

Sources for the Study of Park Hill and Hyde Park Flats



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Front Cover Illustrations – left to right:

Hyde Park flats, 1960s (*Picture Sheffield: u05392*)

Children playing, Hyde Park Flats, 1960s (*Picture Sheffield: u05360*)

Park Hill flats, 1960s (*Picture Sheffield: s00657*)

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Introduction

This Study Guide presents an overview of the history of Park Hill and Hyde Park flats, drawing on and placing in context some key records held at Sheffield City Archives and Sheffield Local Studies Library. The Guide's extensive list of document references directs the researcher towards a range of sources available in both these repositories.

Researchers engaged in investigating these sources further will find that they embrace a number of different topics and issues. These include town planning and post-war redevelopment in Sheffield, public health, slum clearance and improvement schemes, housing provision, population growth and the city's housing needs, modernist design approaches to social/communal living and the re-creation of community; civic pride and optimism in a housing project built on a scale not seen before in this country; the hey-days of the 1960s and 1970s when, according to the accounts of some former residents, the ideals underlying the scheme's design seemed to be fulfilled. There followed the problems of the 1980s and breakdowns in both the social and physical fabric of the estates; and more recently, national recognition of the architectural importance of Park Hill, the process of renewal and the ensuing local and national debate on whether such recognition is warranted and the money on its refurbishment well spent.

Timeline showing Key Dates:

19 July 1934	Council Deputation visits London to inspect buildings erected on the Flat System.
December 1935	Schedules of demolition recommended for Park Hill clearance areas, including South Street, Duke Street, Norwich Street and Long Henry Street.
27 June – 2 July 1949	Council officers visit Denmark and Sweden to inspect multi-storey flats in Copenhagen and Stockholm.
September 1954	Council Deputation visits towns and cities in Western Europe to view multi-storey housing schemes.
15 March 1955	Deputation's proposals for the redevelopment of the Park Hill area approved by the Council's Housing Committee.
August 1955	Slum Clearance and Redevelopment Programme Report approved/adopted.
Jan/June 1956	Planning permission granted for Part 1 (990 dwellings) and Part 2.
April 1958	Foundation stone laying ceremony (Part 1).
June 1959	Completed section (Part 1) available for public inspection.
November 1959	First residents move into Park Hill (Part 1)
May 1961	Council agrees Park Hill Part 2 (stages 1 and 2) to be called the Hyde Park Estate.
16 June 1961	Park Hill officially opened by Hugh Gaitskell M.P.
January 1962	Part 2 (Stage 1) [Hyde Park Terrace/Walk] completed.
1962-1963	Park Hill receives Good Design in Housing and Royal Institute of British Architects awards.
July 1965	Hyde Park (Part 2 Stage 2) completed.
23 June 1966	Hyde Park estate officially opened by H.M. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.
1990	Demolition of Block B, Hyde Park.
1991	Refurbished Hyde Park blocks accommodate competitors participating in the World Student Games.
December 1998	Park Hill listed as a Grade 2* building.
2004	Developer (Urban Splash) selected to regenerate Park Hill.
June 2007	Urban Splash submits detailed planning application for Phase 1 of the Park Hill redevelopment.
5 November 2007	Park Hill refurbishment (Phase 1) commences.

Housing in Nineteenth Century Sheffield

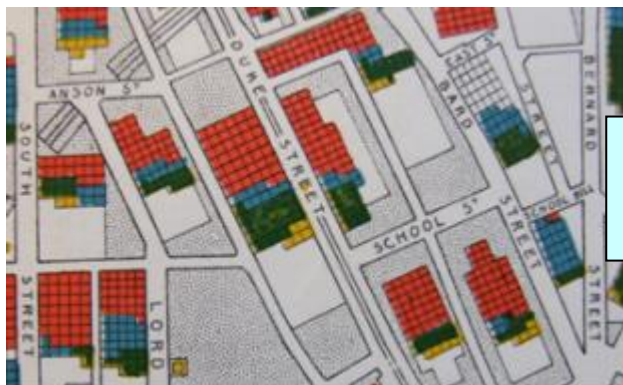
The development of Sheffield as a centre of heavy industry throughout the second half of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth brought with it an influx of workers, and created the need to house an expanding population. Many of the houses erected at this time were of the back-to-back variety, arranged such that one set of houses faced on to the road and the other on to an internal court (one side of which was often occupied by a factory and/or small workshops). Sheffield still had over 16,000 such houses in the early 1920s.

The structural deterioration of these houses, in combination with the lack of adequate sanitary provisions, exacerbated the public health problems associated with large numbers of dwellings situated in close proximity to each other and to industrial premises. Patrick Abercrombie's *Sheffield Civic Survey and Development Plan*



General view of the Park area in the 1930s. (Picture Sheffield: s19267)

(1924) identified death rates in the lower Park district of 20-26 per 1000 inhabitants, an infant (under one year) mortality rate of 153-179 per 1000 births and a population density in this area in the range of 100-400 people per acre. Abercrombie recommended that a substantial proportion of the buildings in the lower Park district (marked red in the Survey's illustrations) be demolished.



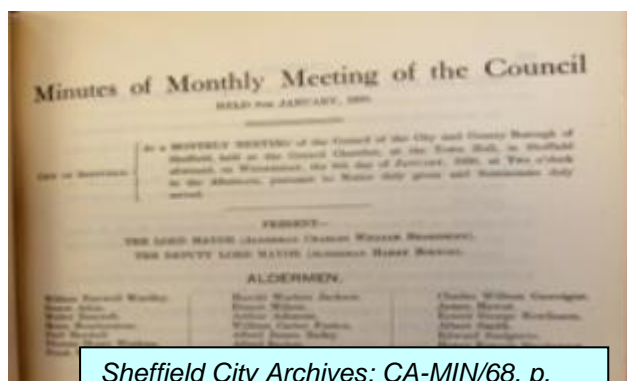
Sheffield Civic Survey and Development Plan (1924)
(Sheffield City Archives: SHE LOCAL, Plate XXIV)

Sheffield Town Plan Map, School Street, Park (1890) (Sheffield City Archives: 294.8.17)



The Council Responds

Sheffield Council and Committee minutes, official reports and surveys held at Sheffield City Archives and Sheffield's Local Studies library are useful sources in tracking the development of responses to the housing situation locally, in the context of Central Government housing legislation, and how these informed later decisions on the redevelopment of the Park Hill area.



Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/68, p.

Alderman Harold Jackson, speaking at a City Council meeting in January 1930, stated that in Sheffield at that time there was a shortage of proper housing accommodation, overcrowding on a large scale, little help for families with limited incomes, and only a small proportion of houses provided by the Corporation were let at rents within the means of weekly wage-earners. He went on to move that the Estates Committee “investigate and report upon the housing position in the city generally, and to make enquiries of other Local Authorities as to how they have dealt with the problem, and to take immediate steps to present a scheme or schemes to the Council for the provision of cheaper houses for workers and alternative accommodation for slum dwellers”.



Court 5, Houses 4, 5 and 6, Duke Street, Park, 1926. (Picture Sheffield: s04273)

The Estates Committee's response to Alderman Jackson's request was a report, issued in September 1930, which promised to increase new build in the city to 1250 dwellings a year; introduce Clearance and Improvement schemes to eliminate unfit houses, remove 500 houses per year which were unfit for human habitation within the 1930 Housing Act, and provide 500 new houses to accommodate those people displaced. This was a departure from previous Housing Acts (notably that of 1925), under which Local Authorities were not obliged to re-house people displaced as a result of Closing or Demolition Orders. In addition, the new Act required all Local Authorities to consider housing conditions in their area, and in 1930 and every five years thereafter submit to the Ministry of Health a general statement of work proposed.

There followed the establishment of clearance schemes that would involve the compulsory purchase and demolition of properties to create areas suitable for

new buildings. One such project in central Sheffield saw the erection of flats and maisonettes on land bounded by Duke Street, Broad Street and Bernard Street (and also including Bard Street and Old Street). This scheme would house approximately 290 families and was recommended to the Estates Committee by a Deputation (including the Lord Mayor and City Architect) which had visited London in July 1934 to inspect buildings on the 'Flat System' erected under the Housing Acts of 1923, 1924 and 1930. The Deputation visited Liverpool in August 1934 for the same purpose.



Bernard Buildings on Old Street, Park, 1930s. (Picture Sheffield: s00721)

The process of compulsory purchase and demolition during this period was in many cases informed by Representations made to Council by the city's Medical Officer of Health, John Rennie. He recommended in November 1933 the removal of buildings to enable the Duke/Bard/Bernard Street scheme, and two years later he would make several

Representations regarding properties on streets to the south of Duke Street, including South Street, Low Street, Hague Lane, Lord Street, Stafford Street, Long Henry Street, Colliers Row, Norwich Street, Gilbert Street and Anson Street. It was these streets which criss-crossed the area where the Park Hill flats would be built.



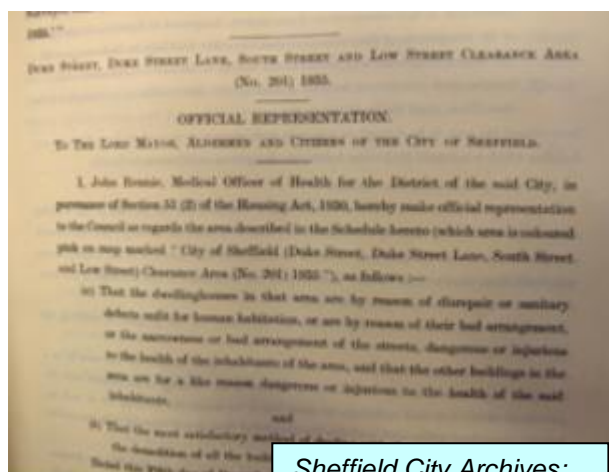
Residents of a Court, School Lane off Duke Street, Park, 1926. (Picture Sheffield: s00686)

"...the dwelling houses in that area [of Duke Street, Duke Street Lane, South Street and Low Street] are by reason of disrepair or sanitary defects unfit for human habitation, or are by reason of their bad arrangement, or the narrowness or bad arrangement of the streets, dangerous or injurious to the health of the inhabitants of the area, and that the other buildings in the area are for a like reason dangerous or injurious to the health of the said inhabitants, and that the most satisfactory method of dealing with the conditions in the area is the demolition of all the buildings in the area."

