

Castleton Parish Statement

(draft)



Introduction Castleton is a vibrant village in the heart of the magnificent Peak District National Park. It has a rich blend of history in the centre of one of the most popular locations for walkers, whether they are casual walkers or experienced fell trekkers. There is a range of pubs, cafes, and other eating places to suit everyone's tastes during and at the end of an active day.

Geography Castleton village is situated at the head of the Hope Valley. It straddles the white peak (limestone to the south) and the dark peak (millstone grit to the north). It is right at the heart of some of the most attractive scenery in the Peak District National Park (PDNP). Mam Tor and Lose Hill look down on the village and the iconic Winnats Pass which is on one of two roads in/out of the village. Winnats Pass provides access to the west – Buxton, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Manchester and Manchester Airport. The other road in/out of Castleton is down the Hope Valley to Hope village, Hathersage, Sheffield and Derby.



Castleton Parish Statement (draft)



History Looking down on Castleton is Peveril Castle which dates from the 11th Century and was built to protect the local lead mining and hunting. Lead mining was carried out by the Romans. A small settlement (Pechesers) was recorded at Peak Cavern in 1086 (The Domesday Book) and the planned village was probably laid out in the 12th century.

Villagers There are between 500 and 600 permanent residents, there are many elderly residents and only a few families with children.

Businesses There is a wide range comprising 4 caverns, 1 Castle (English Heritage), 2 outdoor shops, 2 “Outward bound” centres plus the Rotary centre, 5 jewellery shops, PDNPA visitor centre (with café), 7 pubs, bakery/general store, post office/general store, 5 cafes, Cambion electronics company, several small businesses (builders, decorators, computer support etc.), several farms (beef cattle and sheep, no dairy). There is one empty shop (formerly an outdoor shop).

Facilities. Village Hall, Parish Centre/Methodist Church, Parish Church (CofE), primary school.

Residences. Approximately 300 houses including second homes, holiday lets, B&Bs. A few houses are unoccupied.

Employment. Most employment is in the tourist trade and related activities, mainly in pubs, shops and cafes. Several “one-man” businesses. One major employer Cambion although only one village resident works there.



Castleton Parish Statement (draft)



Tourism and tourists Tourists visit Castleton for its scenery (the heart of the Peak Park), plus the four caverns and Peveril castle. Tourism is an all-year-round business but the summer months, and sunny Bank holidays can be extremely busy. There are many places to stay, including B&Bs, holiday lets, pubs. There is one AirBnB property but no hotels. A subjective impression is that many tourists come back year after year. Special village events include the Garland ceremony and the Christmas lights and the Christmas Tree display in the local church. The outward bound centres and the Rotary centre cater mainly for school age children. The majority of tourists appreciate the village and the surrounding countryside. However, some events provide no benefits to the village while disrupting normal life (see events section below).

Village dynamics The major “stakeholders” are the villagers who live here and the businesses which are mainly tourist dependent (B&Bs, shops etc.). Other stakeholders include non-residential property owners and farmers, the PDNPA and the National Trust, and the Environment Agency. English Heritage owns Peveril Castle.

Governance Castleton has its own Parish Council which is one of the smallest in the PDNP, with just 7 Councillors. Castleton also deals with PDNPA (including planning), High Peak Borough Council (HPBC) and Derbyshire County Council (DCC). It has two Councillors who sit on HPBC.

Housing There is a range of housing types in Castleton from small bungalows to very substantial properties. There are a few HPBC rented properties. Many of the properties in the heart of the village are several hundred years old. There has been one new house built in the last five years (on the site of a ruin). There were plans for building affordable housing (potential sites were identified) but the plans did not come to fruition. House purchases tend to be by people outside the Hope Valley. It is a common complaint among villagers that prices are too high for locals.



Castleton Parish Statement (draft)



Health and education services Castleton has a village school which currently has 18 pupils (at one stage it was as low as 5). The school uses the Village Hall for lunchtime meals. Hope Valley College, in Hope, provides secondary education (11 to 16 years) for many of the villages in the Hope valley and beyond. There is a medical centre and a separate dental centre in Hope, just over one mile away. Hospitals are in Sheffield, Stockport and Chesterfield.

Public Transport Facilities There are regular and fairly frequent bus services to Sheffield (mostly hourly) and regular but slightly less frequent services to Bakewell. There are occasional bus services to Buxton and Chesterfield. Hope railway station, which is two miles from Castleton, is on the line along the Hope Valley, which connects Manchester and Sheffield – most services are hourly in both directions. Castleton will shortly have an electric car recharging point. There needs to be better co-ordination between the buses and trains, to synchronise both modes of transport. Some residents in Castleton and nearby locations commute to Sheffield for their work.

