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Sheffield Castle

Archaeology, Archives, Regeneration, 1927–2018

John Moreland, Dawn Hadley

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Sheffield Castle presents an original perspective on an urban castle, resurrecting from museum archives a building that once made Sheffield a nexus of power in medieval England, its lords playing important roles in local, national, and international affairs. Although largely demolished at the end of the English Civil War, the castle has left an enduring physical and civic legacy, and continues to exert a powerful sway over the present townscape, and future development, of Sheffield.

In this volume, we rediscover the medieval castle, explore its afterlife, and discuss its legacy for the regeneration of Sheffield into the twenty-first century. The authors bring to publication for the first time all the major excavations on the site, present the first modern study of artefacts excavated in the mid-twentieth century, and situate both in the context of the published and unpublished documentary record. They also tell the stories of those responsible for re-discovering the castle, the circumstances in which they were working, their archaeological methods, and the scholarly and political influences that shaped their narratives.

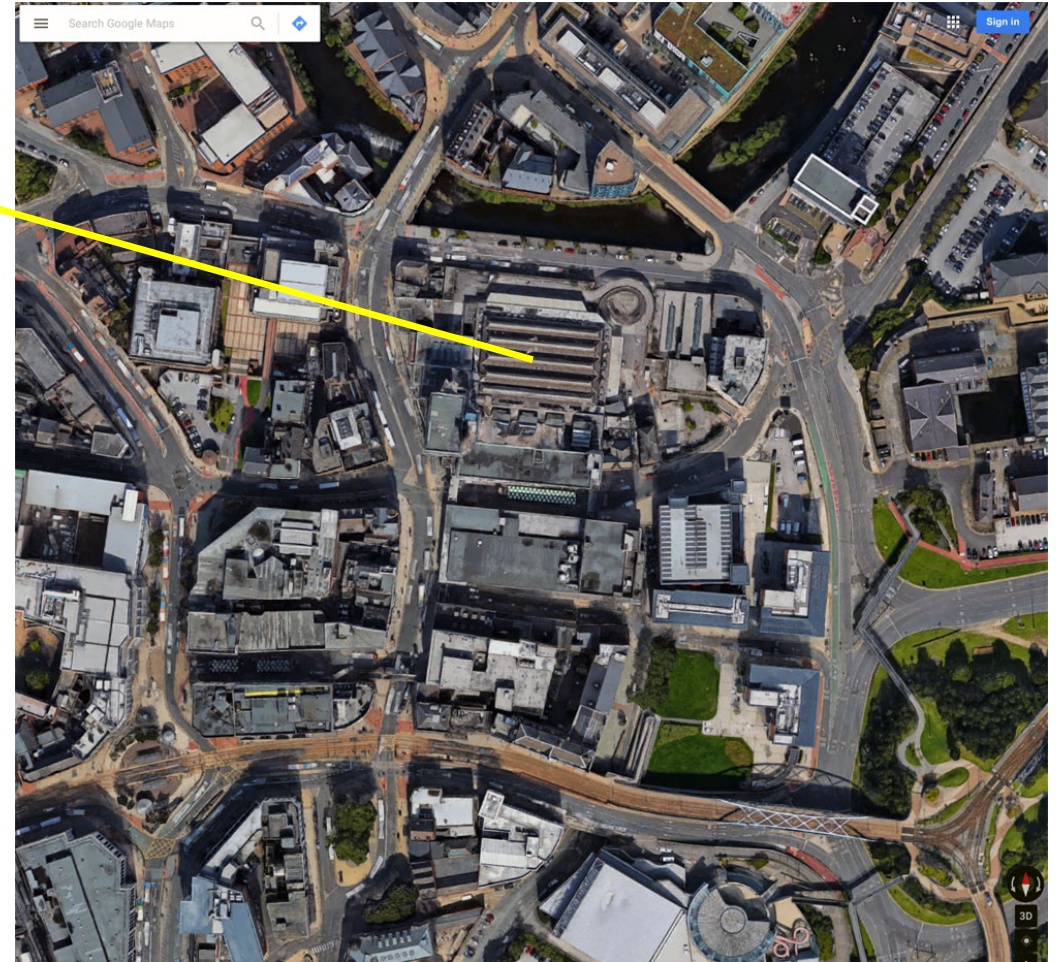
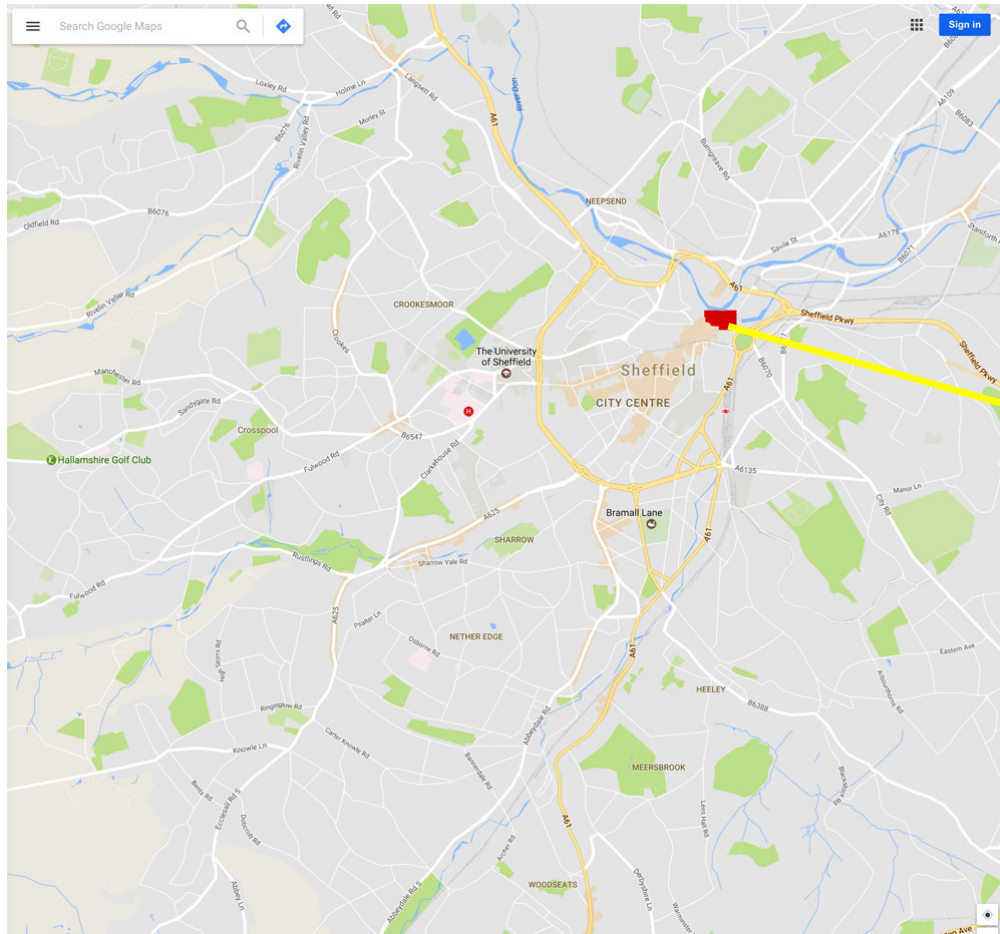
In setting the study within the context of urban regeneration, *Sheffield Castle* differs from most publications of medieval castles. This regeneration narrative is both historical, addressing the ways in which successive building campaigns have encountered the castle remains, and current, as the future of the site is under active discussion following the demolition of the market hall built on the site in the 1960s. The book explores how the former existence of the castle, and the landscape in which it sat, including its deer park, have shaped the development of the 'Steel City'. We see that the untapped heritage of the site has considerable value for the regeneration of what may now be one of the most deprived areas of Sheffield, but was once at its social, political and cultural heart.

