Sources for the Study of
The Miners’ Strike
1984 - 1985
Front Cover Illustrations - left to right:

Barnsley Women Against Pit Closures banner, c. 1984
(Sheffield City Archives SY733/V2/4)

Handsworth Main Colliery, c. 1900
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield t02346)

Stop Pit Closures sticker, c. 1984
(Sheffield City Archives SY689/V7/4)

Images can be copied for private or educational use without permission from us, though we ask that the following acknowledgement is included ‘[document reference number] From the collections of Sheffield Libraries Archives and Information’. Please contact us if you wish to publish, exhibit or broadcast any of the information within this Guide.

You can download a copy of this Study Guide from www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Timeline showing key dates 1984 - 2006</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selection of images from the Sheffield Local Studies Library and Sheffield City Archives collections:</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>History of the Coal Industry in South Yorkshire</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. <strong>The Strike</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1. <strong>General</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2. <strong>Women and the strike</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3. <strong>Policing the strike</strong></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. <strong>The aftermath</strong></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of documents, books, photographs and other items available at Sheffield Libraries, Archives and Information</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Archive and library collections held elsewhere</strong></td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Local Studies Library and Sheffield City Archives Facilities</strong></td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact Details</strong></td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Introduction

This booklet lists sources available within Sheffield Libraries Archives and Information for the study of the year long miners’ strike of 1984 – 1985. It includes introductory information on the coal industry in the region, as well as various aspects of the strike and the legacy of the bitter year long dispute.

It is not a detailed history of the strike; it merely points the reader who wishes to carry out their own research to what is available within Sheffield Libraries and Archives.

Many sources for researching wider themes such as coal mining, the lives of miners and their communities, trade unionism and other coal strikes have been left out – simply because they demand more detailed guide in their own right.

As more items are catalogued and the collections are used by researchers it is likely that additional references to the strike of 1984 - 1985 will come to light. More detailed searching of our catalogues for related terms may reveal additional material. It is always worth contacting the service points or checking our website for updates to this Study Guide. Our contact details are on the back cover.

Be Part of History

If you have personal papers or papers from a group you belonged to or helped administer before, during or after the strike please consider safeguarding them for current and future historians by placing them in the care of Sheffield Libraries and Archives. We are interested in photographs of events and venues, flyers and posters, minutes of meetings etc. of any date. For advice on record keeping and the facilities we offer please contact us archives@sheffield.gov.uk 0114 203 9395).
## Timeline showing key dates 1984 - 1985

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early 1984</td>
<td>National Coal Board announces its pit closure programme. It later announced an accelerated closure programme – a process which would take just 5 weeks to implement for a number of pits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Mar 1984</td>
<td>Cortonwood (Brampton Bierlow, Rotherham) miners walk out on strike following a ballot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Mar 1984</td>
<td>The various local strikes were declared a national strike by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Apr 1984</td>
<td>Following a Special Delegate Conference at Sheffield the NUM calls on all of its members to come out on strike.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Jun 1984</td>
<td>Major battle between striking miners and the police at Orgreave Coking Plant, near Rotherham.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Jul 1984</td>
<td>Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister refers to the ‘rule of the mob’ and the ‘enemy within’ (the ‘enemy without’ had been Argentina who had invaded the British Falkland Islands two years before).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 1984</td>
<td>High Court fines the NUM £200,000 for breaching its own constitution by not holding a national strike ballot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Nov 1984</td>
<td>97.3% of Yorkshire miners on strike.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Feb 1985</td>
<td>90% of Yorkshire miners on strike.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Mar 1985</td>
<td>83% of Yorkshire miners on strike.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Mar 1985</td>
<td>NUM calls off the strike.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Mar 1985</td>
<td>Miners return to work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Barrow Colliery at Worsbrough Bridge, Barnsley was one of the first pits to close in 1985, not from being unprofitable but because the pit had become unsafe. Other pits that closed in 1985 were North Gawber (Barnsley), Cadeby and Denaby (Doncaster), Cortonwood Colliery (Barnsley), Brookhouse Colliery (Rotherham) and Yorkshire Main (Doncaster).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Collieries that closed this year: Hickleton (Barnsley), Cadeby and Denaby (Doncaster) and Wath (Rotherham).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Collieries that closed this year: Dodworth (Barnsley).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Manvers Colliery Complex (near Wath upon Dearne) closed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Collieries that closed this year: Barnburgh (Doncaster) Dearne Valley (Barnsley) and Darfield (Barnsley), Kilnhurst (Rotherham), Roystone (Barnsley) Colliery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Brodsworth Colliery (Doncaster) closed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Askern (Doncaster), Barnsley Main (Barnsley), Dinnington (Rotherham), Thurcroft (Rotherham) and Treeton Colliery (Rotherham) closed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Grimethorpe Colliery (Barnsley) and Houghton (Barnsley) closed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Bentley Colliery (Doncaster) closed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Goldthorpe Colliery (Barnsley), Kiveton Park (Rotherham) and Silverwood (Rotherham) closed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>The European Union enquiry into poverty classified Grimesthorpe in South Yorkshire as the poorest settlement in the country and one of the poorest in the E.U. South Yorkshire was declared as being in considerable need of EU funding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 1994</td>
<td>Coal industry privatised.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Markham Main Colliery (Doncaster) closed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Coalfields Regeneration Trust established ‘to lead the way in coalfields regeneration and to restore healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2005</td>
<td>Just 8 deep mines left in the UK.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Rossington Colliery (Doncaster), the last remaining pit in South Yorkshire closed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The South Yorkshire Coal Industry

