



SHEFFIELD PUB HERITAGE WALK

4

KELHAM ISLAND



CAMRA

Sheffield & District

SHEFFIELD FLOOD 25th June 2007
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4

KELHAM ISLAND

**In loving memory of Mary Condon
21st August 1953 – 25th June 2026**

Edited by Dave Pickersgill

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Introduction

This booklet describes a short walking tour in the Kelham Island area of Sheffield. It encompasses both aspects of industrial, and social, heritage and of the 'Beer Capital' status owned by the City of Sheffield. Sheffield has more breweries per head than any other city in the UK. It also has many excellent pubs.



This walk was originally developed as part of the annual Heritage Open Days.

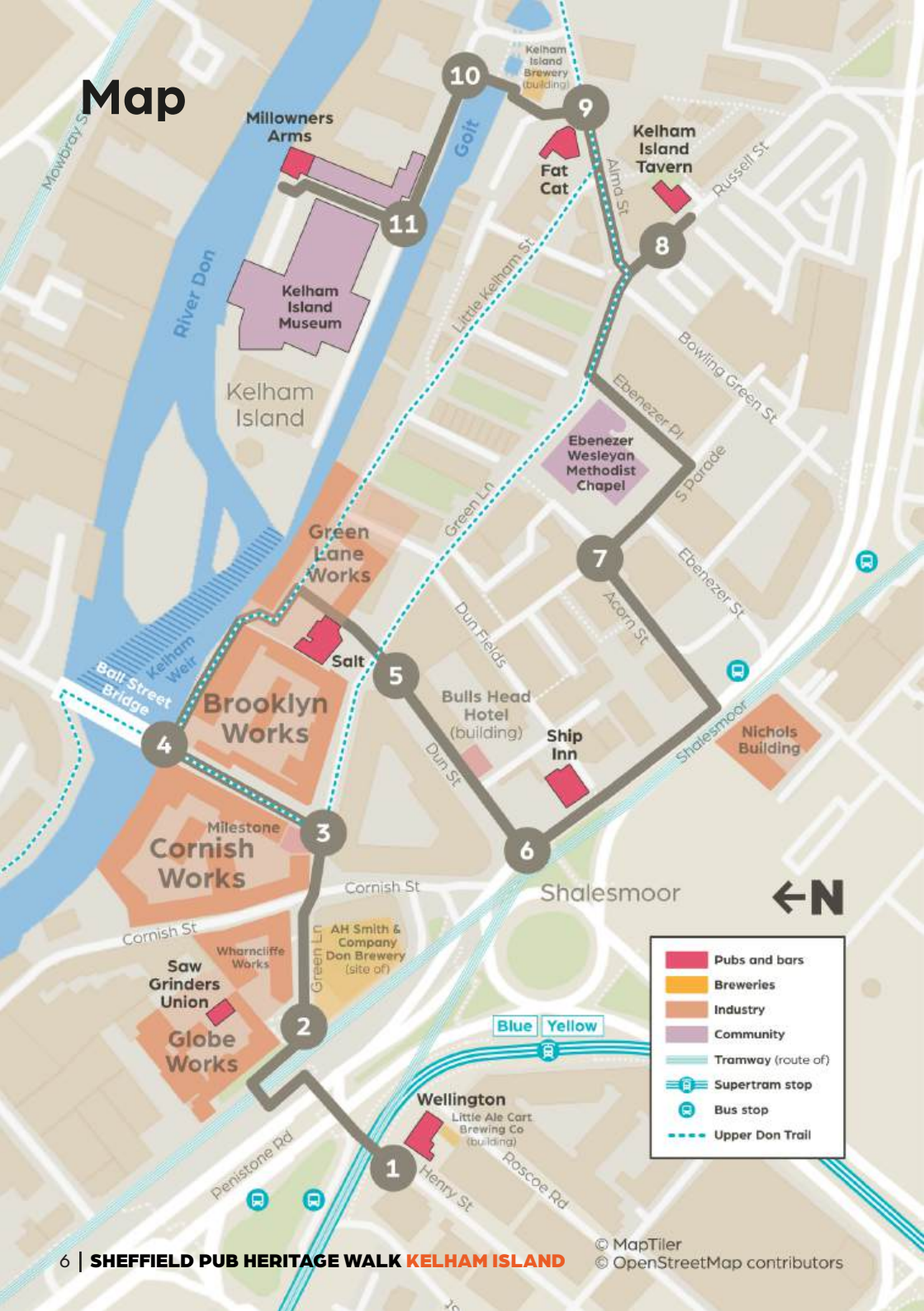
This booklet is the fourth in a series:

- 1 **Uni Arms to Fagan's** (2023)
- 2 **Little Chicago** (2024)
- 3 **Neepsend** (2025)
- 4 **Kelham Island** (2026)
- 5 **Riverside** (2027)

Throughout the series, some pubs mentioned fall into six heritage categories:

- ★★★ **Outstanding national historic importance**
- ★★ **Very special national historic interest**
- ★ **Special national historic interest**
- **Local historic interest (interior)**
- **Local historic interest (exterior)**
- 💡 **OCR (Outstanding Conversions and Restorations)**

