Late Neolithic activity is evident at Denby and at Holdsworth and Backstone Beck on Ilkley Moor, where there is a significant concentration of rock art. Whilst this does not spread as far as the Pennines (Bradley, 1997), it does indicate that there was activity during this time within the wider region of Castle Hill, and 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)

- 2.27 Evidence from Varley's excavations points to the first enclosure of Castle Hill occurring during the Late Bronze Age, when the first defences were erected (shown in Figure 3a). An area of roughly 2ha at the south-western end of the hill, inside the medieval inner bailey was enclosed by a single bank and ditch

(often referred to as a univallate enclosure). There is little available evidence for settlement activity within the enclosed area, but this could well be down to inefficient excavation techniques and an inadequate understanding of Varley's archive.

- 2.28 During this time, only the area now defined by the medieval inner bailey appears to have been enclosed, with the centre and outer baileys remaining unenclosed. This is not to say however that there was no activity within these area, and future archaeological research may well prove otherwise.
- 2.29 Within 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. Other hilltop enclosures are recorded at Castle Hill, 9km to the south-east close to Thurlstone; Old Bull Ring, 9km to the south-west close to Holme; Royd Edge, 7.5km to the east close to Meltham; Oldfield Hill, 7.5km to the east also close to Meltham; Meg Dike, 11km to the north-west on the outskirts of Huddersfield; Ringstone Edge Moor, 11km to the north-west of Castle Hill; Kirklees Park Camp, Brighouse; and at Saville Wood, Thurstonland.
- 2.30 The Late Bronze Age saw the continued development of the wider archaeological landscape including funerary monuments such as individual barrows and cairnfields representing agricultural activity and potentially funerary / ritual activity. These types of sites are recorded within the wider region at Saville Wood close to Kirkburton, 4km to the south-east of the hill, Hagg Wood, north of Holmfirth, roughly 6.5km to the south of Castle Hill; Slate Pits Wood in Honley, 4.5km to the south-west of Castle Hill; Honley Old Wood, 3km to the south-west of Castle Hill and at Saville Wood, Thurstonland. There are also three individual round barrows within the wider area of Castle Hill, recorded at Ring Cairn, 11km to the north-west of Castle Hill; Lindley Moor, Huddersfield; and a possible barrow in Birks Wood, Thurstonland.

Phase 3 – Late Bronze Age reconstruction (1,200 BC – 700BC)

- 2.31 It appears that there was a period of reconstruction of the univallate fort during the latter stages of the Late Bronze Age. Evidence from Varley's excavations appears to show that the first enclosure rampart fell into disuse and was covered with a second land surface. There is currently no evidence to say how long this period of disuse lasted for, although it has been

suggested that it was succeeded by a period of open settlement when the hill was occupied but not defended.

- 2.32 It is clear that this phase represents a significant gap in our knowledge of the development of Castle Hill, and any future archaeological investigations and further assessment of Varley's archive should consider what happened during this period.

Phase 4 – Iron Age: the development of the hillfort (700 BC – AD43)

- 2.33 The Iron Age saw the remodelling of the small Late Bronze Age enclosure into a larger formal hillfort, the extents of which are mirrored by the surviving medieval earthworks which were seemingly constructed over the prehistoric banks and ditches. The exact date of the Iron Age expansion is not known, however it appears that the first phase of hillfort development saw the rebuilding of the Late Bronze Age bank and ditch now enclosing the area occupied by the medieval inner bailey, and the extending of these defences so as to enclose the entire hilltop. Shortly after this extension it appears that another bank and ditch was added.
- 2.34 The second phase of the hillfort development saw the construction of a rampart formed of shaley clay on a raft of horizontal timber planks with large upright flagstone revetments around the entire hilltop, forming the inner bank of the hilltop enclosure. This was followed by a period of reconstruction which saw the laying of a rampart with core of shaley clay, stone and timbers, on top of the remains of the earlier rampart and revetted with dry-stone walling (Varley 1973; RCHME 1996). Later phases of development of the hilltop saw the construction of multi-vallations (banks and ditches), which were added to the gently sloping eastern side of the hill (see Figure 3a). Outworks were also constructed at some stage, forming an outer enclosed area (The Annexe) which has been interpreted as provision for pasture (Challis & Harding 1975).
- 2.35 The end of Iron Age occupation on the hill is open to some debate. Based on Varley's reporting there appears to have been a large fire on the hilltop, cause unknown, which prompted its abandonment. Whilst there is evidence for such a fire, its date, nature and extent are not known and remains a significant gap in our knowledge of this aspect of the hill's development.
- 2.36 Within the wider area activity during the Iron Age activity is recorded at Castle Hill in Kirklees Park Camp at Brighouse, roughly 9km to the north of Castle Hill. The site is a univallate (a single rampart, usually accompanied by a ditch) sub-rectangular earthwork, standing on an eminence overlooking a ford of the

River Calder, where there has been limited archaeological investigations in the early 20th century which recorded evidence for Iron Age activity within the site.

- 2.37 There are no known hillforts within the immediate area, and this is not surprising given that hillforts are rare in West Yorkshire, and in northern England as a whole. The closest known Iron Age hillfort is recorded at Barwick-in-Elmet, 34km to the north-east of Castle Hill. Significantly, the hillfort at Barwick-on-Elmet was also remodelled in the medieval period to create a motte and bailey which, like Castle Hill, formed part of the Honour of Pontefract. The reuse of these sites in the Norman period may indicate some pre-Norman use.

Phase 5 – Late Iron Age and early-Roman 100BC – AD450)

- 2.38 On Castle Hill there is no significant evidence for Roman activity. During the cutting of a service trench in 1963, in the inner bailey, a sherd of Roman Samian ware was recovered (RCHME 1996) but this does not provide conclusive evidence for Roman activity as the material could have been imported onto the Site at a later period. It was previously thought that in 1829 a hoard of roman coins was found on the Hill (Tolson Memorial Museum, Petch booklet) however this has subsequently proved to be erroneous and based on an inaccurate reading of early newspaper reports (Teasdill 1961).
- 2.39 Whilst there is little evidence on Castle Hill for significant Late Iron Age / Roman activity, the wider area does hold considerable evidence for a substantial Roman military and civilian presence. The main focus of this activity was centred on Slack Roman fort and *vicus* (town), known as Cambodunum, located at the western end of Huddersfield in Longwood, some 7km to the north-west of Castle Hill. The fort and vicus lay on the main road between Chester (*Deva*) and York (*Eboracum*), and would probably have housed a fairly large garrison and civilian population. At Mirfield, there is a Scheduled Roman tile and pottery manufacturing complex.

Phase 6 - Early medieval (AD450 – 1066)

- 2.40 There is no evidence for significant activity on the hill during this period, however the find of two ‘Scandinavian’ type (Pre-Norman Conquest) keys on the hill are recorded in the SMR (WYAAS PRN 2). The exact nature and significance of these keys is unknown, although their presence may suggest limited activity on the hill at this time. Given the prominent location of the hill it is possible that the hill was used for temporary settlement, or possibly for the

corralling of livestock. The nature of any use of the hill in this period remains a significant gap in knowledge.

- 2.41 Early medieval activity has been identified in the area around Castle Hill including St John the Baptist Church in Kirkburton, 6km from the Site. It is thought that the church had its origins at this time, and is associated with the settlement of Kirkburton which also has evidence for early medieval origins. Further early medieval settlement evidence has been identified at Mirfield, where St Mary's parish church may site on the site of an Anglo-Saxon chapel, although the site of the chapel has also been suggested as being on the site now occupied by Paper Hall or Papist or Papish Hall, believed to represent a corruption of 'Popery' (WYAS, 2004). Also early medieval carved stonework was found at Kirkheaton parish church (this is now on loan to the Tolson Memorial Museum).

Phase 7 - Medieval period (1066 – 1547)

- 2.42 The medieval period saw the next, and final stage of significant settlement activity on Castle Hill, which had seemingly remained relatively free from occupation from the Late Iron Age until the mid-12th century. At this time Almondbury formed part of the territory known as the Honour of Pontefract, which was held by the de Laci family and it is possible that they were responsible for the establishment of a castle on the hill. The castle is mentioned in a charter of King Stephen to Henry de Laci of about 1142 to 1154, and excavation has provided a wooden stake, radiocarbon dated to the late 1140s, and a coin of about 1160. It has been assumed that the castle was complete and occupied by the 1140s. The exact type of castle that once stood on the hill is open to debate, and for ease of reference it has been referred to simply as the 'medieval castle' or 'castle' in the Plan. It is thought that the castle was either a motte and bailey, or ringwork and bailey, which are roughly similar types, however the motte and bailey possesses a keep built on a mound, whereas a ringwork does not possess a mound, and is generally just a simple enclosure.
- 2.43 Initial construction of the castle appears to have been in the early 12th century when the Iron Age earthworks were modified by the cutting of the deep ditch between the centre and inner bailey (Figure 3a). The upcast from this was possibly palisaded, creating a secure place within which to locate the keep. The summit was then probably divided into three sections, although these may have been based on existing divisions. These three areas are known variously as baileys or wards. This period also saw the remodelling of the

ramparts and the construction of new banks and ditches across the hilltop. The original entrances to the different baileys appear to be the same as the entrances used today.

- 2.44 Activity on the hill during this time would have been varied. The inner bailey would have been fairly secure and reserved for the Lord of the Manor and family, with Victoria Tower being the probable (but unconfirmed) location of a castle keep with a hall near to the current location of the well (see Figure 3a). The centre bailey would have most likely been used for workshops, domestic activity and may have housed the garrison and their workshops. The outer bailey could have been used for agricultural activity and maybe to give temporary shelter to local people and their livestock in times of trouble, it also may have been the site of more permanent settlement. Varley's excavations appear to have shown that there were numerous buildings within the inner and centre baileys, and in the outer bailey there are what appear to be traces of domestic occupation, including burgage plots which were still extant in the 15th century (WYAAS PRN 2).
- 2.45 Towards the end of the 13th century / early 14th century, it appears that there was a change of function at the castle. The outer bailey was turned over to agriculture, and the buildings of the inner bailey became a hunting lodge. The well which is located to the south of Victoria Tower, was excavated by Varley and provided evidence of this change of use. The well was 25 metres deep and from the bottom two wooden buckets were recovered. The disuse of the well was evidenced by layers of clean silt, interspersed with layers of occupation debris, when the well was used as a rubbish pit. These layers were full of broken pottery, and the remains of hunters' animals and their quarry. The upper part of the well was full of demolition debris, which possibly coincided with the execution of the Earl of Lancaster in 1322 who had married Alice de Laci and gained control of the Honour of Pontefract. After his execution for treason his title and estates were forfeited and passed to the Crown (Ahier 1946).
- 2.46 Some sources suggest that there was an attempt to found a town on the hill (Ahier 1946) indeed a town would be a useful source of income to a lord (Rumsby, J in Haigh 1992). It has been suggested that the town was laid out in the outer bailey and aerial photography under dry conditions has revealed what appears to be a central roadway flanked by regularly laid-out plots. It is thought that this town was abandoned by the 1340s, although memory of it may have lingered, since the 1634 map of Almondbury marks the hill as the site of a town (Figure 4). It should be noted, that there is currently no

excavation evidence for such a town on the hill at this time; the confirmation of the presence or otherwise of such a settlement would enhance knowledge about the use and development of the Site in the medieval period.

- 2.47 Within the wider area, Castle Hill appears to have formed apart of a larger network of medieval motte and baileys, with examples at Castle Hill in Mirfield, one at Fartown (Birkby), and further afield at Pontefract Castle, Sandal Castle and Barwick-on-Elmet (see Plate 27). The latter example is particularly notable as it was established on an Iron Age hillfort and also lay within the Honour of Pontefract, this and other similarities make these two sites very interesting for future study. There are also some moated sites which would have been occupied by the Lord of Manor and noble families who would possibly have had links with the De Laci family. In particular there are moated sites recorded at: Thornhill Hall, located 10km to the east of Castle Hill; Crosland Lower Hall, located 3km to the south-west of Castle Hill; and at Newhall, in Sitlington 11km to the north-east of Castle Hill.
- 2.48 Small medieval settlements are fairly commonplace within the wider area, with sites recorded at: Woodsome Hall, Farnley Tyas, 2km to the east of Castle Hill; six hamlets within the parish boundary of Thurstonland, 2km to the south of Castle Hill; and at Bootham Hall Road, Golcar, 6km to the north-west. There is also evidence for small-scale industrial sites at Emley, 8km to the east of Castle Hill. It is possible that coal from the bell pits found at Emley Day Holes and iron ore from the West Bretton iron pits at Bentley Grange might have been used on Castle Hill, however as Bentley Grange is known to have been connected to Reivaulx Abbey it is likely that the majority of ore mined there went to the Abbey rather than elsewhere. Other sources of iron ore have been identified at an iron working site close to Castle Hill at Myers Wood near Kirkburton.

Phase 8 – Post-medieval (1547 – 1901)

- 2.49 As stated above, settlement on Castle Hill appears to have ceased towards the end of the 14th century, and there appears to have been no attempt to settle the hilltop after that time. An early plan of the hill was produced in the late 15th / early 16th centuries which does not suggest that there was any settlement on the hill at this time (see Plate 28, and Watson, 1775).
- 2.50 Its prominent location was again used in the late 16th century, when it was used as the site for a warning beacon. This formed part of a network of beacons set on top of hills over the country, spreading out in lines from the

coast. These were lit on the approach of an invasion fleet. The first beacon on Castle Hill was placed on Castle Hill in 1588, around the time of the Spanish Armada, and a representation of it can be seen on the 1634 map of Almondbury (Figure 4). This beacon was replaced during the War of Spanish Succession (1702–14), and again during the Napoleonic Wars (Rumsby, J in Haigh, 1992).

- 2.51 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. The Hotel was designed by William Wallen who also designed the George Hotel in Huddersfield. Early photographs and maps of the hill show other buildings surrounding two sides of the former car park (see Figures 5 and 6). These were probably stable buildings. In an attempt to bring in further revenue, the landlords appear to have encouraged bare knuckle fighting at the hill, as well as cock and dog fighting (Rumsby, J in Haigh 1992).
- 2.52 Victoria Tower was built to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee (1897) and was completed in 1899 (Plate 2). An earlier proposal for a tower on the site had been made in 1851, but this scheme never attracted financial support. Victoria Tower is a tall, square tower of deliberately medieval appearance, of coursed millstone grit masonry, described by Pevsner as 'broad and heavy and has a high embattled stair turret' (Rumsby, J in Haigh 1992). The Tower is approximately 33m high and the upper viewing area lies at exactly 1000ft (c.300m) above sea level. This viewing area is reached by 165 steps from the base of the Tower via a number of small rooms. The tower was modified in 1960 when c.1.3m (4ft) of the top of the tower was removed due to safety concerns. This was rectified in 1977 when a lantern (still operating) was added to the top of the tower to restore it to its original height. The Tower has remained relatively unchanged during its lifetime although electricity has now been provided, windows have been altered and some structural alterations have been undertaken to reinforce the tower. Recent conservation works have further stabilised the tower and should help ensure its long-term survival. An initial condition survey was undertaken as part of the Plan process and this can be found in Appendix 7.
- 2.53 A farm, recorded on the 1st edition OS map (1852) as Hill Top Farm, was located just below the southern banks of the outer bailey, and was demolished at some point in the 1980s. Little is known about the origins and extent of the farm complex, however it is likely that that the interior of the inner bailey formed part of the agricultural land associated with it.

- 2.54 The wider area around the Site would have continued to have been used for mainly pastoral and small-scale arable farming, with associated dispersed farmsteads and small settlements during the post-medieval period. The larger urban centre of Huddersfield did not expand until later on during the Industrial Revolution (Plate 3). To the south of Castle Hill there was not as much urban expansion, and the landscape to this retains the character of a post-medieval upland agricultural landscape (Plate 4).
- 2.55 The latter parts of the post-medieval period saw the expansion of the urban centres to the north, east and west of Castle Hill. Huddersfield grew as an administrative centre, as well as an important contributor towards the chemical production industry. The growth of the town saw the growth of the outlying settlements to accommodate the influx of people. This part of the late 19th century also saw a rise in political unrest throughout Britain, prompted by poor pay and conditions in the mines and mills, many of which surround Castle Hill. Chartist rallies were held on the hill at least four times, in 1843 and 1848. During the great weaver's strike of 1883 a rally of between two and three thousand people assembled on the hill to listen to speeches by union leaders. It is also probable, but not proven, that the hill was used as the location for annual summer fairs (Haigh, 1992).

Phase 9 - Modern (1901 – present day)

- 2.56 Whilst Castle Hill ceased to act as a place for major settlement in the medieval period, 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 and surrounding farms through the purchase of the Ramsden Estate in 1920 which previously rented the site of the hotel to a third party. The Hotel remained in use on the Site throughout the 20th century and in 1998 it was purchased by a private company who prepared a number of schemes to remodel and extend the building before obtaining planning permission in 2003. During the construction work a substantial part of the original pub/hotel was demolished and construction was commenced on a new and larger pub/hotel in breach of the Planning approval. The Council served an Enforcement Order and the new structure was taken down in Spring 2005.
- 2.57 Hill Top Farm appears to have survived on the Hill at least into 1984, where it appears on the OS map. After this date it appears to have been demolished, and all elements of it removed. There is still evidence for parts of the footpath

leading to it, and for parts of its gardens which now survive within the heavy vegetation that now occupies the area.

- 2.58 During the early part of the 20th century the hill was used mainly as a recreational site, in particular for the use of the Hotel and Victoria Tower. This recreational use has continued into the present day, although the variety of activities undertaken on the site today have increased, however the hill is still mainly popular as a place to walk and to 'get away from it all'. Apart from the removal of the Hotel, the hill has not been significantly altered in the 20th century as can be seen from the Ordnance Survey maps that span this period (see Figures 2, 7 to 10).
- 2.59 The prominent location of the hill was also a valuable asset during the Second World War. German bombers would make their bombing raids on Manchester and Liverpool over Huddersfield, making the hill an ideal location for an observation post and anti-aircraft gun position. The remains of a Royal Observer Corp observation post survive to this day on the north-eastern inner rampart (Plate 5), and the remains of an anti-aircraft gun position survive just to the west of Castle Hill (WYAAS PRN 5718). The observation post was used to plot the bearings of German aircraft making their way to and from bombing raids. This information was then relayed to anti-aircraft positions in Almondbury. It was also suggested during the war that the Tower should be pulled down to prevent it being used as a navigation by German bombers.
- 2.60 Around Castle Hill there has been an expansion of urban settlement, concentrated to the north in the form of early and modern-20th century housing estates associated with the expansion of Huddersfield at this time. To the south of Castle Hill settlement expansion has not been as significant, and this area retains an open rural character.
- 2.61 Today the hill is still enjoyed as a popular recreational destination, and it is used for various different activities including wildlife watching, walking, kite flying and 'buggying' and for visiting Victoria Tower. Large numbers of people are known to use and value the site, which is immediately evident should one visit on a sunny weekend.

Archaeological potential of Castle Hill

- 2.62 As part of the analysis an assessment of the potential for archaeological remains to be situated in any given area has been undertaken. This involved firstly assessing where archaeological remains may have been situated and then assessing the level of known past ground disturbance (see Figure 12).

2.63 Various sources were assessed to determine the areas of disturbance, including:

- Historic maps (including 1st and 2nd edition OS maps), and modern maps and plans (see Figures 1, & 5 to 10 incl.);
- Aerial photographs;
- RCHME Archaeological Survey (see Figure 11);
- Results of site visits and condition survey (see Appendix 4 and Figure 23); and
- Varley's excavation reports.

2.64 These two factors were then overlain in GIS to create a plan that identifies four levels of archaeological potential:

High Potential: Areas that have a high likelihood of containing archaeological deposits (based on current knowledge about the site's development) and that have not been significantly disturbed by activity in the last c.150 years

Moderate Potential: Areas that either:

- Have a high likelihood of containing archaeological deposits and that have been disturbed to some degree by activity in the last c.150 years; or
- Areas that possible contain archaeological deposits and that have not been significantly disturbed by activity in the last c.150 years, including areas excavated by Varley.

Low Potential: Areas that either:

- Have a high likelihood of containing archaeological deposits and that have been subject to a high level of ground disturbance in the last c.150 years but where some deposits may have survived; or
- Areas that possibly contain archaeological deposits and have been disturbed to some degree by activity in the last c.150 years where such disturbance may or may not have removed any deposits that existed prior to the disturbance.

Very Limited or No Potential: Areas that due to the nature of the disturbance in the last c.150 years will almost certainly not contain archaeological deposits.

2.65 Figure 13 maps the results of this analysis. However, it should be noted that the boundaries of the areas of archaeological potential are not absolute and cannot be guaranteed to be totally accurate; therefore care is needed in utilising this plan to guide future decisions. Archaeological evaluation would be required to ascertain the presence of archaeological remains in these areas should significant ground disturbance be proposed.

- 2.66 The following provides a brief text based overview of the site's archaeological potential based on this analysis.

General potential

- 2.67 The archaeological potential of the Site arises from its multi-period occupation, however it is likely that the medieval occupation of the Site involved disturbance and perhaps removal of earlier deposits in certain locations – these have however not been assessed at this time due to a lack of reliable data. Based on current evidence the areas of high archaeological potential are confined to the hilltop area where the majority of the activity seems to have occurred. The whole of the area bounded by the ramparts has therefore been assessed as having a high likelihood of containing archaeological remains (prior to any disturbance).
- 2.68 The Annexe, however, is an area subject to debate and its existence is based on the interpretations of the Varley excavation evidence. This evidence was disputed during the RCHME topographic survey and it appears that the features within it are associated with post-medieval field boundaries, a possible quarry and surface features representing strip trenches excavated by Varley during his investigations which had not been planned. However, further analysis is required and the “precautionary principle” has been applied. At this time the area has been assessed as having a high likelihood of containing archaeological remains.

