History of Sheffield

The history of Sheffield , a city in South Yorkshire , England , can be traced back to the founding of a settlement in a clearing beside the River Sheaf in the second half of the 1st millennium AD . The area now known as Sheffield had seen human occupation since at least the last ice age , but significant growth in the settlements that are now incorporated into the city did not occur until the Industrial Revolution .

Following the Norman conquest of England , Sheffield Castle was built to control the Saxon settlements and Sheffield developed into a small town , no larger than Sheffield City Centre . By the 14th century Sheffield was noted for the production of knives , and by 1600 , overseen by the Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire , it had become the second centre of cutlery production in England after London . In the 1740s the crucible steel process was improved by Sheffield resident Benjamin Huntsman , allowing a much better production quality . At about the same time , Sheffield plate , a form of silver plating , was invented . The associated industries led to the rapid growth of Sheffield ; the town was incorporated as a borough in 1843 and granted a city charter in 1893 .

Sheffield remained a major industrial city throughout the first half of the 20th century , but the downturn in world trade following the 1973 oil crisis , technological improvements and economies of scale , and a wide @-@ reaching restructuring of steel production throughout the European Economic Community led to the closure of many of the steelworks from the early 1970s onward . Urban and economic regeneration schemes were initiated in the late 1980s . The city centre was blighted by empty shops and improvements were halted by the Great Recession .

Early history

The earliest known evidence of human occupation in the Sheffield area was found at Creswell Crags to the east of the city . Artefacts and rock art found in caves at this site have been dated by archaeologists to the late Upper Palaeolithic period , at least 12 @,@ 800 years ago . Other prehistoric remains found in Sheffield include a Mesolithic " house " ? a circle of stones in the shape of a hut @-@ base dating to around 8000 BC , found at Deepcar , in the northern part of the city .

During the Bronze Age (about 1500 BC) tribes sometimes called the Urn people started to settle in the area . They built numerous stone circles , examples of which can be found on Moscar Moor , Froggatt Edge and Hordron Edge (Hordron Edge stone circle) . Two Early Bronze Age urns were found at Crookes in 1887 , and three Middle Bronze Age barrows found at Lodge Moor (both suburbs of the modern city) .

Iron Age

During the British Iron Age the area became the southernmost territory of the Pennine tribe called the Brigantes . It is this tribe who in around 500 BC are thought to have constructed the hill fort that stands on the summit of a steep hill above the River Don at Wincobank , in what is now northeastern Sheffield . Other Iron Age hill forts in the area are Carl Wark on Hathersage Moor to the southwest of Sheffield , and one at Scholes Wood , near Rotherham . The rivers Sheaf and Don may have formed the boundary between the territory of the Brigantes and that of a rival tribe called the Corieltauvi who inhabited a large area of the northeastern Midlands .

Roman Britain

The Roman invasion of Britain began in AD 43 . By 51 the Brigantes had submitted to the clientship of Rome , eventually being placed under direct rule in the early 70s . Few Roman remains have been found in the Sheffield area . A minor Roman road linking the Roman forts at Templeborough and Brough @-@ on @-@ Noe possibly ran through the centre of the area covered by the modern city , and Icknield Street is thought to have skirted its boundaries . The routes of these roads within this area are mostly unknown , although sections of the former can still be seen between Redmires

and Stanage , and remains possibly linked to the latter were discovered in Brinsworth in 1949 .

In April 1761 , tablets dating from the Roman period were found in the Rivelin Valley south of Stannington , close to the likely course of the Templeborough to Brough @-@ on @-@ Noe road . These tablets included a grant of citizenship and land or money to a retiring Roman auxiliary of the Sunuci tribe of Belgium . In addition there have been finds dating from the Roman period on Walkley Bank Road , which leads onto the valley bottom .

There have been small finds of Roman coins throughout the Sheffield area , for example 19 coins were found near Meadowhall in 1891 , 13 in Pitsmoor in 1906 , and ten coins were found at a site alongside Eckington cemetery in December 2008 . Roman burial urns were also found at Bank Street near Sheffield Cathedral , which , along with the name of the old lane behind the church (Campo Lane) , has led to speculation that there may have been a Roman camp at this site . It is unlikely that the settlement that grew into Sheffield existed at this time . In 2011 excavations revealed remains of a substantial 1st or 2nd century AD Roman rural estate centre , or ' villa ' on what is believed to be a pre @-@ existing Brigantian farmstead site at Whirlow Hall Farm in South @-@ west Sheffield .

