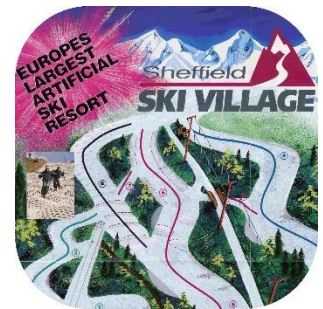


Sources for researching the history of Sheffield's Ski Village



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Front cover illustrations:

Extract from Ski Village information leaflet, 1990s
(*Sheffield Local Studies: MP 3093 S*)

Ski village, 1988
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield: s28668*)

Extract from Ski Village information leaflet, 1990s
(*Sheffield Local Studies: MP 3094 S*)

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

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Introduction

This booklet lists sources available within Sheffield City Archives and Local Studies Library for the study Sheffield's Ski Village at Parkwood Springs.

The ski village opened in 1988 (there had been earlier plans for a dry ski slope at Frecheville in the 1960s). The village was extremely popular - in the late 1990s it was attracting 280,000 visitors a year. Additional facilities were added over the years (including a ten-pin bowling alley). There were plans in the mid-2000s to refurbish and improve the site with the addition of new facilities, including a cable car to link the site to the Supertram. However, an accidental fire in 2012 caused considerable damage and forced the village to close. The site soon became the victim of vandalism and arson attacks in the following years. Several plans were put forward after this to try and resurrect the site as an outdoor sports and leisure facility, but at the time of writing (2023) the site remains derelict.

This *Guide* is not a detailed history of the site or the facilities; it merely points the reader who wishes to carry out their own research to what is available within Sheffield Libraries and Archives.

As more items are catalogued and the collections are used by researchers it is likely that additional references will come to light. More detailed searching of our catalogues for a wide range of terms may reveal additional material.

Timeline showing key dates

1987	Planning permission for construction of ski slope facilities, a ski-centre building, etc., granted
1988	Sheffield Ski Village opened
1997	Planning permission for nursery slope granted
1998	Planning permission for construction of national aerials training centre with plunge pool granted
1999	Planning permission for re-location of ski run to form snowboard run, and also extension to ski-lodge granted
2001	Planning permission for erection of a crane to provide bungee jumping facility granted
2004	Application for the erection of an Alpine Village, two storey extension to lodge and provision of car parking accommodation submitted
2005	An application for the refurbishment and expansion of the ski village was submitted but then withdrawn (this would have included snow hall, retail and leisure facilities, food outlets, hotel, chalets, gondola cableway to link the village to the Supertram), etc.
2005	Planning permission for construction of a high-level ropes adventure course granted
2009	Ski Village Bowling (ten-pin bowling) opened
2012	The village was damaged by fire (started accidentally) and was forced to close
2012 - 2017	The site experienced over 50 vandalism and arson attacks
2017	Extreme Destinations Limited were selected by the Council to deliver a modern ski slope, mountain biking trails, a hub building and visitor accommodation on the site
2021	Extreme Destinations Limited did not progress the plans and the agreement with the Council ended
2021 - 2022	Sheffield Council agreed to fund site investigation works and continue discussions with Skyline about the development of the world's first Gravity Park on the site ¹

¹ Minutes of Sheffield City Council Co-operative Executive, 15 Dec 2021.

List of documents, books, photographs and other items available at Sheffield City Archives and Local Studies Library

Chesterfield Rural District Council, planning application, artificial ski-slope with club house off Birley Moor Road, Frecheville. Applicant: Birley Vale Ski-ing Ltd., 1964
(*Sheffield City Archives: CA519/66*)

Sheffield Corporation, plan of Rivelin Valley (Recreation Department, Development Section, 1970)
Includes reference to site of proposed ski-slope (near Hagg Hill).
(*Sheffield City Archives: CA981/3/2*)

Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) file, entitled, *Skiing complex and ancillary facilities* at 'The Reaps', Rivelin Valley Road/Bole Hill Road, Sheffield, 1970 - 1984
(*Sheffield City Archives: CPRE/4/94*)

BBC Radio Sheffield recording: Parkwood Springs Ski Village to open at the beginning of September 1988. Mile of dry ski slope costing £2 million, brainchild of John Fleetham.
(*Sheffield City Archives: SY425/A/Weeks/68 and SY425/A/8812/6*)

Description of the Parkwood Springs area before the arrival of the ski slope, in *Westside*, Aug 1989 (page 80)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 052.74 SQ*)

Miscellaneous, leaflets, flyers and posters relating to the Sheffield Ski village, 1980s - 1990s
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP Folder 119*)

Sheffield Ski Village, information leaflets, c. 1990s
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 3093 S, MP 3541 (A) S, MP 4186 S*)

Your guide to prices & courses [at Sheffield Ski Village], 1990s
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 4185 S*)

Par excellence - the ski school at the village: prices and courses, 1990s
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 3094 S*)

Daily Skier (Sheffield Ski Village newsletter), 1991 - 1993
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 796.93 S*)

Brief note on extension of facilities at Sheffield Ski Village, in *Planning Information Bulletin*, No. 34, Jul 1991 (page 24)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 711.5 SQ*)

Details of work on the re-designed ski runs, in *Sheffield Journal*, 14 Jan 1993 (page 15)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: newspapers*)

Article about the development of the ski village, in *Westside*, Apr 1993 (pages 28-30)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 052.74 SQ*)

Short article on the ski village, in *Westside*, May 1993 (page 19)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 052.74 SQ*)

Brief article and photograph of the new ski lodge and developments at the ski village, in *Grapevine*, Oct 1993 (pages 6-7)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 052.74 SF*)

Article about the ski village, in *Westside*, Nov 1993 (pages 54-55)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 052.74 SQ*)