Hilltop

- 2.69 The hilltop itself is generally an area of high archaeological potential considering its occupation on and off for around four thousand years. The majority of the inner, centre and outer baileys have remained substantially untouched by modern development, the main exception being the site of the former hotel within the centre bailey, and the site of Victoria Tower. There has also been a significant amount of archaeological excavation across the hilltop, which has resulted in localised areas of moderate archaeological potential (see Figures 12 and 13). It is possible however, that the excavations did not remove all the buried archaeological resource.
- 2.70 The construction, and removal of some buildings within Castle Hill will also have reduced its archaeological potential. These buildings comprise Victoria Tower, located within the inner bailey, which is thought to be located on top of the keep of the castle, and its construction is thought to have removed any surviving evidence of this. The cellars of the former Castle Hill Hotel in the

centre bailey would have removed all of the surviving archaeology in this area, but some archaeological remains may survive under the footprints of the stables and out buildings. The subsequent alterations to, and demolition of, the Castle Hill Hotel has removed all made ground down to at least 18ft within the footprint of the building (J Brown, pers. comm. 2005).

- 2.71 Hill Top Farm, located on the southern end of the outer bailey's inner ramparts (next to the junction of Castle Hill Side and the footpath), has also reduced the archaeological potential of that area.
- 2.72 The types of archaeological remains that might be expected to survive within the hilltop will most likely comprise medieval remains associated with the occupation of the site in the inner, centre and outer baileys. It is also likely that remains associated with the Iron Age hillfort survive, in particular under the medieval ramparts and within all three baileys. Late Neolithic / Bronze Age remains might also be expected to survive within the inner bailey, where it is thought the original settlement on Castle Hill began.

Slopes

- 2.73 The archaeological potential on the slopes of the hill is generally considered to be moderate. There is not the longstanding evidence of occupation of this area, as opposed to the hilltop itself; however the fact that occupation was situated in such close proximity to the slopes and getting to this settlement involved travelling up the slopes, indicates that there could be archaeological remains, find spots or deposits present outside of the hilltop. Added to this, there has been very little archaeological fieldwork undertaken on these slopes to ascertain the likely potential.
- 2.74 Areas of the slopes that have been heavily eroded or subjected to intrusive archaeological investigations are thought to have a low archaeological potential.

Ecology appraisal of the Site

- 2.75 This section presents the results of an ecological appraisal of Castle Hill. The appraisal has included desk-based study, field survey and an evaluation of the value of the different habitats on the Site. Details on the methodology for the study can be found in the Appendix 6 along with general background ecological information and more detailed target notes and species lists. The following presents the results of the appraisal.

Field Survey

Landscape context

- 2.76 Castle Hill is set in a farmed landscape close to the urban townscape of Huddersfield. Its vegetation is predominantly semi-natural and consists for the most part of unimproved acid grassland and scrub providing a stark visual contrast to the lush green improved grasslands that surround it. Both its vegetation and height (273m) give the impression of an upland outlier. This impression is further reinforced by the dry stone walls that form some of its boundaries and those of surrounding fields and which, here at the very edge of the Pennines, replace the hedgerows that are more typical of the adjacent lowlands. Walls and fences provide connections to other ecologically important sites in the vicinity, such as Mellor Wood, but they function less effectively as wildlife corridors than do hedges. Castle Hill is therefore effectively an island in ecological terms, and one that has been, and will continue to be, influenced by the management of the surrounding improved pastures.

Vegetation

- 2.77 In general the survey found that the steep hillside and ramparts supported unimproved acid grassland, dense gorse-dominated scrub and scattered mixed scrub (see Figure 14). The steep sides and ditches of the ramparts generally have a cover of tall neutral grassland which in places gives way to bramble and tall ruderal vegetation. Tall ruderal (weed) vegetation also occurs on the south eastern side of the hill between the access road and embankment. The level 'pitches' of the plateau, supported short amenity grassland that, while much disturbed and impoverished in places, still share some of the characteristics of the unimproved sward. At the base of the hill on more level ground by Ashes Lane, the grasslands are either improved or semi-improved and more neutral in character, although for the most part they now appear unmanaged. These are described in detail below.

Unimproved acid grassland

- 2.78 Unimproved acid grassland makes up the majority of the grassland on the site (Target Notes (TN) 1, 5, 6, 7, & 8 – in Appendix 6). While it is dominated by wavy hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*, it varies in its structural characteristics and species composition according to a variety of factors, including slope, drainage, aspect and levels of disturbance. On the steeper slopes, away from path edges and rabbit activity, the sward is tall, thick and

tussocky, with little or no bare ground showing. Here wavy hair-grass has very high cover, but is usually accompanied by sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina* and heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile*, the latter occasionally assuming dominance. This dense sward is particularly well developed on the steeper parts of the hill and ramparts, but is also present on more level ground (such as below the ramparts at the north-eastern tip of the site). The community is generally rather species-poor but other grasses, particularly red fescue *Festuca rubra*, sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, diversify the sward. Creeping soft-grass *Holcus mollis* also occurs sporadically, occasionally forming small mono-specific patches.

- 2.79 Mosses are not generally abundant on the embankment and ramparts, but they become a constant feature of the sward on the lower slopes, with robust pleurocarpous species such as *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Hypnum cupressiforme* and *Brachythecium albicans* forming quite thick cushions, usually where rabbits have reduced the vigour of the grasses, but not exposed bare soil. In these situations, a small number of acid grassland fungi were recorded including at least four common species of waxcap *Hygrocybe* spp, that are usually restricted to old unimproved grasslands of high ecological value.
- 2.80 On ramparts at the north western end of the site the community takes on a more 'heathy' appearance, with extensive patches of bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* and occasional heather *Calluna vulgaris* (TN6 & TN7 – in Appendix 6).
- 2.81 A shorter patchier sward is frequently found along path sides, the tops of the ramparts, and in patches within the taller sward on the hillside. Although wavy hair-grass is still constant, these patches are marked by a switch in overall dominance to sheep's fescue, with higher frequencies of common bent and sheep's sorrel set in a matrix of bare ground, small *acrocarpous* mosses and occasional small *Cladonia* lichens (e.g. *C. pyxidata*). The mosses, of which the most frequent are *Ceratodon purpureus*, and *Polytrichum piliferum* are typical of bare, often parched, acid grasslands.
- 2.82 All of the acid grassland found on the site is recognisable as U2 *Deschampsia flexuosa* grassland in the National Vegetation Classification. It is for the most part not typical, because it lacks the high frequency (but generally low cover) of heather that is a feature of the described community (Rodwell, 1992). Those areas where bilberry is a feature of the sward come close to U2b

(*Vaccinium myrtillus* sub-community), while the shorter sward described above is representative of U2a (*Festuca - Agrostis* sub-community).

- 2.83 The presence of these two sub-communities on the same site is interesting as it reflects the site's location on the Pennine fringe. The bilberry-rich sub-community is generally a more montane community, found at altitudes in excess of 400m, and frequently encountered on the moors to the west and north, while the *Festuca-Agrostis* sub-community is rarely found above 200m.
- 2.84 *Deschampsia flexuosa* grassland often develops as a result of seral changes in heathland, particularly over-grazing, or clearance of woodland on acid soils. Once established, however, it can be remarkably stable, but can revert to heathland with relaxation or abandonment of grazing. Alternatively, where there has been disturbance or nutrient enrichment, it can become overwhelmed by scrub.
- 2.85 As it lies below 300m and despite the transition to upland types, the *Deschampsia flexuosa* grassland on Castle Hill should be considered as lowland dry acid grassland as defined by the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) and therefore a UKBAP priority habitat.

Unimproved neutral grassland

- 2.86 Within the Site boundary unimproved neutral grassland is found on the transverse ramparts (TN10 & TN11 – in Appendix 6), where it is also associated with patches of acid grassland, tall herb, brambles and other scrub, and around the base of the Victoria Tower. On the transverse ramparts the community is species-poor and dominated by false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* and other coarse grasses such as Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus* and cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*. The normal constituents of such grasslands, such as ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*, hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, common sorrel *Rumex acetosa* and white clover *Trifolium repens* are all frequent. There is also some black knapweed *Centaurea nigra* and meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, indicating slightly less disturbed and more nutrient enriched areas.
- 2.87 This community, recognizable as MG1 *Arrhenatherum elatius* grassland in the National Vegetation Classification, is ubiquitous on abandoned pastures and infrequently managed verges etc. Transitions to acid grasslands occur at the ends and tops of the ramparts, marked by taller acid grassland herbs, most notably by wood sage *Teucrium scorodonia* and foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*.

2.88 Neutral grassland is also present around the base of the Victoria Tower (TN12) and around the well, but this is quite different in character to the taller stands on the ramparts and show signs of relatively recent disturbance. The sward is dominated in parts by common couch *Elytrigia repens* and there are scattered patches of ruderal tall herbs such as good King Henry *Chenopodium bonus-henricus* and mugwort *Artemisia vulgaris*.

2.89 Larger areas of unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland are present on the lower fields on the eastern side of the hill (TN3). These pastures are currently unmanaged coarse sward dominated over the greater part by tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia caespitosa* and creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera*. Thistles *Cirsium spp* are frequent along with common ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*, but generally herbs are infrequent and the community is species-poor.

Scrub

2.90 The majority of scrub on the site is dominated by common gorse *Ulex europaeus* with localised and extensive patches of broom *Cytisus scoparius* and western gorse *Ulex gallii*. Much of this is concentrated in dense stands on the slopes (TN2), but scattered gorse and broom also appear throughout the site and in stands of mixed scrub. It is apparent that the scrub is encroaching on acid grassland and having a detrimental effect on it in places.

2.91 Birch and oak saplings are frequent constituents of developing scrub within the acid grassland and larger young trees are conspicuous on the western and eastern flanks of the hill, often mixed with gorse (TN4).

2.92 Scrub containing hawthorn and elder also occurs on level and more gently sloping parts of the hillsides, on the transverse rampart by the access road and on the western embankment. Brambles, nettles and ruderal tall herbs are usually associated with this scrub.

2.93 Gorse and broom can enrich soils (they fix their own nitrogen in root nodules rather than take it up from soil) and thus prevent development of acid grassland once cleared, but its litter can also acidify less acid soils.

Tall herb

2.94 There are some quite extensive patches of vegetation dominated by tall herbs, particularly rosebay willowherb *Chamerion angustifolium*, usually at the

edge of mixed scrub on the south west facing hillside and occasionally on the ramparts.

Buildings and hard surfaces

- 2.95 Buildings and hard surfaces support communities of common bryophytes and lichens. All species of bryophyte recorded on the surfaces are fairly ubiquitous species. A full lichen survey was carried out a number of years ago (no date available at time of writing) which found an unexceptional suite of lichens that would be expected from an exposed site subject to previous protracted episodes of airborne pollution.
- 2.96 The well by Victoria Tower also has two species of fern, hart's-tongue fern *Phyllitis scolopendrium* and male fern *Dryopteris felix-mas*, growing inside, neither of which is rare in the local context. Nevertheless, the well and its humid, dark interior add diversity to the site and niches for these species and species of moss that are not found elsewhere on the site.

Invasive species

- 2.97 Although outside the site boundary, it is worth noting the presence of stands of Japanese knotweed in scrub and fields immediately adjacent to the lay-by at the foot of the hill near the start of the access road.

Fauna

- 2.98 Owing to the cold and blustery conditions, very little faunal activity was recorded during the survey. However, the Site obviously provides much potential – particularly for breeding birds. The only ornithological observations were of yellowhammers and dunnocks perching in scrub on the southern hillside and common garden birds such as wrens and blackbirds in mixed scrub by the car park. Nesting activity of any bird species was obviously not recorded owing to the survey taking place outside the bird breeding season. Nevertheless, Castle Hill is known to support breeding linnets (Jeff Keenlyside, pers. com), and the scrub habitat has the potential to support breeding populations of a range of species (see Appendix 6 for a list of identified species). An indication of some these species has been provided by the Castle Hill Ranger and by other stakeholders, including bullfinches, sparrowhawks, tawny owls and green woodpeckers.

- 2.99 Linnets typically breed in gorse thickets (and also thick hedgerows with hawthorn and bramble) and require nearby sources of invertebrates for feeding young, and seeds during the winter.
- 2.100 Yellowhammers tend to breed on the ground at the bases of thick hedgerows and patches of scrub, and again require a range of food resources. It is likely that these species glean insects and winter seed from the abandoned pastures and surrounding acid grassland.
- 2.101 Its character and situation also suggest that the hill could be used as a temporary resting and feeding spot for birds on migration. Wintering birds are also likely to take advantage of food resources available on the site such as seeds and berries that are absent or in short supply in the intensive arable and pasture surrounding the site. A wide range of food resources is present on the site, in the form of seeds and berries. Kestrels were seen hunting over the hill during the second visit, no doubt taking advantage of the probable higher densities of small mammals on the hill than in the farmland nearby.
- 2.102 It is possible that Victoria Tower could provide roosting sites for bats, despite its exposed situation. However, no information on bats has been forthcoming and specialist survey would be required in order to confirm this.
- 2.103 It is possible that badgers frequent the hill, but no signs of any setts or other conclusive evidence have been recorded. Certainly there is plenty of foraging potential for any badgers that might be present in the surrounding farmland.
- 2.104 Invertebrate information has not been made available to date, but the scrub and grassland habitats are likely to provide resources for a wide range of invertebrates, including butterflies such as small copper, small heath, common blue and possibly green hairstreak, which are probably absent from the surrounding farmland. Patches of bare soil can support mining bees and wasps, while unmanaged grassland can support high densities of beetles such as staphylinids and other invertebrates. Invertebrates form an important part of the diet of juvenile birds such as linnets and yellowhammers.

Evaluation

- 2.105 Lowland dry acid grassland is a UK BAP priority habitat and also a Kirklees BAP priority habitat. The extensive area of this habitat at Castle Hill is a significant area of this habitat in the context of Kirklees and is likely to support birds and invertebrates that are probably absent or present in very low numbers in the surrounding farmland. Further survey of poorly recorded

groups, such as fungi and invertebrates, is likely to add considerably to the value of this habitat.

- 2.106 Other habitat types are generally of lower value, but are still important as they add structural diversity and a range of different resources to the site. The gorse scrub is of particular value as it provides breeding sites and shelter for linnet, which is a UK BAP priority species. It also provides shelter and other resources for yellowhammer, which is a Kirklees BAP priority species.
- 2.107 Both linnet and yellowhammer are accorded red list status by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) because breeding populations have declined by over 50% over the last 25 years. This decline is attributable in the main part to intensification of farming, which has resulted in loss of breeding habitat and food resources. Castle Hill probably provides some of the best habitat for these species in the locality, as hedgerows are generally scarce and very few seed bearing 'weeds' and grasses are allowed to flourish in the surrounding fields.
- 2.108 While it is not a BAP species, the presence of western gorse is also notable. This species is common on maritime heaths, particularly in South-west England and Wales. It is not common in the north of England, particularly inland or at high altitudes, where it is limited by colder temperatures and is the subject of an English Nature funded project in the region. Its presence indicates that local conditions are seemingly suitable for its continued survival, however climatic changes or alterations to local habitats could reduce its long-term survival in this area given the fact that it is growing in a location way from its normal range of habitats.
- 2.109 The presence of at least four waxcap species is also notable within the local context, according to criteria developed by Rald (Rald, 1985). Further survey at an appropriate time of year could raise this evaluation if additional species were to be found.
- 2.110 While habitats and species can be evaluated individually, they generally complement each other and each adds value to the Site. Many of the faunal species are not restricted to just a single habitat type and require different elements of the habitat mosaic present. The Site, (with the possible exclusion of the level pitches, car park and the bare ground previously occupied by the hotel) should therefore be evaluated as a whole ecological unit, which is valuable at a local level.

The Setting of the Site

- 2.111 This section provides a short summary of the Site's setting. A fuller analysis of its setting and the wider landscape character is provided in Appendix 8. This includes a description of the extent and characteristics of the Site's setting ranging from its general situation through to the identification of the many components of the setting. This provides a baseline against which future change can be monitored and the potential impacts of new development assessed.
- 2.112 In summary, the numerous components of the Site's setting present a complex picture of a highly prominent urban fringe site that overlooks the eastern slopes of the Pennines and which is generally surrounded by an open rural landscape dissected by numerous steep sided valleys. Urban development is mainly confined to the valleys around the Site and therefore in many cases does not form a significant aspect of the Site's setting. However, Huddersfield which sits at the confluence of the River Colne and River Holme 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 19th and 20th centuries.
- 2.113 The underlying topography means that the Site has a very extensive visual setting, 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 recent public consultation 97% of people indicated that they agreed or agreed strongly 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 (See Appendix 3).
- 2.114 The topography also provides the Site with a defined local setting (see Figure 20). This local setting and overall setting that have been defined by analysing the landscape character, theoretical viewsheds and views to and from the Site can be illustrated by plotting the significant ridgelines in the area (see Figure 17). This setting, and in particular the immediate setting, will require 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.
- 2.115 A tabular analysis provided in Appendix 8 which should be read in conjunction with Figure 20 identifies a series of relationships between Castle Hill and

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 identified.

- 2.116 The visual relationships between chronologically related sites (that are in their own right visible) and Castle Hill certainly form part of its setting and are considered to contribute to its setting. The non-visual relationships and the visual relationships to sites with no visible surface expression may, under a strict definition of setting, not form part of Castle Hill's setting. These elements do however form part of its wider group value and historical and archaeological significance
- 2.117 Within the hilltop itself there are various different character areas, the inner, centre and outer baileys. Each of the baileys, whilst 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.
- 2.118 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). These views and the general character of the hilltop are however affected by a number of significant visual detractors including the current telegraph poles, which are also visible in views to the Site. In addition, some windblown vegetation, in particular hawthorn trees, intrude on views across and out of the Site.
- 2.119 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.

Management Zones

2.120 Based on an analysis of all the above factors, it has been possible to identify and describe a series of Zones within the Study Area that have different uses and physical characteristics. These zones are mapped on Figure 22 and described below. These Zones can also form the basis for any future management and maintenance strategies.

A: Inner Bailey

2.121 Located at the western end of the hilltop, and enclosed by the ramparts this area is potentially the location of the earliest known settlement on Castle Hill. During the medieval period the area was the location for a large hall, well and probably a stone keep, and may have been well fortified (Plate 6).

2.122 Today the zone is dominated by Victoria Tower and the ramparts, although the well is also a significant feature in the area. The area is a popular destination for visitors to Castle Hill, due to the presence of Victoria Tower which is the main focal point of the hill for many people. Despite this, user erosion is not as severe as on other parts of the hill, with the exception of the area to the front of Victoria Tower and across the ditch separating the inner bailey from the centre bailey.

2.123 Around the surviving structures there has been very little recent ground disturbance and there is a generally high archaeological potential within the area, in particular for Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age, Iron Age and medieval remains. Ecologically there are areas of acid grassland on the banks of the inner ramparts, and gorse and hawthorn bushes which potentially are important breeding habitats for linnets and yellowhammers.

B: Centre Bailey

2.124 Located in the middle of the hilltop, between the inner and outer baileys, this area represents the previous location of the medieval centre bailey which probably housed buildings and workshops associated with the castle, none of which survive above ground (Plates 7 and 21). The southern part of the zone was also used in the 18th and 19th centuries as a bowling green.

2.125 Today the zone is split into two parts, the southern area which is predominantly grassed, and the northern area which comprises two car parks, one to the southern end of the area which is owned by Kirklees Council and is the official car park for the Hill, and the other to the north which forms part of

the former hotel complex, and the area previously occupied by the Castle Hill Hotel.

- 2.126 The car park is the first point of call for the majority of the visitors to the Site. It is in need of resurfacing and reorganising to provide a more coherent structure. The area previously occupied by the hotel is also in need of some further re-instatement and renovation. This area may also be the subject of a renewed development proposal.
- 2.127 Within the southern half of the zone there is a particularly high archaeological potential for buried archaeological remains associated with the Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval periods, although there is no archaeological potential within the footprint of the former hotel, which was extended during the excavation of a basement in 2004 / 2005. Despite a large amount of development in the northern area, there is the potential for similar remains to survive below the car park surfaces.
- 2.128 Ecologically this area is fairly unremarkable and there are no identified areas of significance.

C: Outer Bailey

- 2.129 This is the largest and least developed of the three baileys, located at the eastern end of the hilltop (Plates 7, 21 26). The zone comprises the area enclosed by the inner ramparts, which is a large open space and is popular with a wide range of users for activities including walking, informal play and kite flying.
- 2.130 Within the open area of the zone there is little erosion, with the exception of some rutting caused by vehicles, damage by metal detecting and animal action, and some worn desire lines. On the ramparts particularly at the southern end, there are two significant areas of erosion running down the inner ramparts.
- 2.131 The archaeological potential of the zone is high due to the lack of previous extensive ground disturbance in the area, particularly for Iron Age, medieval, post-medieval and Second World War remains. Excavation trenches were excavated in the zone between 1939 and 1972, but these may not have removed all archaeological deposits within their extents (see Figure 12).

2.132 This area remains the least developed part of the hill, and provides visitors with a greater feeling of being out in the open, and the zone would benefit from maintaining this feel.