Map



Walking Directions

- 1 Leaving the **Wellington**, use the pedestrian crossing to cross the main road, the A61. Drop down the steps and turn right. On your right is a copy of an original **AH Smith & Company** stone sign.
- 2 Passing the **Globe Works** and the **Saw Grinders Union** pub on your left, continue along Green Lane. You will pass the **Wharncliffe Works** on your left.
- 3 The next corner brings an ex-pub, the **Millstone**, with the **Alfred Beckett Brooklyn Works** opposite. Turn left. The **Cornish Works** is beyond the Millstone on Ball Street. Beyond is **Ball Bridge**.
- 4 After admiring the river, take the right turn, just before the bridge in front of Alfred Beckett. Continuing, you emerge into the ex-**Green Lane Works**. Bear right and exit through the main gateway.
- 5 Go straight onto Dun Street and pass the (long-closed) **Bulls Head Hotel** on your left.
- 6 Continue, turning left onto Shalesmoor, passing the **Ship Inn** on your left. Opposite is the **Nichols Building**. After passing Kelham Island Books and Records, take the left onto Acorn Street.
- 7 Then right onto South Parade, passing the **Ebenezer Wesleyan Methodist Chapel** on your left. Turn left onto Ebenezer Place then right onto Green Lane. At the road junction, take the right fork onto Russell Street, to visit the **Kelham Island Tavern**.
- 8 Retrace your steps and turn right onto Alma Street. The **Fat Cat** is on your left.
- 9 Cut left through the car park, and passing the site of the (closed) **Kelham Island Brewery** on your right and a Victorian gas lamp on your left, cross over the goit.
- 10 Turn left and follow the cobbled road parallel to the goit. On your left is the rear of **Green Lane Works**. The building on your right was previously the site of Kelham Rolling Mills.
- 11 When you reach the Bessemer converter, the **Kelham Island Museum** and **Millowners Arms** are to your right.





Wellington

(also known as **Cask & Cutler**, '**Bottom Wellie**')

1 Henry Street, S3 7EQ

camra.org.uk/pubs/147756

South Yorkshire Local Heritage List

(listed September 2023)

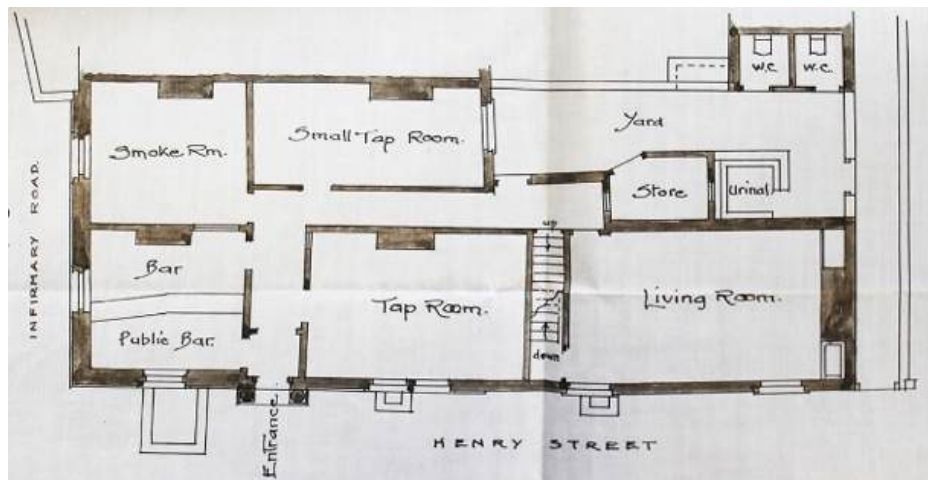
★ **Special national historic interest**

Built in 1839, in March 1872 the Wellington was acquired from William and Bernard Wake, by AH Smith & Company. The original address was 309 Roscoe Place: by the 1871 census it is at both 307 Shalesmoor and 1 Henry Street.

The pub was refitted in 1940 and retains many fixtures in the three-roomed layout from that time. The previous layout



(see plan) included a Smoke Room, Small Tap Room, Tap Room, and Public Bar. The servery was moved into the area previously occupied by the Small Tap Room; the former Tap Room on the front right had minor changes and became the new Smoke Room and the rooms on the left of the door (the former Smoke Room, tiny Public Bar and the Servery) were converted into the new Tap Room (Architect: Wigfull, Inott & Ridgeway for Messrs Tennant Bros Ltd).





The passageway from the front door to the lobby bar area has a terrazzo floor, interwar tiling to two-thirds height and double internal doors with leaded glazed panels. The lobby bar has a terrazzo floor and retains the 1940 ply panelled bar counter (which has been pushed back some 18") and bar back fitting.

There is some modification to the bar back (for example, small mirror pieces from the 1960s) and fridges and a glass washer have replaced two-thirds of the lower shelving. Note the unusual key-hole in the part of the bar on the top right, probably to lock the staff hatch-way in place.

A 2016 refurbishment introduced shelving to both the left and right of the bar area, including the two stained glass windows above the Lounge Bar.



The panelling on the walls of the bar area and (painted) pine ceiling were installed in 1978 when new tenants, Gordon and Pauline Shaw, arrived. They left in 1983, having had a successful time, the (legendary) Highcliffe Folk Club taking up residence for several years.

