Introduction

Between 1270 and 1648 Sheffield was a small market town dominated by a great stone castle, which was later dismantled by the Parliamentarians during the English Civil War. Thanks to the growth of the steel industry and a rapidly increasing population, the town was granted city status in 1893.

At the heart of the modern city, close to the River Don, lies a grid of medieval streets still bearing their original names. Much of Sheffield's history can be found along this surprising 2 mile (3.3km) walk.

Directions

• Start at the Cathedral Tram Stop facing the Cathedral.
• On the right side of the Cathedral walk along East Parade (cobbled then paved) to Campo Lane.
• Turn right to Hartshead Square – continue through Watson's Walk to Market Place.
• Turn right, diagonally over the road – down High Street to the traffic lights – over – turn right over the traffic lights into Fitzalan Square.
• Continue along then down the steps on the left, the bottom of which is Bakers Hill. Walk down - turn right along Pond Street to the Sheffield Interchange.
• Left down Pond Hill – over the River Sheaf – turn left – go past the steps.
• Up a ramp – over the roads towards Victoria Quays.
• Turn left over the tramlines and down the steps towards Victoria Quays - over the road into the cobbled approach to the canal basin.
• Follow the curve of the Merchants Offices.
• Left under the arch to Furnival Road.
• Cross over – over the approach road to Victoria Hotel.
• Continue along Blonk Street to the River Don and cross over to see where the River Sheaf enters the Don via a culvert. Above is the site of Sheffield Castle.
• Continue alongside the Don, entering a passageway, which emerges at Lady's Bridge.
• Turn right past the Bower Spring Furnaces – turn left along Gibraltar Street – cross Corporation Street by the roundabout to West Bar.
• Turn right at the crossing – up Paradise Street – over Queen Street – up to Paradise Square.
• On the left is Wheats Lane (a narrow gennel) – follow onto North Church Street.
• Turn right diagonally across into St Peter’s Close – up and through the passageway onto Campo Lane.
• Cross – turn right – turn left back onto East Parade where the walk began.

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Echoes of the past

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Points of interest

1. The Cathedral of St Peter and St Paul - was formerly the parish church building and was originally built in c.1116. It's had several additions and alterations over the years. It was a Chapel of Ease for Ecclesfield before becoming its own parish church.

2. Boys Charity School of 1826 (now offices) that replaced the previous school of 1706.


4. Angel St / High St - site of the Market Cross and notorious Shambles, a filthy and run down area even by 18th Century standards.

5. Fitzalan Square – former beast market, slaughter houses and in the area of the various other markets.

6. Bakers Hill.

7. Old Queen's Head – probably the oldest building in Sheffield, dating back to the 1500s.

8. The Ponds and Ponds Forge - an area of former mill ponds and steel works dating back at least to the 1500s.

9. Victoria Quays – constructed between 1816 and 1819. The canal was constructed up to Tinsley in 1751.


11. Site of the Sheffield Castle of c.1270, which replaced a Motte and Bailey from c.1100. Dismantled by the Parliamentarians in 1648.

12. Kelham Island Museum and Brewery

13. Bower Spring – remains of two steel cementation furnaces of the 1700s.


15. Paradise Square – built between the 1770s and 1790s. John Wesley preached here in 1779 and it was a meeting place for Chartists between 1830 and 1840.

16. Synagogue – built in 1872 by the small Jewish community.

17. St Peter's Close and Old Grammar House - this is the oldest surviving public house in Sheffield, from 1728.

18. Royal Exchange Buildings of 1899. These contained flats and also housed stables.

19. Lady's Bridge - replaced a former wooden bridge in 1486. It had a chapel on it on the 'town side'. The weir fed water into the mill of the Wicker Tilt. The site of the town corn mill in the 1100s. Later replaced by steel works, and then replaced in 1794.