Following the departure of the Romans , the Sheffield area may have been the southern part of the Celtic kingdom of Elmet , with the rivers Sheaf and Don forming part of the boundary between this kingdom and the kingdom of Mercia . Gradually , Anglian settlers pushed west from the kingdom of Deira . The Britons of Elmet delayed this English expansion into the early part of the 7th century . An enduring Celtic presence within this area is evidenced by the settlements called Wales and Waleswood close to Sheffield ? the word Wales derives from the Germanic word Walha , and was originally used by the Anglo @-@ Saxons to refer to the native Britons .

= = The origins of Sheffield = =

The name Sheffield is Old English in origin . It derives from the River Sheaf , whose name is a corruption of shed or sheth , meaning to divide or separate . Field is a generic suffix deriving from the Old English feld , meaning a forest clearing . It is likely then that the origin of the present @-@ day city of Sheffield is an Anglo @-@ Saxon settlement in a clearing beside the confluence of the rivers Sheaf and Don founded between the arrival of the Anglo @-@ Saxons in this region (roughly the 6th century) and the early 9th century .

The names of many of the other areas of Sheffield likely to have been established as settlements during this period end in ley , which signifies a clearing in the forest , or ton , which means an enclosed farmstead . These settlements include Heeley , Longley , Norton , Owlerton , Southey , Tinsley , Totley , Wadsley , and Walkley .

The earliest evidence of this settlement is thought to be the shaft of a stone cross dating from the early 9th century that was found in Sheffield in the early 19th century . This shaft may be part of a cross removed from the church yard of the Sheffield parish church (now Sheffield Cathedral) in 1570 . It is now kept in the British Museum .

A document from around the same time , an entry for the year 829 in the Anglo @-@ Saxon Chronicle , refers to the submission of King Eanred of Northumbria to King Egbert of Wessex at the hamlet of Dore (now a suburb of Sheffield) : " Egbert led an army against the Northumbrians as far as Dore , where they met him , and offered terms of obedience and subjection , on the acceptance of which they returned home " . This event made Egbert the first Saxon to claim to be king of all of England .

The latter part of the 9th century saw a wave of Norse (Viking) settlers and the subsequent establishment of the Danelaw . The names of hamlets established by these settlers often end in thorpe , which means a farmstead . Examples of such settlements in the Sheffield area are Grimesthorpe , Hackenthorpe , Jordanthorpe , Netherthorpe , Upperthorpe , Waterthorpe , and Woodthorpe . By 918 the Danes south of the Humber had submitted to Edward the Elder , and by 926 Northumbria was under the control of King Æthelstan .

In 937 the combined armies of Olaf Guthfrithson , Viking king of Dublin , Constantine , king of Scotland and King Owain of Strathclyde invaded England . The invading force was met and

defeated by an army from Wessex and Mercia led by King Æthelstan at the Battle of Brunanburh . The location of Brunanburh is unknown , but some historians have suggested a location between Tinsley in Sheffield and Brinsworth in Rotherham , on the slopes of White Hill . After the death of King Athelstan in 939 Olaf III Guthfrithson invaded again and took control of Northumbria and part of Mercia . Subsequently , the Anglo @-@ Saxons , under Edmund , re @-@ conquered the Midlands , as far as Dore , in 942 , and captured Northumbria in 944 .

The Domesday Book of 1086 , which was compiled following the Norman Conquest of 1066 , contains the earliest known reference to the districts around Sheffield as the manor of " Hallun " (or Hallam) . This manor retained its Saxon lord , Waltheof , for some years after the conquest . The Domesday Book was ordered written by William the Conqueror so that the value of the townships and manors of England could be assessed . The entries in the Domesday Book are written in a Latin shorthand ; the extract for this area begins :

TERRA ROGERII DE BVSLI

M. hi Hallvn , cu XVI bereuvitis sunt . XXIX. carucate trae

Ad gld . Ibi hb Walleff com aula ...