A door on the left with a leaded glazed panel in the top and the figure 3 leads to the tap room with interwar fixed seating around most of it. The 1940 ply panelled bar counter is retained.

The exterior has 1930s stained and leaded windows, and the fireplace is Victorian style. The piece of wall near the counter is a modern addition having closed a gap created when the lobby bar counter was pushed back. There are good interwar exterior (Tennants) leaded windows.

The front Smoke Room on the right has a wide gap to the lobby with more 1930s exterior windows but the fixed seating is post-war, and it has lost its

fireplace. The terrazzo floor continues to the right, through another door with 1930s stained and leaded windows and the figure 1. Beyond is a terrazzo passage that goes past a door with the figure 5 on it. The Ladies' toilet has a 1930s door and terrazzo floor (modern tiles); the Gents' toilet is modern.

Until the 1960s, there was a Customs and Excise requirement for licensees to list all rooms used for the consumption and/or storage of alcohol – hence the numbers, on, or close to, many internal pub doors.

The late 1980s saw the pub becoming run-down, many original features becoming hidden. At that time, it was owned by Whitbread.



In 1993, it became a free house under the ownership of Neil and Sheila Clarke. They advertised 'Traditional Handpulled Beers from Independent breweries'.

At that point, the walls and ceilings were yellow, and the bar was covered with hardboard. This was removed and stripped back to bare wood, before both a dark stain and varnish were added.

Over several years the building was renovated. The window-frames were stripped and repainted, wood was stained dark and varnished, walls were papered, and boarding was removed from the door to the toilets.

They also added a wooden screen with small stained-glass windows on the dividing wall between the two bar areas. The Lounge door had previously been screwed shut.

In addition, crazy paving was laid in the beer garden. The stone, flat on one side and misshaped on the reverse, was laid on 15 tons of sand.

The pub was renamed the Cask & Cutler and, in 2000, Port Mahon Brewery was established. In 2006, when Neil and Sheila retired to France, Richard Appleton took on the pub. He reinstated the old name and, after a two-year pause, restarted and renamed the brewery, Little Ale Cart (LAC). The brewery also hosted several cuckoos, most notably Steel City who were in residence from 2010–2013. LAC ceased brewing in 2016, when the pub was taken on by local company Sheaf Inns.

The pub was closed for a period, redecoration and some refurbishment occurring. It reopened as the brewery tap for the nearby Neepsend Brewery.

As the Cask & Cutler, the pub was CAMRA Sheffield & District Pub of the Year (PotY) in 1995, 1999 and 2001.

The Wellington is possibly the oldest surviving pub, in the world, to have formed a football team. Their white and puce (a dark reddish-brown) strip was seen from 1866. In 1867, they were one of 12 teams who competed for the Youdan Cup, the oldest football trophy in the world. Wellington FC went out in the first round, losing 2–0 to Milton. The game was held at the Orphanage, a site currently thought to be occupied by Highfield Library (S2 4NF). The winners were Hallam FC, formed in 1860, the second oldest football club in the world.¹



AH Smith & Company

Penistone Road, S6 3AN

This brewery was founded in 1828 under the name of Warburton, Turton & Howe. In 1849, William Smith of Barnes Hall, Ecclesfield (S35 1RD), bought the company, appointing his business partner, Joseph Redfern as manager.

The Don Brewery buildings covered about one acre: the triangle bordered by Cornish Street, Green Lane, and Penistone Road. They included a 224' (68 m) deep artesian well and 20 stone York-

shire squares fermenting vessels, each holding 24 bbl. In 1864, the brewery was flooded and goods were damaged.

William added his son, Alfred, to the board: Alfred Harrison Smith and Joseph Redfern subsequently took over the running of the business. Joseph died in 1889 with AH Smith taking full control of both the brewery and its 40 pubs. He was noted for both visiting the brewery and making his pub visits while mounted on a large grey horse.

In June 1900, brewery worker Isaac Hornsey, 51, died. His duties included the care of the refrigerator, which was charged with ammonia. He opened the refrigerator using a faulty valve, and fumes of ammonia began to fill the room. In the ensuing chaos, he attempted to close the valve with a spanner. He also accidentally dropped the key to the plant room. This fell through a grating in the floor and could not be recovered. He was quickly overcome and fell back unconscious. He died a few days later.²

His widow Annie claimed under The Workmen's Compensation Act (1897) for the equivalent of three years average wages (£202 16s). The claim was not contested.

By the end of the century, (Telegraphic address: DON BREWERY SHEFFIELD, National Telephone: 319), the brewery had a tied estate of 83 pubs, reaching a peak of 100 in 1915. They were taken over by local brewery Tennants in 1916, Alfred Smith joining the board. Tennants, in turn, came under the Whitbread umbrella in 1962.

¹ Sheffield The Home of Football, *The Real History of Football – 8. The World's Oldest Hotel & Pub Football Clubs* youtu.be/QLxZbdp2XII

² *News of the World*, 'Death by Ammonia Fumes', 14 June 1900, p4



Until the widening of Hoyle Street and the building of a roundabout in the late 1980s, one building which remained on Penistone Road included a distinctive plaster sign.