Connectivity Broadband strengths in the village are good and residents are able to download Netflix for example. Nevertheless, higher speeds would be welcome! Mobile phone connectivity is improving and is through Vodafone and O2 for most areas of the village. However there are pockets where the signal is weak due to the local geography e.g. the houses near to Peak Cavern. Castleton has some elderly residents who do not have computers or internet access and they are reliant on help from those who do.

Tourism and event management For the most part, tourism is well managed. At busy times, farmers open fields for parking to increase capacity. However, a balance needs to be struck between accommodating visitors and avoiding disruption for residents. There are a number of issues which need to be addressed.



Castleton Parish Statement (draft)



Parking This is a contentious issue in most places and Castleton is no exception. Visitors are reluctant to pay for parking and will tend to park in residential streets in order to avoid charges. DCC tried to raise money by increasing areas where charges applied while introducing new restrictions on streets where parking is permitted. These proposals were eventually put on hold following a campaign by residents (led by the Parish Council). Since then, HPBC has extended paid parking in their car park to 24 hours (previously it was daytime only) while at the same time the Peak Cavern has introduced parking charges for its films/concerts held in the cavern. The predictable result has been an increase in parking on other streets and worse, traffic congestion on Goose Hill/the Stones with cars unable to park or even turn around. These are examples of self-inflicted wounds resulting from a lack of consideration of the impact of their actions on the wider village community. We need to encourage visitors to arrive by public transport while accepting that we should maintain or even increase current parking capacity.

Event management There are several aspects to this that need to be addressed. Many events are well managed and pass off without any problems. The problematic events relate to road closures and the granting of licences. Winnats Pass is an iconic route particularly for cyclists and this has meant that commercial organisations have successfully applied to close Winnats Pass to traffic. The road is the only route west out of the village and is not only the gateway to Manchester and the airport but it is also the route taken by ambulances coming to the Hope Valley (not just Castleton) from Stepping Hill hospital in Stockport. The diversion adds at least 20 minutes to a journey from the Manchester direction. The Parish Council was so concerned about this that it commissioned a traffic survey which showed that traffic up and down Winnats Pass is over 36000 vehicles a week. The Council has written to both event organisers and HPBC about this. The Council has never received a reply from the event organisers. HPBC have been in contact and have agreed to inform the Parish Council about forthcoming licences and road closures. This is a step in the right direction but still a long way from the required position which is that the Council is consulted prior to applications being granted so the opinions of the residents can be taken into account.



Castleton Parish Statement (draft)



Village strengths. A vibrant tourist-based economy, which enables the village to have pubs, cafes, B&Bs, a Post Office/general store, bakery/grocery store, gift shops including locally mined Blue John based items, and other businesses to prosper. It is an all-year-round business environment. Castleton is within an hour's drive of the Sheffield and Manchester conurbations (this can be a mixed blessing!). The facilities for tourists include the PDNPA Visitors centre (the second largest after Bakewell). Castleton has relatively good transport links. The community is vibrant, including several societies.

Village weaknesses. The weaknesses are a mixture of long term and short term. Essentially, the short term problems are a function of the sheer number of tourists or are caused by certain types of events. Essentially, the short term problems arise from congestion within the village at peak times. Some of these problems are exacerbated by a lack of co-operation and coordination with and between the planning authorities. The events paragraph below provides examples. The longer term problems are much more structural, for example an ageing population or environmental issues.

Longer term issues. As stated above, Castleton, in common with many villages, has an ageing population. In the past, there have been Brownie packs and youth clubs but these are no longer in operation because of the lack of children. House prices are relatively high and most houses are purchased by people without families. The majority of jobs are at or close to minimum wage. The greatest need for Castleton is highly paid jobs but it is difficult to see how this could be achieved. In the past, there was a proposal to build some affordable houses but this came to nothing. Even if affordable houses were built, it would be difficult to attract families with young children or to ensure that they were "preferred buyers".