Coal mining in South Yorkshire has a long history – there are references to coals and mines in documents from at least the 16th century. The coalfield centred around Barnsley and in later years, Doncaster was to become one of the most important mining centres in the country.

By the mid 19th century statistics from the Home Office reveal there were 81 collieries in the South Yorkshire area. By 1870 there were over 100 mines employing over 60,000 miners.

It was in the 20th century that the coalfield reached its peak in terms of production and the numbers employed. In 1900 over 100,000 miners worked in the coal field.

Between the two world wars the collieries produced over 30 million tons of coal a year. In 1929 this represented 13% of the country’s total output. As late as the mid 1970s, the coalfield was described by G D B Gray¹ as ‘one of Britain’s premier fields’.

With regard to trade unionism and industrial relations the mining industry had a long history of struggle to improve safety and wage rates. The 1850s saw the formation of the Yorkshire Miners Association which later became part of the Miners’ Federation. At the time of nationalisation in 1947 the National Union of Mineworkers was born. There are many references in the collections to strikes from the 19th century right through to the strike of 1984-1985.

¹ ‘The South Yorkshire Coalfield’ in Studies in the Yorkshire Coal Industry, Benson and Neville, 1976

© Sheffield City Council, 2009-2018
The Strike

The strike actually has its roots in South Yorkshire. There had been some localised industrial action across the country in late 1983 and early 1984 but it was announcements by the Government for its plans for three pits in particular that led to the call for a national stoppage.

In late winter 1984 the Government announced its pit closure programme, a few weeks later it published details of an accelerated closure programme. This process would mean mines would shut down in a matter of weeks after their initial announcements. One of the collieries affected by the accelerated closure was Cortonwood at Brampton Bierlow, Rotherham.

A week after the Cortonwood miners walked out in protest the National Union of Mineworkers declared that the various local disputes across the country were a national strike and in April 1984 at a Special Delegate Conference at Sheffield the NUM called on all of its members to come out on strike.

At one point over 165,000 miners were out on strike across the country. Many miners remained out for the whole of the strike, whilst others found the hardship caused by no salary and no state benefits too much to bear. The National Union of Mineworkers paid those strikers who attended picket lines, but they received no help from the Government even if they had children to feed and clothe.

There was a mixed response from other parts of the trade union movement – some unions provided much needed support and raised money and donated food and clothes, whilst others were less sympathetic.

With the country having enough coal stockpiled to see it through the winter of 1984/5 it seemed that with the coming of spring in 1985 and a drift back to work by increasing numbers that the miners were not going to get a settlement to the dispute. In March 1985, by a tiny majority, the NUM called the strike off.
Women and the Strike

An interesting element of the strike was the role played by women. During the year-long protest many women mobilised themselves and their communities to defend miners’ jobs and fight for the survival of their communities.

Some women were already involved in politics. Members of the Sheffield Women Against Pit Closures had experiences of being members of the Communist Party, but many others became involved in political struggle for the first time in 1984.

Across the coalfield local women’s support groups and WAPC (Women Against Pit Closures) groups were established, for example at Cortonwood (where the strike started), Askern and Rossington etc. The papers of many of these have survived. As well as fliers and photographs there are minutes of meetings and other papers.

WAPC members spoke at public meetings joined the picket lines and raised funds. Funds were raised mainly to provide food parcels and clothes to striking miners and their families. The Sheffield WAPC raised over £100,000 which was distributed as food parcels. Fund raising methods included selling t-shirts, calendars, Christmas cards and holding raffles etc.