Whitbread used this building for three purposes: manufacturing and refurbishing pub signs, housing the company's painting department, and storing barrels of Sheffield-brewed Gold Label Barley Wine during its six-month maturation period. When the building was demolished, it proved impossible to remove a badly cracked stone sign (see image). A cast of the sign is visible opposite the Globe Works.

■ **Globe Works and** ■ **Rattener's Rest**

Penistone Road, S6 3AE

Grade II* listed (May 1970)

**Kelham Island and Neepsend
Industrial Conservation Area**

The Globe Works was originally a purpose-built works which incorporated the home of the owner. It is now a bar, offices, and workshops.

The works were designed in 1824 and opened the following year by Ibbotson Brothers. It is the earliest known surviving purpose-built integrated cutlery and edge tool works to retain both front display range and workshop ranges.



In the early years, the Ibbotson family lived on-site: their dwelling is indicated by the porch at the front right corner of the building. The carriage entrance is to the right of the porch.

Ibbotsons became a major exporter to America in the 1830/40s. In 1882, running short of space, they moved to the Globe Steel Works (diagonally opposite the Fat Cat) leaving the building to be used by several smaller companies.

Globe Works became derelict in the 1970s and was extensively damaged by

a 1978 arson attack. In 1987 restoration work costing £1.5m was started by the Leadmill Association arts charity, backed by the Allen Tod group of architects alongside Henry Boot as the main contractor. Funding came from a variety of sources, including the Arts Council, English Heritage, the English Tourist Board, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Sheffield City Council (SCC). This partial renovation included a cutlery shop, visitor centre and a pub.

The pub, the Rattener's Rest, situated on the lower ground floor, was open for about two years. Surrounding the bar, in display cabinets and on the walls, were many examples of steel trade manufactured items. Cask beers included Ind Coope Draught Burton Ale (4.8% ABV) and, from Leeds, Tetley Bitter (3.7% ABV).

The Leadmill Association ran into financial difficulties, and, in 1994, Velocity Estates bought the Globe Works. Over 18 months, at a cost of several million pounds, retaining much of the original fabric, they carried out a complete refurbishment. Just under 2,800 m² of office space was created. Now known as the Globe Business Centre, it is home to over 20 companies.





Saw Grinders Union

Globe Works, Green Lane, S6 3AE

camra.org.uk/pubs/148101

**Kelham Island and Neepsend
Industrial Conservation Area**

In 2019, a new craft bar, the Saw Grinders Union, opened within the Globe complex. This uses two previously derelict buildings situated around a courtyard.

Fitting with their American inspired food menu, the logo is based on a style originally used in American factories in the C19th. The bar was refurbished in Spring 2026, the food focus changing to a Turkish culinary concept.



The name links to a dispute between the union and the owners of Globe Works when the Ibbotson brothers used the workhouse system to keep wages low. In 1841, considerable damage was caused when two members of the Saw Grinders Union planted a bomb. This practice of industrial sabotage was known as 'Rattening'. It could involve removing tools or drive belts. These and similar events led to the 1867 Sheffield Outrages Enquiry.



Wharnccliffe Works

86–88 Green Lane, S6 3AF

Grade II listed (October 1988)

**Kelham Island and Neepsend
Industrial Conservation Area**

These three-storey works were built in the mid to late C19th originally producing stoves, grates and fenders. It functioned as an iron and steel works until the 1980s. Much of the building has since been redeveloped for office and residential use.



Milestone

84 Green Lane, S3 8SE

**Kelham Island and Neepsend
Industrial Conservation Area**

Opening as the Ball Inn about 1830, this building was damaged during the 1864 flood, the owner claiming damages:

Claimant: John Stringer, Innkeeper
of: The Ball Inn, 84 Green Lane
Claimed: £75
Award: Assessed by Agreement
including costs at £15
Granted: 1 March 1865

By 1948, the pub was closed, and the building was occupied by printers, Coates & Wilkinson Ltd. Later it was used as a paint wholesaler; 'Decorative and Industrial Paint Supplies'.

As the area regenerated in the late C20th, the building became the Milestone, a stylish restaurant/pub serving food downstairs with a more upmarket restaurant upstairs. In 2022, managed by Joseph and Luke Grayson, it became 'Juke and Loe at the Milestone'. This incarnation closed at the end of March 2023, a few weeks after inclusion in the 2024 Michelin Guide. In May, the following year, the brothers opened their new venture, Frérot, at the then new Cambridge Street Collective Food Hall. Less than a year later, on 1 March, this outlet closed.



Alfred Beckett Brooklyn Works

Green Lane, S3 8SH

Grade II listed (November 1985)

**Kelham Island and Neepsend
Industrial Conservation Area**

Constructed in the mid C19th, the Brooklyn Works is a former site of steel, saw and file manufacture. The building was damaged by the 1864 flood.