2.133 Ecologically there are a number of areas of significance, including western gorse on the banks of the north-eastern inner ramparts, acid grassland and potential suitable linnets and yellowhammer breeding sites.

D: Upper slopes – West

2.134 This zone lies to the north of the hilltop, and encompasses the area to the north of zones A, B and C. It is relatively undisturbed and free from development. A single footpath runs along the northern edge of the zone, connecting the two main footpaths leading to the hilltop.

2.135 The area is not used particularly heavily, and does not have any problems with erosion because of this. There are a number of stiles, fences and dry stone walls, however, which would benefit from being rebuilt with suitable materials.

2.136 The archaeological potential of the zone is moderate, and would most likely comprise Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval artefacts. Ecologically the area comprises some areas of acid grassland, and potential yellowhammer and linnets breeding sites.

E: Lower slopes – East

2.137 This zone is located to the south of the main access road into Castle Hill and is heavily wooded with a mix of deciduous trees. It is not used by visitors to the hill and does not suffer greatly from the problems associated with this, although there is evidence for some littering.

2.138 The archaeological potential of the zone is low to moderate, and would most likely comprise remains from the Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval periods. Ecologically the zone is unremarkable, although there may be suitable areas within it for birds to breed.

F: The ‘Annexe’

2.139 Located at the north-eastern end of the study area, this zone encompasses an area called ‘The Annexe’ by Varley who believed it to be a settlement area set up in the Iron Age and used into the medieval period (Plate 23).

- 2.140 The zone is currently used by a tenant farmer and is not used by visitors to Castle Hill. There are no significant erosion or littering problems. A dry stone wall which separates the zone from zone H would benefit from being repaired.
- 2.141 Archaeologically the zone is of moderate to high potential as it has not been subject to significant excavation, or any development. As little is understood about the nature of archaeological remains here it is difficult to ascertain what remains might be here, but it is possible that Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval remains might be present (see above for discussion).
- 2.142 Ecologically the zone is unremarkable.

G: Lower slopes – West

- 2.143 This zone lies to the north of zone D and comprises fairly unremarkable grassland with gorse. The zone is not used by visitors to Castle Hill and does not suffer from the problems associated with this. However, the wire fence separating this zone from Ashes Lane would benefit from being replaced.
- 2.144 Archaeologically the area is of moderate potential for remains from the medieval and post-medieval periods, and possibly earlier prehistoric remains that have washed down from the top of the hill. There have been no developments or past excavation within the area.
- 2.145 Ecologically the zone is unremarkable, although it might have some areas suitable for bird breeding habitat.

H: Upper slopes – East

- 2.146 This zone lies to the south of the outer bailey, and comprises the lower ramparts of the castle, and the site of Hill Top Farm which was demolished at some point after 1984.
- 2.147 Within the zone is a fairly popular footpath which is eroded in places, as well as desire lines running up the ramparts to the outer bailey which have caused some significant erosion. The zone is also popular with people having picnics and camp fires and there is occasionally heavy littering associated with them, as well as areas of burning and damage to vegetation.
- 2.148 Archaeologically the area is of moderate to high archaeological potential, especially the ditch at the bottom of the inner ramparts. It would be expected to have Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval remains associated with the different phases of the rampart development surviving here.

2.149 Ecologically, this area is suitable for linnet and yellowhammer breeding due to the large amount of gorse and hawthorn bushes. There are also patches of acid grassland surviving.

I: Lower slopes – South

2.150 This zone lies to the south-west of the inner bailey and includes a large amount of gorse and hawthorn. Due to this there is little visitor activity here, with the exception of the footpath running to the hilltop, although this is walled off and separated from the rest of the zone.

2.151 There has been no development, and little archaeological excavation undertaken here, and it has a moderate archaeological potential, associated particularly with the Iron Age and medieval periods, although it is possible that earlier prehistoric remains associated with the Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age might be present.

2.152 The footpath within the zone is in fairly good repair, although it would benefit from a maintenance programme, and the repair of the steps towards the top of the hill.

2.153 Ecologically the gorse provides a good potential breeding ground for linnet and yellowhammer.

J: Northern Access

2.154 This zone comprises the footpath running from the eastern end of Ashes Lane to the top of the hill, and ends at the main entrance to the outer bailey (Plate 24).

2.155 The path is in fairly good repair, although there are some areas which would benefit from maintenance and cleaning due to a build-up of algae on the smooth stone slabs which form most of the path.

2.156 The path is fairly well used, but due to its good construction there are no significant erosion issues. Some areas of dry stone wall which form the boundary of the zone would benefit from repair using suitable materials.

2.157 Archaeologically the zone is of moderate potential, particularly for remains associated with the Iron Age and medieval periods, particularly where the path runs into the outer bailey.

2.158 Ecologically there is the potential for linnet and yellowhammer breeding areas within the dense gorse and hawthorn that lies along the route of the path.

Section 3: Statement of Significance



3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Approach

- 3.1 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. Its significance is further acknowledged by its designation as a Scheduled Monument, and Victoria Tower's listed building status. The following Statement of Significance identifies what is significant about Castle Hill and why those aspects are significant.
- 3.2 This statement of significance has been prepared for Castle Hill and addresses the many values associated with it. The following are the key themes under which the significances of Castle Hill are explored:
- Archaeological and historical significance
 - Landscape significance
 - Ecological significance
 - Significance of the Site's Setting
 - Geological significance
 - Intangible significances
- 3.3 The following provides an analysis of each of these themes. In addition, there is a preceding Summary Statement of Significance which draws the key themes together into a short overview.
- 3.4 To help ensure that the statement of significance can assist the future management of the site and help balance the different values in decision making a dual approach to weighting the significances associated with the Site has been used. This dual approach allows for weighting of the significances on both an external and internal basis.

- 3.5 In relation to external factors a National, Regional, Local, Negligible scale has been used to differentiate between the relative level of interest that is likely to be expressed in relation to any given value. For example, the archaeology of the Site has been assessed of being of national significance, therefore should changes be proposed that could affect the archaeology of the Site national bodies and institutions (as well a regional and local groups) are likely to have an interest in the proposals and the conservation of the value. On the other hand, the recreational use of the hill has been assessed as being of local significance as proposals to alter this would predominately be of interest to local communities and bodies. It should also be noted that proposals to enhance the national significances of the hill may also impact on local significances and vice versa.
- 3.6 However, it is recognised that just because a theme or an element may be of local significance this does not preclude it being vitally important in terms of the overall significance of the Castle Hill. This also works the other way around in that a nationally significant element may in fact not be critical to the significance of Castle Hill. For this internal weighting four broad bands have been developed based on a combination of the Kerr (1998) approach to conservation management planning and the Environmental Capital Approach, these four bands are outlined below:
- A:** Values or attributes that are critical to the Site's significance
 - B:** Values or attributes that are important to the Site's significance
 - C:** Values or attributes that form part of the Site's significance
 - D:** Values or attributes that make no notable contribution to the Site's significance
- 3.7 The aim of the Plan to manage all of the Significances of the Site, essentially the Internal Values, whilst being aware of the wider external context and level of interest. This dual approach should allow people to better balance the relative values of the area when making decisions regarding its future.

Summary statement of significance

- 3.8 Castle Hill is one of the most distinctive and prominent landscape features in the region and it is widely visible from the Kirklees area. It is an instantly recognisable landmark and an icon for Almondbury, Huddersfield and Kirklees and it 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 surrounding communities' identities. Its 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. This activity, coupled with its prominence in the landscape, 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.

- 3.9 These significances are both tangible and expressed physically at the Site itself e.g. its archaeology and ecology; and intangible either relating to the contemporary use of the Site or residing within local communities and memory e.g. iconic status of the Hill.
- 3.10 In terms of the tangible physical significances, the complexity and longevity of the Site's archaeological and historical record 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 its development but rather in the fact, that due to its location and prominence, it has seen so many phases of use and re-use over the last 4,000 years. Known evidence includes a Late Neolithic / Bronze Age enclosure, an Iron Age hillfort and a medieval motte and bailey or ringwork castle with an associated settlement. All of these episodes of use related to the fact that it was such a prominent location and one from where people could see and as importantly be seen. The occupation of such a location could demonstrate power, both real and imagined, over a wide area as well as providing a defensible location in times of strife and conflict. As such the hill has remained constantly attractive to humans.
- 3.11 This attraction has persisted into more recent periods and the modern day. The Victorians chose to firstly situate a hotel on the top of the hill before finally crowning it with the striking commemorative Victoria Tower (Plate 2). A farm was constructed on the side of the hill in the 18th century, to take advantage of the flat open area of the outer bailey demonstrating that it was an attractive place for settlement due to the proximity of suitable agricultural land from this time through to the latter stages of the 20th century. During the Second World War the Site also formed part of the area's network of anti-aircraft defences when it accommodated a Royal Observer Corp observation post. Since the Victorian period, the use of the Site as a popular venue for excursions and leisure activities has continued to grow and it is now highly valued for its community and recreational uses. A large number of people use it for walking, taking in the views and dog walking. Its location close to Huddersfield and surrounding settlements means that it is an ideal location for people who live in an urban environment to experience the relative tranquillity of a rural

environment without having to travel too far from home. This recreational use is a critical aspect of the Site's significance.

- 3.12 Other tangible significances include the Site's rich mosaic of ecological habitats and the range of species that these support. Key elements of this mosaic are the extensive areas of lowland dry acid grassland that are of local significance. The Site also supports 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 are important locally as they add structural diversity to the Site. The gorse scrub is of particular value as it provides breeding sites and shelter for linnet and yellowhammer. There are also areas of western gorse which are notable as this species is common on maritime heaths, particularly in south-west England and Wales but it is not common in the north of England.
- 3.13 Castle Hill is also far more than a physical place. Its prominent form means that it forms a visual backdrop for peoples' daily lives and consequently it has become a key symbol in the identity of Almondbury, Huddersfield and Kirklees. Its distinctive profile now adorns many of the publications produced by bodies such as Kirklees Metropolitan Council and it is used by both Huddersfield Town FC and the Huddersfield Examiner in their logos. This sense of identity extends beyond these official bodies and responses to a recent public consultation event indicate that 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.

Archaeological and historical significance

- 3.14 There is little doubt that to the people of Almondbury, Huddersfield and the rest of Kirklees, Castle Hill is a very significant place for many different reasons. However, its archaeological and historical significance is difficult to appreciate based on our current understanding.
- 3.15 Although archaeological excavations have been undertaken, the results have never been adequately assessed and published. There is a lack of adequate site plans based on excavated data, and there is no record in the public domain of the material recovered. Many of the key elements on which the dating of early activity on the hill were based were reliant on radiocarbon determinations, yet the samples used were never given a secure provenance and are poorly cited, so much so that it is very unlikely that modern academics would give them any credence. Later activity on the hill is also

dealt with in a brief fashion and is reliant on historical sources that have not been backed up with physical evidence. In addition, there has never been a full assessment of national archives, in particular in relation to the de Laci family and the Duchy of Lancaster.

3.16 However, there is sufficient information available in order to make some general statements on the archaeological and historical values of Castle Hill. These values relate both to Castle Hill as a complex multi-period monument and the significance of key periods of the Site's development. Linked to this is the wider role that Castle Hill played in past landscapes, from the time of its earliest occupation up to the modern day (the latter point is also explored under Intangible Significances and Landscape Significance). These values are explored below within a number of themes including:

- The multi-period use of Castle Hill
- The Later Prehistoric enclosure
- The Late Bronze Age / Iron Age hillfort
- The medieval occupation
- The relationship between Castle Hill and the historic landscape; and
- The importance of the other archaeological remains on Castle Hill

The multi-period use of Castle Hill

3.17 Castle Hill has been used by humans from at least the Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age, and is a very rare surviving example of a multi-period hilltop occupation site. The Site has surviving physical evidence for prehistoric settlement, an Iron Age hillfort, a medieval castle), a later medieval settlement, a post-medieval commemorative monument (Victoria Tower) and a modern recreational area. The significance of these key periods is explored separately below.

3.18 There are few comparable sites in England which display the same multi-period usage as Castle Hill, in particular the reuse of the Iron Age hillfort in the medieval period as a motte and bailey or ringwork castle. The most comparable site is Barwick in Elmet which bears a remarkable number of significant similarities. As with Castle Hill it was an Iron Age hillfort, later re-used as a motte and bailey or ringwork castle within the Honour of Pontefract and also used in the Second World War as a Royal Observer Corp observation post. The similarities between these sites may be worthy of further study and analysis. Other similar multi-period examples exist in the south of England, such as Thetford Castle in Norfolk, Herefordshire Beacon

hillfort at Colwall in the Malvern Hills; Castle Neroche in Somerset; Old Sarum in Salisbury; Tottenhoe in Bedfordshire; and Castle Hill near Church Stretton in Shropshire. Whilst in the north of England there are other possible examples such as Beeston Castle in Cheshire and Yeavering in Northumberland.

- 3.19 Despite some erosion, and 19th and 20th century redevelopment of the inner and centre bailey, the majority of Castle Hill survives in a relatively good state, and many of the phases of its development can be traced in the archaeological deposits, both visible and buried. The earthworks provide a legible impression of the layout of the medieval castle / settlement with the supposed structure of the earlier Iron Age hillfort fossilised within these. This level of preservation and completeness in terms of the periods represented on the Site marks it out as a particularly significant monument.
- 3.20 Overall, the complexity of use, re-use and remodelling on the Site sets it apart from many other Sites in Great Britain, whether they be hill forts, castles / ringworks or villages, and provides us with a rare surviving record of occupation spanning c. 4,000 years. The rarity of this complexity, particular in the North of England, means that this aspect of Castle Hill is of national significance as it is one of only a few sites in the country that displays such a well-preserved example of continuity of use over so many periods. This complexity is also critical to the overall significance of the Hill.

The Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age enclosure

- 3.21 Based on current evidence it is likely that little survives in the archaeological record of the Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age enclosure on the Site. The current evidence for such an enclosure is limited. Varley's excavation recovered evidence for what appeared to be a small Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age undefended settlement within the inner bailey, located to the south-west of the Tower. Varley recorded evidence for charcoal, burnt bone, diagnostic lithic artefacts and decayed organic remains resting on an undisturbed land surface at several places within the inner bailey. It should be noted that much of the dating of these deposits was based on radiocarbon techniques, the standards of which were not as exact as they are today and there may well be a substantial amount of inaccuracy in the results.
- 3.22 These types of enclosure are not common in the archaeological record and the potential survival of such remains on the Site could contribute to our understandings of this period on a national and regional scale. The enclosure

also seems to form part of a wider group of possibly similarly dated sites in the wider local area as such evidence from the Site could contribute to understandings of the development of the area in this period.

- 3.23 Those elements which survive represent the earliest known phases of the development of the hill, and contribute towards our understanding of the early occupation on the hill which at the moment is poor; as such they are important to our understanding of the hill and its significance. Evidence of this period is rare in the archaeological record in both the wide region and nationally. Although the remains are likely to have relatively low levels of survival on Castle Hill they are still regionally significant in terms of what they can tell us about the region at this time.

The Late Bronze Age / Iron Age hillfort

- 3.24 Prehistoric hillforts are not uncommon in England and there are in the region of 1,000 known examples. However, in the North of England they are less common, with roughly 65 recorded examples in Northumberland, Cumbria, County Durham, Lancashire and Yorkshire (North, South, East and West). Castle Hill is one of only two recorded hill forts in West Yorkshire, the other being South Kirkby Camp close to Wakefield (NMR Number: SE 41 SW 6). This coupled with the assemblage of early Iron Age pottery excavated on the site makes it an important site in terms of understanding the Iron Age in both a regional and national context.
- 3.25 The hillfort began as a univallate site and this was seemingly altered to a multivallate fort later in the Iron Age, albeit one with a relatively simple structure and form. This pattern of development is relatively common at hillforts across the British Isles and reflects changes in the use and roles of these sites in Late Bronze Age and Iron Age communities. This common pattern of development and Castle Hill's relatively small size means that in terms of national examples it is not particularly an outstanding example of its type. However, the rarity of this type of Site in the north of England means that it has the potential to enhance our understanding of Late Bronze Age / Iron Age history in both a regional and national context.
- 3.26 In this context Castle Hill is a highly important element of a wider group of later prehistoric sites within this part of West Yorkshire. These include a series of cairnfields at Honley Old Wood and Slate Pits Wood in Honley, roughly 4km to the south of Castle Hill; Bronze Age burial mounds (barrows) at Birks Wood and Beacon Hill, near Barkisland; and several later prehistoric

defended enclosures (but not hillforts) at Oldfield Hill, Castle Hill close to Broadstone Lodge, Royd Edge in Meltham, Meg Dike on Scammonden Road and Kirklees Park Camp on the river Calder north of Huddersfield. As part of this wider group of sites Castle Hill is likely to have played a significant role in local and perhaps regional social structures and in the development of the wider landscape at this time. At sites such as Danebury in Southern England, hillforts have been demonstrated to form focal points in the development of pre-roman agricultural landscapes. Although the landscape around Castle Hill is currently dominated by medieval and post-medieval field patterns it is possible that future research could identify remnant patterns that predate these phases and relate to the influence of Castle Hill in this period.

- 3.27 The surviving remains of the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age occupation of Castle Hill have the potential to reveal new understandings about these periods and further work could also influence national debates on this period. Given the rarity of this monument type in the north of England and the potential for study of its archaeology to inform national debates on the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age the hillfort is considered to be of National Significance and a Critical part of the overall archaeological and historical significance of the Hill. This is also reflected in the Site's designation as a Nationally Important Scheduled Monument.

The medieval occupation

- 3.28 The medieval period is critical to understanding the development and current form of Castle Hill and this period is, above all others, most responsible for the current physical form of the Hill. This period saw the Site developed as a motte and bailey or ringwork castle with an inner ward which probably contained a stone-built keep; a central ward which formed part of the castle bailey; and the outer ward which it was thought was used at various times as a civilian settlement and as farmland. This tri-partite layout is unusual for medieval sites of this type, with the majority of similar sites consisting of two areas, the inner ward (motte) and outer ward (bailey). The unusual layout of this site may reflect pre-existing divisions of the Site, but this remains to be confirmed by archaeological investigation. As such the remains are of regional / national interest in this regard. However, the lack of extensive surviving medieval masonry on the Site and its relatively short period of use and occupation means that it may not be a nationally significant medieval castle in its own right; although given the relative rarity of this site type all surviving examples tend to be scheduled and consequently considered to be of national importance in archaeological terms.

- 3.29 Castle Hill represents an important part of the medieval administration of the area surrounding it. Almondbury formed part of the territory of the Honour of Pontefract, which was held by the de Laci family. Historical records show that it was probably the de Laci family who established the castle on the hill. As such it represents an important part of the development of the medieval administrative network within this part of the former West Riding of Yorkshire and can be seen to be regionally significant in that respect. As stated above, it has not been ascertained definitively what type of defensive structure there was on the hill, however if it is assumed that it was a motte and bailey rather than ringwork it would be one of only 6 castles of this type in West Yorkshire, and one of only 120 recorded sites in the North of England (using the counties / unitary authorities of Cheshire, Cleveland, County Durham, Cumbria, Derbyshire, East Riding, Lancashire, Liverpool, Manchester, Northumberland, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire to constitute this area). However, if it was assumed to be a ringwork, or ringwork and bailey it would be the only one of its type recorded in West Yorkshire and one of only 26 recorded in the North of England, which would further emphasise its rarity.
- 3.30 The Site is also of interest in terms of its later development for settlement, possibly including the establishment of a “town” in the outer ward as suggested in the 1634 map of Almondbury (Figure 4). This development of a formal medieval settlement in a wholly unsuitable hilltop location is unusual in the context of planned medieval settlements of the 13th and 14th century AD as most were established in more economically and environmentally advantageous locations.
- 3.31 Despite some erosion on the Site, and the 19th and 20th century development in the central ward, Castle Hill retains some remarkably well-preserved medieval earthworks, which continue to retain the shape of the medieval castle, which in turn is thought to have respected the layout of the external defences of the Iron Age hillfort.
- 3.32 The surviving medieval form of the Site, its complex but short history of occupation in this period and the relative rarity of these types of features would all indicate that in its own right the medieval remains on the hill should be considered to be of national significance, however the hill was in effect a regional centre of power and influence and it lacks the surviving masonry remains that would usually be expected on this form of site; this would point towards a regional level of significance. On balance, it is considered that the surviving remains of the medieval occupation of the Hill are of National

Significance and undoubtedly Critical to the overall archaeological and historical significance of the Site.

The relationship between Castle Hill and the historic landscape

- 3.33 Castle Hill is the dominant feature of the landscape. It rises above the surrounding settlements, and affords unspoilt views to and from Huddersfield and the surrounding settlements. Its height, compared with the relative low lying areas around it, means that it can be seen from an area of at least 10km around the Site, with the impressive structure of Victoria Tower further enhancing its appearance from afar, and providing what many consider to be an iconic representation of Huddersfield (Plate 8).
- 3.34 The landscape surrounding Castle Hill has evidence for human activity from the Neolithic period through to the post-medieval and modern periods. The prominent location of the hill means that it has always been an important landmark to those who lived around it, and for those who used it to navigate their way towards it. Within a 15 km radius of Castle Hill there are a host of known remains including nine hilltop enclosures, eight medieval settlement sites, a motte and bailey site, and three medieval moated sites.
- 3.35 The presence of the hill and its various roles over the last c.4,000 years have probably ensured that it has influenced the development of the surrounding landscape. These influences are likely to have arisen through its role in structuring medieval administrative units, the creation of prehistoric and Iron Age landscapes and in the role it would have played in peoples' day to day lives.
- 3.36 The hill is certainly a highly significant archaeological monument and historic landscape feature, and remains relatively unaffected by the extensive developments of the Industrial Revolution and subsequent settlement and industrial expansions seen at the surrounding towns. There has been a considerable amount of modern housing development on the slopes of the valley to the north of the hill, but the top of the hill and its upper slopes have escaped significant alteration since the end of the 19th century. In many respects Castle Hill can be seen to be representative of the pre-Industrial landscape.

