

## Foreword

The University of Sheffield is a truly civic university. Founded in 1905 on penny donations from local steel and factory workers and residents, the University has remained committed to putting the knowledge and research expertise of its academics to the service of the people of the city. When the City Council decided to move the Markets from Castlegate to the Moor, it became clear to me that this was an opportunity for us to work with the local authority to help effect the regeneration of this, now run-down, former heart of the city. The Castlegate Steering Group, which I established in 2013, comprised colleagues from the departments of Animal and Plant Sciences, Archaeology, Architecture, History, Landscape Design, Civil and Structural Engineering, and Town and Regional Planning, and was chaired by Prof. John Moreland, one of the authors of this book. The group worked closely with the City Council, advising, for example, on city-centre Masterplans, meanwhile uses for the site of the former markets, and funding applications. It also (along with Prof. Richard Jones, former Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation) commissioned the early analyses of the textual archives from Sheffield Castle from which this marvellous book ultimately grew.

Sheffield Castle lay buried under the Markets. For some it was a myth and a memory, for others it was an emblem of civic pride and identity – for most, it was forgotten. In a 21st-century context, however, it represented a tremendous resource – a vehicle through which the heritage-led regeneration of Castlegate could be delivered. But before that could begin, we had to understand the heritage of the site itself. The results of 20th-century excavations on the site lay buried in the archives, depriving both the people of Sheffield and potential developers of the site of the rich information they contain.

The authors, aided (again!) by a donation from a local resident, and in partnership with the City Council and Museums Sheffield, have therefore done a great service to the city and its people by bringing this material to publication. They have demonstrated the richness of the city's pre-industrial history, and have shown how, time and again, local people and local organisations were at the heart of efforts to rescue, preserve and protect that history. The medieval heritage of the Manor Estate was the focus of a community engagement project led by another of the authors of this book, Prof. Dawn Hadley (then of the University of Sheffield, now of the University of York), showing how urban regeneration can be informed by academic research. The 2018 excavations conducted by Wessex Archaeology continue this tradition of archaeological research conducted within the context of community engagement and urban regeneration debates. Through their highly innovative approach to the study of a medieval castle, the authors have provided the people of the City, its planners and developers, with a major resource – for shaping both identity in the present, and the city of the future. Through

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their partnership with local creative media companies, Human and Llama Digital, they are also leading the way in showing how this heritage asset can be used to inform people about the past so that they can take informed decisions about the future.

And, finally, I am delighted that it has been possible to make this publication available as an Open Access monograph, free to read online, and for this to be accompanied by a digital archive hosted by the Archaeology Data Service. The archives on which the book is based belong to the people of the city and now we are able to share them not only with the local community but globally, bringing new audiences to this famous place. I hope that readers will take the opportunity afforded by the digital archive to conduct their own research on the castle, and find their own stories in the archive. This ensures that Sheffield Castle will continue to fascinate and stimulate stories and ideas for generations to come.

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