Alfred Beckett put in a compensation claim of £123 11s 2d for damage to the works, with local journalist Samuel Harrison writing at the time:

'The works of Messrs. Beckett and Slater, steel, saw, and file manufacturers, were injured to a serious extent. The boundary wall was carried away, and a large steam engine boiler was torn from its bed, and washed down some hundreds of yards into the works of Messrs. Wheatman and Smith. A quantity of machinery was broken to pieces, furnaces were extinguished, and various finished goods were spoiled.' (Harrison, S (1864), 72–3)

Alfred Beckett & Sons Ltd continued to manufacture until the mid-1960s using the 'Matchless' trademark; during this period there were several structural ad-



ditions to the works. In 1967, they were purchased by the locally based Tempered Spring Company Ltd. The building later stood empty for a period, its listed status saving it from demolition. In the 1990s AXIS Architecture (Sheffield) turned the disused works into residential apartments and offices for small businesses.



Cornish Works

Ball Street, S6 3AF

Kelham Island and Neepsend Industrial Conservation Area

Built from 1828, James Dixon's Cornish Plate Works on the corner of Ball Street and Green Lane was the first of the large-scale factories erected for the manufacture of metal wares: files and cutting tools. By the 1860s, the site had expanded to four acres, employing over

700 and becoming the world's leading producer of tools for shoemaking. Manufacturing ceased in 2003. Parts of the complex were demolished while others become apartments.

Great Sheffield Flood: 11 March 1864

The dam wall of Dale Dyke (Bradfield) broke as the reservoir was being filled. 650 million gallons of water rushed down the Loxley Valley before joining the River Don at Hillsborough and continuing towards the city centre. The immediate cause was a crack in the embankment.

At least 240 people died and over 600 houses were damaged or destroyed. In addition, many grinding workshops were badly affected with several losing their grindstones as they were swept away.

Ball Street bridge was destroyed. It was rebuilt by the Milton Iron Works (Elsecar) then, in 1900, widened. It has three cast iron arches carried on ashlar piers: the inspiration for the logo of nearby Neepsend Brewery.

Almost 7,000 claims were made by individuals and companies against the Sheffield Water Company:

Over two-thirds of awards were for less than £10, with only 1% for over £1,000.

	No of claims	Total claimed	Total awarded
Damage to property	6,524	£367,686	£259,414
Injury to people	347	£21,467	£5,029
Loss of life	116	£45,146	£9,545

The flood led to reforms in engineering practice, setting standards on specifics that needed to be met when constructing large-scale structures. For the first time it also opened the concept of corporate culpability.

The dam was rebuilt the following year.



Green Lane Works Gateway

Green Lane, S3 8SE

Grade II* listed (May 1952)

Kelham Island and Neepsend Industrial Conservation Area

The works were built in 1795 and the Gateway itself in 1860, by Henry Hoole to commemorate his year as Mayor of Sheffield. The bronze figures symbolise the two skills of metal work (holds a forge) and art (holds a paint brush) which the firm combined in its products. Behind the gate is a bust of Henry.



Bulls Head Hotel and Old Albion Brewery

Dun Street, S3 8SL

Kelham Island and Neepsend Industrial Conservation Area

The former Bulls Head Hotel (2013 image) was reputed to be one of the roughest pubs in Sheffield and was referred to as the Devil's Kitchen. It closed in the late 1960s, about a century after it was first listed as a beerhouse in Kelly's Directory of Sheffield.

After an earlier period as Shirley's Wool Warehouse, in 1994, the building was renovated to become offices for Ellis Willis & Beckett, a family run firm of chartered surveyors and auctioneers originally established in 1870 (2013 image above).





From September 2014, until early 2020, the building functioned as a nursery. In March 2023, planning permission³ was obtained to convert the building into a 'boutique hotel'. The facade is to be retained and a new rear three-storey building with ground floor link will be added.

At the time of publication, building work had not commenced. The building is currently functioning as a nursery again.

It has an attractive tiled frontage with raised fascia lettering: OLD ALBION 6X BEERS & STOUTS (1991 image top right).

This company was originally founded around 1840. Until 1880, it was operated by Peter Lowe & Company, then by



DH Coupe & Company until 1884 when it became known as the Albion Brewing Company. It assumed the Old Albion name in 1889 and was registered as such in July 1897. The brewery was situated at 69–71 Ecclesall Road (the current site of a branch of Waitrose S11 8HY).



Along with 52 pubs, it was acquired by the Worksop & Retford Brewery (WRB) in 1939. During the Second World War, this acquisition allowed the WRB to sell in the Sheffield area even though the distance was too far to allow direct delivery from Worksop. The brewery was demolished in 1950.

³ SCC planning application, January 2023, ref no 23/00035/FUL

The gable end of the Hangingwater Stores (87 Hangingwater Road, S11 7ER) has a faded, but visible, painted advertisement for the Old Albion Brewery:

**FAMILY GROCER
JOE BROOMMILL
FOR OLD ALBION
BREWERY LTD
CELEBRATED BEERS**

Opposite the ex-pub is a painted street cabinet *Butterflies in the Sunshine*. It was painted in 2019 by children's book illustrator James Croft.



