Discover what makes Sheffield civilised

We all need to be protected from the elements, to have a safe water supply and effective sanitation. A civilised society needs more than this – transport, power, buildings and disposal of waste.

Civil engineering is the name we give to this infrastructure; dams, reservoirs and other aspects of water supply; drainage and sewerage; transport by road, rail, water and air; bridges for vehicles, trains and pedestrians; seaports, docks, airports, canals and aqueducts; power stations, renewable energy, pipelines and the structures that support towers and buildings.

Originally, any engineering that was not military was civil, but now there are many specialist professional engineers who work together, and with scientists and other professions, to create, improve and protect the environment in which we live. Engineers provide the facilities for everybody’s life in a civilised society by designing, constructing, maintaining and, eventually, removing them.

Sheffield is a civilised city and this walk shows something of how this has been achieved. You will see buildings and structures, various forms of transport (road, rail, tram and water) and the bridges they need. You will not see hidden essentials like water supply and drainage but you will learn something about where they are. You will see different materials being used in different forms - all designed and constructed by engineers applying science and using engineering principles.

Visitor information
The whole of the route is suitable for both pushchairs and wheelchairs, and there are bus and tram stops along some sections of the route.

For parking information, call 0114 273 4567 or visit www.sheffield.gov.uk/parking
For public transport information, call 01295 151515 or visit www.travelsouthyorkshire.com
Mobility scooters are available to hire Monday to Saturday 08:30 to 17:30 from Mobile Sheffield, The Moor Market, S1 4PF. Call 0114 273 8787 to book.
For information visit www.mobilesheffield.co.uk
For information and leaflets on walking in Sheffield enquired local walking initiatives visit: www.sheffield.gov.uk and search “walking”
For additional copies of this leaflet please contact ICE Yorkshire and Humber e: yorkshire@ice.org.uk or call in to Sheffield’s central library on Sconset Street, S1 2LH.

Sheffield: A Civilised Place

Sheffield Canal

Although the River Don had been made navigable to Tilston by 1751, the extension to the city, the Sheffield Canal by William Chapman, was not begun until 1815 and was completed in 1819.

The original Terminal Warehouse remains and has been sympathetically restored. The other buildings around the canal basin are mid to late 19th century, the Straddle Warehouse being notable.

Sheffield Castle

Exciting plans are in place to redevelop the site and uncover parts of the Sheffield Castle and the River Sheaf.

Sheffield Inner Relief Road

Discover how engineering has developed the city of Sheffield.
The circular walk can be started at any point - we suggest the Cathedral forecourt.

1. Part of the Cathedral is recorded as existing by 1011, making it, arguably, the oldest building still in use in Sheffield, although possibly only fragments of the 1280 rebuild survive. It was also the first building to use electricity for powering a motor in the city, in 1892.

2. The Cutlers’ Hall has been on this site since 1638, 14 years after the foundation of the company. The present building dates from 1832. The Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire promotes and supports manufacturing industry in South Yorkshire as well as Sheffield cutlers and silversmiths.

3. Originally built as a school and then used as the education offices, the listed buildings have been cleverly refurbished while retaining as much as possible of the original buildings to create the Leopold Hotel and Leopold Square.

4. The Barker’s Pool, after which the area is named, was a large clistem holding rain and spring water for use by the people of the 16th century town.

5. The City Hall was built in 1932 and employed some of the longest span reinforced concrete beams in Europe to support the roof. It was extensively refurbished in 2003.

6. The Palazzo style building of 1867 to the east of the City Hall is the former offices of the Sheffield Waterworks Company and represents a continuation of this area as the focus of water supply for the city.

7. The present Town Hall was completed in 1897. Built to house the increasing number of staff needed to cope with the new duties the council had taken on over the previous decades or so, including roads and water supply.

8. An extension was planned in the 1950s, but war preparations intervened and the site became the peace gardens. Their landscaping in 1998 as part of the Heart of the City project was widely acclaimed. The walls used the same concrete beams in reinforced concrete.

9. The Crucible Theatre (1971) was designed for theatre in-the-round, and is constructed mainly of reinforced concrete and concrete block masonry. It recently received a makeover with new spaces within the old, a small extension and new more efficient heating, ventilation and lighting.

10. The Lyceum Theatre, originally built in 1893, was extensively refurbished in 1991. New spaces were created, in under and around the old, to vastly improve conditions for all users. Both these theatres are listed buildings.

11. The Water Gardens (2002) has an inverted catenary form to the arches. This is very efficient. It is heated, as are many city centre buildings, by the Sheffield District Heating scheme.

12. If open, enter the Winter Garden point 11 and turn left into the Millennium Gallery emerging onto Arundel Gate. If not, turn left along Sunny Street, pass the Central Library and follow the ramp down to Arundel Gate.

13. The Winter Gardens (2002) has an inverted catenary form to the arches. This is very efficient. It is heated, as are many city centre buildings, by the Sheffield District Heating scheme.

14. The Charles was built in 1700 and is the earliest surviving building to be built substantially of brick as opposed to timber or stone.

15. The Upper Chapel was originally built in 1700 and is the earliest surviving building to be built substantially of brick as opposed to timber or stone.

16. The Crucible Theatre (1971) was designed for theatre in-the-round, and is constructed mainly of reinforced concrete and concrete block masonry. It recently received a makeover with new spaces within the old, a small extension and new more efficient heating, ventilation and lighting.

If you continue along Arundel Street, you will arrive at the Old Queen’s Head, one of the finest pubs in Sheffield.

For more information visit: www.sheffield.gov.uk

From the forecast, turn right up Church Street, cross Church Street and turn left into Leopold Street.

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