John Rennie, Medical Officer of Health, December 1935 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/74, p. 221*)



Numbers 2, 4 and 6, Duke Street Lane, Park [20th cent.] (Picture Sheffield: u03309)



Sheffield City Archives:
CA-MIN/74, p. 221

The view of this area by the city's Planning Officer, G. C. Craven, presented in a report of November 1936, highlighted that the area included in the Central Scheme comprised approximately 710 acres and contained 140 Clearance Areas. His report raised the issues of housing density, existing services, width of streets, open spaces, adequate light and air, and the height above sea level for residential buildings in this area. His ideal was for wholesale redevelopment in one complete scheme, although at this stage favouring buildings of not more than five storeys, where "greater height will produce more open spaces", and acknowledging that while "the area appears suitable for maisonette or flat type of development even this is not easy owing to the severe undulation of the site".

Such considerations partly presage the recommendations of the Minister of Works and Planning Act 1942, which would highlight the value in all planning schemes of considering health and convenience, the future appearance of town or village, practicable size and shape of building blocks, the relationship between streets, buildings and open spaces in respect of height and scale, and the appearance of new development seen in association with, or as a contrast to, the old.

Whilst the programme for Sheffield's 1937 Development Plan included flats among a list of various housing types to be considered, later in the same year the Planning Department's General Development Plan would state that "it does not appear probable that flats will become the normal method of house building". The second interim report of Sheffield's Town Planning Assembly, November 1941, stated that the City Road and Duke Street area would be "best dealt with by a redevelopment scheme", but made no reference to the form this would take.

Looking at the Multi-Storey Option

Council minutes and reports for the years following the resumption of peace show a gradual focusing on the possibility of multi-storey housing, drawing on the experience of other authorities in this country and abroad, much as the City had done in the 1930s before the outbreak of war.

Thus it was that a special meeting of the Council's Housing Committee on 28th April 1949 "considered in principle the question of erecting multi-storey flats with lifts". Schemes in the London area were to be inspected, and information gathered on flat developments in Scandinavia. A month later it was agreed that a Deputation, to include the Chair of the Town Planning Committee, the Town Clerk, City Architect and Planning Officer, would inspect multi-storey flats in Copenhagen and Stockholm "to obtain information on this type of housing development". The visits were made between 27th June and 2nd July 1949.

The crystallising of ideas on multi-storey flat development for Sheffield should be seen in the context of the city's immediate and projected housing requirements, as reported at the start of the 1950s. A report by the Planning Officer on 'population overspill', presented to the Chairman and members of the Town Planning Committee in December 1950, cited Sheffield's need for over 79,000 houses. It was estimated that land available for new houses within the following twenty years, combined with the current housing provision, would leave a net requirement of just under 55,000 houses.



**Council Planning Officer
'overspill' report, December 1950**
(Sheffield City Archives: CA674/51)

At this time there were over 12,000 occupied houses that had been condemned before the war, and over 7,000 occupied houses that the Medical Officer of Health had between 1939 and 1947 identified as unfit for human habitation. Taken in the context of the Sheffield Extension Bill (northwards), the report suggested that "consistent with good planning, as much as possible of this overspill should be located within such a

radius of the city centre and of the city's industrial areas as will retain the population as part of Sheffield".

The Planning Officer's report, possibly hinting at the way current thinking was evolving, goes on to say that to achieve the housing density recommended in the Ministry of Housing Manual of 1949 would require:

"a departure from the standard and type of development provided in Sheffield just prior to and since the war, which has been almost entirely by semi-detached houses."

Planning Officer's Report, p. 4, December 1950 (Sheffield City Archives: CA674/51)



School Street, Park, from Duke Street, looking towards Bard Street, 1930s. (*Picture Sheffield: s04299*)

“It is easier and cheaper to build 4 and 6 block houses on relatively flat land than it is on the land of steep contours which is so often met with in the Sheffield area.”

Planning Officer's Report, p. 5, December 1950 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA674/51*)

The preference for low-rise dwellings, Sheffield's topography and associated cost implications notwithstanding, outstanding Slum Clearance Orders from the 1930s in the Park Hill area and the need to address the city's housing waiting list, focused Council Officers' minds, and the possibility of high-rise development within suitably landscaped public open spaces began to find increasing favour. The information gathering continued when in September 1954 a Housing Committee Deputation, including the City Architect and the General Manager of the Public Works Department, visited towns and cities in Western Europe “for the purpose of inspecting post-war developments in the erection of multi-storey flats and studying the designs and methods of construction employed in relation to that type of development”.

The Deputation's report, ‘Multi-Storey Housing in Some European Countries: Report of the City of Sheffield Housing Deputation’, was approved by the Housing Committee in March 1955, by which time a quotation for the drilling of trial bore holes had been accepted, and Compulsory Purchase Orders recommended in an area bounded by Anson Street, Duke Street Lane, Long Henry Street and South Street, to enable the provision of housing accommodation.

The Housing Committee also approved the reports on proposals for the redevelopment of the Park Hill area submitted by the City Architect, City Treasurer and Cyril Sweett and Partners, Chartered Quantity Surveyors. A public exhibition of development plans, drawings and photographs was recommended.

Early favourable responses were recorded in Council minutes, including that of William Holford, Professor of Town Planning at University College London, who referred to the Park Hill project as a “notable and forward-looking redevelopment scheme which should receive every encouragement” (speaking in 1955 on a B.B.C. Third Programme broadcast entitled ‘Is Town Planning Possible?’) **Local newspapers** were likewise positive in their reporting of the scheme.



A report to the Housing Committee regarding the provision of new dwellings to meet the needs of the city's waiting list, and to replace condemned and other houses in connection with slum clearance and redevelopment, published in July 1955, estimated that on current building rates the 30,000 houses required would take just over fifteen years to build.

Taken in this context, the Committee's calculation that within four years the Park Hill clearance area (referred to at this stage as the Duke Street Redevelopment Scheme) could provide sites for approximately 2,000 new dwellings – a surplus of nearly 1200 dwellings over the 800 that would be demolished – must have seemed an attractive proposition. The momentum building in favour of the high-rise option was reinforced by the report's conclusion that “it is only by the use of multi-storey development that these figures will be possible”.

A month later, in August 1955, the Housing Committee's Slum Clearance and Redevelopment Programme report was approved and adopted, for presentation to the City Council. Park Hill would be the first of four areas to be redeveloped (the others being Netherthorpe, Woodside Lane (Pitsmoor) and Burngreave). The suggested first-year programme for Park Hill would involve 369 demolitions (271 rehoused), and to create a public open space

the demolition of a further 282 unfit/63 fit houses under Compulsory Purchase Orders.



Cleared site prior to the construction of Park Hill (Part 1), March 1957, showing Duke Street/Bard Street flats in the background.
(Sheffield City Archives: Acc. 2010/75)

Building Streets in the Sky

The building programme was completed in three phases, and planning permission for the first two of these was granted within the first six months of 1956. Part One (on land bounded by Anson Street, Duke Street, Talbot Street and South Street, overlooking the railway station) would see the erection of 990 dwellings in four blocks ranging from four to thirteen storeys. Part Two, of which there were two stages, involved the building of two three-storey terraces totalling 152 dwellings on the east side of Bernard Street, and beyond these to the north the erection of four blocks with between five and nineteen storeys, containing 1160 dwellings (3958 habitable rooms) in total. The whole development was referred to as the Park Hill Redevelopment Scheme up until May 1961, when the City Council agreed that Part Two would thereafter be called the Hyde Park Estate. The terraced sections of this stage were to be named Hyde Park Walk and Hyde Park Terrace.

Objections from traders, citing loss of business as a result of Compulsory Purchase Orders associated with the proposed Duke Street widening for Stage One, led to a local public inquiry early in 1956. The objections were not upheld, and in his report the Inspector for the inquiry stated that the Minister of Housing considered the Council “have established a need to provide a large number of additional dwellings in Sheffield as soon as possible”. The Compulsory Purchase Orders were confirmed on 20th June 1956.



Park Hill (Part 1) under construction, April 1959 (Sheffield City Archives: Acc. 2010/75)

A short list of eight tenders for the construction of 976 dwellings and other building works in Part One of the development had been selected in February 1956. These included John Laing, George Wimpey, M. J. Gleeson and Henry Boot. The City's Public Works

Department was also included on the list. Costs ranged from £2.1 million to £2.4 million, and the time required for completion from

thirty to forty-three months. The Housing Committee's Development Sub-Committee minutes for November 1956 record that authorisation be given to the Public Works Department to erect 990 dwellings and other buildings, at an estimated cost of £2,158,587. Objections were raised to this choice, with some members favouring the more expensive tender of John Laing (rejected seven to five). Council's summaries of progress show that a Notice to Commence Work was served on 1st March 1957.

A report, plans and model illustrating preliminary proposals for the lay-out and development of Part Two of the Park Hill scheme were submitted by the City Architect to (and approved by) the Housing Committee's Development Sub-

Committee in February 1958. The tender of £556,750 submitted by W. J. Simms, Sons and Cooke Limited of Nottingham for the erection of 152 dwellings, 170 garages and one public house, was accepted in February 1959.

