



Figure 3.29 Castle Rock, Nottingham.

tant nodes occur on routes as they enter the city or one of its main quarters. The gateway to the city is traditionally the place where travellers rest, where markets develop and where controlled entry to the city is maintained. Piazza del Popolo has been, as we have seen earlier, Rome's northern gateway for nearly 2000 years and is a model for such entry points to city or quarter. The perceptual study of place should aim to establish the distribution and location of nodes. Equally important for the study, however, is a classification of nodes by type, function and relative importance.

Landmarks are points of reference which are experienced at a distance. They are three-dimensional sculptural objects in contrast to nodes which are places to be entered and experienced from within. Landmarks can be natural phenomena such

as Castle Rock in Nottingham or important buildings or monuments such as the dome of Nottingham's City Council House. Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square, London, is a typical city landmark. The landmark is often a feature used in giving directions to a stranger. The landmark may, therefore, not always be the great monument but be something much more commonplace, such as an oddly shaped shop window or a small but highly visible street fountain. Discovering the wealth of small-scale landmarks is one of the functions of the perceptual study. It is the intricate nature and complexity of these perceptual clues which give to a place its interest and vitality (Figures 3.28 to 3.31).

The city is organized into quarters or districts each having some identifying characteristic. The district is a medium- to large-scale section of the