“The strike [certainly] enhanced my life, broadened my outlook with regard to politics, trade unions and education”

Betty Cook in Queen Coal (page 94)

“We are women, we are strong
We are fighting for our lives
Side by side with our men…”

Extract from WAPC Campaign song

The Trades Union Congress formally recognised the work of the women in the coalfields and stated they believed the strike would not have lasted so long if the women hadn’t contributed to the struggle.

After the strike was over, many women had a different outlook on life, not only in terms of new friendships and alliances but also in attitudes towards establishment groups such as the police and the courts. Many went on to continue in politics and activism, travelling abroad to places such as Chile and the Soviet Union, inspiring other women.
Policing the Strike

The strike was one of the most bitter periods of industrial unrest ever seen in Britain. It seemed at times to resemble a class battle between working class miners and the Conservative government, led by Margaret Thatcher and represented by the police who were brought in from many other constabularies – many of which had no experience of mining communities.

“… the riot police charged … miners were struck, shoved, shouted at … the riot police swore at the miners, urged them to behave violently …”  
*Sheffield Policewatch report*

There were many scenes of confrontation – not least at Orgreave. Miners attempted to stop coal supplies getting to power stations, some miners didn’t wish to strike and many found the economic difficulties of receiving no wage and no state benefits too much to bear and they returned to work. This mixture caused emotions to run high. As well as violence and aggression by opposing parties there was accusation and counter accusation about the tactics of both the strikers and the police.

Over the twelve months of the strike over 11,000 men and women were arrested and over 8,000 of those were prosecuted – mainly for public order offences. Magistrates court records – available at local archive services in South Yorkshire – may record details of the prosecutions.

There are numerous documents and oral testimonies in the collections which tell the story from both the miners and the police points of view.

Different perspectives - above - a Policewatch publication (*Sheffield Local Studies 331.892 S*). Right - a South Yorkshire Police publication (*Sheffield City Archives: SY727*)

“… One of the most disturbing features of the dispute was the unprecedented scale of criminal attacks on property belonging to the NCB and the Police …”  
*Policing the Coal Industry Dispute (p. 35)*

2 Note there will be access restrictions on these records which are considered confidential under the terms of the Data Protection Act. Contact the archive services direct for more information.

© Sheffield City Council, 2009-2018
The Aftermath

With the miners calling off their dispute with no settlement it seemed their fate was sealed. The Conservative government had secured its victory and exorcised the memory of the miners bringing down a government through strike action in the 1970s.

The Government pressed on with its pit closure programme. Within 10 years most of the pits in South Yorkshire were closed and the industry as a whole was privatised.

Bitter opposition to the pit closure programme remained in some quarters though many felt global economics meant the industry had to undergo fundamental and radical change.

The mining communities faced considerable hardship with high unemployment and its associated problems. Following a further wave of closures in the early 1990s the Coalfields Regeneration Trust was established ‘to lead the way in coalfields regeneration and to restore healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities’.

The communities changed as ex-miners sought new careers. Cortonwood Colliery – the pit where the strike began was later redeveloped as a shopping centre. Orgreave Coking Plant – the scene of the largest and bitterest battle is home to a high-tech business park and may soon (2009) be further developed to include new homes, schools and light industry.

The NUM saw its membership decline as well as a break away group – the Union of Democratic Mineworkers - established. Before the strike the NUM moved its HQ from London to Sheffield; however they later vacated this to move to the historic Yorkshire HQ in Barnsley.

© Sheffield City Council, 2009-2018
List of documents, books, photographs and other items available at Sheffield Libraries, Archives and Information

Relevant articles and features may appear in local newspapers. As these are mainly unindexed they can be time consuming to search. The main titles available at Sheffield Local Studies Library for this period include: Sheffield Telegraph and the Star.