A month later the same Sub-Committee resolved that members of the Housing Committee visit London to inspect selected multi-storey flat schemes, “to help formulate proposals for the provision of social, recreational and general amenities for future residents of Park Hill”. This visit took place in April, and in May 1959 the Sub-Committee was recommending a completed section of Park Hill (Part One) be made available for public inspection early in June the same year, with two or three flats to be furnished for demonstration purposes. By October of that year the Housing Management Committee was able to report that a number of flats would shortly be available for occupation by tenants.

It is possible to track building work at Park Hill and Hyde Park in **Housing Development Committee progress reports** held within Council minute volumes at Sheffield City Archives, which list the various housing schemes under way in the city and record the number of houses completed and the number “in hand” (i.e. under construction). Thus, on 4th November 1959 it was reported that Park Hill (Part One) had 59 houses complete, with 935 of 994 in hand. Part Two (Stage One) had 152 of 152 in hand, none completed. The report of 1st March 1961 shows that all 995 dwellings in Part One had been completed. Part Two (Stage One) was completed in January 1962.

NETHERTHORPE REDEVELOPMENT									
Completed	...	...	416	—	416	(416)	—	(—)	(—)
In progress	...	...	144	22- 4-59	96	(88)	48	(96)	100 (120)
	...	...	208	4- 1-60	—	(—)	208 (208)	111 (10)	
	...	...	91	25- 9-59	15	(15)	76 (76)	46 (30)	
	...	...	148	10-10-60	—	(—)	56 (46)	6 (6)	
Park Hill I	...	...	995	1- 3-57	995	(995)	—	(—)	(—)
II	...	...	152	15- 6-59	—	(—)	152 (152)	123 (10)	
	...	...	1160	—	—	(—)	—	(—)	(—)
Burngreave Redevpt.	...	...	120	27- 4-59	23	(23)	97 (97)	86 (97)	
Woodside Lane Redevpt.	...	...	497	4- 4-60	—	(—)	492 (492)	294 (20)	
Foxhill Estate	...	...	439	11- 7-60	—	(—)	232 (232)	71 (6)	
			2494		21215	(21136)	1947 (1972)	1371 (1240)	

Housing Development Committee progress report, 1st March 1961. Completion of Park Hill (Part 1). (Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/98, p. 1348)

The Buildings and General Sub-Committee had resolved in December 1960 that authorisation be given for the City’s Public Works Department to undertake the final and largest phase of the redevelopment scheme, involving the erection of four blocks containing a total of 1160 dwellings, at an estimated cost of £3,123,937. An additional £138,674 was

required for the filling in and consolidation of old mine workings under the site of Block B, and a contract for this work was agreed with Simon Carves Limited and La Societé de Sondages, Injections et Forages, Paris, in October 1960. 1169 dwellings were complete by the beginning of July 1965.

Design and Construction

Park Hill was designed by Jack Lynn and Ivor Smith, two young Modernist architects who were graduates of the Architectural Association and heavily influenced by the British architects Peter and Alison Smithson, pioneers of 'Brutalism' who themselves were influenced by the Modernist Swiss architect and designer Le Corbusier. Lynn and Smith's design attempted to preserve a sense of community that modern design was perceived to negate, at a time when other social/communal housing developments had recently been completed (Le Corbusier's Unité d'Habitation in Marseilles (1952) and Denys Lasdun's Keeling House in London (1957)).

John Lewis Womersley, Sheffield Council's City Architect, was instrumental in turning Lynn and Smith's designs into reality, and his reports reveal much about the thinking behind the buildings' physical design, configuration and the amenities they would provide. The report he submitted to a special meeting of the Council's Housing Committee in March 1955 stated that the Park Hill area was considered suitable for high density multi-storey dwellings because it was near the city centre, close to, but on the leeward side of, the heavy industrial area of the Don Valley, there were easily accessible permanent open spaces nearby, the topography of the site allowed scope for planning high flats with ample light, air and magnificent views, and the geological survey had shown that the ground would take heavy loads.

"An attempt is being made to design a modern redevelopment of an outworn area."

J. L. Womersley, 1955 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA655/15*)

The buildings were designed with a horizontal roof line to emphasise the topography; with four storeys at the Talbot Street end and thirteen at the Anson Street end.



Park Hill flats, showing horizontal roof line. Hyde Park behind. (*Picture Sheffield: s02332*)



Picture Sheffield: s22722



Picture Sheffield: u03728

The open spaces between the blocks become progressively larger as the height of the buildings increases towards the north, to ensure the maximum amount of light, air and sunshine.



Park Hill site plan
(Sheffield City
Archives: Acc.
1986/10)

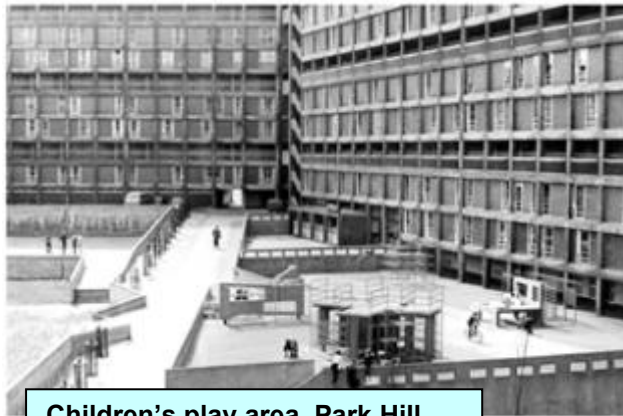


The Pavement, 1980s.
(Picture Sheffield: s00787)

Womersley wrote of re-planning the existing district shopping street around a pedestrian precinct (later named 'The Pavement'); providing nursery schools, laundries, a police section station and four public houses (to replace the eight existing in the area). Housing Committee minutes of June 1957 relating to the leasing of

shops within the Park Hill development reveal the number of different services to be provided, including gramophone record sales, a chemist's, laundry, chiropodist, fried fish shop, greengrocer, fishmonger, draper, butcher, shoe shop, radio and electrical supplies, ladies' hairdresser and the Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Society.

The area's primary school was to be modernised and extended; and the existing road pattern completely changed (only one of the many roads then crossing the site would be retained). The area would become a largely pedestrian precinct, with the ground between buildings laid out as a park space threaded with a system of footpaths including several small play areas.



Children's play area, Park Hill, 1960s. (Picture Sheffield: u05078)



The blocks would incorporate street decks ten feet wide, open to the air, on every third floor, fulfilling as Womersley put it the function of "streets' within the building along which prams can be pushed and milk trolleys wheeled. Being covered from the weather and free from vehicular traffic they form ideal places for daily social intercourse – for the conversation of adults and for small children's play. The deck can, in fact, be considered as an extension of the dwelling so far as children are concerned".



Hyde Park street deck, 1960s. (Picture Sheffield: u05391)

"Ground floor dwellings are omitted at various points to give pedestrians long views whilst the covered spaces thus provided serve as sheltered play areas. By these various means it is hoped to create pleasant surroundings in scale with the inhabitants and to avoid the oppressive, overpowering feeling sometimes produced by large schemes of multi-storey flats."

J. L. Womersley, 1955 (Sheffield City Archives: CA655/15)

The notion of streets was to be further enhanced by the naming of each floor after roads in the area which had been closed as part of the redevelopment. Examples included Gilbert, Hague, Long Henry and Stafford (with the addition of 'Row' in each case). The Hyde Park decks were likewise designated as rows and given distinctive names with local associations. The roof areas on which penthouse flats were to be erected were to be named 'Cricket Inn Garden', 'St. John's Garden' and 'Bernard Garden'.



Picture Sheffield: u05079

"The dwellings are so planned as to give each household privacy and quiet despite the essentially communal nature of the project...Each dwelling, irrespective of size, is provided with a large sheltered balcony where small children can play in the open air, where a pram can be put out and on which an occasional meal can be taken."

J. L. Womersley, 1955
(Sheffield City Archives: CA655/15)

Womersley's report also gives consideration to "social and other implications" – playgrounds for older children, private gardens and allotments (deemed not suitable), sound insulation, communal rooms, garages, storage space, pets, clothes washing and drying (an electric point in the kitchen for a washing machine, clothes drying on balconies "might be allowed", and an airing rack provided in the kitchen or bathroom).

Each flat was to incorporate the Garchey system of refuse disposal, a water-borne system "whereby the refuse is untouched by hand from the time it is placed in a special kitchen sink unit until it is removed as ash from the incinerator at the terminal point of the system." [Twenty years earlier, in 1935, the Chairman of the Estates Committee and the City Architect had visited Paris to inspect a (similar?) refuse disposal system installed in



Interior of [Park Hill/Hyde Park] flat. (Picture Sheffield: u05361)

some of the city's flats.] Womersley also makes reference to "special design details":

"In order to give individuality and aesthetic value to the various decks, entrances and lift halls, these elements will require special visual design treatment which it is felt should be integrated in the structure rather than applied in the form of mural decoration. This aspect of the scheme will undoubtedly have an important psychological effect on the inhabitants."
J. L. Womersley, 1955 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA655/15*)

Three years later, in 1958, Womersley reported on proposals for the second part of the scheme, incorporating 152 dwellings in 3-storey terraces designed for that part of the site which was geologically unsuitable for tall structures (and later named Hyde Park Terrace and Hyde Park Walk); and a further 1141 dwellings in 18 types similar to those at Park Hill.

By 1960, as the first phase of Park Hill neared completion, Womersley would report that "lessons learned from Part One [construction, final form, materials used, tenants' experiences] have been used to advantage in Part Two...Part One will not be complete until Part Two is finished, for the two are essentially complementary to each other in their design." Hyde Park Terrace and Walk were seen as "forming a vital link between Part One and the second stage of Part Two".