The significance of the other archaeological remains on Castle Hill.

- 3.37 In addition to the surviving remains associated with key periods discussed above there are also a number of other remains on the hill that warrant particular mention and assessment. These include Victoria Tower which is a highly visible component part of the hill and the last surviving element of the 19th century development on the Hill. Without the Tower, Castle Hill would certainly not occupy such a prominent location within the surrounding landscape nor in the identity of so many local communities. In its own right it is a Grade II listed building and a Regionally Significant example of Victorian commemorative architecture; and of significance to the hill both in terms of its landscape presence and historical development.
- 3.38 A farm was built on the southern ramparts of the outer bailey during the 19th century, the location of which indicates that there was some form of limited settlement on the hill from the 18th century or earlier, although this interpretation would benefit from further historical research.
- 3.39 There are also remains of Second World War defence structures on the Hill, albeit now buried. They represent an important aspect of the use of the Hill during the 20th century and as such are of Local significance. Internally they contribute to the Hills' overall significance and demonstrate the continuing use and re-use of the hill to reflect the priorities of changing generations.

Summary

- 3.40 In terms of its archaeology and history Castle Hill is an extraordinarily complex site that represents millennia of human use, re-use and adaptation. It is this complexity that gives Castle Hill its archaeological and historical significance. Had the development or redevelopment of the Hill stopped at any of the above key phases then it would undoubtedly be considered to be interesting but not outstanding. As it survives, the rarity of its complexity, the patterns of interrelationships between the various periods and the excellent survival of many of the remains all indicate that it is of National Significance and rightly designated as a Nationally Significant Scheduled Monument.

Theme / Element	External significance	Internal Significance
The multi-period use of Castle Hill	National	A
The Later Prehistoric enclosure	Regional	B
The Late Bronze Age / Iron Age hillfort	National	A
The medieval occupation	National	A
Castle Hill's role in past landscapes	Local	B
The significance of the other archaeological remains on Castle Hill – Victoria Tower	Regional	A
The significance of the other archaeological remains on Castle Hill – WWII remains and former hotel and farm	Local	C

Landscape significance

- 3.41 The strong topographic form of Castle Hill gives it a powerful landscape presence that has attracted people to its summit for millennia and ensured that it has served as a prominent local landmark equally as long. 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.
- 3.42 In many respects all of Castle Hill's significances stem from this topographic form and its underlying geology (see below). Without the topography the Hill would have never had formed the focus for so many generations of human occupation and use; 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. As such the topographic form of Castle Hill is Critical to the Site's overall significance.
- 3.43 In terms of the influence that the Hill has in the wider landscape this extends for many kilometres in all directions. As such it could be argued that it has a presence that extends beyond the local and it could be viewed as a Regionally Significant landscape feature.

Theme / Element	External significance	Internal Significance
The topographic form and landscape presence of Castle hill	Regional	A

Geological significance

- 3.44 The geological formations and processes that created Castle Hill in effect created the canvas upon which humans could imbue the Site with its many values and significances. As discussed in the Landscape Significance section above, without its distinctive topographic form Castle Hill would not be the place it is now and would not have the values it does associated with it. As such, the geological past is the basis for the other significances.
- 3.45 The geology of the Site is also significant in its own right and it is currently being promoted as a possible Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS) by the Huddersfield Geology Group. It is an important geomorphological site where the relationship between the underlying geology and surface topography can be clearly seen. The slopes below Castle Hill form the Coal Measures escarpment where alternating deposits of shale and harder sandstones form a series of slopes and plateaux.
- 3.46 The extensive Newsome plateau has formed where resistant Stanningley Rock (formerly called Hard Bed Band Rock) outcrops between softer shales. A similar sequence of deposits (80 Yard Rock sandstone, with mudstone above and below) forms the higher Hall Bower plateau. The almost horizontal sandstone plateaux reflect the regional dip of approximately 5 degrees to the ESE. The summit plateau of Castle Hill forms a small outlier of the highest leaf of Greenmoor Rock. The Site demonstrates how the differential weathering of different rock types over time has produced this distinctive landform on the slopes of the Holme Valley.
- 3.47 Past geological processes have therefore resulted both in the creation of Castle Hill, which has led to the development of all its other significances and also provided a Regionally Significant geological site notable for the visibility of its geomorphological formations.

Theme / Element	External significance	Internal Significance
Role of the geological formations and processes in the creation of Castle Hill	Local	A
Significance of Castle Hill's geological formations	Regional	C

Ecological significance

- 3.48 Castle Hill is home to a number of important ecological habitats and species. Together these provide a mosaic of ecological diversity in a wider more intensively farmed landscape. Key amongst these is the areas of Lowland dry acid grassland. This is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority habitat and also a Kirklees BAP priority habitat. The extensive area of this habitat at Castle Hill is significant area of this habitat in the context of Kirklees and wider area and is likely to support birds and invertebrates that are probably absent or present in very low numbers in the surrounding farmland. Further survey of currently poorly recorded groups, such as fungi and invertebrates, is likely to add considerably to the value of this habitat.
- 3.49 Other habitat types are generally of lower value, but are still important locally as they add structural diversity and a range of different resources to the site. The gorse scrub is of particular value as it provides breeding sites and shelter for linnet, which is a UK BAP priority species. It also provides shelter and other resources for yellowhammer, which is a Kirklees BAP priority species.
- 3.50 Both linnet and yellowhammer are accorded red list status because breeding populations have declined by over 50% over the last 25 years. This decline is attributable in the main part to intensification of farming, which has resulted in loss of breeding habitat and food resources. Castle Hill provides some of the best habitat for these species in the locality; as hedgerows are generally scarce and very few seed bearing 'weeds' and grasses are allowed to flourish in the surrounding fields.
- 3.51 While it is not a BAP species, the presence of western gorse is also notable. This species is common on maritime heaths, particularly in South-west England and Wales. It is not common in the north of England, particularly inland or at high altitude, where it is limited by colder temperatures.
- 3.52 While habitats and species can be evaluated individually, these complement each other and each adds value to the site. Many of the faunal species are not restricted to just a single habitat type and require different elements of the habitat mosaic present. The site should therefore be evaluated as a whole ecological unit, which is valuable at the regional level.

Theme / Element	External significance	Internal Significance
Mosaic of habitats on the Site	Regional	A
Acid grassland	Local	B
Linnet	Regional (depending on population size)	B
Yellowhammer	Local	B
Western Gorse	Regional	C
Grassland fungi	Local	C

Significance of the Site's Setting

- 3.53 The analysis of the Site's setting (see Appendix 8) has identified a number of key components / themes relating to the setting. The relative significance of these is assessed below.

General character of environs

- 3.54 The wide expanse of landscape visible from Castle Hill is a fundamental component of its setting. This landscape structures and defines all the views from the Hill (see below), creates the views to the Site and encapsulates the immediate buffer around the site.
- 3.55 Currently, the majority of land visible from the Site is distinctly rural in nature. The area is dominated by pastoral fields in an undulating and topographically defined landscape with obvious blocks of woodland, extents of urban development and open moorland all visible. The rural landscape around the Site probably bears little resemblance to the landscape in which the Iron Age of 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 as this would have been its dominant character throughout the Site's history.
- 3.56 This rural character has however been superseded in many areas around the site by 19th and 20th century urban and sub-urban development. These areas, form part of the Site's setting and provide an opportunity, when viewed from the hilltop, to allow people to appreciate the development of the wider landscape. They represent the growth of populations since the industrial revolution and relate directly to the Site's changing role from a place of occupation to a place of recreation.

The immediate context

- 3.57 The setting analysis has identified a discrete area bounded by a series of distinctive topographic ridges that surrounds the hill. This area forms the immediate setting and context and helps structure peoples' experiences as they approach the hill as well as their views from within it. Currently this area is dominated by rural land-uses but 19th and 20th century development is present in some areas. This area is critical to the setting of the Site as its proximity ensures that it plays a dominant role in structuring and defining the Site's setting.

Views from Castle Hill

- 3.58 All of the viewpoints on the summit of Castle Hill allow the viewer to see a wide panoramic of the surrounding landscape. In most cases there are clear views out across the landscape for approximately 7km and where views are afforded down the river valleys and to high ground this is extended to approximately 10km. These views are highly characteristic of the Site and relate directly to its historical use as a defended area and seat of power. As such the extensive wide ranging views are a critical component of the Site's setting.

The Character of the Hilltop

- 3.59 The open and exposed nature of the hilltop is an integral part of the Site's setting and its character. The intervisibility of areas across the site allows people to appreciate the relationships between the different phases of development whilst the open character of the Site allows for the highly characteristic wide ranging panoramic views. The Site's exposed nature is also a defining characteristic of people's experience of it and is regularly remarked upon by visitors.

Views to Castle Hill

- 3.60 When viewed from all sides the Site is the dominant feature within the landscape except for on a clear day when the height of Emley Mast becomes prominent in the east. The Site has a very significant prominence within its surrounding landscape. It is mainly the distinct form of Castle Hill that is the prominent feature within the landscape, particularly its steep slopes on its south west side. However, where Victoria Tower sits above the horizon it is then the tower that becomes the prominent feature.

3.61 The visual prominence of Castle Hill, supported by the striking profile of Victoria Tower, directly relates to many of the Site’s other significances including its archaeological and historical values and iconic status. The views of the Site, both distant and local, are therefore a critical element of its setting as they allow people to appreciate this aspect of its significance and role in current and past landscapes.

Related features

3.62 Section 2 has identified a number of visual and non-visual relationships between Castle Hill and other potentially related archaeological features. These relationships are an aspect of the Site’s setting, particularly where there are strong visual connections supported by contemporary activity, however the key elements of the Site’s setting are its visibility and the views from it. These other relationships do however contribute to the overall setting of the Site.

Theme / Element	External significance	Internal Significance
General Landscape Character of the wider environs	Regional	B
The immediate rural buffer	National	A
Views out of the Site	National	A
Views of the Site	National	A
Character of the hilltop	National	A
Related Features	Local	C

Intangible significances

3.63 The Site has many contemporary intangible significances associated with it and these are explored below.

Castle Hill as an Icon for Almondbury, Huddersfield and Kirklees

3.64 Castle Hill’s striking landscape presence coupled with the distinctive visual form of Victoria Tower has ensured that the Site has become an iconic feature of the local landscape and ultimately a significant aspect of the identity of Almondbury, Huddersfield and Kirklees. The hill is featured extensively in modern publications produced by local organisations and it has also been adopted by both Huddersfield Town FC and the Huddersfield Examiner as part of their logos.

3.65 These tangible expressions of the Site's iconic status reflect a very real connection between the people of area and the hill. The importance of this connection for many people is apparent in both the number of responses received to the recent public consultation (c.509) and the positive nature of the vast majority of comments made about Castle Hill and what it means to people for example of the 396 responses to the question "*If you have a visitor coming to Huddersfield where do you take them?*" 288 people responded "Castle Hill". It is clear from these responses and the adoption of Castle Hill as a symbol of the area by a range of local organisations and bodies that the Hill is an important symbol that is highly valued; this depth of feeling will be important to securing the long-term conservation of the Site and its iconic status is a Critical aspect of its overall significance.

Access, leisure and recreation

3.66 Castle Hill is an extremely valuable local recreation site. It draws in considerable numbers of people from local and more distant communities every year who come for a range of leisure activities including walking, taking in the views, dog walking, kite flying, playing ball games or just having fun in an outdoor environment. For many people this use of the Site is as important if not more important than all its other significances. For some respondents to the consultation the former pub was an important aspect of the Site for them (see Appendix 3).

3.67 Access to and across the Site is critical to maintaining this leisure and recreational use. Currently the road and footpath network, along with car parking facilities allow access to the site for a wider range of people including those with physical or other disabilities. This access was considered to be important by many respondents to the recent public consultation and it forms an important aspect of the Site's significance for these groups.

3.68 The Site is undoubtedly an important publicly accessible open space that provides opportunities to participate in a diverse range of outdoor leisure activities in an attractive and stimulating location. This use of the site is critical to its overall significance.

Tourism

3.69 Castle Hill features strongly in tourism literature as an icon of the area, something that is distinctive and seen from afar rather than experienced from within. Currently, anecdotal evidence would indicate that the Hill is not a tourism destination in its own right. The site is used by local communities as

a place to bring visitors and former residents of the area often go to Castle Hill on their visits home. This pattern reflects the strong sense of local pride in Castle Hill as an icon of the wider area. In addition, it is also likely that people with specialist interests e.g. history, archaeology, geology and ecology make special visits although only c.2% of respondents to the questionnaire indicated that Study / Research was their main reason for the visit and a further c.3% highlighted enjoying the wildlife as their main reason for visiting.

- 3.70 However, Castle Hill is not currently a significant tourism attraction in the regional context and tourism visits do not seem to form a major component of the total number of visits to the Site.

Other

- 3.71 There are a number of other intangible significances that are related to Castle Hill, these include:

Its use as an educational resource

- 3.72 Currently Castle Hill is used, on a relatively infrequent basis, as a study destination for a range of different school groups. However, this aspect is not a major part of its overall use and significance. The hill does have the potential to provide a study destination for students at a range of age levels and with a range of interests. These could include visits related to ecology, geology or archaeology at all levels of educational proficiency. As such the educational significance lies not in its current use, but in its potential to provide a high-quality study destination for a diverse range of student types.

Its use as a base for events

- 3.73 In recent years Castle Hill's iconic values have been utilised by local bodies to develop a series of events to highlight and promote Huddersfield, Kirklees and Castle Hill to local communities and a wider audience. This has included celebratory fireworks displays to commemorate important events in Huddersfield's history and Bonfire Night, light shows and open days. During the Millennium celebrations a beacon was lit on Castle Hill to celebrate the coming of the new century, which formed part of a national network of beacons across the UK.
- 3.74 These events have tended to utilise the iconic landscape presence of Castle Hill as a backdrop or base for celebratory activities. Although the events are

relatively infrequent they do play an important role in maintaining Castle Hill's place in the heart and minds of surrounding communities.

Its use as a place for small scale personal ritual activity

- 3.75 Evidence from the public consultation and field observation would indicate that a small number of people are using Castle Hill for small-scale personal ritual activities including performing ceremonies and depositing offerings. There is evidence for individuals leaving flowers and memorial tributes on the banks of the hill and many of the public consultation responses included the value of the hill as a place for relaxation, meditation and contemplation. There is also anecdotal evidence that Castle Hill is used a place to observe the summer and winter solstice.
- 3.76 These types of activities are relatively common at sites, such as Castle Hill, that have either a strong landscape presence, a rich background of myth and lore, or archaeological significance. They are highly significant to those who undertake such activities but form a relatively small aspect of the Hill's overall use and those using the Site for such purposes are probably relatively local.

Theme / Element	External significance	Internal Significance
Castle Hill as an Icon for Kirklees, Huddersfield and Almondbury	Regional	A
Access, Leisure and Recreation	Local	A
Tourism	Local	D
Its use as an educational resource	Local	C (has potential to rise)
Its use as a base for local events	Local	B
Its use as a place for small scale personal ritual activity	Local	C

Section 4: Key Issues



4. KEY ISSUES

Introduction

- 4.1 To enable a clear development of policies for the management of Castle Hill a clear understanding of the issues that have affected its significance in the past, affect it now or may do so in the future is required.
- 4.2 The identified issues explained below are considered in relation to the significance and values of the Site set out in the preceding chapters. They also take into account the results of public and stakeholder consultations, held during the preparation of the Conservation Management Plan (see Appendix 3).
- 4.3 Through this process the following areas have been identified as the key issues:
- Understanding the Site
 - The use of the Site
 - Access to and around the Site
 - The management of the environs of the Site; and
 - Past and future development and interventions
- 4.4 The issues all relate to elements of Castle Hills's significances as identified in Section 3 of the Plan. Policies and approaches to addressing these issues are outlined in Sections 5, 6, 7 and the Enhancement Proposals document.

Understanding the Site

- 4.5 The current level of understanding of the archaeological / historical, ecological and geological significance of Castle Hill has been sufficient to prepare the Statement of Significance for the Plan. There are however, some significant gaps in knowledge which require attention in the future to ensure that the management of the hill is based on a solid foundation of understanding.

Lack of full understanding of the archaeological and historical development of Castle Hill

- 4.6 Despite Castle Hill's high profile in Kirklees, its designation as a Scheduled Monument, and the varying levels of archaeological and historical research undertaken on it, current understanding of its development over time is by no means complete, and requires further attention to ensure that all aspects of the physical management of the hill are based on a fuller understanding of its archaeological and historical development.
- 4.7 A main area of concern is the accuracy and completeness of the Varley excavation archives. A large amount of intrusive excavation on Castle Hill over a substantial period of time was undertaken, from 1936 to 1972, however the level of recording and analysis of the excavation archive was not as complete or as accurate as it would have been if undertaken today. This is due mainly to different methods employed in the past when archaeology was not subject to the controls and guidance that it is today. There is almost no primary excavated data that has appeared in print, and the limited published discussions that have been produced on the subject are confusing, and contradictory in places (RCHME 1996, p. 3). In particular, the interpretation of the phases of development of the outer ramparts of the hill changed within the same report produced in 1973, and no indication of which interpretation was the preferred one was provided. All subsequent discussion on Castle Hill has been based on the original observations and interpretations, meaning that there has been little new work done since 1974. The archive and other unpublished works relating to Castle Hill are housed in the Tolson Memorial Museum, and an initial assessment was made by the ASWYAS in 1994 to catalogue the archive as a first step to possible analysis and publication. An accurate plan of the location of all the trenches was not produced, the disturbance map (see Figure 12) is based on an estimation of them from published material, on the interpretation provided in the RCHME earthwork survey and the results of recent geophysical surveys.
- 4.8 Of particular note is the importance placed by Varley on the accuracy of radiocarbon dating undertaken on deposits found in the inner bailey, which he based his interpretation of the origins of human activity on the hill. These techniques were by no means as accurate as they are today, and there is also some doubt as to whether the deposits sampled were from secure contexts, which may have resulted in their contamination during handling. Consequently, the radiocarbon dates cannot at this time be considered to be reliable.

- 4.9 It is accepted and understood that Castle Hill is an important multi-period occupation site, with elements surviving from the later prehistoric periods, through to the remains of Second World War defence structures. However there are some significant gaps in our knowledge, in particular the phases of development between the Early Bronze Age and Iron Age, including the phases of development of the Iron Age hillfort; and the use and development of the Site during the early medieval and medieval periods. This has a bearing on our understanding of the location of potentially sensitive buried archaeological remains, which in turn has a particular bearing on any major enhancement works, although it is less of a concern in terms of maintenance and the proposed initial enhancement works.
- 4.10 Archaeological investigations carried out in the 1990s by ASWYAS as part of the development process, and by the RCHME who undertook an earthwork survey in 1995, have assisted in adding to the current archive of work on Castle Hill, however the results of this work is based mostly on physical remains which have not been interpreted in the wider archaeological and historical context of the Site.
- 4.11 This is a significant issue for the future enhancement of Castle Hill. Without a more detailed understanding of its archaeological and historical development, and the locations of Varley's trenches, there is a possibility that general works on the hill could adversely impact on previously unknown buried archaeological remains. The approaches to the Management and enhancement of the Site presented in Section 6 and the Enhancement Proposals document take this into account and propose works that in the first instance, would only have limited physical impacts. Any future more substantial works, if required, would need to be preceded by further research and/or investigation to ensure that they would not harm the archaeological significance of the Site.
- 4.12 The lack of understanding of the archaeological and historical development of the hill will also impact on the accuracy of interpretational and educational material which is required for the Site to ensure that those using are as well informed as possible.

Limits of understanding of the ecological significance of the hill

- 4.13 An appraisal of the ecology of Castle Hill was undertaken as part of the Plan. However, to complement this, a more detailed assessment of the findings of the appraisal would benefit the development of a suitable maintenance

strategy, and to further develop our understanding of the site's ecological significance. Areas of particular interest have been identified by the Conservation Management Plan, in particular areas of acid grassland and important bird habitats, but further assessment would provide further information on which to develop a more detailed maintenance plan e.g. for scrub management. This may include a bat survey, particularly if any works are proposed on Victoria Tower.

- 4.14 The ecological appraisal of the hill conducted during the preparation of the Conservation Management Plan identified that the main threat to the ecological features of Castle Hill is lack of a current management and maintenance strategy, particularly for the acid grasslands on the hillside below the ramparts. It also identified that there were areas of western gorse which is rare in northern England, and for good breeding areas for linnets and yellowhammers. Any maintenance strategy needs to be based on a detailed understanding of these particular areas to ensure that any works do not damage them.

The Use of the Site

- 4.15 Castle Hill is a popular recreational site, and attracts in the region of 100,000 visitors a year who come for a range of reasons. This large number of users brings with it several issues which have the potential to detrimentally impact upon not only the fabric of the hill, but on the users' experience of the hill.
- 4.16 Issues associated with the use of the site have been identified and discussed below in detail. They comprise:
- Erosion
 - The use of Castle Hill for events
 - The use of Victoria Tower
 - The current mix of uses on the hill
 - Littering
 - Lack of educational and interpretational facilities
 - Antisocial behaviour

Erosion

- 4.17 As part of the assessment of the extent of erosion on the site, a condition survey was undertaken in November 2005 (see Appendix 4 and Figure 23). The purpose of the survey was to reassess the condition of the earthworks

and other parts of the site, using the 1996 RCHME survey as a baseline reference.