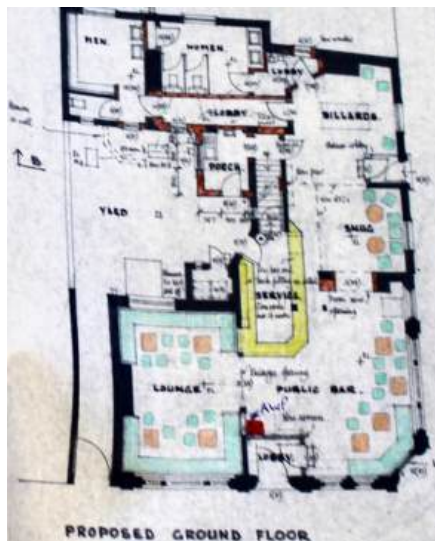
Ship Inn

312 Shalesmoor, S3 8UL
camra.org.uk/pubs/147755

Kelham Island and Neepsend Industrial Conservation Area

Acquired in 1924 by Sheffield Brewery Tomlinsons, the Ship has two sides with a distinctive tiled exterior: TOMLINSON'S FINE ALES WINES SPIRITS ANCHOR ALES.

A 1978 Bass Charrington plan indicates how the building was opened out.



Originally four separate entrances led to (1) a Lobby (with off sales) and Lounge, (2) the Public Bar, (3) the Snug and (4) a Lobby and Billiards Room. Changes saw the kitchen become the Ladies, the central bar move to its current position, and the corner door replaced by a window (Architects, John Rochford & Partners). Previous plans indicate that the room on the left of the entrance was originally two shops.

The wording Dram Shop on the corner of the ceramic frontage (above the sealed-up corner door) is also worth noting: a local phrase for off sales.

In the USA, a dram shop rule (dram shop law or dram shop act) is a civil statute covering establishments that sell alcohol, such as bars or restaurants. It makes them liable for the harmful acts of intoxicated customers if served negligently – for example, drunk driving accidents and bar fights.

In the 1990s Bass sold the Ship to Hardy & Hansons of Nottingham. In 2006, it passed to Greene King when they took over, and subsequently closed, the Kimberley Brewery. The Ship closed in February 2015 and was re-opened by Hawthorn Leisure the following September after a six-figure cash injection. This aimed to retain as many original features as possible. It also restored internal original tiling which builders found hidden beneath the old walls.



The Ship was Highly Commended in the 2016 CAMRA Pub Design Awards for the sensitive refurbishment. Unfortunately, the subsequent Press Release incorrectly stated that the Ship 'was shut for many years'. This error was repeated in CAMRA's *Good Beer Guide* 2018.

In July 2021, in a deal worth over £220m, Admiral Taverns acquired Hawthorn Leisure, the owners of the Ship. The pub immediately closed, re-opening the following February.



Tomlinson & Company

Cherry Street, S2 4ST

Henry Tomlinson & Company was founded in 1891 on land leased from the Duke of Norfolk, opposite what was then the cricket pavilion at Bramall Lane. Now the home of Sheffield United, this is the oldest major stadium in the world still hosting professional football matches. It also hosted the first Yorkshire Cricket Club first-class game in 1863 and was home for 391 Yorkshire fixtures until the Blades took over sole use of the ground in 1973.

In December 1940, during the Sheffield blitz, the Anchor Brewery was severely damaged (Anchor image, Bramall Lane, 1985).



Two years later, Tomlinsons merged with Thomas Carter's Hope Brewery to become: Hope & Anchor Breweries. The Hope Brewery (Claywheels Lane, S6 1NB, image 1991) was the home of Carter, Milner & Bird Ltd. This company was founded in 1892, and registered at Mowbray Street, in 1899, by Christopher Carter, Eleazar Milner & George Bird.

In 1939, due to redevelopment of the area, the original Hope Brewery was closed, and the new model brewery was built.



The company used novel marketing. They employed local artist Kenneth Steel, who was known for his paintings and advertising, many of which were re-



produced as designs for station billboard posters. For the brewery, he designed paintings of pubs on beermats,

trays, and posters. This image is of the Scotsman's Pack (Hathersage, Derbyshire S32 1BZ).

They also employed well-known magician David Nixon (1919–1978), in a TV advert for Jubilee Stout. At the height of his career, Nixon was among the best-known magicians in the UK.



Hope & Anchor are also featured in the 1950 short film, *The Inn that Crossed the Sea*. This film was made at the height of the post-war export drive. Beer consumption in the UK was in decline and overseas markets were wanted. It tells the story of exhibiting their beers to world-wide buyers at the 1949 Canadian International Trade Fair in Toronto.

As part of the exhibition, the brewery used 15 tons of material to create a replica of the old Rose & Crown (Hoy-



landswaine S36 7JA). They exhibited: Golden Mead Ale, Jubilee Stout, Old English Beer, and from partners, Castletown, Oyster Stout. Local liquor laws meant that beer had to be poured down the drain. However, the 50,000 visitors/day resulted in both considerable publicity and good sales.

A subsequent 1952 reciprocal agreement with Canadian Breweries (CBL), led by president EP (Eddie) Taylor saw Jubilee Stout on sale in Canada and the first entry of Carling Black Label Lager to the UK.

In 1963, by which time, Hope & Anchor had a tied-house estate of 240 properties, they were taken over by Charrington United Breweries. By then part of the Bass empire, the Hope Brewery closed in 1994.



The remains of the Anchor Brewery became the timber yard of Sheffield company, Arnold Laver. Since 2007, Anchor Point Apartments have occupied the site.