Park Hill estate showing Hyde Park Terrace/Walk (foreground) under construction, c. 1961. (*Picture Sheffield: u03732*)

The design of the four blocks making up the second stage of Part Two would incorporate pedestrian areas arranged in a terraced formation linked by ramps which Womersley felt "might be described as hanging gardens". The Hyde Park flats would include provision for 14 shops, 3 pubs, a branch library, Welfare Clinic and doctors surgeries; and incorporate Messrs. Long Brothers' clothing factory and Park Gardeners' Club (both on site before the redevelopment).

Internally, the flats benefited from increased floor area, sliding doors, extra cupboards, heaters repositioned under windows and included in bedrooms, windows redesigned to admit more light and give a wider view, doorways redesigned to incorporate a small hatch for milk delivery. Thirty-seven penthouse flats were included at the top of blocks A-C, each with a large outdoor terrace. Large areas of the roofs were to be laid out as sheltered gardens and partially covered terraces; some with play areas for children, including sand pits, climbing frames, paddling pools and other play equipment.



Elevated view of the completed project, c. 1970, showing Park Hill, Hyde Park Terrace/Walk (just visible behind) and Hyde Park.
(Picture Sheffield: u05474)



Hyde Park flats, late 1960s.
(Picture Sheffield: u05358)

“To place buildings of this kind on such a dominant site will radically affect the visual aspect of the city. It is, therefore, considered essential to ensure that as far as possible the finished result will be worthy of the exceptional prominence which this scheme will have.”

J. L. Womersley, December 1960 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA655/15*)

Openings and Awards

Local newspapers provide a useful source of information on responses to the planning, building and opening of Park Hill and Hyde Park.

The *Sheffield Telegraph* of 14th September 1960 referred in positive terms to the open space between South Street and Granville Street:



(Sheffield City Archives:
CA655/15)

"In such an outstanding position it will be a great amenity not only for the future Park Hill residents, but also for the city's inhabitants generally; for with trees and green lawns it will provide both a foil to the dominating lines and colour of the flats themselves, and a welcome splash of green near to the heart of the city."
(*Sheffield Telegraph*, 14th September 1960)

Likewise, the speed of completion and cost of Part One were singled out as sources of much civic pride.

Park Hill (Part One) was officially opened by Hugh Gaitskell, M.P. and Leader of the Opposition, on the 16th June 1961. The day included lunch at the Town Hall, a tour of Park Hill, the opening ceremony, tea in the Tenants' Meeting Hall and a dinner party at the Town Hall in the evening. Five years later on 23rd June 1966 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother officially opened the Hyde Park Estate (Part 2 Stage 2). The Royal party was also in Sheffield to open the University's new Arts Tower, and the day's proceedings culminated in a firework display.



"The speed of building the 996 flats comprising the first stage of Sheffield's Park Hill re-development scheme had been quite phenomenal in Europe."
(*Sheffield Telegraph*, 20th January 1961)



The Queen Mother arrives at the official opening of the Hyde Park estate, 23rd June 1966. (Sheffield City Archives: Acc. 2010/75)



Hyde Park, official opening promotional material (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 4048M*)



Governmental and professional responses to the completed Park Hill estate were favourable, and two regional awards were forthcoming in 1962 and 1963. The first, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's North Regional Medal and Diploma for Good Design in Housing, saw the City Council awarded two diplomas – one for commissioning the scheme and one for carrying it out. The City Architect received a medal and diploma at a ceremony in London on 29th October 1962.

The second award (for buildings completed within Sheffield and South Yorkshire, 1959-1961 inclusive) was presented by the Royal Institute of British Architects to the City Architect and General Manager of Public Works. The Corporation received a replica of the bronze medal award, and a commemorative tablet to fix at a point within Park Hill.

Rise and Fall: Living in Park Hill and Hyde Park

The recollections of people who lived in Park Hill and Hyde Park range across the optimism of the 1960s and moving into brand new, 'all mod cons' flats, to the decline and social problems of the 1980s. There are a number of websites which include personal (written) reminiscences of residents (see 'Websites' section below), and Sheffield City Archives' collection of **B.B.C. Radio Sheffield audio-tapes** includes some items relating to life on the estates (see 'Oral Testimonies' section below).

"It was a fantastic place to live and I only have good memories. It was a community [where] everyone knew each other."	"With all the services running through the concrete there was a constant whining hum."	"I used to play on the corridors on my roller skates. All the kids were happy and... we never got wet when our mums made us go to the shops."	"My last visit to the flats was ten years ago... There were burnt out cars, rubbish, boarded up pubs and shops, graffiti and a nasty smell about the area."
"There were a lot of 'wrong un's' living there recently."	"There was a real community spirit but only those that lived on there in the '60s/'70s can really appreciate that."	"I did not want to visit more than the once."	"I cannot think of a better place to have spent my childhood."
"Everybody seemed to get on with their neighbours and there was a strong bond between families."	"The flats are an 'eye-sore' on the landscape and illustrate the failure of 'Socialist' housing policies of the past."	"It will be lovely to see the new generation of people living as a close community in a fab building that has so much potential."	"I think they should now be demolished, you cannot bring back the good old days."
"I think the council must have contributed to the flats' decline by putting problem people on it instead of spreading round the council housing stock. Kids ran amok and vandalism was rife."	"Park Hill at that time until the late '70s was a marvellous place to live. Under floor central heating and "Garchey" waste disposal, it was very modern compared to where we lived before, in rooms with outside toilet and shared bathroom."	"Shame they were left to run down and all the old families moved away."	"The flats were generally very well laid out inside, with lots of light and space... The view over the east end of the city was amazing. I could see all the way to Rotherham from my living room window."

A selection of comments posted to a B.B.C. Sheffield and South Yorkshire website in 2008
http://www.bbc.co.uk/southyorkshire/content/articles/2007/03/07/park_hill_feature.shtml

Refurbishment and Re-birth

The largest of the Hyde Park blocks (B) was demolished in the early 1990s. The remainder were refurbished for use as accommodation for competitors taking part in the World Student Games, hosted by Sheffield in 1991. Seven years later English Heritage listed Park Hill at Grade II* for its “architectural importance, its ground-breaking use of 'streets in the sky' and its impressive scale” (making it Europe’s largest listed building).



Hyde Park flats during the World Student Games, 1991. (Sheffield City Archives: Acc. 2005/75)

Sheffield City Council’s response to this recognition was to formulate a plan for the future of the Park Hill estate, in conjunction with English Partnerships. This was in 2003, and by the end of that year tenants were being moved out of the thirteen-storey North Block overlooking the city centre.

A Registered Social Landlord (Parkway Housing (Manchester Methodist Housing Group) and Developer partner (Urban Splash) were selected in 2004, and by 2006 Urban Splash had submitted an application for outline planning permission, including proposals for a new doctor’s surgery and nursery facilities, retail and leisure facilities, high quality public and private spaces, around 580 flats for sale on the open market, and flats for rent and low cost home ownership.

Urban Splash planning application file (detail), Park Hill North Block, 2007. (Sheffield City Archives: CA206/2007/2476)

In June 2007 Urban Splash, working with architects Studio Egret West, Hawkins Brown and Grant Associates, submitted their detailed planning application for Phase 1, which was agreed in October 2007. The proposals at this time were for 257 flats for sale, 56 flats for rent, 12 flats for shared ownership, a new GPs’ surgery, a nursery, retail and leisure facilities and “high quality public realm”. Urban Splash would provide the bulk of the funding, with other contributions coming from Transform South Yorkshire (the Government’s Housing Market Renewal Agency), the Homes



and Communities Agency (formerly English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation), Parkway Housing (Manchester Methodist Housing Group) and English Heritage (for specialist concrete repairs).

Initial work, preparatory to full refurbishment, began in November 2007 and involved stripping out the flats, removing the windows and brick infill panels and taking the building right back to its H frame structure. By 2010 anodised aluminium infill panels were being installed, their colours approximating those of the brick they had replaced. Sheffield City Archives holds the **planning application files** submitted by Urban Splash, which include drawings showing the proposed changes to the exterior of the North Block.



“The building's prominence means that it's fast becoming Sheffield's most talked about project and...will be a thriving place for people to live in. Park Hill is Europe's largest Listed Building and is viewed as a building of architectural and sociological importance... [W]e hope to reignite the community and this fantastic set of buildings into one of Sheffield's most desirable places.” (Urban Splash, 2009)

List of Documents, Books, Photographs and other items available at Sheffield Libraries, Archives and Information

Sheffield City Council and Committee Minutes

Estates Committee, 1930s - 1950s. Index references to housing, clearance schemes/areas, orders, Compulsory Purchase Orders, demolition of property, contracts, unsanitary areas/premises, progress reports, Medical Officer of Health Official Representations regarding demolition. Remit from 1950s transferred to Housing Committee (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN*)

Housing Committee, December 1957 - May 1959. Park Hill index references include Compulsory Purchase Orders, appointment of consultant engineers, closure of roads and other rights of way, demolition of properties, electrical services, garages, Garchey refuse disposal system, heating and hot water, laundry facilities, licensed premises, meeting room accommodation, open spaces, planning consent, public inquiries, public's inspection of the flats, shopping precinct, shops, tenders, the laying of the foundation stone at Park Hill (Part 1). (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-HOU/2/7*)

Housing Management Committee, 1959 - 1968. Index references include garages, milk deliveries, laundry facilities and charges, Garchey refuse disposal system, rents, meeting room hire charges, lift maintenance and emergency lighting, electricity supply, postal addresses, Park Hill Tenants' Association and Community Hall, Estate Office. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-HMC*)

Hyde Park tenements, 1923 - 1924 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/62, p. 5*)

Motion regarding housing in Sheffield and Council instruction, 8th January 1930 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/68, pp. 184-5*); and Estate Committee's response, 17th September 1930, including overview of obligations under Housing Acts of 1925 and 1930. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/68, pp.849-853*)

Estates Committee Special Meeting, 26th September 1934
Deputation including Lord Mayor and City Architect visited London 19th July 1934 to inspect buildings on the Flat System erected under Housing Acts 1923, 1924 and 1930. Deputation also visited Liverpool, 2nd August 1934 for the same purpose. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/72, pp. 880-881*)