- 4.18 The condition survey identified that there are areas of significant erosion on the hill (see Plates 9 – 20), that not only threaten the survival of the physical structure and appearance of the hill, but the archaeological potential as well. The majority of the erosion is caused by what can be described as 'passive use', such as walking and from the actions of weathering and animals. From the analysis of aerial photographs taken in 1948, 1953, 1964, 1968 and 1995 it appears that erosion across the hill was more widely spread in 1953 than it was in 1995, and in 2005 based on recent observations. This is testament to the effectiveness of the introduction of a formalised footpath network, and on the formalisation of the car parking areas in the intervening period. However, all of the areas of erosion recorded in the 1995 RCHME survey are still present today, and in many places have deteriorated significantly. This clearly indicates the need for ongoing and effective management and maintenance of the Site; an approach to this is presented in Section 6 and the Enhancement Proposals document.
- 4.19 A plan showing the location of areas of erosion that have been identified by the condition survey can be seen in Figure 23. Particular areas of significant erosion have been identified on the southern ramparts of the outer bailey (Plates 9, 10, 17 & 18), on the footpaths of the northern end of the outer bailey (Plate 13), on the approach steps to Victoria Tower (Plate 14) and on the banks and ditches separating the centre and inner baileys (Plates 15, 16 & 19). These areas require urgent attention to arrest the current rate of erosion. It can be seen in the photographs that the erosion not only has a detrimental impact on the appearance of the hill, but it also appears that there is a significant potential for the loss of buried archaeological remains.
- 4.20 The majority of the erosion on the hill is caused by users, although areas have also been identified which have been affected by weathering, in particular on the area leading to Victoria Tower (Plate 14), and on the southern rampart of the outer bailey (Plate 12). User erosion is caused by a number of different activities, the main being general wear and tear of footpaths, desire lines caused by people walking. This has been exacerbated in the past by the absence of a regular maintenance programme, however this is now being addressed. However, there are areas of significant erosion which appear to be attractive places for mountain bikes, off-road skateboards, and scramble bikes which have a significant effect on the already eroded area. Once an

eroded area has become well established it is also left vulnerable to erosion from weathering and animal activity.

Earthwork erosion

- 4.21 In terms of current usage, significant erosion is restricted to a few areas, in particular on the banks of the outer bailey, and across the ditch separating the centre bailey from the inner bailey. These areas appear to attract off-road cyclists and off-road skateboarders, as well as walkers who use these areas as short-cuts. The erosion at these areas appears to be a long-term problem, as they were recorded on the 1995 RCHME survey, and also appear on aerial photographs of the hilltop from 1953 onwards. Various attempts have been made to control these areas of significant erosion, by reinstating and blocking them, however this has been largely unsuccessful. These areas now require immediate attention, including their reinstatement and protection.

Desire lines

- 4.22 Desire lines, like other areas of erosion on the hill have developed over several years (see Figure 21). Many of those present today appear to have originated in places up to 50 years ago (see Plate 21 – aerial photograph taken in 1958). The majority of the desire lines have been formed by years of use as short cuts across the hill, particularly between viewpoints and other areas of interest, and between the car park and lower paths below the ramparts. The condition of sections of the path network has prompted users to divert around particularly difficult areas leading to the creation of larger areas of erosion around them.

Path erosion

- 4.23 Path erosion and the poor condition of some paths have a negative effect on the visual appearance of the hill. These issues also lead to the creation of desire lines (as discussed above). Erosion is becoming a substantial issue on many paths across the Site and is also reducing the quality of these paths. This makes them less desirable to users, which has the consequence of exacerbating the problems with desire lines on the hill.
- 4.24 The reduction in the condition of the footpaths particularly affects the overall enjoyment of many of the users of the hill, in particular where significant erosion has presented an obstacle to its effective use (see Plates 12 and 17). Whilst there has been some attempt to repair and maintain the footpaths, the

overall condition of many areas could do with some improvement to ensure that they continue in use.

Condition of boundary walls

- 4.25 The condition of a large number of the dry stone walls across the hill is a cause for concern. Of particular note is the wall forming the boundary of the hill along Ashes Road, and several walls next to the paths onto the hill. There is an ongoing programme of maintenance works currently being undertaken, and this should be expanded perhaps through an Environmental Stewardship Scheme to include all walls in need of repair.

Erosion by vehicles

- 4.26 The most popular way of getting to Castle Hill is by car and 67% of respondents in the recent survey indicated that they used this form of transport to get to Castle Hill (see Appendix 3). Whilst there is currently adequate off-peak provision for parking on and below the hill, there is evidence for vehicle users accessing other areas of the hilltop in their vehicles. This has resulted in deep rutting in some areas of the hill, in particular within the area previously occupied by the Castle Hill Hotel. Parts of the outer bailey also appear to have been accessed by vehicles, resulting in the scarring of areas of the relatively undisturbed ground here.
- 4.27 As with the other erosion on the hill, this is both a threat to the archaeological fabric and the quality of the appearance of the site. If the use of vehicles in off-road areas of the hill continues unchecked then the practice has the potential to continue and expand causing further damage and degradation.
- 4.28 Overall, erosion caused by vehicles on the hill is not as extensive as that caused by other users, mainly due to the constraints of where vehicles can go. However, there are significant areas of erosion caused by the use of vehicles in inappropriate parts of the site which has the potential to further add to the deterioration of some of the fabric of the hill, and the potential removal of important buried archaeological remains.

The use of Castle Hill for events

- 4.29 Castle Hill is ideally located for high profile events; its prominent location means that it is well suited for fireworks displays, and light festivals, as they can be seen clearly from some distance. The hill is also used by many people for less formal events such as parties, family gatherings and for smaller scale

firework displays. This is not surprising given the attractive location and open space which is seen to be ideal for such events. However there are some issues associated with both these levels of events which should be considered.

- 4.30 The large scale events organised by Kirklees Council are well organised and very popular. However, it is considered that it may be helpful if there was greater understanding about the possible impact that events can have on the hill. Therefore, it is recommended that the process of organising events is formalised through the management framework.
- 4.31 Small-scale informal events on the hill can also have a detrimental impact on the physical structure and character of the hill, caused in particular by parties and bonfires which can cause extensive littering and fire damage to parts of the hill. This need to be addressed through active engagement with users.

The use of Victoria Tower

- 4.32 Victoria Tower is a popular destination for many people on Castle Hill, due in particular to the fact it commands magnificent views of Castle Hill and the surrounding landscape. Currently the tower is opened to the public on most weekends during the summer and autumn, and on public holidays, and there has been a desire noted through the public consultation (see Appendix 3) that the tower is opened more frequently, but there are resource issues associated with this.
- 4.33 The improvement of the frequency of opening and quality of material inside the tower would improve the experience of the users to the hill, and in particular to those who can climb to the top of the tower to see the views. However it is recognised that the tower is not accessible for many disabled people, and is not DDA compliant. An attempt should be made to consider the provision of displays at a lower level of the tower.

The current mix of uses on the hill

- 4.34 Castle Hill is a popular recreational Site, and is used by a large number of people for many different reasons. The majority of these activities can be undertaken side-by-side with little or no conflict between them, however there are instances where less passive activities have conflicted with the more passive activities. An example of this is the difficulties encountered when the interior of the outer bailey is used by kite buggies, which restricts other users to the surrounding banks and other parts of the hill. Not only does this affect

many people's experiences, it also is a health and safety issue due to the high speeds of many of the kite buggies.

- 4.35 A similar, but less evident, conflict is the use of the hill by people used to a more urban environment, and those used to a more rural environment. Whilst not a significant issue, any proposals for Castle Hill should consider that further development on the hill to accommodate the users who make their way to the hill by vehicle may negatively impact on the experience of those who make their way to the hill by alternative methods such as on foot or by bicycle.
- 4.36 Overall, whilst the mix of uses is not a significant issue on the hill, there are times when the use of certain parts of it by those undertaking more energetic activities has the potential to affect the experience of those using the hill for more passive activities. Also, any changes to the hilltop, in the terms of new facilities, has the potential to impact negatively on the experience of those who use the hill to 'get away from it all'. There is evidence of some inappropriate and criminal behaviour on the hill after dark which has negatively affected the perceptions of many users have that Castle Hill is a desirable place to go. This is discussed in more detail in *Antisocial behaviour* below.

Littering

- 4.37 Litter has been identified as a significant problem at Castle Hill. Inadequate provision of bins, and a lack of manpower, has contributed towards areas of heavy littering which are concentrated in the ditches with heavy vegetation, in particular at the western end of the outer bailey. High winds on the hill also means that the litter often dropped in a localised area, i.e. the car park, has spread across much of the hilltop and into the surrounding landscape. The Castle Hill Ranger does an efficient job in keeping the hill relatively free from litter, but there are instances when there is an increased amount due to heavy usage and a lack of staffing resources to address the problem.
- 4.38 The amount of litter on Castle Hill, whilst variable, causes significant concerns for the appearance of the hill and the impact this has on the experience of the users, its setting and character and its ecological significance, in particular where litter is thrown into undergrowth used by wildlife. This can present hazards to fauna, and can result in the death of birds and mammals.

Lack of educational and interpretational resources

- 4.39 As mentioned previously, the need has been identified for the provision of suitable interpretational and educational material and facilities to ensure that formal and informal users of the hill (from organised school groups to recreational walkers) are provided with something to let them understand more about the hill than they currently do. This issue was highlighted in the public consultation where 88% of respondents agreed or agreed strongly with the “*Lack of information on the history and landscape*” being an important issue. The provision of such material and facilities will not only improve the overall experience of the place for the visitor, but will also contribute towards the development of their respect for the place which will hopefully have a knock-on effect leading to the reduction of the more passive forms of user damage to the site caused by littering, and the erosion of desire lines for example.
- 4.40 The current availability of interpretational and education material is centred at Victoria Tower and offsite at the Tolson Memorial Museum. Whilst the material at Victoria Tower is useful in providing an initial appreciation and understanding of the hill, it is based on Varley’s understanding of the results of his excavations and would benefit greatly from reassessment and updating. In addition, access to interpretational material on the hill itself needs to be addressed. Access to the display in Victoria Tower is dependent on the tower being open and is only accessible to those with a relatively high level of mobility as the steps leading into the tower prevent access for people with significant mobility disabilities. The material is also unsuitable for people with sight related sensory disabilities or those with special educational needs.
- 4.41 The development of interpretational and educational material will benefit greatly from further design as part of the enhancement proposals (see the Enhancement Proposals document), and should seek to expand beyond past interpretation methods. At Castle Hill there is an opportunity to start with a ‘blank canvas’ and to explore different methods of providing interpretational material that not only informs the user about the Site, but also inspires an interest in finding out more about it. The material could also be used to explain why repair and conservation works are being undertaken and the issues surrounding the management and conservation of the Site. This could help enhance peoples’ appreciation of the sensitivities of the Site and help make them more aware of the potential impacts that they can have.

- 4.42 Overall, the issues identified from the lack of available interpretational and education facilities and material are twofold. Firstly, a lack of understanding of a place can have a detrimental affect on the overall experience of it. Many people who responded to the public consultation stated that they knew Castle Hill was special, but didn't know why, and that they would like to know more. With this enhanced understanding comes a development of respect for it, leading hopefully to an improvement in the level of 'passive' damage, such as littering, erosion on desire lines and by cars.
- 4.43 The fact that Castle Hill is a well-used and well-valued educational resource is fully accepted. Kirklees Metropolitan Council and the Tolson Memorial Museum have undertaken successful educational events on the hill, and from observations during site visits, the informal use of the hill by local schools has been noted. However, the formalisation of an educational pack, and possibly the development of a classroom facility on, or close to the hill, would benefit the provision of educational services on the hill. Of note is the successful development of the Castle Hill Geology Trail by the Huddersfield Geology Group using grant aid from Awards For All.

Antisocial behaviour

- 4.44 Antisocial behaviour is a significant issue on Castle Hill, and it has the potential to negatively impact on the quality of the experience of its users, and also on the physical structure and character of the hill, and on aspects of its ecological significance. There are various elements of antisocial behaviour on the hill which are discussed below.

Vandalism

- 4.45 Physical vandalism on Castle Hill is not a significant problem; however there are parts of Victoria Tower and the well area that have been subjected to some graffiti and the removal of fabric. More significant is the damage caused by the setting of fires in the gorse on the lower ramparts which have damaged some of the potential wildlife habitats, and the destruction of some of the hawthorn bushes and trees. In the past interpretation boards, furniture and other materials have also been vandalised. Whilst the majority of this is caused by malicious intent, it is possible that some of the perpetrators might be dissuaded if they are made aware of the importance of the Site. Failing this, the provision of warning information, highlighting the Scheduled Monument status of the hill and the potential for prosecution to those found to be damaging it might help discourage vandalism.

Night-time use of the Site

- 4.46 Another significant issue is the reported, but unconfirmed use of the hill for illegal and inappropriate activities on the hill after dark. This has a significant negative impact on the perceptions that many users, and people who live close by, have of the hill, and possibly deters many people from using it.
- 4.47 Whilst the problems of antisocial behaviour are not as pronounced on Castle Hill as they are on similar sites close to urban centres, they are damaging the perception of the hill as a safe place to visit, and its general reputation as an iconic site for Huddersfield and Kirklees. Liaison is in place between the Castle Hill Ranger and with West Yorkshire Constabulary, who provide support and assistance in the event of reported antisocial behaviour. However, a large amount of antisocial behaviour remains unreported and it is necessary to implement controls to reduce the instances of such behaviour on the hill. An initial appropriate response would be to control road access to the site in the evenings, and to encourage a police presence at various times on the hill during the evenings.

Evidence for metal detecting on the hill

- 4.48 Metal detection is a pastime that is fairly well controlled and monitored by metal detecting groups, and by the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). However, on Castle Hill there is recorded evidence of illicit metal detecting being undertaken without the consent of the landowner and English Heritage. This is not only a criminal offence, as stated in Section 28 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, but it also damages the physical structure of the hill, resulting in the increased possibility of erosion and removal of archaeological remains. The process of recovering the artefacts also damages and removes potentially important buried archaeological remains which could contribute greatly towards the further enhancement of our understanding of the hills archaeological and historical development. It should be noted that this is relevant to unauthorised metal detecting within the boundary of the Scheduled Monument, outside of this area metal detecting requires the permission of the relevant landowner.

Access to and around the Site

- 4.49 Castle Hill is served by roads and footpaths (see Figure 21). Road access to the base of the Hill is relatively straightforward but the steep and narrow access road to the top of the Hill does pose a number of issues for both drivers and pedestrians (Plate 25). The footpath network leading to the hill is

variable in its condition and accessibility whilst paths on the Hill are in a very mixed state of repair and many are suffering from substantial erosion. The issue of access has been divided into types, comprising vehicular access issues which will concentrate on access roads and the car parking; and pedestrian access to and across the hill; and the lack of basic visitor facilities.

Vehicular and pedestrian access

Vehicular access

- 4.50 The public consultation (see Appendix 3) indicated that the most popular way to get to Castle Hill is by car with c.67% of respondents indicating that they used this method of transport. Access to the hill by car is gained along the access road leading from Ashes Lane, which leads into the car park, which is divided into that owned by Kirklees Council and that which previously served the Castle Hill Hotel. Whilst the current provision for parking space is meeting the needs of the Site for the majority of time there are issues with peak time parking capacity. In addition, the overall condition and coherency of it is in need of improvement (see Plate 7) as this is impacting adversely on the visual character of the Hill. The majority of vehicles that park on the hilltop adhere to the spaces provided, although there is some evidence for vehicles parking on the area previously occupied by the hotel, and also in the outer bailey (see vehicle erosion above).
- 4.51 The current access road to the hill top is difficult for drivers to use and there are conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles. In addition, physical deterioration of the access road is apparent by evidence of damage from vehicle overrun in certain locations. Investigation of the impact of this is needed and recommendations of measures made to minimise future deterioration.
- 4.52 The possibility of widening of the road is constrained by the sensitive nature of the hill's archaeological remains. Although it has not been confirmed that the route of the access road runs along either the principal entrance to the Iron Age hillfort or medieval castle, it is currently considered that this may be the case. There may, however, be limited opportunities for the installation of passing places on the road but further archaeological and historical investigation is required to determine both the potential locations for these places and their acceptability in terms of potential impact on archaeological deposits.

- 4.53 Overall, the key issue relating to vehicular access to Castle Hill is the nature of the current access road to the hilltop. The width, curves and steepness of this road all indicate that it has a low capacity to accommodate traffic movements, particularly given its use by pedestrians and other byway users. Future management and enhancement works will therefore need to be cognisant of this issue. The proposed off-site lay-by parking (see the Enhancement Proposals document) has been developed to encourage people to park at the bottom of the hill, particularly at peak times to help reduce use of the access road.
- 4.54 Other issues relate to the quality of the fabric of the roads and car parks. Currently these are poor in nature and give a fairly run down feel to the centre bailey (Zone B), and overall provide a negative introduction those visiting the hill. This run-down appearance possibly contributes towards the way users perceive this part of Castle Hill, potentially leading to a lack of care and respect in their use of it, as evidenced by the levels of littering in this area. It also could have a negative impact on the perception of the hill as a whole as a desirable place to spend time.
- 4.55 Pedestrian / vehicle conflict is an issue on the access road, and the junction of Lumb Lane and Castle Hill Side. Measures may need to be developed to reduce such conflicts. This could include signage, traffic calming and perhaps a dedicated footway / or additional segregated footpaths. Issues have also been identified at the junction of Ashes Road and Lumb Lane, where measures may need to be developed to reduce the risk of vehicle and pedestrian conflict.

Pedestrian access

- 4.56 Castle Hill is well served by public footpaths, the majority of which appear to be well maintained and used. However, an issue has been identified regarding whether they are maintained to a standard which will encourage infrequent countryside visitors, as well as the more frequent users. The Public Rights of Way Unit of Kirklees Council have undertaken a programme of footpath improvements in the wider area to ensure that they meet the requirements of the Best Value Indicator 178 (BV178), which is a measure of the percentage of the total length of the rights of way that are 'easy to use'. This programme has seen a great improvement in the number of footpaths meeting this requirement, shown by the comparison of results from 2002 to 2005. In 2002/03 Kirklees had only 11% of rights of way which were "easy to use", in 2003/04, however, the figure had risen to 17.9% and in 2004/05 to

37.1% (figures supplied by the Countryside Unit, Kirklees Metropolitan Council). Further improvements will undoubtedly benefit not only the footpaths to Castle Hill, but the wider footpath network within Kirklees as a whole.

- 4.57 The public consultation revealed that c28% of respondents accessed the hill of foot (see Appendix 3). This is testament to the fact that the hill is well served by the public rights of way network (see Figure 21) despite a perception gained from informal conversations held at the consultation events that Castle Hill is difficult to get to on foot. This could be addressed, in part, through better advertising and signage. Whilst it is unlikely that many of the users who make their way to Castle Hill by car would use these paths regularly for practical and time reasons, it is possible that if they were better understood and signposted then walking to the Hill might be considered a viable option by those who usually drive there. This in turn could potentially help reduce car parking and problems with vehicular access.
- 4.58 The two main footpaths which lead to the western and eastern ends of Castle Hill both run from Ashes Lane and are well signposted (see Figure 21). However, the path leading to the inner bailey would appear to be more fitting to a remote rural site, rather than a site which is used predominantly by car users. The steps are very steep and not well positioned (see Plate 22). It would appear reasonable that to improve the experience of climbing the hill here, a more suitable surface be introduced to encourage people to use it.
- 4.59 The path network across Castle Hill (see Figure 21) appears to be based on quite an old layout (See Figures 5 to 10 inc.), and in many places this layout has been altered by significant erosion and desire lines. There is currently no coherent route around the ramparts of the hill, which is an aspect of hillforts across the country that many people find attractive. This lack of coherency had led to the creation of new routes over time by users who wish to complete this 'loop' of the hill. With the proper maintenance and formalisation of the paths on the hill there would hopefully be an overall positive impact on the users experience of the site, and subsequently on the physical structure of the hill with the reduction in use of desire lines.
- 4.60 Overall, the public rights of way network leading to Castle Hill is relatively extensive; however it often lacks signage to Castle Hill. The provision of signs, and perhaps promotional material, would assist greatly in informing those who would otherwise possibly make their way to the hill by other methods. The enhancement of the network, either through new route creation

or upgrading of current routes, would also assist in increasing numbers of people who walk to the hill, hence potentially reducing vehicle access to it. On the hill itself, considerable work is required to upgrade the path network and reduce user erosion.

Lack of public transport to the hill

- 4.61 Limited public transport to Castle Hill is available, but this is not widely used by visitors. The public consultation revealed that only c.3% of people used public transport to get to the Hill (see Appendix 3). Issues associated with this lack of understanding of the service are that many people who cannot get to the hill by other means may feel unable to do so, and also those who drive there may do so because they are not aware of the alternatives. A better understanding of the current bus services may lead to an increase in the number of visitors who would otherwise not go to Castle Hill, and may also see a reduction in the amount of traffic.
- 4.62 There are also opportunities, particularly in peak periods e.g. summer months and school holidays, to expand the bus service to Castle Hill. This could help reduce peak time parking issue on the Site and encourage a more diverse group of visitors to the Site.