Translated it reads :

LANDS OF ROGER DE BUSLI

In Hallam , one manor with its sixteen hamlets , there are twenty @-@ nine carucates [~ 14 km2] to be taxed . There Earl Waltheof had an " Aula " [hall or court] . There may have been about twenty ploughs . This land Roger de Busli holds of the Countess Judith . He has himself there two carucates [~ 1 km2] and thirty @-@ three villeins hold twelve carucates and a half [~ 6 km2] . There are eight acres [32 @,@ 000 m2] of meadow , and a pasturable wood , four leuvae in length and four in breadth [~ 10 km2] . The whole manor is ten leuvae in length and eight broad [207 km2] . In the time of Edward the Confessor it was valued at eight marks of silver [£ 5 @.@ 33] ; now at forty shillings [£ 2 @.@ 00] .

In Attercliffe and Sheffield , two manors , Sweyn had five carucates of land [~ 2 @.@ 4 km2] to be taxed . There may have been about three ploughs . This land is said to have been inland , demesne [domain] land of the manor of Hallam .

The reference is to Roger de Busli , tenant @-@ in @-@ chief in Domesday and one of the greatest of the new wave of Norman magnates . Waltheof , Earl of Northumbria had been executed in 1076 for his part in an uprising against William I. He was the last of the Anglo @-@ Saxon earls still remaining in England a full decade after the Norman conquest . His lands had passed to his wife , Judith of Normandy , niece to William the Conqueror . The lands were held on her behalf by Roger de Busli .

The Domesday Book refers to Sheffield twice , first as Escafeld , then later as Scafeld . Sheffield historian S. O. Addy suggests that the second form , pronounced Shaffeld , is the truer form , as the spelling Sefeld is found in a deed issued less than one hundred years after the completion of the survey . Addy comments that the E in the first form may have been mistakenly added by the Norman scribe .

Roger de Busli died around the end of the 11th century , and was succeeded by a son , who died without an heir . The manor of Hallamshire passed to William de Lovetot , the grandson of a Norman baron who had come over to England with the Conqueror . William de Lovetot founded the parish churches of St Mary at Handsworth , St Nicholas at High Bradfield and St. Mary 's at Ecclesfield at the start of the 12th century in addition to Sheffield 's own parish church . He also built the original wooden Sheffield Castle , which stimulated the growth of the town .

Also dating from this time is Beauchief Abbey , which was founded by Robert FitzRanulf de Alfreton . The abbey was dedicated to Saint Mary and Saint Thomas Becket , who had been canonised in 1172 . Thomas Tanner , writing in 1695 , stated that it was founded in 1183 . Samuel Pegge in his History of Beauchief Abbey notes that Albinas , the abbot of Derby , who was one of the witnesses to the charter of foundation , died in 1176 , placing foundation before that date .

= = Medieval Sheffield = =

Following the death of William de Lovetot , the manor of Hallamshire passed to his son Richard de Lovetot and then his son William de Lovetot before being passed by marriage to Gerard de Furnival in about 1204 . The de Furnivals held the manor for the next 180 years . The fourth Furnival lord , Thomas de Furnival , supported Simon de Montfort in the Second Barons ' War . As a result of this , in 1266 a party of barons , led by John de Eyvill , marching from north Lincolnshire to Derbyshire passed through Sheffield and destroyed the town , burning the church and castle .

A new stone castle was constructed over the next four years and a new church was consecrated by William de Wickwane the Archbishop of York around 1280 . In 1295 Thomas de Furnival 's son (also Thomas) was the first lord of Hallamshire to be called to Parliament , thus taking the title Lord Furnivall . On 12 November 1296 Edward I granted a charter for a market to be held in Sheffield on Tuesday each week . This was followed on 10 August 1297 by a charter from Lord Furnival establishing Sheffield as a free borough .

The Sheffield Town Trust was established in the Charter to the Town of Sheffield , granted in 1297 . De Furnival , granted land to the freeholders of Sheffield in return for an annual payment , and a Common Burgery administrated them . The Burgery originally consisted of public meetings of all the freeholders , who elected a Town Collector . Two more generations of Furnivals held Sheffield before it passed by marriage to Sir Thomas Nevil and then , in 1406 , to John Talbot , the first Earl of Shrewsbury .