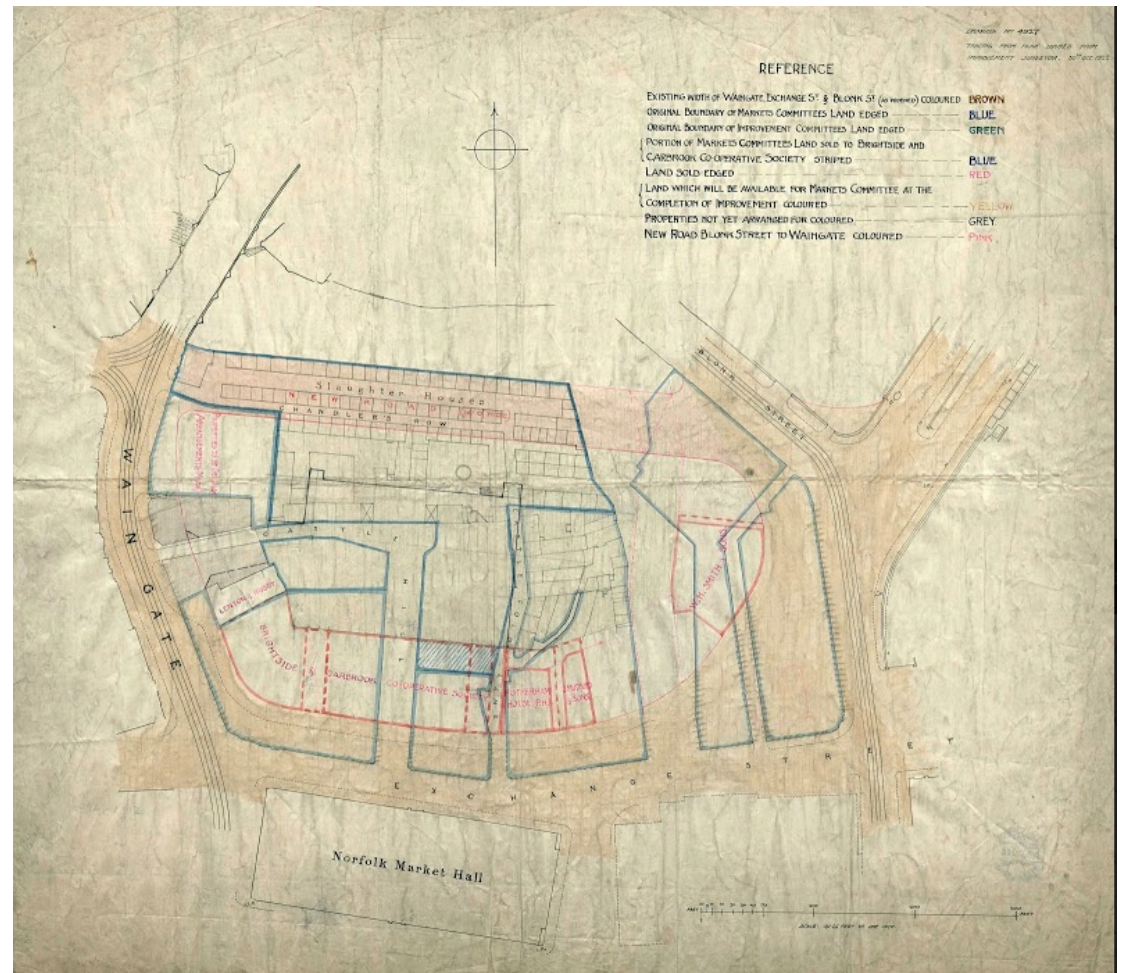
Prof John Moreland (University of Sheffield) and Prof Dawn Hadley (now University of York) led the University of Sheffield's *Sheffield Castle* project, and worked with colleagues from Wessex Archaeology, Museums Sheffield and the contributors named below. This volume, written with Ashley Tuck and Milica Rajic from Wessex Archaeology, presents the culmination of the findings of this project and is, importantly, accompanied by a digital archive (<https://doi.org/10.5284/1074899>), making all the research materials publicly available.