The lack of basic visitor facilities

- 4.63 The public consultation exercise identified that many of the people who responded felt that the hill lacked the most basic of facilities, including toilets, shelter and picnic tables. In total 80% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the “*Lack of basic facilities (e.g. toilets)*” was an important issue. This lack of facilities is also felt by the operational staff on the hill who currently have to use the facilities at Tolson Memorial Museum. The provision of basic facilities would undoubtedly improve the experience of many of the people who currently use and work on the hill, in particular by the provision of shelters and toilets. It would also mean that there would probably be a reduction in littering on the hill with the provision of litter bins and centralised picnic locations which are currently spread over the hilltop.
- 4.64 It should be noted however, that a number of those who responded to the public consultation (see Appendix 3) felt that they would prefer to have nothing on top of the hill to maintain the open space and feeling of ‘wildness’. Any proposals for visitor facilities should consider these responses and seek to be as unobtrusive as possible (see Section 5 for further guidance).

The management of the Site and its environs

- 4.65 The way that Castle Hill is managed is intrinsic to sustaining it as a desirable and popular recreational site. There is a need for an agreed management framework to address the key issues that have been identified in the Plan. There are currently many pressures on the Site from users, stakeholders and owners and a system needs to be in place to ensure that any proposals are properly understood and properly managed.
- 4.66 Issues associated with the management of the Site have been identified and discussed below. They comprise:
- Need for a formal management framework
 - The need to formalise the current maintenance strategy and staffing
 - The management of archaeological / historical research
 - The management of ecological habitats; and
 - The management of the Site's environs

Need for an agreed management framework

- 4.67 Castle Hill currently lacks a formalised management framework. Whilst elements of the management situation is remedied somewhat by the presence of a Ranger on the hill, employed by Kirklees Metropolitan Council, there is the need for a more formal arrangement where a management group is identified and roles within this group agreed to ensure that any future plans for the maintenance, development and events on the hill are discussed and agreed prior to action being taken. Without this framework in place, there is the risk that works and events will be undertaken on the hill without consideration being given to the correct procedures. This current lack of a formal management framework is a primary concern for all Castle Hill's significances.
- 4.68 Issues that have arisen associated with the lack of a formalised management framework include issues relating to applications for Scheduled Monument consents for events undertaken on the hill; the potential damage caused to the hill by maintenance and small scale works being undertaken on the site without the prior knowledge of relevant council staff, English Heritage and WYAAS which could result in the loss of significant buried archaeological remains.

- 4.69 The development, agreement and implementation of an appropriate management framework is of paramount importance for the future of Castle Hill. The proposed framework to address these issues is set out in Section 6.

Current maintenance strategy and staffing

- 4.70 Maintenance on Castle Hill is coordinated and undertaken by the Castle Hill Ranger, who occasionally has the services of volunteers to assist him. The work undertaken by the Ranger has made an enormous difference to the levels of litter on the Site, and on the condition of some of the paths and dry stone walls. Castle Hill would benefit from the development of a structured maintenance strategy which will identify areas in need of urgent attention, and areas which will require attention before their condition deteriorates.
- 4.71 The lack of a detailed maintenance strategy is a significant concern for the archaeological and historical, setting, and ecological significances of Castle Hill. There is also the important fact that without the continued maintenance of the hill there will be a knock-on effect on the character and appearance of the hill, and the way that it is perceived and enjoyed by its users. Whilst the Ranger and volunteers undertake valuable and necessary work, there is a need for a more structural approach which prioritises the maintenance needs of the hill, which will subsequently aid in the improvement of its condition and appearance, leading to an improved environment for the users.

The management of archaeological / historical research

- 4.72 As discussed above, the current understanding of the archaeological and historical potential of the hill is based on information that has not been properly archived or assessed. The management of the archaeological resource needs to be based on a sound understanding of it, so will need to be informed by a reassessment of the existing archive. This in turn may lead to the identification of the need for further archaeological research on the site, which will need to be carefully managed by the Council in consultation with English Heritage and WYAAS.
- 4.73 There is a desire among academic institutions to undertake further research at Castle Hill. If this is to occur then there is a need to ensure that any research proposals are properly dealt with and passed to the WYAAS and English Heritage for consideration within the context of a properly constituted Research Framework. In this way proposals would be based on sound research objectives which would have been scrutinised by WYAAS and English Heritage, in conjunction with the Council. Within this it will be critical

to ensure that any further archaeological work that is undertaken at the Site must result in publicly accessible reports, finds and archives within a reasonable timescale and to standards acceptable to English Heritage, WYAAS and the Tolson Memorial Museum.

The management of ecological habitats

- 4.74 The main threat to the ecological features of Castle Hill is lack of management, particularly of the grasslands on the hillside below the ramparts. These issues are discussed below.

Isolation of habitats and species

- 4.75 Isolation of Castle Hill from other areas of semi-natural habitats means that some of the species it supports are vulnerable to extinction on the Site, due to a lack of nearby populations to boost recruitment. This problem can only be addressed off-site, by creating connections to existing sites and/or by enhancing farmland habitats in the vicinity. This could be supported by the uptake of environmental stewardship schemes on council owned farms in the vicinity which would increase the amount of habitat available for invertebrates and farmland birds in particular (see Management of the environs of the Site below).

Loss of acid grassland to scrub encroachment

- 4.76 Loss of acid grassland as a result of scrub encroachment is a particular issue given the relative importance of this habitat (see Section 3). The continued encroachment of scrub onto these areas could ultimately degrade their value and threaten their survival. This encroachment could be halted through a combination of minor scrub removal from the ramparts and by management of existing grassland where scrub invasion is incipient and not yet mature. Scattered patches of scrub away from the ramparts that offer little benefit to birds could be kept in check by selective removal by hand or (on lower slopes below the fence line) by occasional browsing by for example goats, provided by council-owned farm tenants. This management could occur as part of ongoing maintenance regimes.

Loss of scrub as a result of burning

- 4.77 Recent fires have resulted in the loss of small patches of gorse and acid grassland on the western ramparts. In addition to mortality of fauna and direct loss of habitat, this can result in the release of nutrients and replacement of

existing vegetation communities by those of lower ecological value. Although burning can be used as a management tool on grasslands and scrub, it needs to be carefully conducted and is not appropriate where there has been a long build up of dry litter.

Degradation of acid and neutral grassland through lack of management

- 4.78 Loss of acid grassland as a result of scrub invasion is addressed above. The sward is also likely to deteriorate through build up of litter and as a result of nutrient input from diffuse and localized sources, particularly dog mess. The lower slopes (in Zones D, G, H and I) away from the areas most frequented by visitors would ideally be lightly sheep or cattle grazed, perhaps using stock from tenanted council-owned farms in the vicinity. The discouraging of visitors from entering these sensitive areas perhaps by improving fences and official footpaths and by fencing/blocking unofficial paths and desire lines on the hillside below the ramparts could help conserve these habitats.

Potential degradation of acid and neutral grassland through inappropriate treatments

- 4.79 The hillside grasslands could deteriorate in quality if a decision is made to 'improve' them through the use of fertilizers and pesticides. If fertilizer is applied to the pitches to encourage growth of grasses and reduce erosion, it could leach into better quality grasslands, reducing diversity through replacement of acid grassland species by more competitive grasses and nutrient demanding herbs.

Disturbance of breeding birds and other fauna

- 4.80 The current levels of relatively free access to the hillside could cause disturbance to breeding birds, including linnets and yellowhammers. In addition, carried out at the wrong time of year management of grassland and scrub habitats could also result in potentially illegal disturbance of breeding birds. To help avoid this latter issue it is important that the future maintenance of the Site makes provision for the management of grassland and scrub to be undertaken outside the bird breeding season i.e. between 1st February and 31st August.
- 4.81 Light pollution can potentially impact on the breeding patterns of birds and other fauna, and any proposals for events or permanent lighting of Victoria Tower should consider this fact.

Presence of Japanese knotweed on adjacent land

- 4.82 Although not within the study area, small stands of Japanese knotweed are situated on land adjacent to the Site close to existing lay-bys near the start of the access road. Should this land be used for off-site car parking in the future (see the Enhancement Proposals document) this would involve disturbance of the knotweed and the potential to spread it onto the site and elsewhere. It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to cause this species to spread in the wild. It would therefore be advisable to eradicate the Japanese knotweed. This would need to be out in consultation with the Environment Agency.

Lack of official recognition of the ecological value of the site

- 4.83 Castle Hill is not protected by any nature conservation designations, statutory or non-statutory. No ecological information is readily available and there is no interpretation of ecological issues available on hill. This could lead to under-appreciation of its ecological value amongst the visiting public. In the future consideration could be given to designating Castle Hill as a Local Nature Reserve; indeed it is already on the Kirklees Wildlife and Landscape Advisory Forum “hit list” for Local Nature Reserve designation. Future consideration will also be given to seeking the designation of the hill as a Country Park followed by an application for Green Flag status. These could attract a greater source of funding for both management and interpretation. The Policies established by the Plan would still however be relevant if the hill was designated as a nature reserve and / or wildlife site.

Management of the environs of the Site

- 4.84 The key issues for the environs of the Site relate to the way in which land management regimes affect the many significances of the Site. Land management can affect archaeological remains, ecological habitats, the character of the Hill, people’s ability to access the Site, the setting of the Site and a range of other concerns. As such the challenge for the future will be developing an integrated land management strategy for the environs of the Site that balances the many values associated with it as well as supplying a viable agricultural unit. The Council could take an integrated approach to the management of the area, potentially applying the approach used in developing the Upper Colne Valley Integrated Management Plan, for which Kirklees Culture and Leisure Services via the Countryside Unit is the lead partner (other partners are The National Trust, Peak District National Park

Authority, English Nature, Environment Agency, DEFRA, Yorkshire Water and the University of Huddersfield).

- 4.85 Within this context the Environmental Stewardship scheme being promoted and managed by DEFRA has the opportunity to assist the council and tenant farmers in the Plan Area with delivering an integrated land management regime that could enhance biodiversity, improve access and conserve archaeological remains; this is explained in more detail in Appendix 9.
- 4.86 The scheme is intended to build on the recognised success of the Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Countryside Stewardship Schemes and its primary objectives are to:
- conserve wildlife (biodiversity)
 - maintain and enhance landscape quality and character
 - protect the historic environment and natural resources
 - promote public access and understanding of the countryside
 - resource protection

Within the primary objectives, it also has the secondary objectives of:

- genetic conservation
 - flood management
- 4.87 Environmental Stewardship has three elements and it is possible that Castle Hill and its environs could qualify under the entry level, organic entry level or higher level schemes:

Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) is a ‘whole farm’ scheme open to all farmers and land managers who farm their land conventionally. Acceptance will be guaranteed provided you can meet the scheme requirements. If you have a mix of conventionally and organically farmed land, or if all your land is farmed organically, you should apply for OELS.

Organic Entry Level Stewardship (OELS) is a ‘whole farm’ scheme similar to the ELS, open to farmers who manage all or part of their land organically and who are not receiving aid under the Organic Aid Scheme (OAS) or Organic Farming Scheme (OFS).

Higher Level Stewardship (HLS), which will be combined with ELS or OELS options, aims to deliver significant environmental benefits in high priority situations and areas.

ELS provides a straightforward approach to supporting the good stewardship of the countryside. OELS takes a similar approach but is geared to organic and organic/ conventional mixed farming systems. HLS is designed to build on ELS and OELS to form a comprehensive agreement that achieves a wide range of environmental benefits across the whole farm. HLS concentrates on the more complex types of management where land managers need advice and support and where agreements will be tailored to local circumstances.” (www.defra.gov.uk)

- 4.88 The implementation of Entry Level or Higher Level Stewardship in environs of the Site could deliver significant benefits for the conservation of its significances. Particularly as both schemes include objectives for protecting historic features and ecological habitats.

Past and future development and interventions

Past development

- 4.89 Past developments have left a legacy of issues associated with the former Castle Hill Hotel. The area of land has a detrimental impact on the overall appearance and character of the hill, and has a negative impact on the experience of many of the users and operational staff. The hill would benefit greatly from the resolution of the current situation to ensure that agreements can be reached about the best use of the area.
- 4.90 The past development of Castle Hill, in particular on the site of the Castle Hill Hotel, is a primary concern relating to its archaeological and historical significance. The exact extent of disturbance caused during the construction of the original hotel and outbuildings and the partial construction and demolition of the new hotel needs to be determined and the impact this would have had on the buried archaeological resource needs to be identified. Other past disturbance on the hill also needs to be identified, in particular the locations of services, and the locations of archaeological trenches excavated by Varley and the Tolson Memorial Museum in the mid-20th century.
- 4.91 There is also no current record of the services that run across and off the hilltop. The identification of these services has the potential to allow for the installation of service ducts along current lines subsequently reducing the impact of future development on archaeological remains.

Future development

- 4.92 Any proposals for future development will be of primary concern for all the hill's significances. In particular, the consideration of the impact any proposals will have on the setting and character of the hill and on the surrounding area. Policies to address this are set out in Section 5.
- 4.93 From the results of the public consultation (Appendix 3) it has also been identified that there are mixed feelings about whether or not to develop further on the hill. There is a general consensus of opinion that basic visitor facilities would be desirable (see above). However, only 68% of respondents agreed or agreed strongly with the "Lack of refreshment facilities" being an important issue. Also 130 people indicated that a pub / restaurant would be one of their top three most important improvements; this was the largest number of responses to this question and a further 80 indicated that refreshments would be welcomed. However, it should be noted that 59 respondents would prefer that nothing should be built on the hill.
- 4.94 However, any proposals will need to be carefully designed and developed to ensure that they do not significantly impact on the character and views of the hill, and its archaeological fabric. It is also worth noting, that a sizable minority of respondents to the survey indicated that they did not wish to see any new development on the hilltop and that if facilities have to be supplied these should be located off the hilltop
- 4.95 In addition, any future development on the hill is reliant on an appropriately designed and feasible scheme being granted planning permission and Scheduled Monument Consent.

Small scale interventions

- 4.96 As well as more substantial developments, smaller scale interventions could also impact on the significances of the Site. These include works such as path creation, installation of signage, telegraph poles and drainage. All of these could impact on the fabric of the Site, in particular its archaeological remains, as well as altering and potentially degrading the character and setting of the hill e.g. the current telegraph and electricity poles.
- 4.97 The installation of these smaller scale features over the past 50 years has impacted on the character and fabric of the Site. For instance the telegraph poles are a notable detractor in terms of the setting and character of the Site

whilst the installation of past services e.g. electricity may have also impacted on archaeological remains. It will be important in the future to seek to remove visually degrading items such as the telegraph poles and to ensure that future small-scale interventions are undertaken in a way that respects the character and fabric of the Site.

Section 5:
Conservation Management Policies



5. CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT POLICIES

Introduction

- 5.1 This section presents an overall Statement of Core Values and Key Principles, supported by a number of policies that are intended to guide the future management and enhancement of Castle Hill, and ensure that its status as a Scheduled Monument and Victoria's Tower listed building status are further protected and enhanced. They provide both policy tests for future decisions and detail on actions that require implementation to secure the Site's long-term conservation and use.
- 5.2 The policies have been structured to reflect the Statement of Significance (Section 3) and the identified issues (Section 4). The framework and recommendations presented in Sections 6 and the Enhancement Proposals document reflect the policies outlined below and seek to address the issues identified in Section 4.
- 5.3 The section begins with the Statement of Core Values and Key Principles, this is followed by a series of overarching policies that form the basis for the management and conservation of the Site. Following this policies are provided for a number of specific areas including:
- Future development
 - The Use of Castle Hill
 - Access
 - Archaeological and historical significance
 - Landscape significance
 - Ecological significance
 - Geological significance
 - The setting of the Site

Statement of Core Values and Key Principles

- 5.4 Castle Hill is an evocative place that plays a special role in the identity of Almondbury, Huddersfield and Kirklees. It is valued and loved by the local population and for many people it is an iconic symbol of the area that they live in. The Hill has many important values associated with it including a rich archaeology legacy reflecting over 4000 years of use, a diverse range of ecological habitats and species, its dramatic role in the wider landscape and its use for a range of recreational activities.
- 5.5 Castle Hill will be managed in a way that respects and recognises all of these values and the interrelationships between them. This will require a careful balance to be struck between the conservation of its physical values e.g. archaeology, ecology, geology and landscape and its use by local communities and visitors. It will be vital however to ensure that Castle Hill remains a treasured and widely used place that is valued by local communities as without this its significance will be severely degraded. This means that the site should not be preserved in the past and that compromises may need to be considered between physical conservation and use.
- 5.6 To help achieve this balance, all decisions regarding the future management and enhancement of the Hill will be based on a clear and robust understanding of the Site and the potential issues and impacts that changes could cause. The level of information required will reflect the magnitude of any proposed change and where there is uncertainty a precautionary approach will be taken. This will allow the partners to develop solutions that maximise benefits whilst minimising any harmful effects. The management of Castle Hill will be delivered through a partnership of organisations and individuals working within an agreed management framework and process. This partnership will be led by Kirklees Metropolitan Council who has the ultimate responsibility for the Site. This framework will allow representatives from the Council, local communities, and other stakeholder groups, (with advice from English Heritage and the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service) to come together to enable the long-term conservation of the Hill within the framework of the agreed Conservation Management Plan
- 5.7 The ultimate aim of the long-term management will be to ensure that Castle Hill remains a special place that is treasured and used by the local community and is welcoming to all visitors; and that the archaeology, ecology, geology and landscape of the Site is conserved and presented for the benefit of current and future generations.

Overarching Policies

Key Policy 1: Future decisions relating to management, conservation and enhancement of Castle Hill should respect and sustain all of its significances

- 5.8 As identified in Section 3 there are many significances ascribed to Castle Hill, each of which needs to be considered and respected by all future decisions and actions relating to management, conservation and enhancement of Castle Hill. This policy should underpin all future decisions and provides the overall policy test for such decisions.
- 5.9 More detailed policies relating to each of the significances and issues have been identified and set out below.

Key Policy 2: A management framework should be adopted, implemented and subject to regular review

- 5.10 The adoption and implementation of a management framework for Castle Hill should be implemented as a matter of priority to ensure that any decisions relating to its future use and management are developed with the input of all relevant statutory and non-statutory parties. This will prevent conflicts between parties, ensure that the Site's significances are sustained and allow the Council and its partners to streamline the management process.
- 5.11 Key to this is the nomination of a Council employee as the Site Manager; this role will be critical to coordinating the long-term management of the Site.
- 5.12 Careful consideration should also be given to the development of an Environmental Stewardship scheme for the Site and its environs to ensure that they are appropriately managed, as discussed in Section 4 (Management of the Site) and in Appendix 9.
- 5.13 The proposed Management Framework is set out in Section 6.

Key Policy 3: An appropriate level of capital and revenue funding and resources will be maintained for the management of Castle Hill

- 5.14 The successful long-term management of the Site is reliant on an appropriate level of funding being made available to support the implementation of the management framework and subsequent actions. In addition, resources such as the Ranger need to continue to be maintained to ensure that the Site is managed on a day-to-day rather than episodic basis.

Key Policy 4: The Site will be maintained as a premier recreational destination in Kirklees

- 5.15 The current recreational use of the Site is critical to its significance. This use should be encouraged and maintained as part of the long-term management of the Site.
- 5.16 Where recreational activities conflict with the need to sustain the Site's physical significances, in particular archaeological remains, then measures should be sought to address these conflicts. If no solution is achievable then it may be acceptable to reduce the use of the Site for that particular recreational activity until such a time as measures can be developed.
- 5.17 Consideration should also be given for applications to be made for the designation of Castle Hill as a Local Nature Reserve and as a Country Park, subject to the consideration of the implications involved. This could be followed by an application for Green Flag status. The Green Flag Award is the national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales, and is a means of recognising and rewarding the best green spaces in the country. These steps would be beneficial to its status and future management, and could also bring future funding support.

Key Policy 5: The significances, story and sensitivities of Castle Hill should be communicated to as wide an audience as possible

- 5.18 The majority of visitors do not currently appreciate the rich and complex history of the Hill nor its wide range of other significances. The fact that the Site is sensitive to human action is also not widely appreciated. It is therefore critical to engage a wide audience in communicating these messages to ensure that all visitors understand the importance and sensitivity of the Site.

- 5.19 This could be achieved in the medium term through the development of an Audience Development Plan and Interpretation Plan in accordance with relevant Heritage Lottery Fund guidance.

Future development

Policy FD1: Any future development on Castle Hill should have no significant adverse impact on its:

- unique profile when viewed from outside the site;
- open and exposed character;
- archaeological remains; and
- setting.

- 5.20 Should proposals be brought forward for the enhancement of the Site that include significant built development it will be vital to ensure that any such development does not have any significant adverse impacts on the Site. Key to this will be the conservation of the site's profile, character, archaeological remains and setting.
- 5.21 Proposals would need to be considered in accordance with the policies outlined in this Plan and in line with the Kirklees Unitary Development Plan and Regional / National Planning Policy Guidance (see Appendix 9). Any proposals for a possible new building on Castle Hill would be judged against relevant policies in the adopted Kirklees Unitary Development Plan these include amongst others: **D8**, Green Belt which indicates a presumption against new development unless "very special circumstances" can be demonstrated; **NE8** development within areas of High Landscape Value; **BE9 & BE10**, development and areas of archaeological importance; **T10**, Highway Safety; **T19**, Car Parking and **R21**, proposals for development within the boundary of Castle Hill.