In 1430 the 1280 Sheffield parish church building was pulled down and replaced . Parts of this new church still stand today and it is now Sheffield city centre 's oldest surviving building , forming the core of Sheffield Cathedral . Other notable surviving buildings from this period include the Old Queen 's Head pub in Pond Hill , which dates from around 1480 , with its timber frame still intact , and Bishops ' House and Broom Hall , both built around 1500 .

The fourth Earl of Shrewsbury , George Talbot took up residence in Sheffield , building the Manor Lodge outside the town in about 1510 and adding a chapel to the Parish Church c1520 to hold the family vault . Memorials to the fourth and sixth Earls of Shrewsbury can still be seen in the church . In 1569 George Talbot , the sixth Earl of Shrewsbury , was given charge of Mary , Queen of Scots . Mary was regarded as a threat by Elizabeth I , and had been held captive since her arrival in England in 1568 .

Talbot brought Mary to Sheffield in 1570 , and she spent most of the next 14 years imprisoned in Sheffield Castle and its dependent buildings . The castle park extended beyond the present Manor Lane , where the remains of Manor Lodge are to be found . Beside them is the Turret House , an Elizabethan building , which may have been built to accommodate the captive queen . A room , believed to have been the queen 's , has an elaborate plaster ceiling and overmantel , with heraldic decorations . During the English Civil War , Sheffield changed hands several times , finally falling to the Parliamentarians , who demolished the Castle in 1648 .

The Industrial Revolution brought large @-@ scale steel making to Sheffield in the 18th century . Much of the medieval town was gradually replaced by a mix of Georgian and Victorian buildings . Large areas of Sheffield 's city centre have been rebuilt in recent years , but among the modern buildings , some old buildings have been retained .

= = Industrial Sheffield = =

Sheffield 's situation ? amongst fast @-@ flowing rivers and streams surrounded by hills containing raw materials such as coal , iron ore , ganister , and millstone grit for grindstones ? made it an ideal place for water @-@ powered industries to develop . Water wheels were often built for the milling of corn , but many were converted to the manufacture of blades . As early as the 14th century Sheffield was noted for the production of knives :
Ay by his belt he baar a long panade ,
And of a swerd ful trenchant was the blade .
A joly poppere baar he in his pouche ;
Ther was no man , for peril , dorste hym touche .
A Sheffeld thwitel baar he in his hose .

Round was his face , and camus was his nose ;

By 1600 Sheffield was the main centre of cutlery production in England outside London , and in 1624 The Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire was formed to oversee the trade . Examples of water @-@ powered blade and cutlery workshops from around this time can be seen at the Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet and Shepherd Wheel museums in Sheffield .

Around a century later , Daniel Defoe in his book A tour thro ' the whole island of Great Britain , wrote :

This town of Sheffield is very populous and large , the streets narrow , and the houses dark and black , occasioned by the continued smoke of the forges , which are always at work : Here they make all sorts of cutlery @-@ ware , but especially that of edged @-@ tools , knives , razors , axes , & . and nails ; and here the only mill of the sort , which was in use in England for some time was set up , (viz .) for turning their grindstones , though now ' tis grown more common .

Here is a very spacious church , with a very handsome and high spire ; and the town is said to have at least as many , if not more people in it than the city of York .

In the 1740s Benjamin Huntsman , a clock maker in Handsworth , invented a form of the crucible steel process for making a better quality of steel than had previously been available . At around the same time Thomas Boulsover invented a technique for fusing a thin sheet of silver onto a copper ingot producing a form of silver plating that became known as Sheffield plate . Originally hand @-@ rolled Old Sheffield Plate was used for making silver buttons . Then in 1751 Joseph Hancock , previously apprenticed to Boulsover 's friend Thomas Mitchell , first used it to make kitchen and tableware . This prospered and in 1762 ? 65 Hancock built the water @-@ powered Old Park Silver Mills at the confluence of the Loxley and the Don , one of the earliest factories solely producing an industrial semi @-@ manufacture . Eventually Old Sheffield Plate was supplanted by cheaper electroplate in the 1840s . In 1773 Sheffield was given a silver assay office . In the late 18th century , Britannia metal , a pewter @-@ based alloy similar in appearance to silver , was invented in the town .

