

Sources for the History of Birley



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Front cover illustrations from left to right:

Birley Board School pupils, 1896
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield s09420*)

Birley Secondary School, 1994
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield w00934*)

Birley East Colliery, 1961
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield v000931*)

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

Sources for the History of Birley

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This guide gives a brief introduction to the variety of sources available for researching the history of Birley at Sheffield Archives and Local Studies Library.

Birley (approximately 5 miles south east of Sheffield city centre) was a hamlet within the parish of Beighton. Note that until 1967 Birley was in the county of Derbyshire (and Chesterfield Rural District). It was transferred to Sheffield in 1967.

For advice and guidance on any of the information in this *Guide* please contact Sheffield Archives and Local Studies.

Books

Frecheville and Birley Countryside Organisation, Local History Group, *Around the Nab: Frecheville, Birley, Charnock and Basegreen* (Wildtrack Publishing, 2006) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SQ; also available from most Sheffield libraries: 942.821)

Proudman, George, *Gleanings of Beighton and Local History (Books 1 and 2)* (2006) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SQ; also available from most Sheffield libraries: 942.821)

Rowles, Alan, *Winding Up: A history of Birley East Colliery* (A. Rowles, 1992) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 622.33 SQ)

Siddons, Julia, *Beighton* (Tempus, 1998) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S; also available from most Sheffield libraries: 942.821)

Siddons, Julia, *Beighton Revisited* (Tempus, 2006) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SQ; also available from most Sheffield community libraries: 942.821)

Time Walks: Discover Beighton Heritage Trail (Discover Beighton Community Heritage Project, 2005) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 4007 S)

Our Beighton: Celebrating a Community (Eventus, 2005) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.51 SQ; also available from most Sheffield community libraries: 942.821 Q)

Platts, T. L., *Historical Highlights of Beighton, including Hackenthorpe and Birley* (1980) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.51 S)

Platts, T. L., *A Spa in Sheffield: The History of Birley Spa* (1976) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 613.12 S; also available from some Sheffield community libraries: 613.122)

Widdowson, Leonard, *A History of Birley Spa* (1994)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 613.12 SQ; also available at various Sheffield Community Libraries: 942.821 Q)

Derbyshire Miscellany (Derbyshire Archaeological Society, 1956 - 2011)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.51 SQ)

Derbyshire Archaeological Society journal
(Sheffield Reference and Information Library)

Transactions of the Hunter Archaeological Society
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 913.4274 S; Sheffield Archives: HAS)

Trade Directories which give a history of the district, main occupants and businesses, 1774 - 1974, and telephone directories thereafter. A full list of trade directories at Archives and Local Studies is available: www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/trade-directories.html. Most Derbyshire Directories however are available in the Sheffield Reference Library or at [Derbyshire Local Studies Library](#). Some directories are available to view online: www.historicaldirectories.org.

Census returns

These list every resident by household and include names, relationships, occupations, ages and birth places, every 10 years from 1841 through to 1911, available free at every Sheffield library and at Sheffield Archives via www.Ancestry.com

Church registers and records, monumental (gravestone) inscriptions and cemeteries

Birley was a hamlet within the parish of Beighton.

St. Mary the Virgin, Beighton parish records, 1653 onwards
(Sheffield Archives: PR73)

Blagg, T. M., *Marriages at Dronfield, 1560-1837; Beighton, 1653-1837; and Beauchief, 1696-1837* (Phillimore, 1913)
(Sheffield Central Library Store: 929.34251)

Index to Beighton, St Mary baptisms, 1653 - 1839
(Sheffield Archives: T1/43)

Beighton (included in Eckington and area) (Wesleyan Methodist), baptisms from 1877
(Sheffield Archives: NR2065)

Bethel Chapel, Beighton (included in Handsworth (Intake)) (Primitive Methodist), baptisms from 1887
(Sheffield Archives: NR18)

Sothall Chapel, Beighton (Wesleyan Methodist), baptisms from 1885
(*Sheffield Archives: NR626*)

Beighton, West Street Chapel (United Methodist), baptisms from 1868
(*Sheffield Archives: NR1197*)

Beighton Cemetery, burial registers from 1930
(*Sheffield Archives microfilm A472*)

For further details on Anglican parish registers see
www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/parish-registers.html

For further details on non-conformist chapel registers see
www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/non-conformist-chapel-registers.html

For further details on Roman Catholic church registers see
www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/roman-catholic-church-registers.html

For further details on cemeteries see
www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/cemetery-registers.html

For further details on monumental inscriptions (gravestone transcriptions) see
www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/monumentalinscriptions.html

Diocese of Sheffield, faculties from 1914 onwards (these detail changes made to Anglican church buildings)
(*Sheffield Archives: DIOC/FAC*)

Birley was in the Diocese of Lichfield until 1884, when it became part of the newly-established Diocese of Southwell. The parish was subsequently transferred to the Diocese of Derby on its formation in 1927, and, on the creation of the county of South Yorkshire in 1974, Birley was transferred to the Diocese of Sheffield. Archives are located as follows:

Diocese of Lichfield (prior to 1884) contact [Lichfield Record Office](#).