Estates Committee, 18th April 1934. Adoption of report by Housing Sub-Committee of 12th April 1934 recommending clearance under Housing Act 1930 of area in and around Bernard Street, Duke Street, Bard Street and School Lane, including Compulsory Purchase Orders and demolition "for the purpose of securing a cleared area of convenient shape and dimensions...reasonably necessary for the satisfactory development or use of the cleared area..." (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/72, pp. 459-460*)

Estates Committee. Official Representation to the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and citizens of the City of Sheffield [regarding demolition in the Duke Street area] by John Rennie, Medical Officer of Health, 29th November 1933 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/72, p. 137*)

Estates Committee 17th April 1935. Resolution: Chairman and City Architect authorised to visit Paris for the purpose of inspecting a system of refuse disposal installed in certain modern flats in the city. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/73, p. 575*)

Estates Committee 15th January 1936. Official Representations by Medical Officer of Health regarding dwellings for demolition in South Street, Duke Street, Duke Street Lane, Low Street, Hague Lane, Lord Street, Stafford Street, Long Henry Street, Colliers Row, Norwich Street, Gilbert Street, Anson Street. December 1935 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/74, pp. 70-73, 220-223*)

Town Planning Committee, 1944 - 1961. Includes reference to "proposals for multi-story flat development in the Park Hill Redevelopment Area". (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-TPC/1/1*)

Housing Committee (Special) 28th April 1949. Considered in principle the question of erecting multi-storey flats with lifts. Schemes in the London area to be inspected, and information gathered on flat developments in Scandinavia. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/86, p. 899*)

Housing Committee 18th May 1949. Visit to Denmark and Sweden to inspect multi-storey flats in Copenhagen and Stockholm to obtain information on this type of housing development. Deputation, including Chair of Town Planning Committee, Town Clerk, City Architect and Planning Officer, to visit 27th June – 2nd July 1949. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/87, p.20*)

Housing Committee (Development Sub-Committee) 17th August 1954. Resolved that authorisation be given to a visit to selected towns and cities in Western Europe for the purpose of inspecting post-war developments in the erection of multi-storey flats and studying the designs and methods of construction employed in relation to that type of development. Aldermen Gascoigne and Turner, Councillor Lambert, City Architect and the General Manager of the Public Works Department to attend. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/92, p. 192*)

Housing Committee 15th February 1955. Compulsory Purchase Order recommended under Section 74 Housing Act 1936 and Acquisition of Land (Authorisation Procedure) Act 1946, for provision of housing accommodation in the vicinity of Duke Street, Anson Street, Duke Street Lane, Norwich Street, Long Henry Street, Rhodes Street, Talbot Street, Stafford Street, Talbot Lane, Lord Street, Hague Lane, South Street, Bungay Street, Bungay Lane, Granville Lane, Turner Hill, Granville Street and Gilbert Street. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/92, p. 580*)

Housing Committee (Special) 15th March 1955. Report submitted from Deputation of Housing Committee relating to their visit to certain European Countries in September 1954 for the purpose of studying multi-storey housing development in those countries. Also submitted a report by the City Architect, City Treasurer and Messrs. Cyril Sweett and Partners, Chartered Quantity Surveyors, upon proposals for the redevelopment of the Park Hill area (Part 1). Proposals approved. Housing Committee recommends that gas made available in order that tenants may have a choice between electricity and gas cooking facilities. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/92, p. 627*)

Housing Committee 15th March 1955. Site clearance (Part 1). Bounded by Anson Street, Duke Street Lane, Long Henry Street and South Street, including rehousing of occupiers of 38 temporary bungalows and 45 other dwellings in the area. Recommends an Order to extinguish certain public rights of way along streets and parts of streets: Lord Street, Gilbert Street, Hague Lane and Long Henry Street; also to close parts of Anson Street, Gilbert Street, Duke Street Lane, Lord Street, Norwich Street and Long Henry Street. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/92, p. 628*)

Housing Committee (Development Sub-Committee) 15th March 1955. Recommends a public exhibition in the Town Hall Reception Room of plans, drawings and photographs relating to the Park Hill redevelopment. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/92, p. 632*)

Housing Committee (Development Sub-Committee) 20th May 1955. Leases agreed for use as licensed premises on Duke Street (shopping centre), South Street (North, South), Duke Street (South) with Brampton Brewery Company Limited, Duncan Gilmour and Company Limited, Hope and Anchor Breweries Limited, William Stones Limited. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/93, p. 35*)

Housing Committee (General Sub-Committee) 24th June 1955. William Holford, Professor of Town Planning at University College London refers to the Park Hill project as a “notable a forward-looking redevelopment scheme which should receive every encouragement” (on a B.B.C. Third Programme broadcast ‘Is Town Planning Possible?’) (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/93, p. 121*)

Housing Committee (General Sub-Committee) 21st July 1955. Compulsory Purchase Order (31,835 square yards) under provisions of Section 74 Housing Act 1936 and Acquisition of Land (Authorisation Procedure) Act 1946. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/93, p. 184*)

Housing Committee 10th August 1955. Approves and adopts the Slum Clearance and Redevelopment Programme report for the city, relating to the Corporation’s housing programme and provision of new dwellings, to be presented to the City Council. Report recommends the redevelopment of Park Hill, Netherthorpe, Woodside Lane and Burngreave (in that order) in the form of multi-storey flats, maisonettes and terraced houses. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/93, p. 215*)

Housing Committee. Heating and hot water installation at Park Hill redevelopment area, 19th August 1955. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-HOU/1/1, p. 5*)

Housing Development Sub-Committee 18th November 1955. Cost of installation of central heating and hot water systems in Part 1 of the Park Hill redevelopment scheme agreed as £99,413,15s,0d. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/93, p. 415*)

Housing Committee (General Sub-Committee) 23rd February 1956. Slum Clearance programme – recommends first year to include Park Hill (Part 1), 85 properties cleared; stage 2, 389 properties cleared (271 to be re-housed). (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/93, p. 644*)

Housing Committee (General Sub-Committee) 23rd February 1956. Selection of building contractors: tenders for the construction of 976 dwellings and other building works in connection with Part 1 of the Park Hill redevelopment include John Laing and Son Limited, George Wimpey and Company Limited, M. J. Gleeson Limited and Henry Boot and Sons Limited. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/93, p. 645*)

Housing Committee 23rd February 1956. Town Clerk reports that planning permission for Part 1 has been granted from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/93, p. 646*)

Housing Committee (Development Sub-Committee) 19th June 1956. Reported that the Ministry of Housing and Local Government had granted planning permission regarding the development of land in Part 2 of the Park Hill Redevelopment Area. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/94, p. 116*)

Housing Committee (Development Sub-Committee) 5th November 1956. Authority to be given to the Public Works Department to erect 990 dwellings and other buildings, estimated cost £2,158,587. Some objections, favouring the tender of John Laing and Son Limited (£2,358,818,6s 8d). Rejected 7 to 5. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/94, p. 446*)

Council Motion (amendment) that the acts and proceedings of the Housing Committee 5th November 1956 regarding the authority given to the Public Works Department to erect 990 dwellings in Area 1 of the Park Hill Redevelopment Scheme are not confirmed, and should therefore be referred back for further consideration. Amendment rejected 57 to 25, 7th November 1956. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/94, p. 414*)

Housing Committee (Development Sub-Committee) 20th November 1956. Park Hill (Part 2), Compulsory Purchase Orders on land in the vicinity of Maltravers Road, St. John's Road, Chancel Street, Wybourn Road, Manor Oaks Road, Park Hill Lane, Hampton Street, Blagden Street, Dacre Street, Bernard Lane, Simonite Lane, Rough Bank, Weigh Lane, Staniforth Lane,

Bernard Street, Long Steps, Snow Hill and Cricket Inn Road. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/94, p. 450*)

Housing Committee (Development Sub-Committee) 15th January 1957. Consent to loan £2,338,712 for the erection of 990 dwellings and other buildings in the Park Hill Redevelopment Scheme. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/94, p. 571*)

Housing Committee 21st June 1957. Regarding leases of shops to be erected within the Park Hill development (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/95, p. 102*)

Housing Committee (Development Sub-Committee) 16th July 1957. Resolved that the Garchey system of refuse disposal in 994 dwellings be installed by Matthew Hall and Company Limited at a cost of £80,327,6/0. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/95, p. 217*)

Council 8th January 1958. Compulsory Purchase Order submitted relating to 119,258 square yards in the Park Hill area. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/95, p. 588*)

Housing Committee (Development Sub-Committee) 18th February 1958. Report, plans and model submitted by the City Architect, illustrating preliminary proposals for the lay-out and development of Part 2, to be approved. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/95, p. 697*)

Committee recommends a foundation stone be laid in the form of a paving slab in a paved area adjoining the new shopping precinct, to commemorate the start of Part 1 of the Park Hill Area Redevelopment Scheme. Aldermen Gascoigne and Turner to be invited to perform the formal ceremony of laying the stone on 25th April 1958. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/95, p. 697*)

Deemed planning consent for Part 2 of the Park Hill scheme. Close streets or parts thereof: Bernard Lane, Blagden Street, Dacre Street, Simonite Lane, Weigh Lane, Bevis Street, Rough Bank, Staniforth Lane, steps leading from Staniforth Lane to Bernard Street, Park Hill Lane, St. John's Road, St. John's Walk, Bigod Street, Rubens Street, Rubens Place, Chancel Street, footpath between Park Hill Lane and Weigh Lane, parts of Hampton Street, Manor Oaks Road, Wybourn Road. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/95, p. 698*)