Huntsman 's process was only made obsolete in 1856 by Henry Bessemer 's invention of the Bessemer converter , but production of crucible steel continued until well into the 20th century for special uses , as Bessemer 's steel was not of the same quality , in the main replacing wrought iron for such applications as rails . Bessemer had tried to induce steelmakers to take up his improved system , but met with general rebuffs , and finally was driven to undertake the exploitation of the process himself . To this end he erected steelworks in Sheffield . Gradually the scale of production was enlarged until the competition became effective , and steel traders generally became aware that the firm of Henry Bessemer & Co. was underselling them to the extent of £ 20 a ton . One of Bessemer 's converters can still be seen at Sheffield 's Kelham Island Museum .

In 1857 Sheffield Football Club was formed , which is now the world 's oldest association football club . This was followed by a rapid growth of football teams in the area .

Stainless steel was discovered by Harry Brearley in 1912 , at the Brown Firth Laboratories in Sheffield . His successor as manager at Brown Firth , Dr William Hatfield , continued Brealey 's work . In 1924 he patented ' 18 @-@ 8 stainless steel ' , which to this day is probably the most common alloy of this type .

These innovations helped Sheffield to gain a worldwide recognition for the production of cutlery ; utensils such as the bowie knife were mass @-@ produced and shipped to the United States . The population of the town increased rapidly . In 1736 Sheffield and its surrounding hamlets held about 7000 people , in 1801 there were 60 @,@ 000 , and by 1901 , the population had grown to 451 @,@ 195 .

This growth spurred the reorganisation of the governance of the town . Prior to 1818 , the town was run by a mixture of bodies . The Sheffield Town Trust and the Church Burgesses , for example , divided responsibility for the improvement of streets and bridges . By the 19th century both organisations lacked funds and struggled even to maintain existing infrastructure . The Church Burgesses organised a public meeting on 27 May 1805 and proposed to apply to Parliament for an act to pave , light and clean the city 's streets . The proposal was defeated .

The idea of a Commission was revived in 1810 , and later in the decade Sheffield finally followed

the model adopted by several other towns in petitioning for an Act to establish an Improvement Commission . This eventually led to the Sheffield Improvement Act 1818 , which established the Commission and included several other provisions . In 1832 the town gained political representation with the formation of a Parliamentary borough . A municipal borough was formed by an Act of Incorporation in 1843 , and this borough was granted the style and title of " City " by Royal Charter in 1893 .

From the mid @-@ 18th century , a succession of public buildings were erected in the town . St Paul 's Church , now demolished , was among the first , while the old Town Hall and the present Cutlers ' Hall were among the major works of the 19th century . The town 's water supply was improved by the Sheffield Waterworks Company , who built reservoirs around the town . Parts of Sheffield were devastated when , following a five @-@ year construction project , the Dale Dyke dam collapsed on Friday 11 March 1864 , resulting in the Great Sheffield Flood .

Sheffield 's transport infrastructure was also improved . In the 18th century turnpike roads were built connecting Sheffield with Barnsley , Buxton , Chesterfield , Glossop , Intake , Penistone , Tickhill , and Worksop . In 1774 a 2 @-@ mile (3 @.@ 2 km) wooden tramway was laid at the Duke of Norfolk 's Nunnery Colliery . The tramway was destroyed by rioters , who saw it as part of a plan to raise the price of coal . A replacement tramway that used L @-@ shaped rails was laid by John Curr in 1776 and was one of the earliest cast @-@ iron railways . The Sheffield Canal opened in 1819 allowing the large @-@ scale transport of freight .

This was followed by the Sheffield and Rotherham Railway in 1838 , the Sheffield , Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne and Manchester Railway in 1845 , and the Midland Railway in 1870 . The Sheffield Tramway was started in 1873 with the construction of a horse tram route from Lady 's Bridge to Attercliffe . This route was later extended to Brightside and Tinsley , and further routes were constructed to Hillsborough , Heeley , and Nether Edge . Due to the narrow medieval roads the tramways were initially banned from the town centre . An improvement scheme was passed in 1875 ; Pinstone Street and Leopold Street were constructed by 1879 , and Fargate was widened in the 1880s . The 1875 plan also called for the widening of the High Street ; disputes with property owners delayed this until 1895 .