Archives of some national newspapers are available on the internet, notably The Times (http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/archive/) and The Guardian (http://archive.guardian.co.uk)

Miners

Yorkshire Miner (magazine), 1977 – 1994
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.2 SF)

The Yorkshire Miners: a history, Vol. 1, Frank Machin (National Union of Mineworkers, 1958)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 338.2 S, also available on microfiche in Sheffield Reference Library: 331.88)

The History of the Yorkshire Miners, 1881 – 1958, Carolyn Baylies (Routledge, 1993)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 338.2 S)

The Politics of the Yorkshire Miners, Andrew Taylor (Croom Helm, 1984)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.88122)

Yorkshire mining veterans in their own words. Brian Elliott (ed) (Wharncliffe Books, 2005)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.334 S, also available in a number of community libraries 338.2724)

Yorkshire Miners by Brian Elliott, (Sutton Publishing, 2004)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.334 S and various community libraries 338.2724)

Pits and pitmen of Barnsley: a pictorial tribute and celebration of miners, their families and communities, 1900 – 2000, Brian Elliott (Wharncliffe Books, 2001)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.334 S, also available in Central Lending 942.825)

(Sheffield Reference Library: 338.2724)

Scargill and the Miners, Michael Crick (Penguin, 1985)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.88122)

Arthur Scargill – his policies in relation to the election for National Union of Mineworkers President in Yorkshire Miner, Dec 1981
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.2 SF)

(Sheffield Central Lending Library B.SCAR)
History of the Coal Industry in South Yorkshire

There are numerous books on the history of the British coal industry in the Business, Science and Technology (BST) Library. In addition, both BST and the Local Studies Library have some works relating to the Derbyshire coalfield. Listed below are works relating to the industry in Yorkshire in particular.

Studies in the South Yorkshire Coal Industry, J Benson and R E Neville (eds.) (Manchester University press, 1976) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 338.2 S)

The development of management in the South Yorkshire coal mining industry, 1770 – 1835: a study of management at the Fitzwilliam and Norfolk Collieries, Alfred Fletcher, MA dissertation, 1973 (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.33 SQ)

South Yorkshire Pits, Warwick Taylor, (Wharncliffe Books, 2001) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.334 S and various community libraries 338.2724)

The South Yorkshire coalfield: a history and development, Alan Hill, (Tempus, 2001) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.334 S and various community libraries 338.2724)

Pit voices: Yorkshire mining veterans in their own words, [compiled by] Brian Elliott, [2004] (Sheffield Local Studies Library: CD 87)

Images of Yorkshire Coal, Peter Williams, (Landmark, 2005) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.334 S and various community libraries 622.334)

South Yorkshire Collieries, John Goodchild (Tempus Publishing, 2001) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.334 S and various community libraries 622.334)


Pits 1: a pictorial record of mining, by John Threlkeld (Wharncliffe Publishing, 1994) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.334 SSTQ)

The Story of Treeton Colliery: one hundred years of coal mining, 1875-1975, Tom Rossington (Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham, 1976) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.33 S and Tinsley Library: 622.33)

Life in the Yorkshire coalfield, David Joy (Dalesman, 1989) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.334 SST)

South Yorkshire yesterday: glimpses of the past, Melvyn Jones (Smith Settle, 2003) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S and various community libraries 942.82)

Denaby Main: the development of a South Yorkshire mining village, Melvyn Jones, In Aspects of Doncaster 2, Brian Elliott (ed) (pp.123-142) (Wharncliffe, 2000) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S)

Coal was our life: an essay on life in a Yorkshire former pit town [Featherstone], Royce Turner (Sheffield Hallam University Press, 2000) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 307.766 SST and Broomhill Library 942.815)
Notes on current statistics for Yorkshire coalfield in *Quality of Sheffield*, Jul/Aug 1983  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 380 SQ)

National Coal Board: reports and accounts, 1948 - 1986  
(Sheffield Business Science and Technology Library: 622.00942 ST. Sheffield City Archives also has 1983 - 1986: SY705)

The Economic Case Against Pit Closures by Andrew Glyn, 1985  
(Sheffield City Archives: SY706)

Winding up: a history of Birley East Colliery, Alan Rowles, 1992  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.33 SQ and various community libraries: 622.334 Q)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.334 SQ and various community libraries: 622.334 Q)

**The Strike - General**

National Coal Board - numerous files regarding the strike  
(Sheffield City Archives: NCB)

Strike: Thatcher, Scargill and the Miners, Peter Wilsher, Donald Macintyre and Michael Jones (Deutsch, 1985)  
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.892822)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SSTQ; Sheffield City Archives: SY706 and Sheffield Reference Library: 331.892822 Q)

The Miners' Case, (Labour Research Department, LRD Publications, Oct 1984)  
(Sheffield City Archives: SY726)

*Solidarity with the Miners*, (Labour Research Department LRD Publications, Aug 1985  
(Sheffield City Archives: SY726)

BBC Radio Sheffield news broadcasts (card index of c. 300 entries available)  
(Sheffield City Archives: SY425 and SY685)

Photograph of miners, food parcels, NUM support groups Christmas entertainment, etc.,  
1984  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield s22855-22873)