Sheffield Castle

Archaeology Archives Regeneration 1927-2018

John Moreland & Dawn Hadley
with Ashley Tuck & Milica Rajic





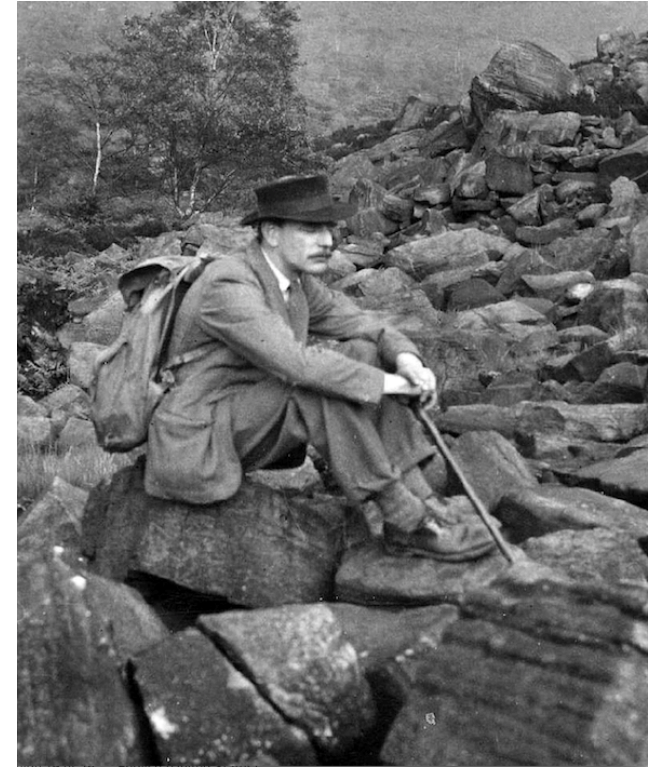




Leslie Armstrong

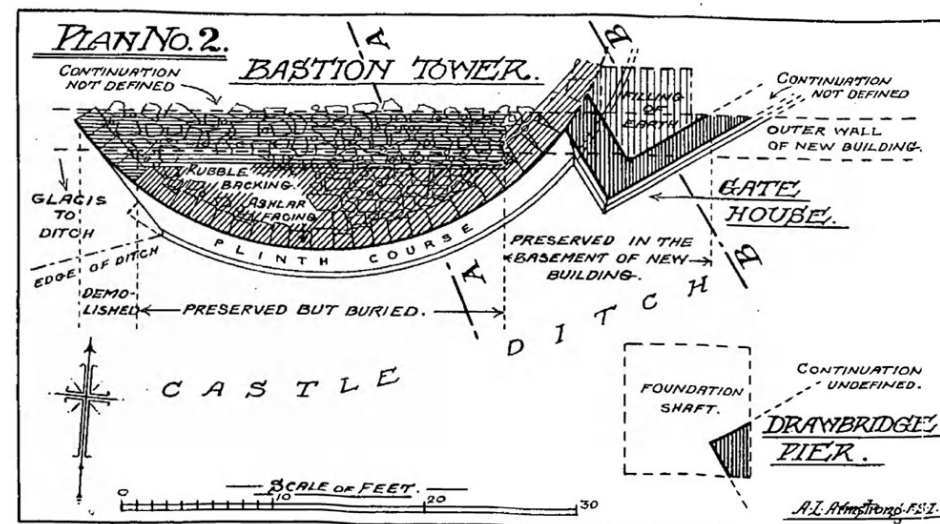
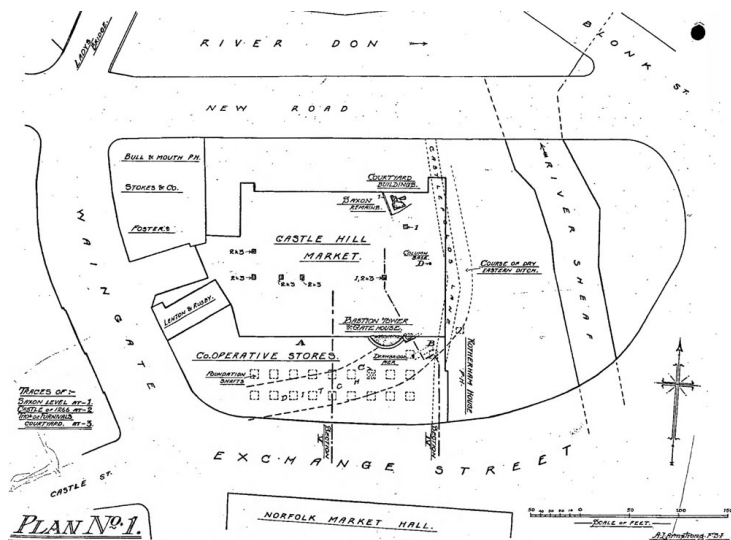


Joseph Himsworth



Leslie Butcher





PLAN No. 2. Remains uncovered on the Site of the Co-operative Stores.