Short article about plans for a major leisure complex at the ski village, in *Darts*, No. 645, Feb 1994 (page 2)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 378.4274 SF*)

Village Voice: The Magazine of Sheffield Ski Village, Feb 1995
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 3230 M*)

Official programme of the Snow and Rock Show, in *Eastside*, Sep 1995 (pages 36-42)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 052.74 SQ*)

The Launch of the "Hillsborough Leisure Group" [committee report to the Leisure and Tourism Services Programme] (Sheffield, Leisure Services Department, 1996) (Sheffield Ski Village was a member)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 3215 M*)

Article on the ski village in *Sport in Sheffield* (*Sheffield Telegraph*, 1996) (page 21)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 1216 L*)

More than just skiing [information pack about the Sheffield Ski Village], 1997
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 3229 M*)

'*Pistes and Pints*' (*The Guardian*, 1997)
Sheffield, that city of celluloid male strippers, concrete and steel, boasts the finest year-round skiing in Europe and some excellent cafe-bars
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 1809 L*)

Hillsborough Community Development Trust file relating to Hillsborough Leisure Group (Sheffield Ski Village was a member), 1995 - 1997
(*Sheffield City Archives: X239/6/8*)

Planning application files, erection of an alpine village, etc., 1999
(*Sheffield City Archives: CA206/1999/894P and CA206/2004/3348-FUL*)

Sheffield Magistrate's licensing file, White Rock Bar, Sheffield Ski Village, 1992 - 2001
(*Sheffield City Archives: MC/20/5/418*)

Adventure: Leisure, Play and Snow Sports magazine (Sheffield Ski Village, 2005)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: PAMP 511 S)

Parkwood, Sheffield, UK - A Major Outdoor Leisure Opportunity (Sheffield City Council, Property Services, 2016)

'This document sets out the process that Sheffield City Council will use to select a developer/investor for Parkwood, the site of the former Ski Village in Sheffield. The process is designed to select a partner or consortium to enter into a long lease of the site from Sheffield City Council, for them to invest, develop and operate Parkwood as a significant outdoor leisure facility.'

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 790.068 SQ)

Land at the former ski village - Informal Planning Advice Note (Sheffield City Council, Property Services, 2016)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 352.73 SQ)

Sheffield City Council, press release entitled, *Developers Reveal First Plans for Parkwood Site*, 2018

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 7053 M)

Ashton, Lucy, *World Class New Ski Slope A Stage Closer to Take-off* (Sheffield Newspapers, 2019)

Article about the planned sports and leisure complex proposed by Extreme Destinations on the site of the old Sheffield Ski Village at Parkwood Springs.

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 7109 M)

Sheffield City Council, press release entitled, *Council Moves Forward with Plans to Redevelop Parkwood Springs*, 10 Dec 2021

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 52 E)

Parkwood Options Appraisal in Sheffield City Council Co-operative Executive papers, 15 Dec 2021

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 53 E)

Sheffield Local Studies Library local newspaper cuttings collection includes articles on the ski village from c.1987 onwards

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: microfiche)

The British Library British Newspaper Archive (BNA) website includes over forty-six million pages from over 700 UK national and local newspapers (including a number of Sheffield titles, 1819 - c.1950). [Home | Search the archive | British Newspaper Archive](#). Access to the British Newspaper Archive is free at every Sheffield City Council Library and at the City Archives.

In addition, microfilms of the main Sheffield titles are also available at Sheffield Local Studies Library, namely: *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, 1855 - 1986; *Sheffield Telegraph* (weekly) 1989 - date; *Sheffield Independent* 1819 - 1938 and the *Star* 1873 - date

Archives of some national newspapers are available on the internet, notably *The Times* ([The Times Digital Archive \(gale.com\)](#)) and *The Guardian* ([How to access past articles from the Guardian and Observer archive | Information | The Guardian](#))

Over 100,000 images from the Sheffield Local Studies Library and City Archives photographic collections are available to search online at www.picturesheffield.com.

Library and Archive collections held elsewhere

The National Archives holds documents of the UK Government. A search of their catalogue <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> may reveal relevant files.

The Archives Hub contains catalogues describing archives held in universities and colleges in the UK <https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/>

Local Studies Library and Sheffield City Archives Facilities

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
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- Library of reference books
- Photocopying and photography services
- Free Wi-Fi
- Free access to Ancestry and FindMyPast
- Microform machines and printers
- Catalogues and indexes
- CD-Rom library
- On-line image library

Adding to our collections

Sheffield Libraries and Archives seeks to preserve information about events in our city's history. If you have photographs or personal papers that may be worth preserving, please consider safeguarding them for current and future generations by placing them in the care of Sheffield Libraries and Archives. It is only through the generosity of individuals and organisations that we are able to have a complete record of important events in the history of Sheffield and the nation. We are interested in photographs, flyers and posters, minutes of meetings etc. For advice on record keeping and the facilities we offer please email us (archives@sheffield.gov.uk) or telephone 0114 203 9395).

Contact Details

Sheffield Local Studies Library

1st floor
Central Library
Surrey Street
Sheffield
S1 1XZ

Tel: 0114 273 4753

Email: archives@sheffield.gov.uk

Sheffield City Archives

52 Shoreham Street
Sheffield
S1 4SP

Tel: 0114 203 9395

Email: archives@sheffield.gov.uk

Website: www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives

Search our catalogues:

(not all of the collections are fully catalogued so if you can't find what you are looking for, please contact us for further advice)

Local Studies Library catalogue: https://library.sheffield.gov.uk/client/en_GB/default

City Archives catalogue: <http://www.calmview.eu/SheffieldArchives/CalmView/>

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View some of our photographs on Flickr www.flickr.com/photos/shefflibraries