The founder of Tomlinsons, Henry, committed suicide in bizarre circumstances on 19 July 1891 at the age of 46. His widow, Martha, subsequently announced her intention to continue the business 'for the benefit of herself and her children.'

Whilst walking from his home at Woodlands, Dore New Road, Totley to the Brewery, Henry entered Highfield Police Station. He told Police Constable Dickinson that boys were shouting at him, and that he had murdered his wife and four children with his walking stick. He asked that the police contact friends to meet him at the Brewery.

Henry went to the home of his chief clerk/cashier, Arthur Podgson (327 Shoreham Street, S2 4FA), accompanied by his groom, Charles Atkinson. Here, he attempted suicide with a teaspoon then again with sugar tongs.

His third attempt, with a knife, was successful: his jugular vein and windpipe were both cut. Atkinson almost prevented this bid, receiving a badly cut hand in the process.

The ambulance van carrying his body suffered a broken axle near George Senior's Sheaf Street works and injured Inspector Walsh, the driver, and the mortuary officer (Police Constable Banister). Walsh, having been thrown into the road, was injured when one of the wheels passed over his leg.



Nichols Building

Shalesmoor, S3 8UJ

Furnace Hill Conservation Area

As indicated by a date sign at the corner between Shalesmoor and Shepherd Street, this three-storey Victorian red brick building was built in 1914. Bricks are laid in a style of the time, English Garden Wall bond: three rows of stretchers to one row of headers.

The building includes two signs stating, 'FOUNDED AD 1854', referring to the establishment of the company; and an additional one to the north-western end along Shalesmoor which reads 'RE-BUILT AD 1914'. This refers to the 're-building' of the company on this site. Above the corner door is a stone representation of 'N & Co.'

Nichols & Co were originally wholesale grocers, tea blenders, and coffee roasters. This building was created to bring several disparate properties together within a single purpose-built warehouse.



In 1965, the company was renamed 'Nichols, Johnson and Bingham'. Following liquidation, various parts of the buildings were sold off with the final reference in the 1973 Sheffield directory showing 'Richardson, Arthurs & Son Ltd' having purchased part of the former business.

The building became auction rooms for Eadon, Lockwood & Riddle, and more recently functioned as an antique centre.

In 2018, planning permission⁴ was granted for a £6m home for new shops, cafés, and bars plus a seven-storey residential block. Much of this is now in place.



Ebenezer Wesleyan Methodist Chapel

**New Life International Church,
1 South Parade, S3 8SS**

Grade II listed (June 1973)

**Kelham Island and Neepsend
Industrial Conservation Area**

Built in 1823 with a small Sunday school. The building, with the same footprint as the chapel, appears on the 1851 Town Plan in the middle of what was then Ebenezer Square, with the entrance facing the end of Ebenezer Street. The chapel accommodated 1,400.

In 1883, a proper school was added at the Green Lane end to cater for the dense population. This closed during the 1930s slum clearances as families moved to new council estates in the suburbs.

⁴ SCC planning application, April 2018, ref no 18/01639/FUL



Ebenezer Street includes, *Ebenezer's cabinet of curiosities*, a telecom cabinet painted by Simon Wigglesworth-Baker in 2020. This is one of several exchange boxes painted by members of the Kelham Island Arts Collective. Kelham Island and Neepsend Community Alliance (KINCA) believe that Kelham Island is the first area in the UK to have had painted utility cabinets.

KINCA has also facilitated the vinyl wrapping of ten litter bins, each design celebrating the theme of nature. For example, the bin on Ball Bridge references the nearby bee hives which are adjacent to the River Don.

Kelham Island Tavern

(also known as **Saw Maker's Arms, White Hart**)

62 Russell Street, S3 8RW
camra.org.uk/pubs/147647

**Kelham Island and Neepsend
Industrial Conservation Area**

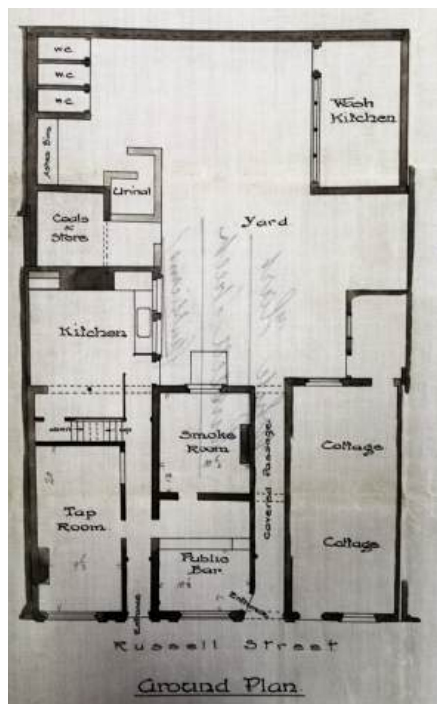
Opened in the 1830s as the Saw Maker's Arms, by 1856, the pub had become the White Hart. It was acquired by Stones Brewery in 1860 and in 1995 was renamed the Kelham Island Tavern (KIT), before closing four years later.