Flashpoints: studies in public disorder, David Waddington, Karen Jones and Chas Critcher,  
(1989)  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 364.14 S)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 S)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SST)

© Sheffield City Council, 2009-2018
The Great Strike: the Miners' Strike of 1984-5 and its Lessons, Alex Callinicos and Mike Simons (Socialist Worker, 1985)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.892822)

Learning Lessons, a Discussion on the strategy of the Miners Strike (Steel Bank Film Co-op, 1985)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: VID 280)

South Yorkshire: coalfield in crisis (South Yorkshire County Council, 1985)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library 331.137 SQ and Sheffield Business Science and Technology Library: 338.272 Q)

(Greenhill Library: 331.392822)

Miners Strike 1984-1985: People Versus State, David Reed and Olivia Adamson (Larkin, 1985)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.892822)

The Heart and Soul of it - a documentation of how the 1984-1985 miners’ strike affected the people in the pit village of Worsbrough and surrounding districts, and of their survival, (Worsbrough Community Group, 1985)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SST; also available at Sheffield City Archives: WOR/LOCAL)

Television and the Miners’ Strike, Guy Cumberbatch etc., (Broadcasting Research Unit, 1986)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 791.455 Q)

Thurcroft: A Village and the Miners’ Strike (1986)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SST and Stocksbridge Library: 331.892822)

Sheffield Trades Council. Miners Support Committee publicity leaflet [1980s]
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 4201 S)

A Coalfield in Chaos, Ken Ambler (Ken Ambler, [1988?])
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SST and Southey Library 331.892)

Incomplete notes on the miners’ strike, 1984-85 (includes facsimiles of a number of strike newsletters)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SST)

Twelve months of strife - special supplement of the Rotherham Advertiser looking at the effect of the 1984-85 miners’ strike on communities and individuals in Rotherham and South Yorkshire, Mar 2004
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 1593 L)

The Battle for Orgreave, Bernard Jackson and Tony Wardle, (1986)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SST)

The Battle of Orgreave [re-enactment on] 17 June 2001, Orgreave, South Yorkshire, Jeremy Deller
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 3519 S)
Oral History Collection: there are a number of interviews with miners, members of the Women Against Pit Closures campaign, NUM officials, local politicians, a clergyman, head teacher, police officers and a shopkeeper etc. The interviews were conducted, for the most part in early 1986.
(Sheffield City Archives: SY691, SY692, SY694, SY711, SY714, SY729, SY731, SY735)

How we lost the Miner's Strike: play & counterplay, David W Batley and Hilary A Pearson
(Fact & Fiction, 2001)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library 331.892 S and Sheffield Central Lending Library: 331.892822)

The Coal Strike: Christian Reflections on the Miners' Struggle, Brian Jenner
(Urban Theology Unit, 1986)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SST and Burngreave Library: 261.85)

Striking Back, Welsh Campaign for Civil and Political Liberties, (Wccpl, 1985)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.892822)

Understanding the Miners' Strike, J Lloyd, (1985)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 335.1)

Sheffield City Council, Policy Committee minutes, Jan 1984 - Sep 1985 includes references to the strike
(Sheffield City Archives: CA-POL/17-18)

South Yorkshire County Council, Department of Recreation and Culture, County Record Office file re miners' strike
(Sheffield City Archives: SYCC-REC/4/13)

(Sheffield City Archives: X110/2/2)

Signed resolution relating to the NUM Yorkshire Area Miners' Gala and Demonstration Day held in Rotherham, signed by Arthur Scargill, Rodney Bickerstaffe and Jack Taylor, 15 Jun 1985
(Sheffield City Archives: X139)

Unfinished Business: Photo-text constructions from the Miners' Strike 1984 - 85, Phil McHugh (Coppice, 1985)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.892822 Q)

Across Frontiers: International Support for the Miners' Strike 1984 - 1985
Jonathan Saunders (Canary, 1989)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.892822)

The Miners' Strike, Geoffrey Goodman, (Pluto, 1985)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.892822)

The Miners' Strike and the Struggle for Socialism, "Socialist Worker" Pamphlet, Chris Harman, 1985
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.892822 Q Series)

Papers regarding abolition of South Yorkshire County Council and miners' strike, c. 1985
(Sheffield City Archives: MD7234-7235)
Chile, Nicaragua and the Miners’ Strike (Sheffield Latin America Solidarity Front (SLASF), 1985)  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: PAMP 705 S)