Housing Committee (General Sub-Committee) 9th May 1958. Messrs. Cyril Sweett and Partners, London, Quantity Surveyors, and Messrs. Ove Arup and Partners, London, Consulting Engineers, to be appointed for work on Part 2 of the Park Hill Redevelopment Area. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/96, pp. 86-87*)

Park Hill Lane, land at, Compulsory Purchase Orders (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/96, pp. 379, 551*)

Housing Committee (Development Sub-Committee) 17th February 1959. Tender of W. J. Simms, Sons and Cooke Limited, Nottingham, (£556,750) to be accepted for 152 dwellings, 170 garages and one public house on sites within Part 2 (Stage 1) of the Park Hill Redevelopment Scheme. Additional £4,900 for the provision of cookers and water service; estimated £5000 for landscaping by the Parks Department. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/96, p. 842*)

Housing Committee (Development Sub-Committee) 17th March 1959. Resolved that members of the Housing Committee visit London April 1959 to inspect selected multi-storey flat schemes, to help formulate proposals for the provision of social, recreational and general amenities for future residents of Park Hill (Part 1). (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/96, p. 940*)

Housing Committee (Development Sub-Committee) 12th May 1959. Recommends a completed section of Park Hill (Part 1) be made available for public inspection, early June 1959, and two or three flats to be furnished for demonstration purposes. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/97, p. 31*)

Housing Management Committee. 17th July 1959, Park Hill (Part 1) to comprise four blocks (North, South, East, West). Each floor to be given a distinctive name, using names of streets in the area which are to be closed (add Row), e.g. Gilbert, Hague, Long Henry, Stafford. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-HMC/1/1*)

Housing Management Committee, 17th July 1959. Designation of postal addresses for Part 1 of the Park Hill development. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-HMC/2/1, p. 16*)

Housing Development Committee. 22nd October 1959, reports that a number of flats in Park Hill (Part 1) will shortly be available for occupation by tenants. 22nd December 1960 - plans for Part 1 official opening ceremony - Prime Minister Harold Macmillan to be invited. If not available, Leader of the Opposition, Hugh Gaitskell, to be invited. City Architect's Report 11th April 1960. Use of roof and penthouse dwellings (Park Hill Part 2 Stage 2). Proposal – c. 38 penthouse flats of various sizes (1-5 person), with public roof gardens: "Certain areas would be partially roofed to give cloister-like shelter with screens to break the force of the wind." Balustrades, sometimes pierced, sometimes solid; roof paved with soil areas for plants. Ideal for mothers with very young children and for old people, pleasurable to walk about within by reason of its own layout and the fascinating views from it. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-HDC/2/1*)

Housing Development Committee progress report 4th November 1959. Park Hill (Part 1) – 59 houses completed, 935 of 994 "in hand"; Part 2 (Stage 1) – 152 of 152 in hand, none completed. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/97, p. 759*)

Housing Management Committee. Joint report by City Architect and Housing Manager on amenities and management at Park Hill (Part 1) [1959]. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-HMC/2/1, p. 54 (9pp.)*)

Housing Management Committee, [1959/1960]. 'Park Hill - Part 1: Sociological Report' compiled by the Housing Department, giving an account of the experiences of the department, and of the general reactions of tenants following the first lettings of flats within the Park Hill estate. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-HMC/2/1, pp. 94-100*)

Housing Development Committee. Park Hill redevelopment, progress report 1960-1961 [photocopy]. (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP1707 M*)

Housing Development Committee (Buildings and General Sub-Committee) 13th April 1960. City Architect submits a report, plan and model regarding the proposed development of the roof levels of dwellings within Park Hill (Part 2), including the erection of 38 'penthouse' flats, roof gardens, paved areas and other landscaping features. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/97, p. 1417*)

Council 1st June 1960. 115-signature petition complaining of noise nuisance from nearby industrial works. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/98, p. 142*)

Housing Development Committee (Buildings and General Sub-Committee) 12th October 1960. Contract agreed with Simon Carves Limited and La Société de Sondages, Injections et Forages, Paris, for filling in and consolidation of old mine workings under the site of Block B, Park Hill (Part 2 Stage 2). Cost, £138,674,11/10. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/98, p. 728*)

Housing Development Committee (Buildings and General Sub-Committee) 14th December 1960. Resolved that authorisation be given for the Public Works Department to erect 1160 dwellings and other buildings in Park Hill (Part 2 Stage 2), estimated cost £3,123,937. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/98, p. 968*)

Housing Development Committee progress report 1st March 1961. Park Hill (Part 1) – 995 houses completed. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/98, p. 1348*)

Housing Development Committee 23rd March 1961. Recommends approval given for the Right Honourable Hugh Gaitskell, MP, to perform the official opening ceremony at Park Hill (Part 1) on 16th June 1961. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/98, p. 1347*)

Housing Development Committee (Buildings and General Sub-Committee) 10th May 1961. Recommends Park Hill (Part 2) be known in the future as the Hyde Park Estate, and the two main terraces under construction [Part 2 Stage 1] be named Hyde Park Terrace and Hyde Park Walk. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/99*)

Housing Development Committee (Buildings and General Sub-Committee) 12th September 1962. Letter received from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government notifying that the Ministry's North Regional Medal and Diploma for Good Design in Housing awarded to the Corporation's Park Hill Scheme. City Council to be awarded two diplomas - one for commissioning the scheme and one for carrying it out. City Architect J. L. Womersley to receive a medal and diploma at a ceremony in London on 29th October 1962. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/100, p. 60*)

Housing Management Committee 13th September 1962. Housing Manager submits a report on a sample Social Survey (questionnaire) carried out at Park Hill (Part 1) between August 1961 and March 1962 by the resident Assistant Estate Manager. This includes a statistical analysis of residents' responses to questions about accommodation, storage, noise, the Residents' Association, laundry, pedestrian routes, lifts, shops and other amenities, the Garchey refuse disposal system, heating and hot water, children and play, design and rents. Its Foreword states that "from the results of the work done...it is manifestly true to say that Park Hill eminently justifies the forward looking vision of the Corporation when finally giving approval to the Scheme." (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-HMC/2/1, p. 384 and pp. 388-400*)

Housing Development Committee. Park Hill Scheme winning an Award for Good Design, 20th September 1962. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-HDC/1/1, p. 10*)

Housing Development Committee 22nd April 1963. Hyde Park decks designated as "rows...and given distinctive names with local associations, e.g. the names of streets which previously existed in the area and have now been closed." Roof areas on which penthouse flats are to be erected to be named 'Cricket Inn Garden', 'St. John's Garden' and 'Bernard Garden'. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/100, p. 158*)

Housing Development Committee progress report 1st May 1963 – Part 2 Stage 2 [Hyde Park], 1160 dwellings in hand, none completed. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/101, p. 15*)

Hyde Park Development Scheme, fixing of rents (amendment). (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/101, p. 41*)

Housing Development Committee 23rd May 1963. Royal Institute of British Architects' award for Park Hill (buildings completed within Sheffield and South Yorkshire, 1959-1961 inclusive). Awards to the City Architect and General Manager of Public Works. The Corporation to receive a replica of the bronze medal award, and a commemorative tablet to be fixed at a point within Park Hill. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/101, p. 13*)

Housing Development Committee 24th October 1963. Additional 9 penthouse flats at £2000 each agreed for Park Hill (Part 2 Stage 2). (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/101*)

Housing Management Committee, 11th March 1965. Installation of automatic controls for the central heating system at Park Hill. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-HMC/2/2, p. 266*)

Housing Development Committee progress report 7th July 1965. 1169 dwellings completed (Park Hill Part 2 Stage 2). (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/103, p. 50*)

Housing Development Committee (Special) 2nd March 1966. Noted that H.M. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother to perform official opening ceremony, Park Hill (Part 2 Stage 2), 23rd June 1966. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/103, p. 161*)

Housing Committee. Heating costs for oil-heated dwellings at the Park Hill, Hyde Park [and other] developments, 20th September 1971. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-HOU/1/3, p. 1*)

Petition organised by the Hyde Park Tenants' Association requesting that the decks at the Hyde Park housing development be patrolled by the police. 7th January 1976. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/113, p. 519*)

Hyde Park Terrace and Hyde Park Walk, petition requesting the Council to take immediate action to eradicate ants in their dwellings. 2nd February 1977. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/114, p. 643*)

Park Hill Housing Development, petition requesting provision of a youth club at. 7th March 1979. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/116, p. 966*)

Hyde Park Walk and Hyde Park Terrace, petition organised by residents complaining about heating systems in such dwellings. 2nd February 1983. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/120, p. 869*)

Housing Committee. Problems at Hyde Park development, 1975. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-HOU/2/12*)

Housing Committee. Children's play areas at Park Hill estate, 1982-1983. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-HOU/2/23*)

Housing Committee. Structural survey, Hyde Park estate, 1984-1985. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-HOU/2/26*)

Housing Committee. Hyde Park Walk and Terrace, 1989. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-HOU/2/44, p. 50*)

Housing Committee. Refurbishment of Hyde Park Estate, St John's Court (Block C), 1989. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-HOU/2/46, p. 111*)

Housing Committee. Hyde Park redevelopment, 1991. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-HOU/2/57*)

Housing Committee. Park Hill environmental works, phase 2, 1991. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-HOU/2/59*)

Surveys, Reports and Related Papers

Sheffield City Council, Housing Acts 1925-1936. Confirmed clearance and Compulsory Purchase Order reference books, 1931-1939. 5 volumes. (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 711.59 SST*)

Central Area Town Planning, Duke Street Reconstruction Scheme and Clearance Area, 1934 -1936 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA490/12*)

Central Clearance Area (including Duke Street), 1935-1937 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA491/4-5*)

Property purchases under Compulsory Purchase Orders (including Duke Street), 1930s (*Sheffield City Archives: CA501/1-26*)