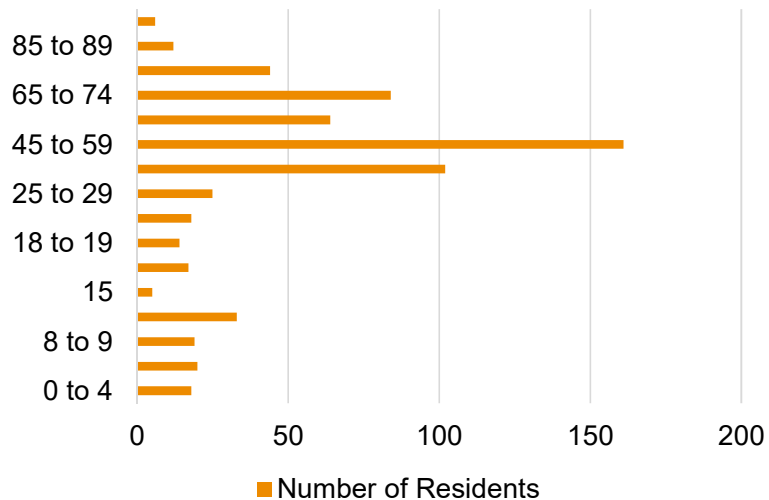


Castleton Parish Statement (draft)

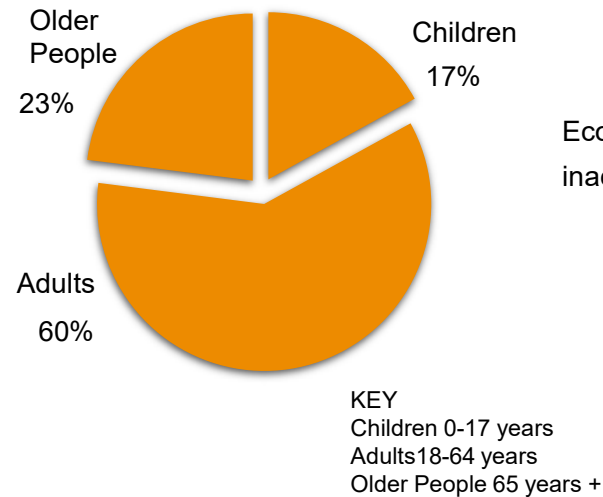


Population and Demographics

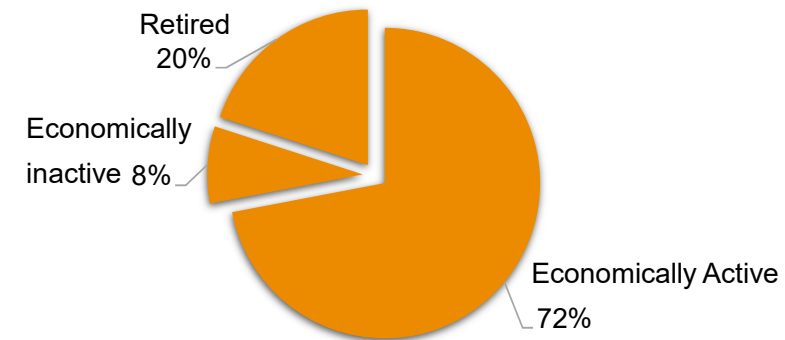
Population Age Range



Children, Adults and Older People



Working and Non Working Adult Population (18+ years)



Source: Census 2011

The parish of Castleton has a population of 642 residents (2011 census).

