



Castle Hill

A place in Huddersfield where we feel at home

An Exploring and Belonging Reading Resource
created by



In collaboration with refugees and asylum seekers
living in Huddersfield

Entry 3





Castle Hill

Produced by MESH
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This is an Exploring and Belonging MESH project resource, supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The Exploring and Belonging project encourages refugees and asylum seekers to think about what is of value as local heritage in the place they live in Yorkshire & Humber.

Participants visited, researched and wrote about places. They discussed what it was about these places that gave them a sense of belonging.

This reading resource has been created by MESH in collaboration with these participants.

With huge thanks to our session participants and volunteers, alongside our partners at Third Sector Leaders Kirklees, Kirklees Local Studies Library and Kirklees Libraries for all their help and support.



We walked up Castle Hill together. It is close to Huddersfield, so you can see it from the town. It is called Castle Hill because there used to be a castle here, but there isn't any more.

It was a bit steep, so we took a taxi part of the way! We had good views of Huddersfield from the top. It wasn't raining.

We took lots of photographs.



The hill is a local nature reserve.
We saw rabbits and other
animals and birds.

There are some notices that give
information about the wildlife
and the history of the hill.

We foraged for apples and other wild food. We found rosehips, which are full of vitamin C, and hawthorn, which is good for your heart.



In the past, many people ate wild food in Britain. Some people still do.



There is a well at the top of the hill. People used to get water from the well hundreds of years ago.

Now it is covered up so people don't fall in. It is very deep!

There are traces of old walls and an old fort. The first fort was built around 500 BCE. Even before this, people lived on the hill.



Archaeologists (ar-kay-olo-jists), found stone and bronze tools here. Archaeologists dig to find signs of past lives.

The castle was constructed in the 12th Century.



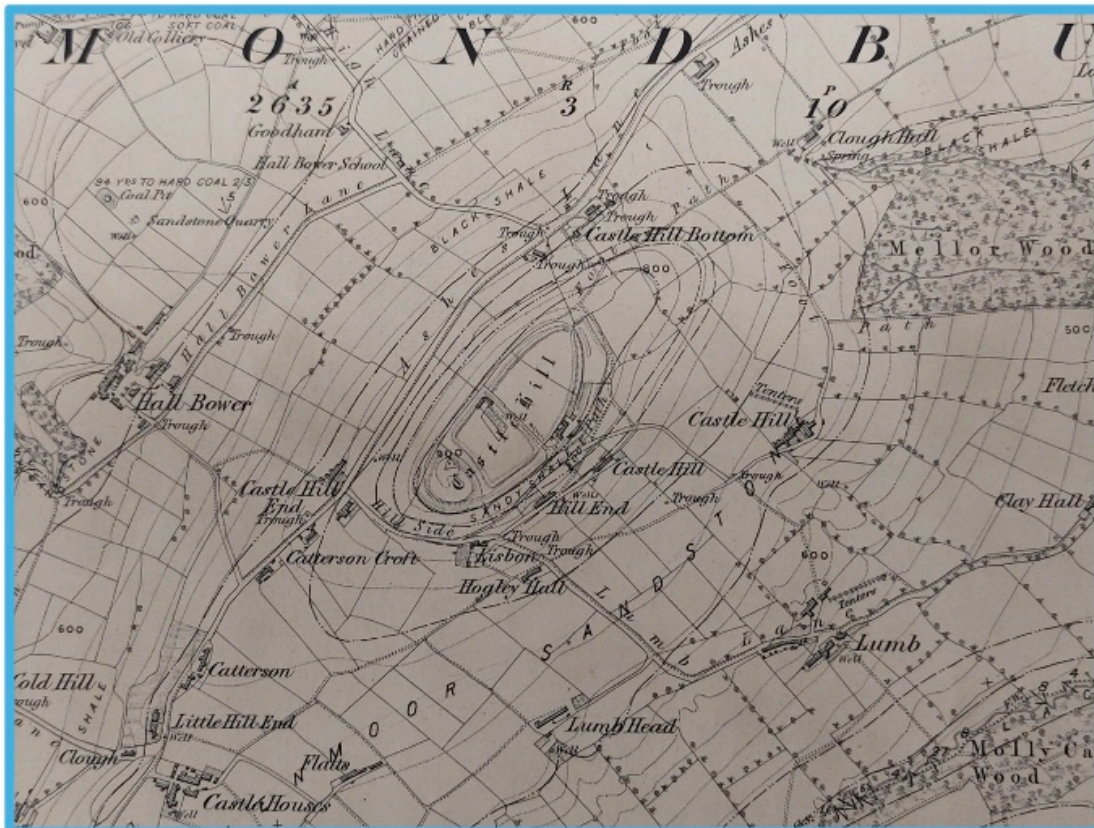
Today in its place stands a Victorian tower, built in 1899 to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The Jubilee marked 60 years that Victoria was ruler of Britain and the British Empire.

It is now an important landmark overlooking Huddersfield.



We saw these maps of Castle Hill when we visited the Local Studies Library in Huddersfield.

This map of Castle Hill is from 1854. The lines on this map are called contours. They show that the hill is steep.



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The hill is important to Huddersfield because people have lived here for thousands of years. When you see the hill you know you are in Huddersfield.

This photo shows Castle Hill in about the 1940s.



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The bus is stuck in the deep snow on the road near the top of the hill.

Can you see the tower?

Kite-flying is popular on Castle Hill, because it is high up and windy. It would be dangerous to do this in a storm!



We didn't have kites with us that day, but we imagined flying them there.

Tanzila says: “In my home country there are kite flying festivals.”



In Pakistan, India and Afghanistan, one of the most famous festivals is called Basant. During this festival, people fly colourful kites.

Kite flying is exciting and beautiful to watch, but it can also be dangerous because sharp strings are sometimes used to cut other kites.

This is the beacon on Castle Hill.



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A beacon is a big fire that was lit when there was danger or a celebration.

You can see it from far away. Some people say that on a clear day you can see it from York!

Castle Hill is high, so it is a good place to come on Bonfire Night, New Years Eve or Diwali. You can see all the fireworks.

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There are many festivals with fireworks in the winter. Fireworks and bonfires are good on dark nights.

Castle Hill is wild and beautiful.



We all need places like this,
where we can breathe the fresh
air and feel relaxed and free.

Friends and family can gather at Castle Hill!



MESH

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Exploring & Belonging Project

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