Diocese of Southwell (1884 - 1927) contact [Nottinghamshire Archives](#).

Diocese of Derby (1927 - 1974) contact [Derbyshire Record Office](#).

Diocese of Sheffield records are at Sheffield Archives.

Clubs, Societies and Charities

A search of the online catalogues and the card indexes at Archives and Local Studies may reveal records from Birley based clubs, societies and charities; for instance:

Birley Spa: collection of items
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: PLC HACK4*)

Beighton Land Society, plan etc. 1872
(*Sheffield Archives: MD6276*)

Beighton Heritage project, oral history project papers and recordings, etc., c. 2003-2005
(*Sheffield Archives: X10*)

Courts

The Magistrates Court (or Petty Sessions court) records deal mainly with minor offences and licensing the sale and consumption of liquor. Records of the Sheffield Division cover the borough and City of Sheffield and records of Upper Strafforth and Tickhill Division of the West Riding of Yorkshire cover areas outside the borough such as Handsworth, Ecclesfield and Bradfield, c. 1870 - 1976.
(*Sheffield Archives: MC*)

There are also records of the Court of Quarter Sessions from 1880.
(*Sheffield Archives: QS*)

For records of Derbyshire courts (Birley was in Derbyshire until 1967) contact [Derbyshire Record Office](#).

Electoral Registers and Poll Books

Sometimes known as Burgess Rolls or voters' lists, in essence, electoral rolls are lists of people that are entitled to vote. The Sheffield Local Studies Library has a comprehensive collection from 1841 onwards. More details are available: www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/electoral-registers.html

Poll books list the votes cast by each voter at elections prior to the introduction of the secret ballot in 1872. More details are available: www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/poll-books.html

For Derbyshire electoral registers and poll books (Birley was in Derbyshire until 1967) contact [Derbyshire Local Studies Library](#).

Hospitals

Sheffield Archives has records from over 50 hospitals, including annual reports, photographs and administrative records.
For a full list of hospital records see www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/hospital-records.html

As Birley was in Derbyshire until 1967 older records will be at [Derbyshire Record Office](#).

Land, Building and Property Records

The Local Studies Library has a collection of sale particulars (often with plans) dating from the late 18th century; for instance, there is a catalogue for the sale of valuable freehold and copyhold property at Birley Moor, etc., 1874 (*Sheffield Local Studies Library*: PLC RIDG53). In addition there are a few planning applications from Chesterfield Rural District Council (which included Birley (*Sheffield Archives*: CA516 and CA519), as well as Sheffield City Council (*Sheffield Archives*: CA206), etc. There may also be planning applications at [Derbyshire Record Office](#).

There are also deeds to properties and records of land valuations which detail owners and occupiers at Sheffield Archives.

A search of the Archives and Local Studies online catalogues and the card indexes may reveal relevant entries.

(*Sheffield Archives and Sheffield Local Studies Library*)

As Birley was in Derbyshire until 1967 some land, building and property records may be at [Derbyshire Record Office](#).

Maps

There are large-scale maps of the Sheffield area from 1853 to the present day. Comprehensive coverage of Sheffield and partial coverage of the surrounding areas is available at Sheffield Local Studies Library. Sheffield Archives has incomplete historic coverage of most of South Yorkshire. More details are available here: www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/ordnance-survey-maps.html

Prior to the Ordnance Survey there may be estate and other maps such as tithes www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/tithe-maps.html and enclosures www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/enclosure-awards-and-maps.html

A search of the Archives and Local Studies online catalogues and the card indexes may reveal other maps.

(*Sheffield Archives and Sheffield Local Studies Library*)

For Derbyshire maps (Birley was in Derbyshire until 1967) contact [Derbyshire Local Studies Library](#) and [Derbyshire Record Office](#).

Newspapers

The two main Sheffield newspapers are the *Sheffield Morning Telegraph* (later *Sheffield Telegraph*) and *The Star*, and these are available on microfilm at Sheffield Local Studies Library.