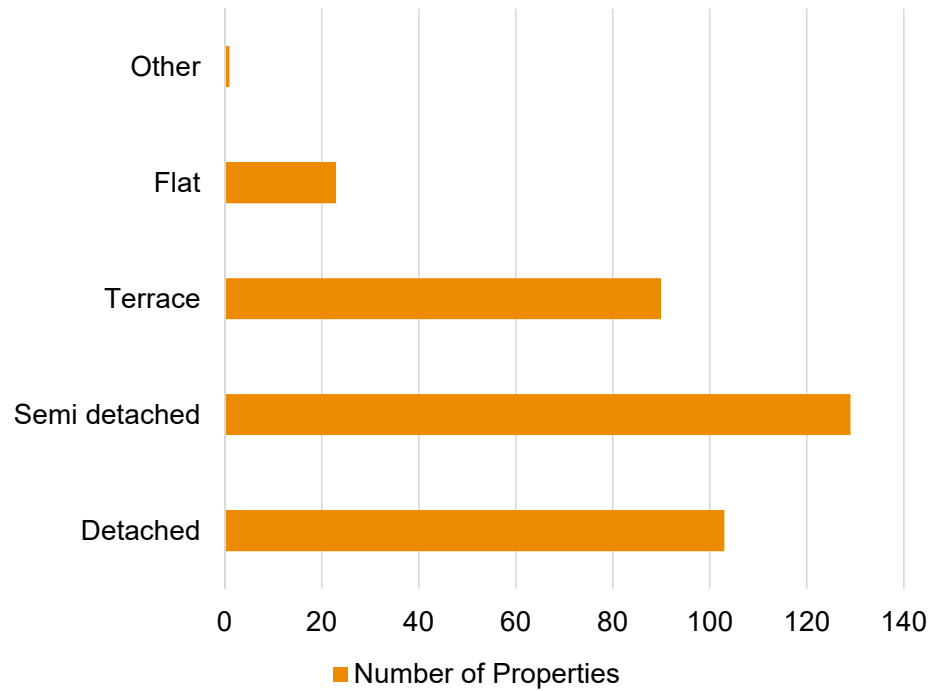


Castleton Parish Statement (draft)

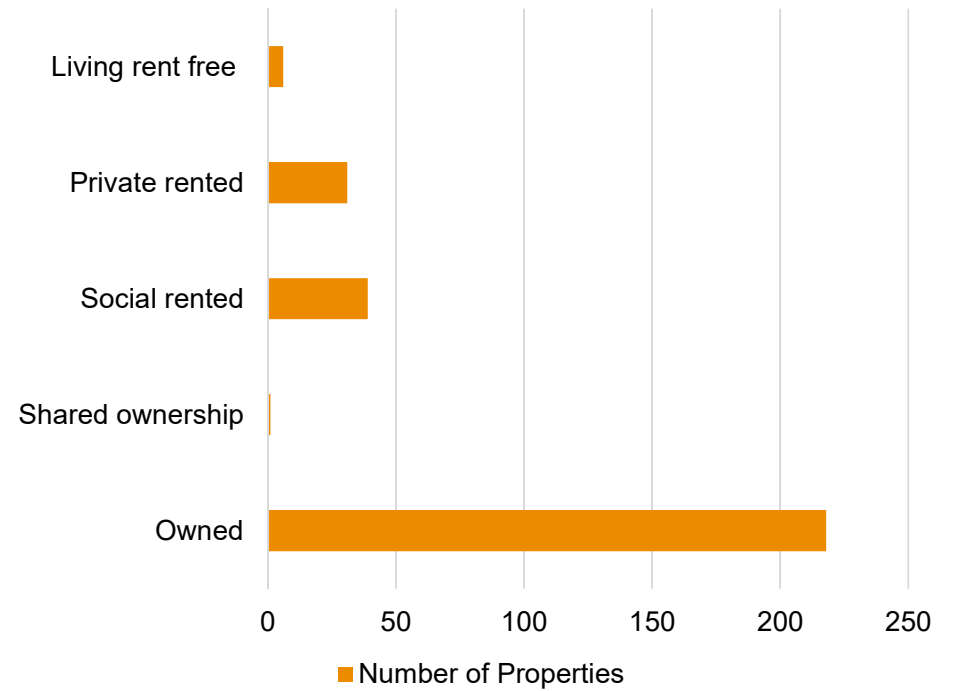


Housing

Housing Type



Housing Tenure



Source: Census 2011

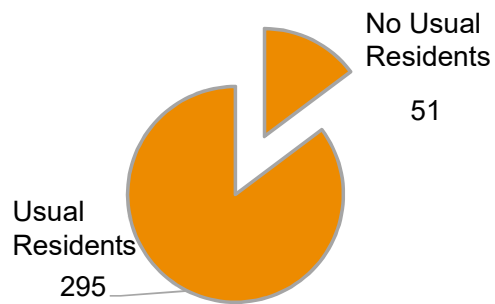


Castleton Parish Statement (draft)



