

Castle Hill, Huddersfield



STATUS: Local Geological Site

OTHER DESIGNATIONS: Ancient Monument and Local Nature Reserve

COUNTY: West Yorkshire

DISTRICT: Kirklees

OS GRID REF SE 152 140

OS 1:50,000 Landranger 110 Sheffield and Huddersfield

OS 1:25,000 Explorer 288 Bradford and Huddersfield

BGS 1:50,000 Sheet 77 Huddersfield

FIRST DESIGNATED by West Yorkshire RIGS Group in 1996

DATE OF MOST RECENT SURVEY West Yorkshire Geology Trust in September 2009

SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION produced by Ian Chisholm

DESIGNATION SHEET UPDATED August 2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Castle Hill is an important geomorphological site where the relationship between the underlying geology and surface topography can be 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 benches.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:

Castle Hill, with its triple system of ramparts and ditches, is a fine example of a Northern British hillfort. A series of excavations completed in 1972 identified 3 periods of occupation; Neolithic, Iron Age and medieval.

Victoria Tower, constructed on the summit plateau in 1899, commemorates the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. On the top of Victoria Tower is a brass directional dial erected by the family of Charles Thomas Clough, who was born and brought up in Huddersfield and became a noted geologist. He was employed by the British Geological Survey from 1875 – 1916, largely in the Highlands of Scotland and in northern England. He died in an accident while studying the rocks in a narrow railway cutting near Edinburgh.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE:

This is a unique site for educational and recreational visits, where geology, geomorphology and archaeology combine to form a distinctive landmark in the Huddersfield district.

AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS:

Castle Hill is an excellent viewpoint with panoramic views of both Millstone Grit and Coal Measures landscapes. The wooded areas in the valleys around Castle Hill provide sanctuary to flora and fauna.

ACCESS AND SAFETY:

Park in the lay-by along Lumb Lane and then walk up the steps towards Victoria Tower. It is possible to use the public car park adjacent to Victoria Tower, although the car access to the top of Castle Hill is poor.