Sheffield Town Planning (general file), 1936-1942, including Programme for Development Plan, January 1937; Planning Department General Development Plan, July 1937; Town Planning Assembly 2nd Interim Report, November 1941; Minister of Works and Planning Act 1942 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA655/16*)

Town Planning and Civic Centre files, 1936-1944 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA-VAC/65*)

Sheffield City Council Housing Department, annual reports, 1949/50 - 1972/3 (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 352.5 S*)

Town and Country Planning Act 1947, Sheffield Development Plan General File; Report of the Planning Officer on Population Overspill, December 1950 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA674/51*)

Park Hill redevelopment file, 1954 - 1960. Includes Chief Officers' conference, March 1955; City Architect's Report, Park Hill (Part 1), March 1955; 'The Financial Aspects of the Park Hill Multi-Storey Flats Project': City Treasurer Report to the Housing Committee, March 1955; undated and anonymous report on Park Hill Redevelopment Area; Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) schedule, 1955 (confirmed June 1956); Ministry of Housing and Local Government, letter June 1956 regarding report of Inspector on Public Local Inquiry (February 1956) citing objections from traders affected by Duke Street widening and CPOs, loss of business; tenders for Park Hill (Part 1), October 1956; Park Hill (Part 2), City Architect's Report, February 1958; letter from City Architect to Henry Foster, City Engineer 13th February 1958 regarding postal addresses; Park Hill (Part 1), laying of Foundation Stone, April 1958 ; City Architect's Report on Design of Park Hill (Part 2 Stage 2), December 1960. (*Sheffield City Archives: CA655/15*)

City of Sheffield Housing Committee Deputation to Europe. 'Multi-Storey Housing in Some European Countries: Report of the City of Sheffield Housing Deputation, March 1955'. Includes an article by J. L. Womersley. (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Local Pamphlets Vol. 205, no. 10, 042 S*)

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City of Sheffield Housing Report 1955-56 (City of Sheffield Housing Department, year ended March 1956); City of Sheffield Park Hill Redevelopment Scheme Tenders for Part 1, October 1956 (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: PAMP 1035 S*)

Slum Clearance Programme, 1955-1973 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA674/50*)

Park Hill Redevelopment, Part 1: Provision of Amenities. Paper by the City Architect's Department concerning communal facilities provision, play areas and green spaces (1959) (*Sheffield Local Studies Library 728.314 SQ*)

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City of Sheffield Housing Department, 'Park Hill Survey' (Sheffield, 1962)
[duplicate typescript] (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.833 SQ*)

[City of Sheffield Housing Department], 'Park Hill, Sheffield' [Sheffield, 196-].
Descriptive brochure. (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP1738 S*)

[City of Sheffield Parks Department], 'Four Years: Report of the Parks Department, 1962-1966' [Includes aerial view of the flats, p. 25] (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 352.7 S*)

City Architect's Department, 'The Hyde Park Redevelopment Scheme opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother 23rd June 1966' [1966]
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.833 SF*)

Hyde Park Estate, official opening, 1966. Invitations, seating plan etc. [mostly photocopies] (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP4048 M*)

Lord Mayor's diary (Alderman Lionel Farris), 1966 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA656/23*)

Sheffield City Council, 'Housing sets the Pattern of Sheffield's Changing Image', February 1970 [photocopy] (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP1817 M*)

File on high density development (including Hyde Park), 1976-1977 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA694/61*)

Sheffield City Council, Department of Planning and Design, *Sheffield Inner City Area: Areas of Worst Deprivation* (Sheffield, 1979) [Notes on condition of Park Hill area.] (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 711.59 SQ*)

Sheffield City Council, Development Environment and Leisure files, including Park Hill and Hyde Park developments, 1982-1998 (*Sheffield City Archives: Acc. 2008/104*)

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Sheffield City Council, Housing Department, 'Hyde Park Walk and Terrace' (Sheffield, 1987) (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 5134 M*)

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Sheffield City Council, Housing Department, 'Hyde Park Village' [A Report by Sheffield Housing Department et al.] (Sheffield, 1989) (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 728.314 SSTQ*)

Hyde Park Walk Remodelling, Phase 2 [Contract number 8474], January 1991 (*Sheffield City Archives: CA357/657*)

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City of Sheffield Architect's Department. Notes on Park Hill scheme during its development, April 1958. (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP1330 M*)

City of Sheffield Architects' Department. 'Park Hill Redevelopment Part 1: Provision of Amenities', Mar 1959
(*Sheffield City Archives: 2014/66 BOX 3*)

Results of residents survey on Park Hill [report] by 'Priority Focus', Aug 1998
(*Sheffield City Archives: 2014/66 BOX 3*)

Sheffield City Council, Housing and Direct Services, Park Hill Conservation Plan, 1999
(*Sheffield City Archives: 2014/66 BOX 3*)

Sheffield City Council, Housing and Direct Services, *Park Hill: A Prospectus for the Future*, 10 Nov 1999
(*Sheffield City Archives: 2014/66 BOX 3*)

Park Hill Estate Sheffield: Options Appraisal by HTA Architects Ltd, DTZ Peda, Sir Andrew Derbyshire, Aspen Burrow Crocker, Hall and Partners and Sheffield Hallam University, Apr 2001
(*Sheffield City Archives: 2014/66 BOX 3*)

Park Hill Survey (Report on findings of survey by research company Shelton Associates on residents' views about their homes and estate), Spring 2002
(*Sheffield City Archives: 2014/66 BOX 3*)

Park Hill Transform South Yorkshire Stage 2 Bid [funding application], Apr 2004
(*Sheffield City Archives: 2014/66 BOX 3*)

Park Hill Development Brief, Apr 2004
(*Sheffield City Archives: 2014/66 BOX 3*)

Park Hill [design proposals] by Urban Splash, Oct 2004
(*Sheffield City Archives: 2014/66 BOX 3*)

Park Hill [design proposals] by Artisan (Manchester), Oct 2004
(*Sheffield City Archives: 2014/66 BOX 3*)

Sheffield City Council CD presentation on 'Park Hill Tour' [put together for 'Korean visit'], 25 May 2010.

(Sheffield City Archives: 2014/66 BOX 4)

Park Hill [booklet outlining project 'vision' and proposals] by Urban Splash [2006].

(Sheffield City Archives: 2014/66 BOX 3)

Planning Files (including planning applications and architectural drawings)

The original architectural drawings of Park Hill and Hyde Park have not been deposited with Sheffield City Archives, and their whereabouts is unknown. Likewise, a plan drawing of the estates (c. 1950s), available to view as a digital image at <http://luna.shu.ac.uk/luna/servlet> (search 'Park Hill'), has not been located.

Plan/section drawings, Park Hill flats, 1955-1956 and 1980 [copies] *(Sheffield City Archives: Acc. 1995/109)*

Housing plans, Duke Street Clearance Area, 1960-1961 *(Sheffield City Archives: CA517/19-20)*

Planning Application, Hyde Park, 1964: Public House, S.H. Ward and Company Limited *(Sheffield City Archives: CA206/57593)*

Planning Application, Sheffield Housing Development Committee. Hyde Park Tenants' Hall, 1964: *(Sheffield City Archives: CA206/57655)*

Planning Application, Park Hill, Bernard Street/Blagdon Street/Hampton Street, 1959 -1960 [Hyde Park Part 2 Stage 1]: 152 houses, 170 garages and stores, Working Men's Club *(Sheffield City Archives: CA206/50549)*

Planning Application. Refurbishment and partial redevelopment of the Park Hill Estate to provide residential accommodation (Use Class C3), multi-storey car park, landscaping, new vehicular and pedestrian access routes and A1, A2, A3, A5, B1 and D1 uses, 2006 *(Sheffield City Archives: CA206/2006/848)*

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Outline Planning Application Report by Hawkins/Brown in Association with Studio Egret West. Architects (Client Team: Urban Splash in association with Sheffield City Council), Mar 2006
(*Sheffield City Archives: 2014/66 BOX 3*)

The Target Inn, Hyde Park flats, 1964 [architect's drawings] (*Sheffield City Archives: SHW/10/3/2/21-26*); renovation (20th cent. photograph) (*Sheffield City Archives: SHW/13/1/52*); photograph, 1968-1974 (*Sheffield City Archives: SHW/13/2/5*)

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Anon., 'Flat: The Park Hill Bulletin: Are we a Community?' (1962) [photocopy] (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 3222 S*)

Anon., Descriptive leaflet [Park Hill, no publication details], pp. 4 + illus. (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Local Pamphlets, Vol. 225 No. 7, 042 S*)

Bacon, Chris W., 'Streets in the Sky: The Rise and Fall of the Modern Architectural Urban Utopia' (Ph.D. thesis, University of Sheffield, Department of Town and Regional Planning, 1982) (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 728.2 SQ*)

Bacon, Chris W., 'Park Hill in its Social Context' (University of Sheffield, Department of Town and Regional Planning, 1985) (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.833 SQ*)

Banham, Reyner, 'Park Hill Housing, Sheffield', in *Architectural Review* Vol. 130 (Jul-Dec 1961) (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP1175 L*) [photocopy]

Banham, Reyner, 'The Park Hill Victory', in *New Society* (October 1973) [photocopy] (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP2253 M*)

Banham, Reyner, 'Park Hill Revisited: English Public Housing that broke the rules (but works anyway)', in *Architectural Review* (May/June 1974) (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP811 L*)

Byrnes, Frances, 'I love you will u marry me' [article in *The Observer Magazine*, 21st August 2016] (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 6635 M*)

Clay, Helen and Dodsworth, Rachel, *Against the Odds: Workers and Tenants in Partnership* (1989) (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 361.4 SSTQ*)

Cooke, Rachel, 'How I Learnt to Love the Streets in the Sky' [article in *The Observer Review*, 'Architecture', 23rd November, 2008] (*Sheffield Local Studies Library*: MP 505 VL)