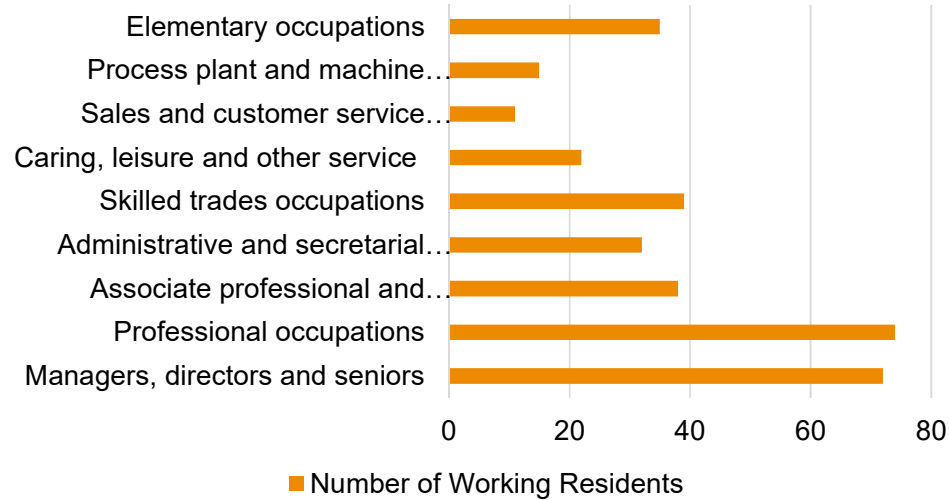
Residency

Occupancy of Properties



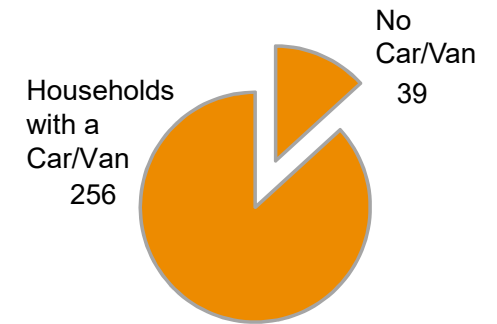
Employment

Occupations of Working Adults



Car/ Van Ownership

Households with a Car/Van



Source: Census 2011



Castleton Parish Statement (draft)



Settlement Amenities

Accommodation	★
Events/Traditions	★
Groups	★
Website/Newslatter	★
Conservation Area	★
Mobile Library	★
Church	★
Post Box	★
Public House	★
Good Public Transport Route (5+ services a day)	★
Within 1 Mile of an A or B Road	★
Distance to General Practice (miles)	1.2
Industrial Units	★
Playing Field	★
Playground	★
Community Hall	★
Primary School	★
Post Office	★
Convenience Food Shop	★

Key



Is present

Is not present



Castleton Parish Statement (draft)



Public Transport

Castleton	Route	Bus Company	Days	Frequency
66A	Buxton— Chesterfield	Hulleys	Mon-Fri	1 a day
173	Castleton— Bakewell	Hulleys	Mon—Sat	5 per day btwn 08:45—18:00
174	Castleton—Baslow	Hulleys	Mon-Sat	3 per day
271/272	Sheffield— Castleton	First South Yorkshire and Hulleys	Mon –Sat	Mon-Fri: 06:40 –23:20 Approx. every hour. Sat: 06:55-23:20 Approx. every hour.
273/274	Bakewell/Castleton —Sheffield	Hulleys and TM Travel	Mon– Sun	Mon-Sat: 07:00-18:15, 4 a day Sun & BH Mon: 10:10– 18:15, 4 a day.
276	Castleton— Chesterfield	Hulleys	Fri	1 a day at 09:45



Castleton Parish Statement (draft)



Access to Essential Services Community

	Service	Time in Minutes
Walking	General Practice	30-40
	Pharmacy	60+
	Post Office	0-10
	Primary School	10-20
	Secondary School	30-40
	Shop	0-10
Public Transport	General Practice	0-10
	Pharmacy	30-40
	Post Office	10-20
	Primary School	0-10
	Secondary School	10-20
	Shop/Supermarket	0-10

Source: Derbyshire County Council

General	Badminton, Hope Valley RFC, Historical Society, Cinema Club, Peveril Players, Silver Band, WI, Caving Club, Art Club, Prayer Groups, Youth Club, Fellowship Group, Photographic Society, Juggling Club, Circuit, Pilates, Care4Castleton, Family Albums
Events/ Traditions	Garland Ceremony, Festival of Christmas Trees, Secret Gardens, Pantomime

Source: Parish Council

Planning

Over the last 5 years 40 planning applications have been approved in Castleton parish.