The Strike - Miners

Reports broadcast by Radio Orwell about life in Rossington during the strike.  
(Sheffield City Archives: SY714)

Askern Colliery: papers, photographs and maps relating to events (including picketing) at Askern, Orgreave and Mansfield and elsewhere, 1984 - 1985  
(Sheffield City Archives: SY691)

Grimethorpe Colliery: papers and photographs from the National Coal Board, the NUM, strike sympathisers, etc., 1984 - 1986  
(Sheffield City Archives: SY731)

Pride and Poverty: memories of a Mexborough Miner, Vernon Frank, (Doncaster Library Service, 1984)  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: B Vern S)

Counting the Cost: a family in the miners strike, Jackie Keating, (Wharncliffe, 1991)  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SST)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SST)

Daddy, what did you do in the strike? (Blackthorne Records, [1984])  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: cassette CAS 21)

A Dirty business [interviews with miners twenty years after the miners' strike], Chris Burkham, The Observer Magazine, 1 Feb 2004, pp. 26-35  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 3543 M)

The English Civil War, part II: personal accounts of the 1984-85 miners’ strike; Jeremy Deller and Gerrie van Struktur (Artangel Publishing, [2001])  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 S and Sheffield Central Lending Library 331.892822)

Confessions of A Picket. Written by Peter Richardson, ex-miner at Askern pit. Describes his experiences over the year of the strike in detail, including his various arrests, the return to work at Askern, picketing etc., Dec 1985  
(Sheffield City Archives: SY692)

The Strike: an Insider’s Story, Roy Ottey (Sidgwick & Jackson, 1985)  
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.89222)

Yorkshire’s Flying Pickets in the 1984-85 Miners’ Strike. Based on the diary of Silverwood miner Bruce Wilson, Bruce Wilson and Brian Elliott (Wharncliffe, 2004)  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 S and various community libraries 331.892822)

The Strike - Women

Askern Women's Support Group: papers, photographs, maps etc., 1984-1986
(Sheffield City Archives: SY689)

Rossington branch of Women Against Pit Closures: Papers, 1984
(Sheffield City Archives: SY714)

Rossington Women's Support Group: photographs etc., 1984-1985
(Sheffield City Archives: SY748)

Sheffield Women Against Pit Closures: Christmas cards produced by, c. 1985
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Christmas Card Collection)

Sheffield Women Against Pit Closures publicity leaflet, [1980s]
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 4200 S)

Photograph of Sheffield Women Against Pit Closures lobbying the Trades union Congress [TUC] at Brighton, 3 Sep 1984
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield u04888)

Handbill advertising meeting to support miners at which Grimethorpe Women's Support Group spoke, Jan 1985
(Sheffield City Archives: SY731)

Papers of Lesley Boulton (involved in the ‘Battle for Orgreave’), c. 1984
(Sheffield City Archives: SY729 and SY749)

Queen coal: women of the miners' strike, Triona Holden (Sutton, 2005)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 S also available in a number of community libraries 331.892822)

Never the Same Again: Women and the Miners’ Strike, Jean Stead,
(Women's Press, 1987)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.892822)

You can't kill the spirit: women in a Welsh mining village, Jill Miller ([1987])
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.892822)

Women Against Pit Closures calendar 1985
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Calendar 78)

Notts Women Strike Back, Steel Bank Film Co-op, (1984)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: video LS 30)

The Cutting Edge: women and the pit strike, Vicky Seddon, 1986
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 S)

We are women, we are strong, (Sheffield Women Against Pit Closures, 1987)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 S)
Barnsley Women Against Pit Closures, (1984)
(Sheffield City Archives: SY733 and Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SST)

Barnsley Women vol. 2, published by Barnsley Women Against Pit Closures. (People’s history of Yorkshire No. 12, 1985)
(Sheffield City Archives: SY733)

Norma Dolby’s diary: an account of the great miners strike, Norma Dolby, (Verso, 1987)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SST)

Here we Go!: Women’s Memories of the 1984/85 Miners Strike / edited by Chrys Salt and Jim Layzell (Co-operative Retail Services, 1985)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.89222 Q)

‘Ey up mi duck’: images and poetry from Derbyshire miners’ wives, (Derbyshire Women’s Action Group, [1980s])
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 828.08 SST)

The Strike - Policing the Strike

South Yorkshire Policy Authority minutes, 1985-1987
(Note: advice on access to these papers can be obtained from the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner’s office. Contact Sheffield City Archives for further information.)
(Sheffield City Archives: SYJA/2/1/1)