Steel production in the 19th century involved long working hours , in unpleasant conditions that offered little or no safety protection . Friedrich Engels in his The Condition of the Working Class in England in 1844 described the conditions prevalent in the city at that time :

In Sheffield wages are better , and the external state of the workers also . On the other hand , certain branches of work are to be noticed here , because of their extraordinarily injurious influence upon health . Certain operations require the constant pressure of tools against the chest , and engender consumption in many cases ; others , file @-@ cutting among them , retard the general development of the body and produce digestive disorders ; bone @-@ cutting for knife handles brings with it headache , biliousness , and among girls , of whom many are employed , anæmia . By far the most unwholesome work is the grinding of knife @-@ blades and forks , which , especially when done with a dry stone , entails certain early death . The unwholesomeness of this work lies in part in the bent posture , in which chest and stomach are cramped ; but especially in the quantity of sharp @-@ edged metal dust particles freed in the cutting , which fill the atmosphere , and are necessarily inhaled . The dry grinders ' average life is hardly thirty @-@ five years , the wet grinders ' rarely exceeds forty @-@ five .

Sheffield became one of the main centres for trade union organisation and agitation in the UK . By the 1860s , the growing conflict between capital and labour provoked the so @-@ called ' Sheffield Outrages ' , which culminated in a series of explosions and murders carried out by union militants . The Sheffield Trades Council organised a meeting in Sheffield in 1866 at which the United Kingdom Alliance of Organised Trades ? a forerunner of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) ? was founded .

= = The 20th century to the present = =

In 1914 Sheffield became a diocese of the Church of England , and the parish church became a cathedral . During the First World War the Sheffield City Battalion suffered heavy losses at the

Somme and Sheffield itself was bombed by a German zeppelin .

The recession of the 1930s was only halted by the increasing tension as the Second World War loomed . The steel factories of Sheffield were set to work making weapons and ammunition for the war . As a result , once war was declared , the city once again became a target for bombing raids . In total there were 16 raids over Sheffield , but it was the heavy bombing over the nights of 12 and 15 December 1940 (now known as the Sheffield Blitz) when the most substantial damage occurred . More than 660 lives were lost and numerous buildings were destroyed .

Following the war , the 1950s and 1960s saw many large scale developments in the city . The Sheffield Tramway was closed , and a new system of roads , including the Inner Ring Road , were laid out . Also at this time many of the old slums were cleared and replaced with housing schemes such as the Park Hill flats , and the Gleadless Valley estate .

Sheffield 's traditional manufacturing industries (along with those of many other areas in the UK) , declined during the 20th century .

The building of the Meadowhall shopping centre on the site of a former steelworks in 1990 was a mixed blessing , creating much needed jobs but speeding the decline of the city centre . Attempts to regenerate the city were kick @-@ started by the hosting of the 1991 World Student Games and the associated building of new sporting facilities such as the Sheffield Arena , Don Valley Stadium and the Ponds Forge complex . Sheffield began construction of a tram system in 1992 , with the first section opening in 1994 .

Starting in 1995 , the Heart of the City Project has seen public works in the city centre : the Peace Gardens were renovated in 1998 , the Millennium Gallery opened in April 2001 , and a 1970s town hall extension was demolished in 2002 to make way for the Winter Garden , which opened on 22 May 2003 . A series of other projects grouped under the title Sheffield One aim to regenerate the whole of the city centre .

On 25 June 2007 , flooding caused millions of pounds worth of damage to buildings in the city and led to the loss of two lives .

In July 2013 the Sevenstone project , which aimed to demolish and rebuild a large part of the city centre , and had been on hold since 2009 , was further delayed and the company developing it was dropped . The city council is looking for partners to take a new version of the plan forwards . In April 2014 the council , together with Sheffield University , proposed a plan to reduce the blight of empty shops in the city centre by offering them free of charge to small businesses on a month @-@ by @-@ month basis .