Digital Presence

<https://www.castletonvillage.co.uk/>

Affordable Housing

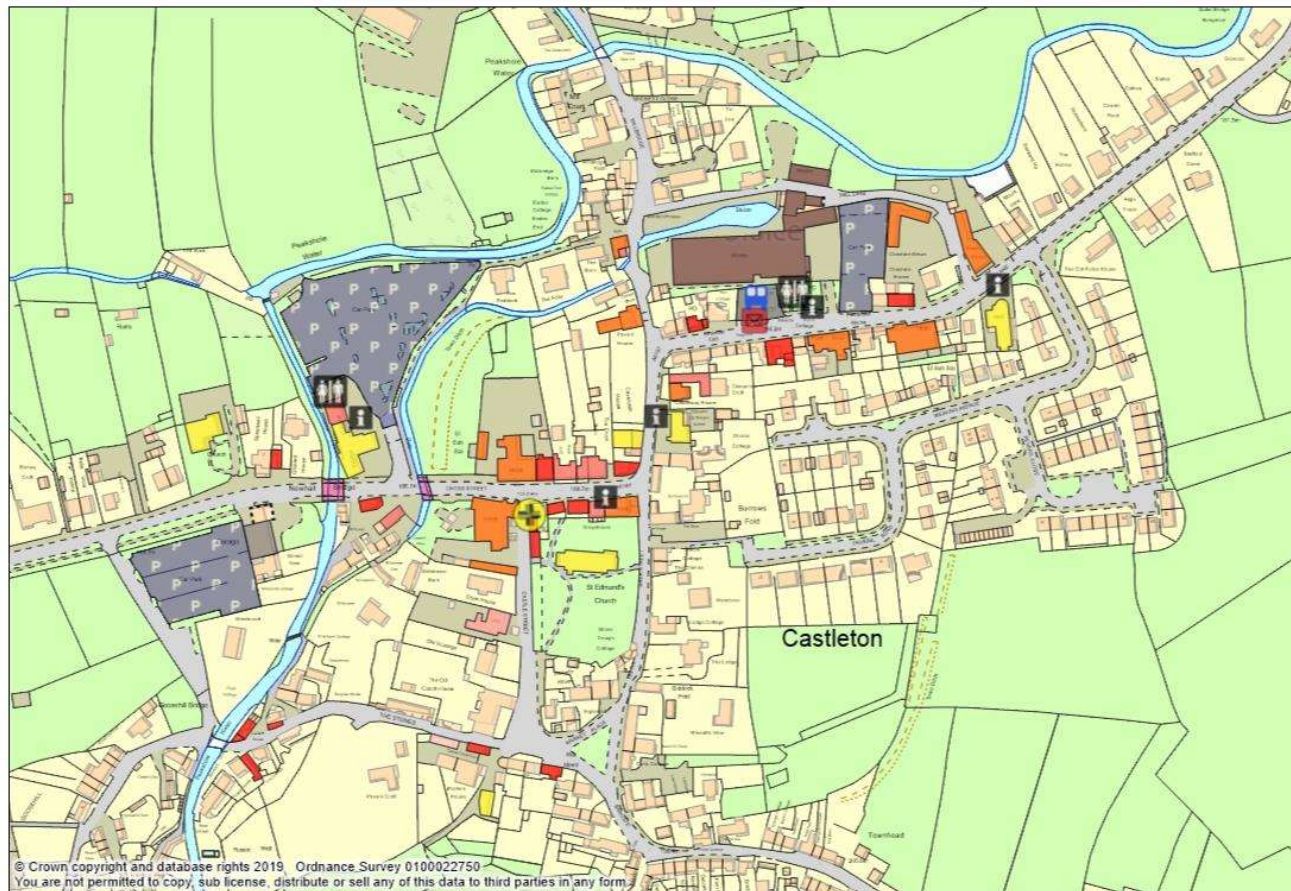
There are no plans at present to build affordable housing in the village.



Castleton Parish Statement (draft)



Castleton and its Services



Key

- A1 Shops
- A2 Financial and Professional Services
- A3 Restaurants and Cafes
- A4 Drinking Establishments
- A5 Hot Food Takeaways
- B1 Business
- B2 General Industrial
- B8 Storage or Distribution
- C1 Hotels
- C2 Residential Institutions
- C2A Secure Residential Institution
- C3 Dwellinghouses
- C4 Houses in Multiple Occupation
- D1 Non-Residential Institutions
- D2 Assembly and Leisure
- Camp Site
- Allotments
- Playground
- Playing Field
- Public Car Park
- Sui Generis
- Bus Stop
- Notice Board
- Post Box
- Telephone Box
- Cash Point
- Public Toilets
- Defibrillator



Castleton Parish Statement (draft)

Castleton Parish Boundary





Castleton Parish Statement (draft)



Data sources

Derbyshire Accessibility Assessment 2016, Derbyshire County Council

Ordnance survey maps

Peak District National Park Conservation Area Appraisal

Peak District National Park Landscape Strategy Action Plan (LSAP)

<https://www.castletonvillage.co.uk/>

<https://www.derbysbuses.info/times/timetables/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/Service-Search/GP/LocationSearch/4>

<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

Wording gratefully received from Castleton Parish Council