South Yorkshire County Council Police Committee agendas, minutes and reports (including 1984 - 1985)
(Sheffield City Archives: SYCC-CTTE/4)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Video 125)

Come and wet this truncheon: the role of the police in the coal strike of 1984-1985, Dave Douglass (Canary Press, 1986)
(Sheffield City Archives: SY733 and Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.982 SST)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.982 S and Sheffield Reference Library: 331.892822)

The Iron Fist: a state of siege, Vol. II: a report to the Yorkshire Area NUM on policing the coalfields in the first six weeks of the miners strike, Martin Walker and Susan Miller, 1984
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 S and Sheffield Reference Library: 331.892822)

South Yorkshire Police: Mineworkers' Dispute papers, 1984 - 1985 (Note: written permission is required to access these papers. Contact Sheffield City Archives for information).
(Sheffield City Archives: SYP-MD Acc. 2008/128)

Policing Policy During the Strike of the NUM (Yorkshire Area), Feb 1985
(Sheffield City Archives: SY661; Sheffield Local Studies Library: 351.74 SQ and Sheffield Reference Library: 331.892822 Q)
Policing the Miners' Strike, B Fine, 1985
(Sheffield Reference Library: 331.892822)

Policing the Coal Industry Dispute in South Yorkshire, 1984 - 1985, (South Yorkshire Police Authority, 1985)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 SQ; Sheffield City Archives: SY727 and Sheffield Central Lending Library: 351.74 Q)

Taking Liberties: Policing During the Miners' Strike, Apr - Oct 1984 issued by Sheffield Policewatch
(Sheffield City Archives: SY704; Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 S and Sheffield Reference Library: 351.75)

Sheffield Policewatch Observers daily report on the policing of the Miners’ Strike, Apr 1984 - 1985
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 S)

Sheffield Policewatch: Daily reports: eye witness accounts of police activity on picket lines at pits in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and South Yorkshire, and elsewhere. Also includes tables, press releases and correspondence, Apr 1984 - Mar 1985
(Sheffield City Archives: SY704)

The Strike - Other

Reminiscence of John Tunney, who was Chief Reporter at the Morning Telegraph during the Strike, in Hallam University Bulletin, Vol. 8, 9 May 1995, pp. 5-6
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 374.8 SQ)

The Life of Riley, Coalfield Characters - One, (Percy Riley, 1986)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: B. Rile S)

The Church in the Community: a reflection on the experiences of parishes in the Diocese of Sheffield during the Mining Dispute, 1984/5, Diocese of Sheffield Social Responsibility Working Party
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 S)

The Celebrated Sheffield Street Band Songbook, 1984
Contains songs in support of the miners
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 4993 S)

The Aftermath

Coal and Community Conference, Sheffield, documents 1986
(Sheffield City Archives: SY733)

Note of pit closures in South Yorkshire in Yorkshire Miner, Mar 1991
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.2 SF)

Coal for commerce: sustaining a manufacturing economy, Trevor Lodge, in Aspects of Rotherham: discovering local history 3 (pp.170-188), Melvyn Jones (ed), (Wharncliffe Publishing, 1998)
(Sheffield Central Lending Library and various community libraries: 942.823)
Split at the Seams? community, continuity and change after the 1984-1985 coal dispute, Dave Waddington and others, 1991
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.892 S)

The effect of the [miners’ strike] on the police force and the resulting increase in crime in Sheffield in Crime in Sheffield, J P Bean, 1987
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 364.1 S)

(Sheffield Business Science and Technology Library: 338.7622334 Q)

HMSO Publications: Markets for Coal, Coal Review, Benchmarking Overheads and Productivity, reviews of collieries, closure review, 1993
(Sheffield Business Science and Technology Library: 338.7622334 Q)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.33 SSTQ and Sheffield Reference Library: 338.7622334 Q)

Who said coal was dead? Coalfield Communities Campaign, (1995)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 338.2724 Q)

Investment in the Community coalmining and iron and steel industries: report on the survey, Commission of the European Communities, 1995 - 2001
(Sheffield Business Science and Technology Library: 338.272 Q)

From the enemy within to the Russians are coming: the fifth and sixth Coalfield Regeneration Budget schemes, 2000-2007, Brian Lewis and Don Stewart, (Yorkshire Forward, 2007)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 771.4 SST)

A Mine, memories and a marina: a short history of Shireoaks Colliery, the people who worked there, and its transition after closure, George Bell (ed)
(Nottinghamshire Living History Archive Millennium Award Scheme, 2001).
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.334 SQ)