Policy FD2: Any decisions on future enhancement or development on Castle Hill should consider its archaeological potential

- 5.22 The archaeological significance and potential of Castle Hill is critical to the Site and with the exception of the footprints of the former Castle Hill Hotel few areas have been subject to significant disturbance. Decisions on future development should be based on a sound understanding of this potential and should seek to ensure that archaeological remains are not significantly affected. This could potentially restrict any major development within the

Study Area to the extent of the basement constructed for the now removed partially built public house.

- 5.23 This policy also has a bearing on the provision of services to the Site. It is important that current service runs are identified and wherever possible these are re-used to supply services to the Site to prevent further disturbance of archaeological remains.

Policy FD3: The management and enhancement of Castle Hill should not adversely affect its open and exposed character

- 5.24 It will be important to ensure that management and enhancement proposals maintain the open and exposed rural character of Castle Hill. It will be important to retain this sense of “wildness” whilst also delivering infrastructure suitable for the needs of the majority of visitors. Care must be taken not to urbanise the Site, and environmentally sustainable materials should be used wherever possible, in accordance with Council policies.

The use of Castle Hill

Policy U1: Erosion on Castle Hill caused by visitors should be repaired, maintained and controlled

- 5.25 The presence of extensive areas of erosion on the earthworks not only has a detrimental impact on the archaeological and historical integrity of the Site, but also degrades the quality of the visitors’ experience.
- 5.26 An initial programme of erosion repair and restoration should be undertaken as a matter of urgency to tackle the ongoing problems. Following this a programme of monitoring and maintenance should be adopted in consultation with English Heritage and WYAAS. Measures should also be put into place to control the causes of the erosion, in particular by discouraging walkers and other users from using the eroded areas for access into and from the hilltop.
- 5.27 Approaches to tackling this issue are outlined in Sections 6 and the Enhancement Proposals document of this Plan.

Policy U2: Basic visitor facilities should be provided

- 5.28 The results of the public consultation demonstrated that there are many people who use the site who would like to see the provision of basic visitor facilities such as toilets, shelter and a picnic area and interpretation (see Policy U9 for the latter point). The provision of such facilities would improve the experience of many of the users of Castle Hill.
- 5.29 These facilities could be provided as part of any potential future development of the Site or in an off-site location.

Policy U3: Litter management should be enhanced

- 5.30 Littering across Castle Hill has been identified as a significant issue, which detracts from the overall character and appearance of Castle Hill, as well as potentially being hazardous to wildlife on the site. Current facilities for litter disposal on the hill are inadequate to accommodate the large number of visitors that use the hill, and would benefit from being replaced at strategic points across the hill, but not to such an extent that they have a detrimental affect on its overall character. This may also require additional revenue support for the regular emptying of bins and further litter picking operations (see Key Policy 3).
- 5.31 The provision of further litter bins reflects the fact that Castle Hill is an easily accessible green space adjacent to a major urban area. This creates litter and suitable facilities are required to address this issue. If litter bins prove to be ineffective in terms of assisting litter management then other approaches maybe required in the future.

Policy U4: Uses of the Site that conflict with other users or harm the physical significances of the Site should be discouraged, prohibited or managed differently

- 5.32 It has been identified that in some cases there is a significant conflict between uses of Castle Hill. Some of these activities, for example kite buggies, are causing localised erosion and reducing the ability of other users to access parts of the Site. In the first instance, the opportunity could be investigated for developing liaison with the groups undertaking these activities to discuss ways of addressing these issues. In some instances, this could include

organising event days on Castle Hill to allow groups to continue using the Site without significant issues. In other cases uses may need to be discouraged or prohibited, particularly if there are irresolvable health and safety issues.

Policy U5: The organisation and planning of formal events should be incorporated in the Management Framework

- 5.33 The undertaking of any formal events on Castle Hill, such as firework displays, should be organised in consultation with the Management Advisory Group including English Heritage and WYAAS. This will ensure that all events are properly managed and organised and can continue to occur without harming the fabric of the Site. This process will also ensure that all relevant consents, e.g. Scheduled Monument Consent or temporary footpath closure orders, can be secured well in advance of any events. This forward planning will allow Castle Hill to maintain its role as a key base for important events.

Policy U6: Antisocial behaviour should be discouraged by the introduction of measures to control it

- 5.34 There is evidence that Castle Hill is used at night for illegal and inappropriate activities. The provision of a barrier at the bottom of the access to discourage vehicular access onto Castle Hill should be investigated.
- 5.35 The continuation and development of working relationships with the West Yorkshire Constabulary and local neighbourhood watch schemes would also assist in the discouragement of these activities.

Policy U7: The extent of metal detecting on the site should be identified and provisions put in place to prohibit it

- 5.36 There is evidence that metal detecting on the site has resulted in the illegal recovery of items of potential archaeological interest. Policies should be brought forward to counteract this threat. Initially, the undertaking of a monitoring programme to identify the extent of metal detecting on the hill would be beneficial and would help to inform on the types of measures needed to counteract the activities of the metal detectorists.

- 5.37 Appropriate provision should also be made for the inclusion of warning notices on signs at the major gateways to the hill identifying that Castle Hill is a Scheduled Monument and that metal detecting without Scheduled Monument Consent is an illegal activity, as set out in Section 28 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (AMAA) 1979. Where necessary offenders should be cautioned or prosecuted under the terms of the AMAA.

Policy U8: High quality and accessible interpretation material should be provided on Site to enhance the visitor experience

- 5.38 It is important to communicate to all visitors the complex significances and stories associated with Castle Hill. This would enhance the visitor experience, educate people about Castle Hill and help engender respect and understanding for the Site.
- 5.39 This material should cover the full range of significances associated with the site including its archaeology and history (see Policy A3), ecology, geology (see Policy G1) as well as information o the surrounding landscape.
- 5.40 The provision of appropriate interpretational material on the hill, and at Tolson Memorial Museum, as well as the provision of educational material for schools and local societies would assist in developing an understanding and appreciation of the Site by those who use it.

Policy U9: The views and needs of users should be taken into account in future decisions relating to the management, conservation and enhancement of Castle Hill

- 5.41 As was evidenced by the results of the public consultation, the local community has many strong feelings about Castle Hill, and it should be ensured that future proposals are developed in consultation with local communities and their needs and views are taken into account. This could include representation in the Management Advisory Group.

Policy U10: Continue to review the need for further visitor facilities for the Hill

- 5.42 The provision of visitor facilities including basic facilities (see U2) and perhaps more advanced facilities such as refreshments and educational space should

continue to be reviewed pending the resolution of the current situation regarding the site of the former public house. Please also see Policy FD1.

Access

Policy Ac1: Pedestrian access to Castle Hill should be improved with the maintenance and improvement of the footpaths to the hill

- 5.43 Whilst there is a good footpath network leading to Castle Hill it is in a mixed state of repair and is difficult to access in places. Measures to enhance the local footpath network would be beneficial to the users and could encourage more people to access it by foot rather than by car. These measures could include enhancing signage to Castle Hill.
- 5.44 In addition, the possibility of establishing a route from the centre of Huddersfield to Castle Hill should be explored, and waymarked circular trails from centres such as Honley, Almondbury and Huddersfield, supported by illustrated interpretative guides need to be developed as a short term aim.

Policy Ac2: Pedestrian access across Castle Hill should be improved and paths maintained

- 5.45 Currently paths around the hill are in a very mixed state of repair and in places impede users as well as degrading the character and fabric of the Hill. The lack of a complete circuit of the ramparts, due mainly to the access road, is also an issue.
- 5.46 It is important both for the conservation of the Site and the enhancement of the visitor experience that the path network on the Site is significantly improved in terms of its condition and legibility.
- 5.47 Proposals to ensure that the paths are suitably maintained following their enhancement are set out in Section 6.

Policy Ac3: Improvements to public transport links to Castle Hill should be sought

- 5.48 There is a bus service to Castle Hill, but it is relatively infrequent and not advertised as a link to the site. Opportunities should be investigated for the

advertisement of the service in Huddersfield and possibly on the Kirklees Metropolitan Council website. In addition, opportunities for providing an enhanced peak time service should be explored with the relevant operators as this could both diversify the current visitor profile and reduce car use.

Policy Ac4: The condition of the existing access road to the Site should be investigated and if possible enhanced

- 5.49 The current access road to the hill top is difficult for drivers to use and there are conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles. In addition, physical deterioration of the access road is apparent by evidence of damage from vehicle overrun in certain locations. Investigation of the impact of this is needed and recommendations of measures made to minimise future deterioration.
- 5.50 Pedestrian / vehicle conflict is an issue on the access road, and the junction of Lumb Lane and Castle Hill Side. Measures may need to be developed to reduce such conflicts. This could include signage, traffic calming and perhaps a dedicated footway / or additional segregated footpaths.
- 5.51 The possibility of creating a limited number of passing places or areas of road widening should be explored as part of the Phase 1 design process (see the Enhancement Proposals document). This will need to address both issues of road safety and impact on archaeological remains. It is possible that no feasible locations for passing places or road widening will be identified .

Policy Ac5: The condition of the hilltop car park should be improved

- 5.52 At present, the car park at Castle Hill presents an untidy impression of Castle Hill and has a detrimental impact on people's experience of it, possibly leading to a decrease in the respect shown to the hill. With the improvement of the condition of the car park it is possible that it will be recognised as being the main parking area, thus reducing the number of vehicles that park elsewhere on the Site hence reducing erosion and impacts on archaeological remains.

Policy Ac6: Car parking provision on the Site should be reviewed and enhancements sought

- 5.53 Current levels of parking provision are sufficient for off-peak usage although there are reports of peak time overcrowding. In addition to Policy Ac5 (see above) car parking on the hill should be reviewed and enhanced to provide more off-site spaces as this will reduce potential hill-top erosion and the number of vehicles using the access road.
- 5.54 It is not considered appropriate given the sensitivities of the Site (see Key Policy 1, Policies FD1, FD2 and FD3) and the limitations of the access road to expand car parking provision on the hilltop.

Archaeological and historical significance**Policy A1: Important archaeological and historical remains at Castle Hill should be conserved and maintained**

- 5.55 As identified in Section 2, there is a wealth of above and below ground archaeological and historical remains on Castle Hill, based on current evidence, which represent evidence of human activity from at least the Late Neolithic period through to the Second World War. Key to the conservation and correct management of the hill should be the development of an appropriate maintenance strategy that will help ensure the survival of these remains (see Section 6).
- 5.56 In addition, it is important that any future decisions that could affect these important remains are preceded by sufficient archaeological research to ensure that the decisions are compatible with the need to conserve those remains (see Section 6 and Policies FD1 and FD2).

Policy A2: The Varley archive should be reassessed and published, leading to the development of a Research Agenda for Castle Hill

- 5.57 As identified in Section 2, our current understanding of the archaeological and historical development of the hill is based on an incomplete archive that has not been satisfactorily published. It would benefit the development of appropriate management and maintenance strategies, and to assist in furthering relationships with local universities and archaeological societies, to

undertake the reassessment of the extensive archive produced by Varley between 1939 and 1972. This should include interviews with those who undertook the excavations with Varley. It is proposed that any future re-assessment and publication of the archive should be undertaken and funded by any University or other organisation wishing to undertake further archaeological research at Castle Hill.

- 5.58 The results of the assessment can then be used to inform the preparation of a Research Agenda for Castle Hill. This would need to be undertaken in full consultation with the Council, English Heritage and WYAAS.
- 5.59 The benefits of having a complete and well understood archive would be threefold, it would provide information to inform the management of the hill; additional interpretational and educational material; and help address gaps in knowledge.

Policy A3: Appropriate interpretation of the archaeological and historical significance of Castle hill should be provided

- 5.60 In addition to Policy U9 (see below) it is important to ensure that the archaeological and historical significances of the Site are communicated to visitors and a wider audience. This will in the first instance have to reflect current knowledge and understandings. As more information becomes available (see Policies A2 and A4) this material can be updated to reflect this information. The provision of such material should enhance the experience of visitors to Castle Hill and the respect they have for it.

Policy A4: The possibilities for further archaeological research on Castle Hill based on the Research Agenda should be considered

- 5.61 The suitability of Castle Hill for undertaking future archaeological research by academic institutions has been identified during the preparation of the Plan. Any further research, based on the reassessment of the current archive, would undoubtedly benefit the development of our current understanding of the hill.
- 5.62 All such research would need to be undertaken in full consultation with the Council, English Heritage and WYAAS.

Policy A5: All future archaeological research undertaken at Castle Hill should be undertaken with local community involvement

- 5.63 The benefits of including the local community in any future archaeological research at Castle Hill should be considered during the development of any relationships with academic institutions expressing an interest in it. There is much to be gained from involving people in research and the experiences of the many visitors who have been involved in archaeological research on the hill will also be enhanced, and possibly provide a connection between them and the hill, instilling a sense of ownership.
- 5.64 In the first instance this could be taken forward in conjunction with existing interested bodies e.g. The Huddersfield District Archaeological Society. It should however be expanded to include other people and parties who may be interested.

Ecological significance

Policy E1: Further ecological assessment should be undertaken on a regular basis to inform the maintenance and management of the Site

- 5.65 An ecological appraisal was undertaken as part of the preparation of the Plan. Whilst the information provided was sufficient to identify the ecological significances of Castle Hill, it also identified that there was a need for further more detailed ecological assessment of the whole site to inform the detailed maintenance and management proposals.
- 5.66 Given the fact that ecological habitats change and evolve through time it will be important to ensure that these assessments are undertaken on a regular basis (c. every 5 years) to assess the effectiveness of maintenance and management measures and help revise current working practices. The areas of acid grassland, western gorse and linnet and yellowhammer breeding areas would require particular attention.

Policy E2: Important habitats on Castle Hill should, where possible, be enhanced

- 5.67 The Plan has identified a number of important habitats in the Plan Area; these are outlined in Sections 2 and 3. Future management of Castle Hill should

seek to conserve and if possible enhance these habitats where this can be achieved without harming other critical significances such as the conservation of important archaeological remains.

Geological significance

Policy G1: Material on the geological significances of Castle Hill should be included in educational and interpretational material

- 5.68 Castle Hill is on the nomination list for designation as a Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS), in recognition of its importance as a geomorphological site where the relationship between the underlying geology and surface topography can be clearly seen. The slopes below Castle Hill form the Coal Measures escarpment where alternating deposits of shale and harder sandstones form a series of slopes and plateaux. The inclusion of the material already produced in any interpretational and educational material should enhance the quality of the material, in particular with the development of the Castle Hill Geology Trail by the Huddersfield Geology Group, and also the understanding of this aspect of Castle Hill's overall significance.

The Setting of the Site

Policy S1: Future development outside of the Site should respect important views to and from Castle Hill

- 5.69 The setting of Castle Hill in the landscape has been considered in Sections 2 and 4. PPG 16 and the Kirklees UDP both indicate that the setting of a scheduled monument is a material consideration in determining planning applications. This policy supports that view.
- 5.70 It may be appropriate for the Council to explore the possibility of identifying key views of Castle Hill that would warrant identification and policy protection in the emerging Local Development Framework and relevant Area Action Plans. The viewsheds and setting analysis produced for the Plan (see Section 2 and Appendix 8) provide a useful starting point in identifying these locations.

Policy S2: Development proposed within the immediate buffer identified by the setting analysis should be assessed in terms of its potential impact on the setting of Castle Hill

- 5.71 Figure 17 identified an area of land around the site that is considered to be particularly significant in terms of the character and nature of Castle Hill's setting. Proposed developments in this area should be scrutinised in line with guidance contained in PPG 16 (paragraph 27) namely that:

"...where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings, are affected by proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation in-situ i.e., a presumption against proposals which would involve significant alteration or cause damage, or which would have a significant impact on the setting of visible remains."

- 5.72 It may be appropriate for the Council to explore the possibility of defining the immediate setting of the Site in the emerging Local Development Framework and relevant Area Action Plans. The analysis produced for the Plan (see Section 2 and Appendix 8) provides a useful starting point in this regard.

Section 6: Management Framework



6. MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

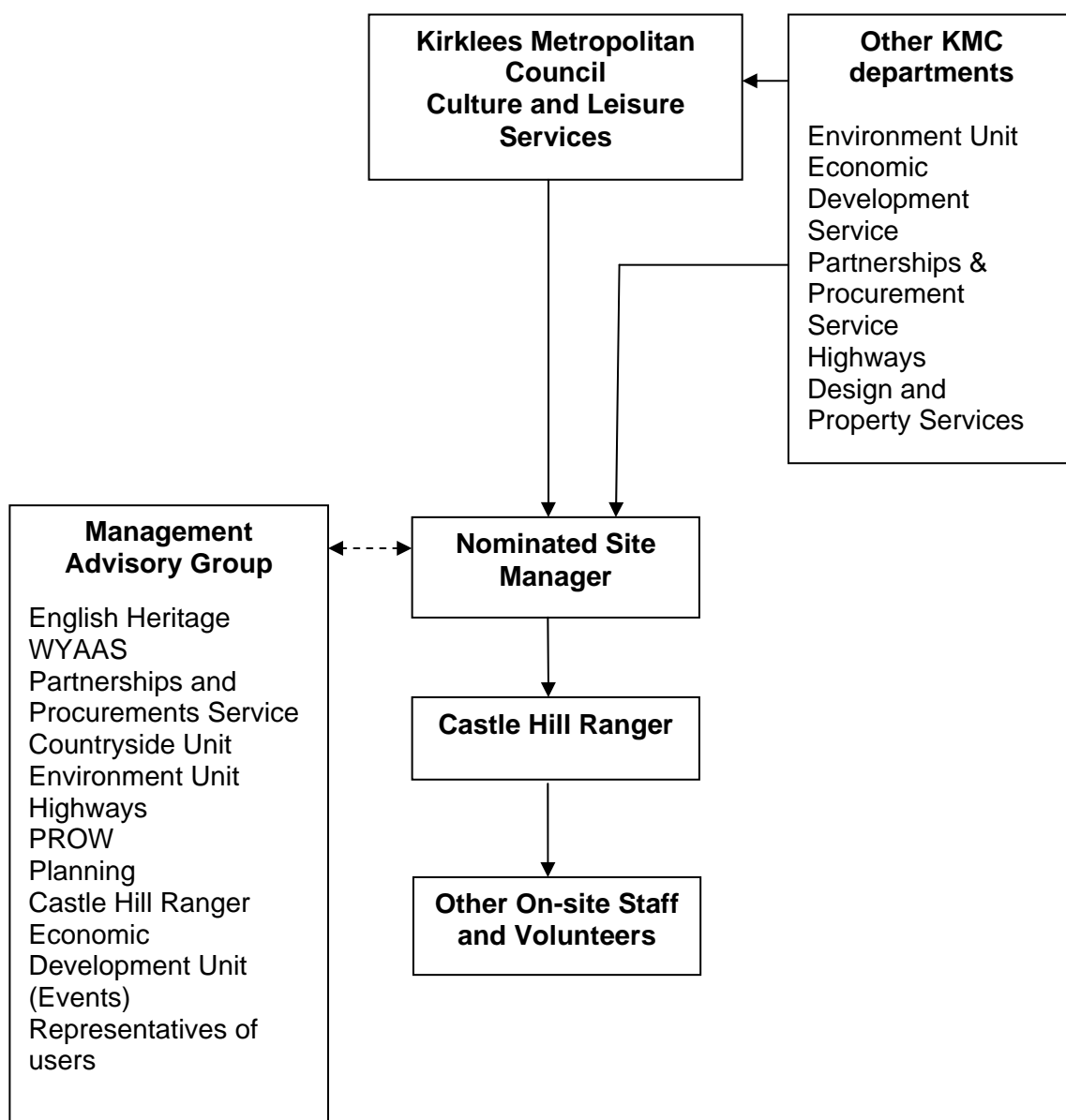
Introduction

- 6.1 Key to the long-term conservation of the Site and its continued use as a major recreational area is the implementation of an effective approach to its management and maintenance. As outlined in the Policies (see above) the implementation of such a framework is considered to be a priority for action.
- 6.2 The need for this framework arises from both the complex physical and intangible significances associated with Site and the broad range of parties involved, on both a statutory and non-statutory basis, with the day-to-day management of the Site.
- 6.3 The following framework has therefore been developed to enable this effective management. The framework consists of three elements:
- **Management Structure:** This defines responsibilities and roles for the key stakeholders and partners involved in the management of the Site
 - **Management Process:** This outlines an approach to programming works on a cyclical basis and also how to address ad-hoc situations that may occur
 - **Management Guidance:** A series of guidelines to assist in the preparation and implementation of management and maintenance works on the Site.
- 6.4 Elements of this framework will be developed and implemented by KMC over the coming months in partnership with English Heritage and WYAAS (see Section 7).

Management Structure

6.5 The following outlines the proposed management structure for the Site, roles and responsibilities are described below.

Proposed Management Structure



Roles and Responsibilities

Culture and Leisure Services: This is the sponsoring department with responsibility for the overall management and maintenance of Castle Hill. As such it is responsible for providing the necessary resources, with support from the wider Council, for the management, maintenance and development of the Hill. The department also organises events, educational programmes and other activities on the Hill that require incorporation into the 5 yearly management and maintenance plan (see below).

Other KMC departments: There are a number of other departments in the Council that may need to undertake works on the Site or organise events and other activities at Castle Hill. These departments will need to liaise with Culture and Leisure Services and the Nominated Site Manager to ensure that all such activities are coordinated and form part of the 5 yearly management and maintenance plan (see below).