9. 93 East North
Drawbridge pier
1st end abutting
on solid rock.
Rubble fill L.
Solid R.

X



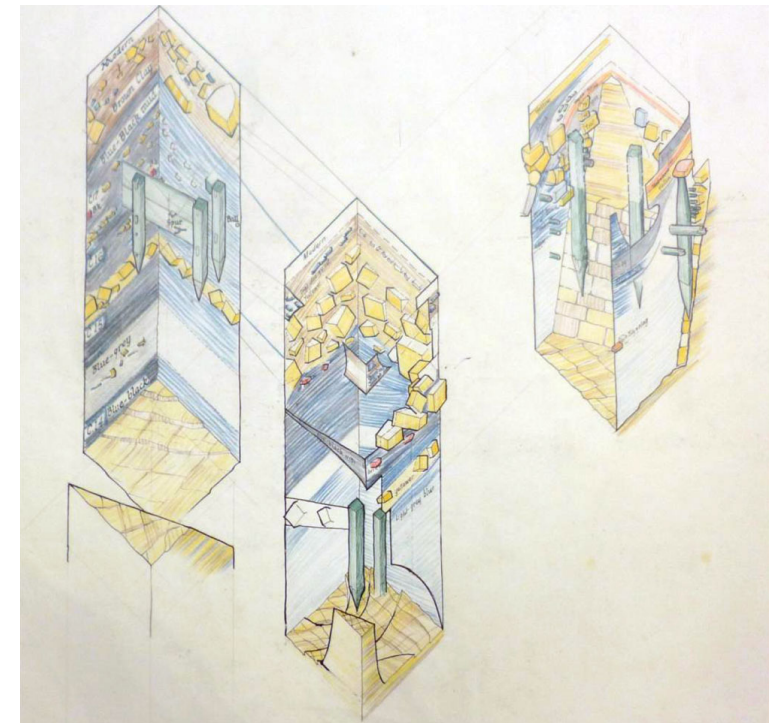
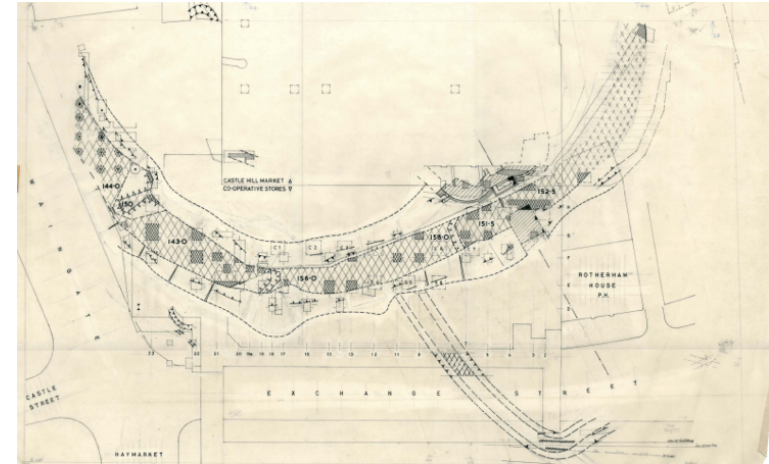
H.2-4. from N-E
NE angle of drawbridge
pier, destroyed to ashlar
coarse rubble filling
above.