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Cruickshank, Dan, 'Park Hill, Sheffield 1960-1965', in *Journal of the Royal Institute of British Architects* (1995) (*Sheffield Local Studies Library*: MP4960 M) [photocopy]

Dannatt, Trevor, *Modern Architecture in Britain* (London: B. T. Batsford, 1959), p. 154 (*Sheffield Local Studies Library*: 720.942)

Darke, Roy and Jane, 'Sheffield Revisited: Urban Evaluations', in *Built Environment*, pp. 557-561 (November 1972) (*Sheffield Local Studies Library*: MP2168 M) [photocopy]

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Hanley, Lynsey, *Estates: An Intimate History* (London: Granta, 2007) [photocopy extract] (*Sheffield Local Studies Library*: MP 5875 M)

Harwood, Elain, *Something Worth Keeping? Post-war Architecture in England* (English Heritage, [1996]) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 720.942 SSTQ and MP 3223 S)

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Hyde Park Residents Association, *The Future of Hyde Park: report on the survey of tenants*, 1987 (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 363.585 SSTQ))

Hyde Park Video Group. *City within a City* (video, c. 1988) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: VID 108)

Inner City Programme, 1980-1983 [notes and statistics] (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 711.59 SQ)

Jones, Peter, 'Streets in the Sky: Life in Sheffield's High Rise', 2007. Prints [from websites accessed May 2010] of three articles describing a resident's experiences of living in Kelvin Flats, Hyde Park Flats and Park Hill Flats in the 1980s and 1990s. (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 307.336 SQ, 307.336 SSTQ)

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Lynn, Jack, Architect, born October 30 1926, died October 15th 2013.
Obituaries from the *Daily Telegraph* and *The Times*
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 1717L*)

Park Hill Estate, Sheffield [reference to its importance in the development of
Modernist architecture] [no date] (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 6114 M*)

'Park Hill Flats: Less Brutal, More Beautiful' (from *City Magazine*, Issue 9,
Winter 2011)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 6228 M*)

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(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SQ*)

The Architects' Journal ['Park Hill Redevelopment'], 23rd August 1961
[photocopy including illustrations, plans and maps] (*Sheffield Local Studies
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Yorkshire Post, 'Park Hill in a Whole New Light'. Article on one apartment that has become a stylish first home. (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 1723 L*)

Newspapers

The two main Sheffield newspapers covering the 1950s onwards are the *Sheffield Morning Telegraph* [later *Sheffield Telegraph*] and *The Star*, and these are available on microfilm at Sheffield Local Studies Library. There is a card index covering the 1930s to the 1950s, and from the 1960s onwards there are files of news cuttings arranged by subject.

Significant events reported on with regard to Park Hill and Hyde Park (from the 1950s onwards) include the release of design proposals and artists' impressions, the completion of the various phases and the handing over of keys, the laying of the commemorative foundation stone at Park Hill, official openings and more latterly articles on redevelopment proposals for Park Hill.

Archives of some national newspapers are available on the internet, notably *The Guardian* (<http://archive.guardian.co.uk>) and *The Times* (<http://archive.timesonline.co.uk>).

Photographs

Picture Sheffield (www.picturesheffield.com) is an online database of 80,000 photographs drawn mainly from the collections in Sheffield's Local Studies Library. A number of images of Park Hill and Hyde Park flats are available on this website.

Sheffield City Archives also holds photographs of the Park area, Park Hill and Hyde Park flats:

Housing conditions in School Lane and Duke Street, Park, 1926 [both captioned as being in an area "not yet dealt with".] (*Sheffield City Archives: SY263/Z1/2-3*)

Park Hill flats, including site plan (printed), [1960-1970] (*Sheffield City Archives: Acc. 1986/10*)

Various, including Park Hill construction, stone laying ceremony, Hyde Park official opening (*Sheffield City Archives: Acc. 2010/75*)

Construction work at Park Hill flats, 1950s (*Sheffield City Archives: Acc. 1998/6*)

Digital photographs of Park Hill, Hyde Park and Kelvin flats (*Sheffield City Archives: Acc. 2005/10 add 2, disc 3*)

Hyde Park World Student Games Village, during and after refurbishment (internal and external views, artist's impression), also competitors outside the flats, 1990-1991 (*Sheffield City Archives: Acc. 2005/75*)

Photographs on CD showing interior and exterior of Park Hill prior to redevelopment and 'vision' images post-development by Urban Splash (5 CDS), 2005 - 2007
(*Sheffield City Archives: 2014/66 BOX 4*)

Set of photographs of Hyde Park Flats, 1988 - 1994
(*Sheffield City Archives: 2014/66 BOX 8*)

Miscellaneous

Hyde Park Community Action Group, 1981-1989. Includes minutes, annual reports, accounts, correspondence, papers relating to social work, play schemes, housing, recreation, media and publicity. Also papers of Hyde Park Residents' Association and the Sheffield Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations (*Sheffield City Archives: LD2481-2496*)

Park Hill tenancy data on CD (including details of tenants and tenancies dating back to 1950s), 26 Jun 2008 [Note: Access to this item is restricted under the General Data Protection Regulation.]
(*Sheffield City Archives: 2014/66 BOX 4*)

Maps

Sheffield City Archives and Sheffield Local Studies library hold an extensive collection of nineteenth and twentieth century Ordnance Survey (scale: 1:2500) and Sheffield Town Plan maps, which can be used to trace the development of particular areas of Sheffield.

Oral Testimonies

Sheffield City Archives' collection of B.B.C. Radio Sheffield audio-tape recordings includes a number of (studio and outside broadcast) items relating

to Park Hill and Hyde Park flats. The majority of these original recordings are open-reel in format, and whilst no access copies are currently available, it may be possible for Sheffield City Archives, in conjunction with Radio Sheffield, to arrange for such copies to be made. Archives' staff can offer further guidance on this procedure.

Note: recordings below marked with* below are now available on a CD-R and can be accessed at Sheffield Archives (*Sheffield City Archives: ROM/109*). This CD also includes one later recording (dated Mar 2008) with a member of the first family to move into Park Hill sharing his memories.

The topics covered in these recordings include:

- Living in Park Hill, 1972 (*Sheffield City Archives: SY/425/7209/2**)
- Vandalism, accidents and racial tension in Hyde Park, 1979-1981 (*Sheffield City Archives: SY425/7906/12**, *SY425/7907/9*, *SY425/8109/5*)
- Pet owning in Hyde Park, 1980 (*Sheffield City Archives: SY425/8003/9*)
- Myths about Park Hill; residents' opinions, 1986 (*Sheffield City Archives: SY425/8601/10**)
- Debate entitled 'Park Hill flats: are they all bad?', 1986 (*Sheffield City Archives: SY425/8601/22**)
- Sheffield City Council report on residents' views of living in Park Hill, 1973 (*Sheffield City Archives: SY425/8807/13**)
- Hyde Park Open Day, 1991 (*Sheffield City Archives: SY425/9108/2*)

The Local Studies library has a collection of oral history audio interviews on CD-ROM, the majority of which were originally recorded on cassettes in Sheffield in the early 1980s. Whilst none of these contain references to Park Hill and Hyde Park flats, subjects covered do include:

- Housing conditions (*Local Studies tape nos. 293-294, 303-304, 313*)
- Slum clearance (*Local Studies tape no. 313*)
- Duke Street (*Local Studies tape no. 301*)
- The Park area (*Local Studies tape nos. 282-283, 287, 293-294, 312*).

There is a subject index on cards and for most recordings there is a printed sheet with a summary of the interview.

Film

Several films made about housing in Sheffield, the Park Hill area and its housing estate are held at the Yorkshire Film Archive (YFA) in York. These include:

- *New Towns for Old* (1942). A film, commissioned by the Ministry of Information and scripted by Dylan Thomas, which addressed the need for town planning in Sheffield in the post-war world (*YFA film ref.: 28*)
- 'Environmental Health Part - Park Hill Slums 1-5'. A set of films from the 1950s made by Sheffield Public (later Environmental) Health Department showing the slum area before re-development (*YFA film ref.: 3313*). Part of this set is available to view on YFA Online (www.yfaonline.com).
- 'Sheffield Park Hill Stone Laying Ceremony' (1958) (*YFA film ref.: 3237*).
- 'Park Hill Housing Project' (c. 1962). This shows the newly-completed estate, its residents and amenities (*YFA film ref.: 3315*). Part of this film is available to view on YFA online.

Useful Websites

Typing into any internet search engine the words 'Park Hill flats' and/or 'Hyde Park flats' will provide links to numerous official and unofficial websites devoted to the history and development of the buildings. A number of the sites include photographic histories and the personal recollections of people who have lived on the estates. Web addresses for a selection of these sites (all accessed June 2010) are included below:

www.english-heritage.org.uk/protecting/conservation-projects/park-hill/

www.bbc.co.uk/southyorkshire/content/articles/2007/03/07/park_hill_feature.shtml

www.bbc.co.uk/southyorkshire/content/articles/2007/05/29/park_hill_future_feature.shtml

http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/sheffield/low/people_and_places/history/newsid_8207000/8207206.stm

www.sheffieldhistory.co.uk/forums

www.open2.net/modernity/3_12.htm

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Park_Hill,_Sheffield
www.englishpartnerships.co.uk/parkhill.htm

www.sheffield.gov.uk/planning-and-city-development/regeneration/housing-regeneration/south-sheffield-regeneration/park-hill

www.guardian.co.uk/artanddesign/2009/may/02/architecture-brutalism-park-hill

http://travel.ciao.co.uk/The_Park_Hill_Flats_Complex_Sheffield_Review_5621092

www.sesquipedalist.com/2009/05/sheffield-4-concrete-exoskeletons.html

www.yfaonline.com/yfapublic/assetDetails.cfm?film=3315&keyword=sheffield&fromSearchValue=fromKeyword&start=11

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 • on-line image library.

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