Scargill's last stand, Angela Monaghan taken from Property Week, 16 May 2003
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 5548 M)

(Sheffield Reference Library: 338.272 Series Hobart Papers No.105)

Department of Trade and Industry: sale of the mining operations of the British Coal Corporation. (HMSO, May 1996)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 351.72 Q)

(The Stationery Office, 1998)
(Sheffield Reference Library: 338.0941 Q)

Article on the compensation paid by South Yorkshire Police to mineworkers acquitted of riot at Orgreave in Yorkshire Miner, Jul 1991
Library and Archive collections held elsewhere

Archives and Local Studies services in Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham will also hold relevant information. Their contact details are:

- Barnsley Archives and Local Studies, Town Hall, Church Street, Barnsley, S70 2TA (Tel. 01226 773 950. Email Archives@barnsley.gov.uk)
- Doncaster Archives, King Edward Road, Balby, Doncaster, DN4 0NA (Tel. 01302 859 811. Email doncaster.archives@doncaster.gov.uk)
- Doncaster Local Studies Library, Central Local Studies Library, Central Library, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3JE (Tel. 01302 734 307. Email central.localhistory@doncaster.gov.uk)
- Rotherham Archives and Local Studies, Clifton Park Museum, Clifton Lane, Rotherham, S65 2AA (Tel. 01709 336 632 Email archives@rotherham.gov.uk)

The Access to Archives online database (A2A) contains catalogues describing archives held locally in England and Wales http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/

The Archives Hub contains catalogues describing archives held in universities and colleges in the UK http://www.archiveshub.ac.uk/

Records of the National Union of Mineworkers are held at the Union’s Headquarters in Barnsley. Their contact details are: 2 Huddersfield Road, Barnsley, S70 2LS (www.num.org.uk  tel. 01226 284006)

The National Archives (TNA) holds records of central government departments and agencies which will include references to the strike. For example it has records of the Industrial Relations Department of the National Coal Board and British Coal Corporation (ref. COAL 26) You can search the TNA catalogue online at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk.

Records of local branches of the National Union of Mineworkers and of the National Coal Board are arranged by branch and / coalfield and are spread across many different record offices and archives. Search the National Archives catalogue for details: http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/

There are many videos and clips from television reports and documentaries available on http://www.youtube.co.uk

National Union of Mineworkers website has a section on the strike: www.num.org.uk.

National Coal Mining Museum (Wakefield, West Yorkshire) www.ncm.org.uk.

Women and the Miners Strike: http://www.co-op.ac.uk/politicalwomen/default.html

Images from the strike www.strike84.co.uk.

BBC News – the miners strike 20 years on http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/uk/2004/miners_strike/default.stm

Calendar TV - ‘The Longest Year’ Calendar retrospective on the 1984 Miners’ Strike is available at the Yorkshire Film Archive (ref. 3556), Contact Yorkshire Film Archive, York St John University, Lord Mayor's Walk, York, YO31 7EX (tel. 01904 876 550. Email yfa@yorksj.ac.uk) www.yorkshirefilmarchive.com
Sheffield City Archives and Local Studies services collect and preserve original records and printed material relating to Sheffield and the surrounding area.

The information dates from the 12th century to the present and relates to Sheffield, South Yorkshire and north Derbyshire.

Included are extensive collections of books ● pamphlets ● photographs ● church registers ● newspapers ● census records ● minutes ● diaries ● films ● maps ● deeds ● records from schools ● hospitals ● businesses and charities ● family estates ● personal papers etc.

Our facilities include:

Study areas ● expert staff on hand to help you make the most of your visit ● a library of reference books ● photocopying and photography services ● free Internet access ● microform machines and printers ● catalogues and indexes ● a range of useful publications for sale ● CD-Rom library ● online image library.
Sheffield Local Studies Library
1st floor
Central Library
Surrey Street
Sheffield
S1 1XZ

Tel: 0114 273 4753
archives@sheffield.gov.uk
www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives

(selected) Sheffield Local Studies Library catalogue

Sheffield City Archives
52 Shoreham Street
Sheffield
S1 4SP

Tel: 0114 203 9395
archives@sheffield.gov.uk
www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives

(selected) Archives catalogues:
and
http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/

For 80,000+ images of Sheffield: www.picturesheffield.com

www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives

www.twitter.com/shefflibraries

http://shefflibraries.blogspot.co.uk/

www.flickr.com/photos/shefflibraries

www.youtube.com/user/SheffieldArchives1

www.facebook.com/shefflibraries