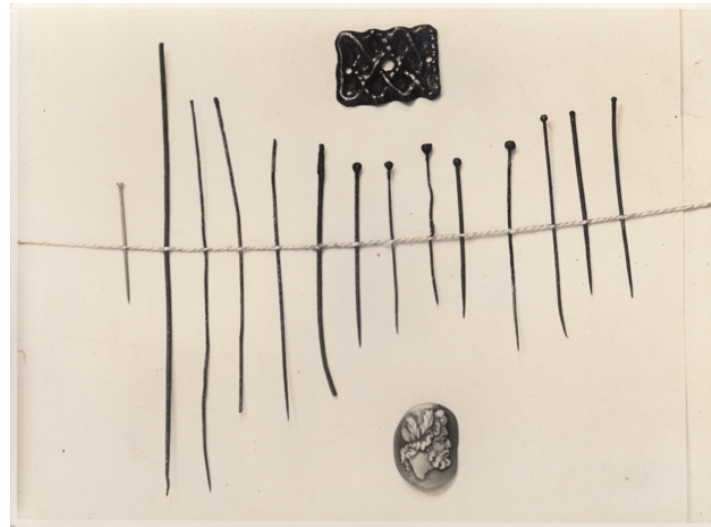


H.2-4. from E.
Drawbridge pier:
ashlar face, E.

X

10. H.2-4. from N
Rubble fill (mixed
-in-situ water worn
boulders) behind
ashlar face
(remnant beyond
head of figure.)



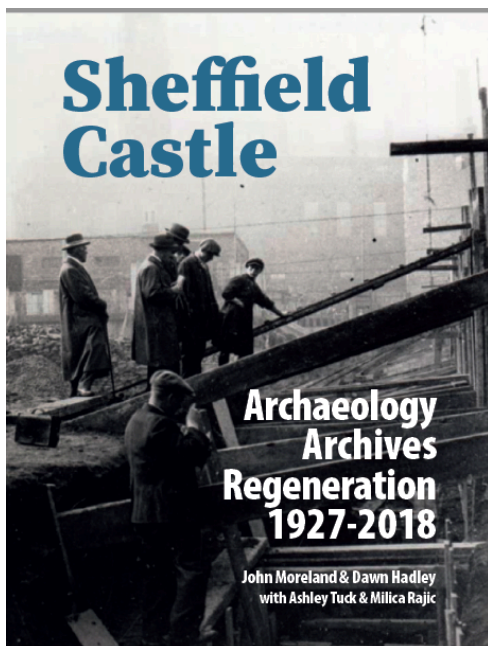






- This material relates to a site that was once the heart of the town of Sheffield
- It is a place that is close to the hearts and identity of its people – whether it be the Castle or the 1960s markets
- The City Council owns the site – as Museums Sheffield reminded us, this material really belongs to the people of Sheffield
- It has languished in the archives of Museums Sheffield for up to 90 years
- We firmly believed that there was an imperative, almost moral/ethical, that it, and the story it tells, be made freely available to the people of Sheffield – and beyond

- Sheffield Castle was one of the most significant castles in medieval England
- The quality of the records from the excavations are unusual for an urban castle – on a national, perhaps even a European level
- The site has a well-preserved, and well recorded, deep history – from the 12th century to 2013.
- Our approach to analysing the material - and to telling the story of the castle, the bowling green, early industrialization, the slaughterhouses, the new markets – shows the value of tackling and publishing such ‘legacy archives’. It is a model that could be followed for similar archives across the world.
- If broadly disseminated, this material, and the story we were able to tell from it, had the potential to make a serious impact on approaches to, and knowledge of, the past – on the national and international scales.



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Keywords:

Archives

Regeneration

Archaeology

Sheffield Castle

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Figure vii: *Putting the castle back in Castlegate.* The virtual castle projected onto the side of the Yorkshire Artspace building on Exchange Street during the Festival of the Mind, September 2018. For the first time in over 350 years the castle towered over the town; for one night only! Photograph Steve Pool, copyright University of Sheffield. This is a still from a video of the event. The video can be seen at <https://doi.org/10.15131/shef.data.12311684>. A video of a flythrough of the virtual castle can be seen at <https://doi.org/10.15131/shef.data.12341186>.

but there is no question that the format we chose for presenting a model of the castle captured the imagination and translated the archaeological evidence into a medium that is up to the moment and culturally relevant. Our work gave Sheffield Castle a new visual identity in the context of the regeneration debate (Burn 2018).