Nominated Site Manager: A member of Culture and Leisure Services will need to be nominated as the Castle Hill manager to ensure that all future activities, works and events are coordinated and undertaken in line with Plan's Policies and the Management Guidance (see below). The Site manager would be responsible for the production of the 5 yearly management and maintenance plan and for ensuring that communication is maintained between the various internal departments of the Council and external stakeholders e.g. English Heritage and WYAAS.

Management Advisory Group: This group contains all those parties with statutory and non-statutory responsibilities for the Site. The Group has been developed to oversee and advise on the development of the 5 Yearly Management and Maintenance Plan. It would also be able to advise on future enhancements and developments and any ad-hoc requests. The group would meet on a yearly basis to review the works programme and the issues facing the Site. In between meetings the Site Manager would be able to contact the group should any unforeseen situations occur that require their input. This group will include a representative of users to ensure that their views and thoughts are addressed in future decisions.

Castle Hill Ranger: The Ranger would be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Site and the implementation of elements of the 5 yearly Management and Maintenance Plan. The Ranger would also sit on the Advisory Group to ensure that decisions reflect the reality of the situation on the ground and to provide feedback on the results of ongoing works.

Other On-site Staff and Volunteers: These would be responsible to the Ranger and would assist with management and maintenance works on the Site.

Management Process

6.6 The following management process has been developed to allow the Council and its partners to implement the required management and maintenance works on the Site in a manner that reflects the known sensitivities of the Site.

6.7 The process consists of three elements:

- 5 yearly Management and Maintenance Plan
- Yearly update and notification process
- Ad-hoc requirements

5 yearly Management and Maintenance Plan & Yearly update and notification process

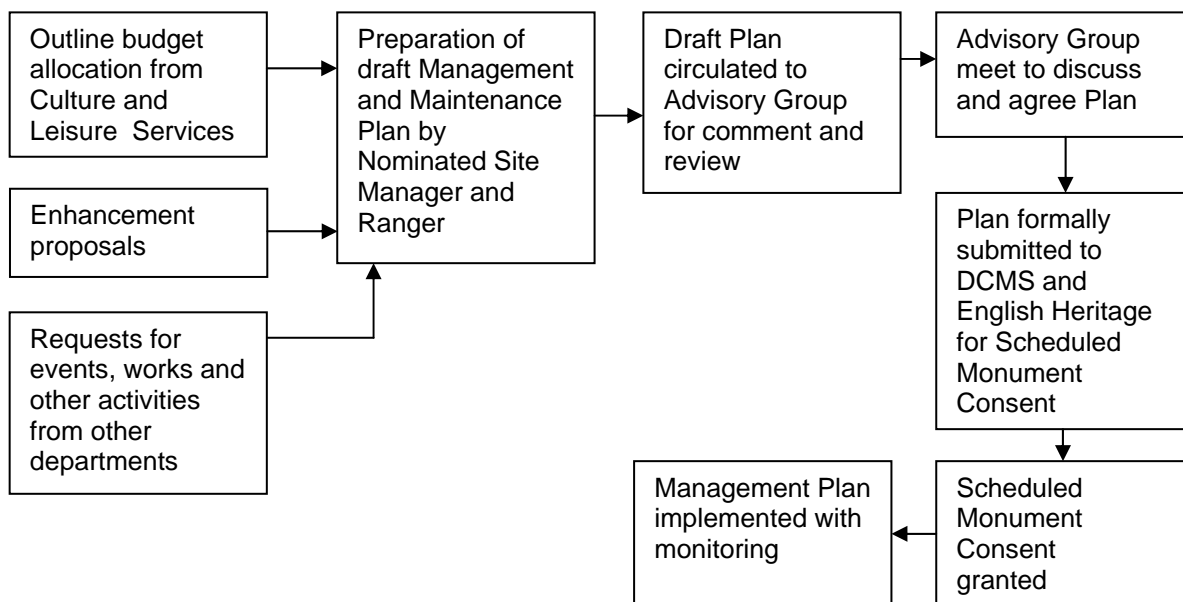
6.8 The 5 yearly Management and Maintenance Plan is a critical element of the future management of the Site. It would consist of a written report outlining and describing the proposed works on the Site, events and other activities. This single plan could then be used to gain Scheduled Monument Consent for a raft of works and events rather than requiring separate consents for each task or event.

6.9 For example, the 5 year Plan would outline the number of events that would be undertaken each year, the maintenance schedule and management works e.g. erosion control. This would include a programme of regular maintenance activity on the Site e.g. grass cutting, footpath maintenance, scrub management and small-scale erosion repair. This 5 Year Plan would be developed by the Site Manager and Ranger using the Management Guidance (see below) and Policies (see Section 5). The plan would then be submitted to the Advisory Group and, as appropriate, the Council's Cabinet Committee for Regeneration for comment, review and agreement (see process below). Following this it could be formally submitted to DCMS so that it can receive Scheduled Monument Consent.

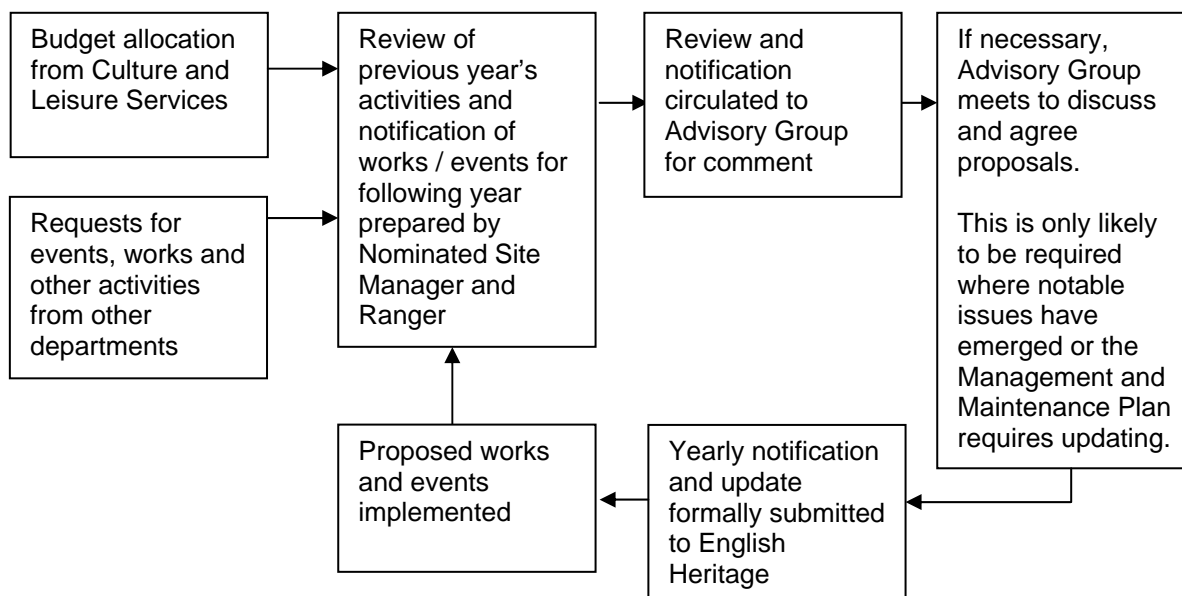
6.10 The initial 5 year plan would be drafted alongside the development of the proposed enhancement works (see the Enhancement Proposals document). This will allow the Plan to reflect the future management and maintenance requirements of the Site following implementation of the enhancement proposals.

- 6.11 Following the initial plan a yearly update and notification process would be implemented. This would allow the Advisory Group to review the success of the plan on a year-by-year basis and to highlight any issues that may be need to be addressed in the following year or through revision of the Plan. It is likely that the initial 5 yearly plan will require revision after a year or two as procedures and methods of working develop on the Site. This feedback process would involve all members of the advisory group to discuss issues in a “no-blame” scenario and will allow the Management Guidance to be revised as appropriate.
- 6.12 A review of the Conservation Management Plan will be undertaken alongside the 5 yearly review of the Management Framework to ensure that it is updated according to the changes made during that time, and to update it according to any new issues or policy changes.

Development of Initial 5 Year Management and Maintenance Plan

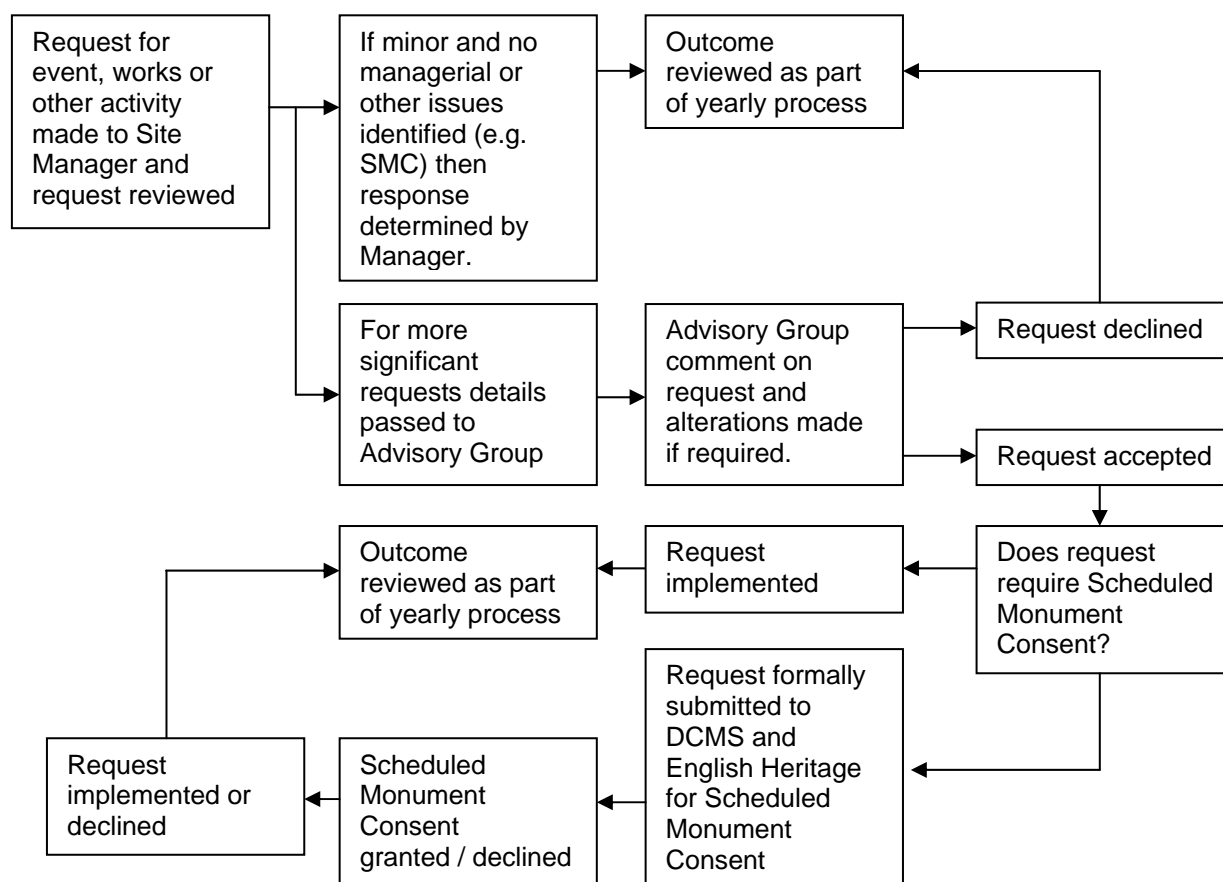


Yearly update and notification process



Ad-hoc Situations

6.13 It is recognised that additional items e.g. an extra event, may occur outside of the scope of the proposed works that would require review and input. The following identifies the process through which these could be addressed.



6.14 These ad-hoc situations should be relatively uncommon if the management and maintenance plan is appropriately sufficient in its scope to address all likely events, activities and works required on the Site. It should also be noted that ad-hoc work may not need a Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) application and it may be possible to agree any such works as an amendment to the existing SMC.

6.15 The above process may therefore only be required in exceptional circumstances or when urgent action, such as unexpected remedial work, is required.

Management Guidance

6.16 The following are a series of short guidance notes for the implementation of particular activities or works and more general guidance on certain actions e.g. vehicle movements. These guidance notes are designed to aid the management of the Site and planning of the yearly work programme. They cover a range of areas including:

- Vehicle Movements
- Footpath maintenance
- Erosion repairs
- Scrub management
- Events
- Grassland management
- Temporary works

Vehicle Movements

6.17 Vehicle movements on the Site should be restricted to hard surfaced areas in Zone B. Where vehicle access is required outside of these areas for maintenance or other activities then only light vehicles with balloon tyres should be used. In wet weather, or following extending periods of wet weather, it may inappropriate to use even these forms of vehicles.

6.18 Tracked vehicles should be avoided wherever possible. If tracked vehicles do need to move across non-surfaced areas then a temporary non-intrusive surface should be laid to accommodate these movements. This should be removed immediately after use.

6.19 Failure to observe this guidance could result in significant damage to archaeological remains and ecological habitats.

Path Maintenance

6.20 The maintenance of paths should be undertaken in accordance with the 5 yearly management and maintenance programme. All paths should be maintained to an appropriate standard. Guidance on this can be gained from the Council Public Rights of Way (PROW) team.

- 6.21 Material used to repair footpaths and other surfaces should not be taken from the Site as this could damage archaeological deposits. In particular, all materials should be low alkaline and should blend with the style of surface being repaired.
- 6.22 The use of machinery to repair paths should be minimised as this increases the risk of damaging habitats and archaeological remains. It would be more appropriate to repair paths by hand.
- 6.23 Path repairs should be contained within the original extent of the path to prevent gradual widening and encroachment of paths onto surrounding surfaces.

Erosion repairs

- 6.24 Erosion repairs should tackle all major areas of erosion in the first instance part of the proposed enhancement works (see the Enhancement Proposals document). New minor areas of erosion that develop following this initial phase of works should be addressed by the 5 yearly management and maintenance plan.
- 6.25 It is important that the exact approach to repairing erosion is agreed with English Heritage and WYAAS prior to commencing the initial repair programme. The following is only general guidance and will require refinement as part of the enhancement works and development of the 5 yearly management and maintenance plan.
- 6.26 Areas of significant erosion should be identified and closed off using temporary fencing (this would need to have minimal ground disturbance). The reason for closure should be clearly highlighted in public notices on the fencing.
- 6.27 The initial stage of the repair would be to identify whether any material at the base of the erosion scar could be reused without harming archaeological earthworks. This may require archaeological advice. Should the material be determined to be appropriate for re-use then archaeological supervision of its removal may be required.

- 6.28 The first stage of the physical repair process would involve recording the erosion scar to facilitate long-term monitoring. This should include a map location and scaled photographs.
- 6.29 Following this an appropriate geo-textile surface would be laid and fixed to the erosion scar. Material would then be built over this to restore the profile of the damaged area. This would then need to be reseeded and fenced off until stable. In some instances a mesh, either coated metal or plastic, may need to be fixed over the refilled scar to hold the material in and prevent animal burrowing. This technique has proved successful at a number of other sites.
- 6.30 Monitoring by English Heritage and WYAAS would be appropriate over the initial phase of works to help develop the approach and ensure that works are undertaken to an appropriate standard. Therefore time will need to be allowed for monitoring visits. The success of erosion repairs would be monitored on a yearly basis and the results reported in the yearly review process.

Scrub management

- 6.31 Scrub management should be undertaken by hand and material removed from the site. The areas for management should be agreed with the Environment Unit to ensure that ecological concerns are adequately addressed.
- 6.32 As identified in Section 4, scrub management should occur outside of bird breeding seasons.
- 6.33 Other woody vegetation on the site should be managed in a similar manner.

Grassland management

- 6.34 Grassland on the hilltop (Zones A, B and C) should be managed for recreational purposes but without the use of fertilisers and / or lime. An appropriate mowing and reseeded regime should be developed as part of the 5 year Management and Maintenance Plan in consultation with Environment Unit and Countryside Unit. Machinery should, wherever possible, be kept off the ramparts to prevent erosion and damage.

- 6.35 Grassland management in Zones D, F, G, H and I should seek to enhance and strengthen the acid grassland habitats. This could occur through the implementation of a stewardship scheme. The maintenance of these areas should be undertaken as part of the 5 year plan.

Events

- 6.36 Infrastructure e.g. generators etc required to support events should only be placed on hard surfaces with Zone B, in effect the car park.
- 6.37 Small marquees for low attendance events can be set-up on the grass south-east of the car park in Zone B but grassed areas should not be used to hold events in wet weather or after periods of considerable rain. Events that are likely to attract significant audiences should only be held in dry weather and marquees should preferably be established on the car park in Zone B to prevent erosion through visitor footfall. If marquees are established on the grassed areas for larger events then temporary flooring should be used within the marquee to prevent significant damage to the grassed surface. In addition, tent pegs should go no more than 15cm (6 inches) into the grassed surfaces.
- 6.38 All vehicle movements associated with events should follow the guidance outlined above.
- 6.39 The use of the outer bailey (Zone C) for events has the potential to damage archaeological earthworks in the area. It is therefore not appropriate to stage events in this area.
- 6.40 The use of the hill top as a base for firework displays is acceptable as long as firework supports are inserted no more than 15cm (6 inches) into the ground surface and appropriate protection is provided at their base to prevent grass burning. In addition, fireworks should not be mounted on the ramparts. It is vital that damage to vegetation does not occur through burning.
- 6.41 Should open fires be required as part of an event then these should be built in portable fire pits that would not disturb the ground surface nor vegetation.
- 6.42 It is critical that following all events the hill is immediately cleared of all litter and infrastructure. This needs to be undertaken in line with the above guidance. In particular, great care must be taken when removing pegs or

other items inserted into the ground surface to minimise disturbance. Also vehicles used in the clean-up operation should adhere to the above guidance.

Temporary works

- 6.43 Where compounds or storage areas are required to support on-site works these should either be situated in an appropriate location off-site or within the extent of the upper car park (Zone B). Grassed areas should not be used.

Section 7: Next Steps



7. NEXT STEPS

- 7.1 The following outlines the principal next steps that will be undertaken to ensure the successful implementation of the policies and recommendations set out in the Conservation Management Plan. A description of the tasks, relevant policies and timescale for implementation is set out below:

Task	Relevant Policies	Timeframe
<p>Establish the Management Advisory Group</p> <p>The Management Group is an integral part of the overall management framework which will comprise representatives from the key stakeholders and members of the local community.</p> <p>Its successful implementation will ensure that the issues identified in the Plan are addressed and that the policies and enhancement proposals are acted upon.</p>	<p>Key Policies 1 – 5</p> <p>FD2, FD3</p> <p>U4, U5, U6, U7, U9, U10</p> <p>Ac3, S1, S2</p>	<p>2006</p>
<p>Prepare the first 5 Yearly Management and Maintenance Plan</p> <p>This is a critical element of the future management of the Site. It will consist of a written report outlining and describing the proposed works on the Site, events and other activities, and will ensure that all relevant permissions for works, maintenance and events have been sought.</p> <p>The initial 5 year plan will be drafted alongside the development of the proposed enhancement works. This will allow the Plan to reflect the future management and maintenance requirements of the Site following implementation of the enhancement proposals.</p> <p>Following the initial plan a yearly update and notification process will be implemented to allow the Management Group to review the success of the plan on a year-by-year basis and to highlight any issues that may be need to be addressed in the following year or through revision of the Plan.</p>	<p>Ac1, Ac2, Ac5, Ac6</p> <p>A1,</p> <p>E2</p>	<p>2006</p>

Task	Relevant Policies	Timeframe
<p>Design and commence implementation of First Phase Enhancement Proposals</p> <p>Subject to the formal approval of capital funding, it is currently anticipated that some of the works will be taken through the detailed design process in 2006 - 2007 with work commencing before the end of that financial year</p>	<p>U1, U2, U3, U8</p> <p>Ac1, Ac2, Ac5 & Ac6</p> <p>A3, E2& G1</p>	<p>2006-2008</p>
<p>Consider the preparation of an application for Environmental Stewardship</p> <p>The Environmental Stewardship Scheme presents the opportunity to assist the Council and tenant farmers of the area with delivering an integrated land management regime that could enhance biodiversity, improve access, repair walls and conserve archaeological remains.</p>	<p>FD1, FD3</p> <p>E2 & S1</p>	<p>2006-2007</p>
<p>Consider the preparation of an application for Local Nature Reserve and Country Park status, followed by an application for Green Flag status.</p> <p>An application for Local Nature Reserve and Country Park status could be brought forward in the short term following a full assessment of the implications. An application for Green Flag status could be submitted following the completion of the first phase enhancement proposals,</p>	<p>Key Policies 4 & 5</p> <p>E2</p>	<p>2006-2009</p>
<p>Review the existing footpath connections to and from the hill</p> <p>A large number of users (28% of those consulted) make their way to the hill on foot. The public rights of way network leading to Castle Hill is in relatively poor condition in places and lacks signage. A review of the current condition of the network would assist in developing a strategy for the improvements of the current rights of way network and would encourage more people to make their way to the hill by alternative methods.</p>	<p>Key Policy 4</p> <p>Ac1, Ac2</p>	<p>2006-2008</p>

Task	Relevant Policies	Timeframe
<p>Develop partnerships with relevant bodies to develop an archaeological research agenda for the hill</p> <p>The management of the archaeological resource of the Site needs to be based on a better understanding of its development through time and its remaining archaeological potential. This coupled with the desire of local community groups and academic institutions to undertake further research means that a properly constituted research framework will need to be prepared.</p>	<p>A2, A4, A5</p>	<p>2006-2008</p>

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Further information about Castle Hill and the
Conservation Management Plan can be found
on the Council's Website www.kirklees.gov.uk