The *Sheffield Independent*, 1819 - 1900; *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* 1855 - 1903 and *Sheffield Evening Telegraph*, 1887 - 1897 are available online at <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

For Derbyshire newspapers (Birley was in Derbyshire until 1967) contact [Derbyshire Local Studies Library](#).

Photographs and Illustrations

The main series of photographs and illustrations (60,000+) is available online at www.picturesheffield.com . In addition Sheffield Archives has photographs and illustrations within its collections.

(Sheffield Local Studies Library and Sheffield Archives)

Poor Law, Civil Parish and Local Government records

As Birley was in Derbyshire County and Chesterfield Rural District until 1967 records of the poor law and local government will be available in [Derbyshire Record Office](#).

Beighton Parish Council minutes and accounts, 1894 - 1960s
(Sheffield Archives: CA37 and SY368)

For more information: www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/poor-law-records and www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/workhouses-and-poor-law-unions.html

Schools

Sheffield Archives has records from over 200 schools, including admission registers and head teachers' log books (diaries). For instance log books of Beighton Secondary School from 1880 (CA35). For a full list of school records see www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/school-records

As Birley was in Derbyshire until 1967 some school records may be at [Derbyshire Record Office](#).

Other libraries and archives

In addition to information held at Sheffield Archives and Local Studies other library and archive services will also hold relevant material:

Prior to 1967, Birley was in Derbyshire. For records of Derbyshire contact [Derbyshire Record Office](#) and [Derbyshire Local Studies Library](#).

Birley was in the Diocese of Lichfield until 1884, when it became part of the newly-established Diocese of Southwell. The parish was subsequently transferred to the Diocese of Derby on its formation in 1927, and, on the creation of the county of South Yorkshire in 1974, Birley was transferred to the Diocese of Sheffield, Attercliffe Deanery in 1974. Archives are located as follows:

Diocese of Lichfield (prior to 1884) contact [Lichfield Record Office](#).

Diocese of Southwell (1884 - 1927) contact [Nottinghamshire Archives](#).

Diocese of Derby (1927 - 1974) contact [Derbyshire Record Office](#).

Diocese of Sheffield records are at Sheffield Archives.

Wills and probate records relating to those who died in Birley prior to 1858 are held within the Lichfield Diocesan archives at the [Lichfield Record Office](#). Probate records after 1858 are held at [The National Archives](#) (TNA). There are transcripts of wills of Beighton residents, 1533 - 1750 at Sheffield Archives (MD7730).

Court records will be held at the [Derbyshire Record Office](#) and at the [National Archives](#).

[The National Archives](#) (TNA) holds records of central government departments and agencies. You can search the [TNA catalogue](#) online.

Information on archaeological sites and ancient monuments is held by the [South Yorkshire Archaeology Service's Sites and Monuments Record](#).

Beighton Historical Society

www.sheffieldhelpyourself.org.uk/full_search_new.asp?group=16726

Other titles in this series

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Arbourthorne | Darnall | Jordanthorpe | Ranmoor |
| Attercliffe | Deepcar | Kelham Island | Richmond |
| Beauchief | Dore | Lodge Moor | Ringinglow |
| Beighton | Dungworth | Loxley | Sharrow |
| Bents Green | Ecclesall | Manor | Shirecliffe |
| Birley | Ecclesfield | Midhapestones | Shiregreen |
| Bolsterstone | Firshill | Millhouses | Southey |
| Bradfield | Firth Park | Mosborough | Stannington |
| Bradway | Frecheville | Nether Edge | Stocksbridge |
| Brightside | Fulwood | Nether Green | Tinsley |
| Broomhall | Gleadless | Netherthorpe | Totley |
| Broomhill | Greenhill | Norton | Uppertorpe |
| Burngreave | Grenoside | Oughtibridge | Wadsley |
| Carbrook | Greystones | Owlerton | Walkley |
| Chapelton and High Green | Hackenthorpe | Park | Whirlow |
| Crookes | Handsworth | Parson Cross | Wincobank |
| Crosspool | Heeley | Pitsmoor | Wisewood |
| Crystal Peaks | Hillsborough | Porter Valley | Woodhouse |
| | | | Woodseats |

Sheffield Archives and **Sheffield Local Studies Library** 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

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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 contact us (archives@sheffield.gov.uk or 0114 203 9395).

Sheffield Local Studies Library

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Surrey Street
Sheffield
S1 1XZ

Tel: 0114 273 4753
Fax: 0114 273 5009

localstudies.library@sheffield.gov.uk

www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives

(selected) Sheffield Local Studies Library catalogue

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/catalogues.html>

Sheffield Archives

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<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/catalogues.html>

and

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

For 65,000+ images of Sheffield: www.picturesheffield.com



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