We also transformed the VR model into an Augmented Reality (AR) application. This was initially produced for smartphones, so that it could be used on site in Castlegate, allowing the user to see the castle at real size in its exact location amid the modern buildings, and it produced some arresting images (Figures vi and vii). However, rolling this out for wider public use was a challenge, with respect to the technological limitations of using AR on mobile devices in an outdoor setting (Leach *et al.* 2018). Therefore, we repurposed the model into an app for iPad, and launched it at the University of Sheffield's Festival of the Mind in September 2018 in an installation in the city centre's Millennium Galleries (University of Sheffield 2018). The app was used in conjunction with a 1:150 scale wooden model of Castlegate as it is now (constructed by the School of Architecture at the University of Sheffield), and was presented alongside images of some possible futures for Castlegate to emerge from the Revealing the Castle project (University of Sheffield 2016). Under the strapline of 'Experience Castlegate' we asked visitors 'What if you could see the past, present and future of our city all at the same time?', encouraging debate and discussion about what the future might entail, and what place the remains of the castle might play in that. Over eight days, there were over 7,000 visitors, with the installation garnering a great deal of media attention including an appearance on the BBC regional news programme *Look North* (Figure viii; 'Sheffield Castlegate', 2018).

At the time of completing this book the AR app and wooden model have been installed in the National Videogame Museum (NVM) in the city centre, where it is being seen and explored by hundreds of schoolchildren and their families. It is apposite that this is how the castle is now being consumed, because the NVM is based in a rejuvenated Castle House, the city-centre store of the Brightside and Carbrook Co-op from 1958. This building is now also home to Kollider, an incubator for digital and tech companies and start-ups, and to a range of restaurants, bars and social spaces. The castle has found a temporary virtual home in a building which is the successor to the one on the corner of Exchange Street and Waingate, whose construction in 1927 led to the

Figure ix (page 339): *The gatehouse of Sheffield Castle in a Virtual Reality model.* The 21st-century visual identity for this historic site. University of Sheffield.

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Model of Sheffield Castle as it might have looked in the late 15th century

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Flythrough Sheffield Castle

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Sheffield Castle 1927-2018

John Moreland, Dawn Hadley, 2020

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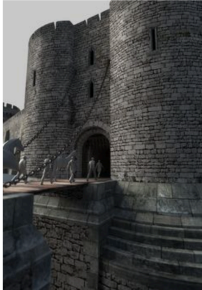


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Introduction

The medieval castle of Sheffield (South Yorkshire, UK) was demolished during the English Civil War in the mid-17th century. Since 1927, Sheffield Castle has been subject to several campaigns of archaeological recording, which have largely gone unpublished and unstudied. As of 2020, the site of the former castle stands empty and remains the focus of long-running debates about the regeneration of the Castlegate district of the city centre. At the heart of the discussion has been the unstudied archaeological record, prompting on the one hand concern over the scale and cost of the archaeological challenge that would confront future developers, and on the other a desire to 'exploit' this heritage and put the castle remains on display. The aim of our project has been to undertake a comprehensive analysis not just of the archaeological evidence for the castle and the medieval landscape within which it sat, but also of subsequent uses of the site as, for example, a bowling green, slaughterhouses, and steel works. The most valuable resources come in the form of the archives from archaeological recording undertaken between 1927 and 1930 by A. Leslie Armstrong (an amateur archaeologist who worked for the Inland Revenue in Sheffield) and Joseph Beeston Himsworth (cutler and silversmith), and in the late 1950s and 1960s by Leslie Butcher (a surveyor from the City Architect's Department) and John Bartlett (Deputy Director of the City Museum).



The gatehouse of Sheffield Castle in a Virtual Reality model (Human/University of Sheffield).

Our project has produced a biography of the site of Sheffield Castle, built around the intertwined histories of its buildings, the landscape in which they were located, the changing needs, interests and involvement of the local community, and the priorities of successive generations of archaeologists over the course of nearly a 100 years. We have situated our analysis of the archaeological archives and of modern excavations in the context of a long-running regeneration debate, and we have used them to contribute to informing and inspiring future developments.



Along came some friends who sought to find him.
But without extra help their chances were slim.