In March 2002, the derelict building was purchased by new landlord Trevor Wraith and his business partner, Lewis



Gonda. The pub was refurbished and re-opened, specialising in real ale. By the following year, the local press had noted it as one of five pubs in the area among the 'best real ale pubs in Yorkshire.'

1914 plans 'showing proposed removal of Cottages & extension of yard' (James R Wigfull, 14 Parade Chambers, Shef-



field) show the pub having two entrances. The current entrance is onto Russell Street; the second is at the end of a covered passage between the pub and two cottages. The proposal is to demolish the two cottages and convert the covered passage into a store, leaving the corner entrance onto Russell Street. A detailed ground plan shows the current large room as three separate rooms: a Tap Room on the left with a Public Bar and a Smoke Room on the right. A urinal and three WCs are in the rear yard.

Local CAMRA guides from the 1980s describe the pub as:

- 'Typical back street pub serving local factories at lunch times, quiet in the evenings' (1979).
- 'A three roomed unspoilt local, situated amongst the factories' (1982).
- 'Tiny three roomed pub. Rosettes and trophies adorn the bar' (1985).



1986 (AA Design Ltd, Sheffield) saw the pub opened out into a single room. The storeroom becomes a preparation room, and toilets become internal, taking the space previously occupied by a kitchen.

In 2003, the Sheffield CAMRA guide described the pub as:

'The newest free house to join the Upper Don Valley Ale Trail offering eight real ales of which seven are constantly

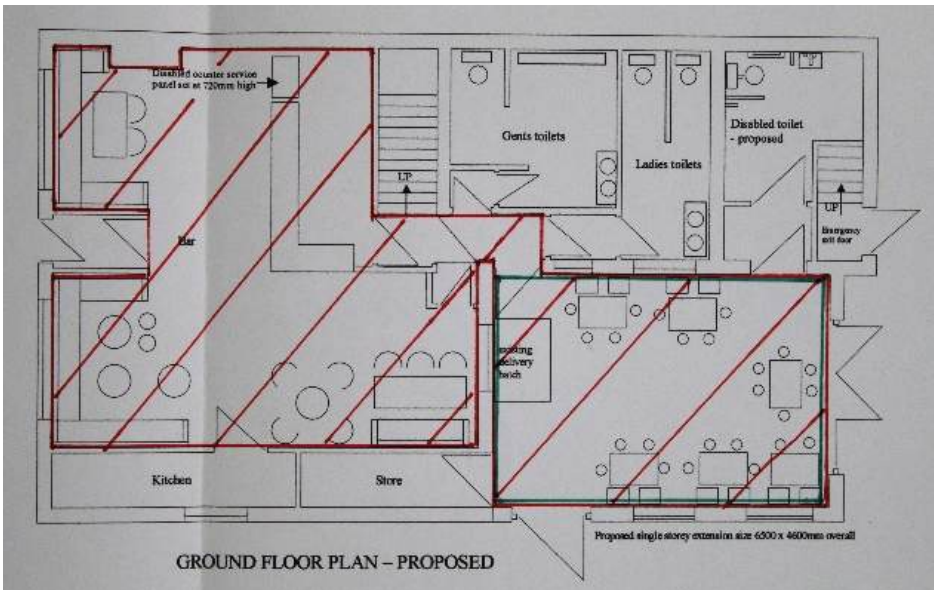


changing. Opened in March 2002 after being closed for three years. A single room with a wood panelled bar, and a friendly welcome awaits you here. The scheduled garden to the rear is being developed.'

2003 plans (Steel Associates, 46 Dodd Street, Sheffield) extended the pub 'to erect a single storey bar area and disabled person access and toilet facilities within a two storey extension at the rear

of the premises for the owner Mr T Wraith [sic]. The new conservatory was (6.5 x 4.6) m. Hence, the internal area increased by almost a third, from 54.3 to 71 m².

Over the last 20 years, the pub has steadily evolved. Since late 2018, under the management of Josh Jepson and Louise Singleton, it has continued to offer a wide range of both cask (13) and craft beers: the beer garden is outstand-



ing, and the pub maintains the standards to which others aspire. The beer range is consistently excellent, always including at least one beer from Neepsend-based Blue Bee Brewery (S3 8AB).

The Kelham Island Tavern has been CAMRA Yorkshire Pub of the Year (PotY) five times and Sheffield & District PotY on 19 occasions: a record which is unlikely to be overtaken. In 2008–09, it was the first pub to be CAMRA National PotY two years running. This feat was repeated by the Tamworth Tap (B79 7LR) in 2023–24. The Tap was also National PotY in 2026.

CAMRA Sheffield & District PotY 2004–2011, 2013–2018, 2020 and 2023–26.



Fat Cat

(also known as: **Kelham Tavern, Alma**)

23 Alma Street, S3 8SA

camra.org.uk/pubs/147646

Grade II listed (August 1999)

Kelham Island and Neepsend Industrial Conservation Area

★ **Special national historic interest**

The Fat Cat is a little-altered and typically detailed example of a mid-C19th pub and former hotel in what was an industrial quarter close to central Sheffield. It has an excellent original layout: two downstairs rooms, a small central bar, mosaic in the doorway and a terrazzo floor passageway.



Opened in 1850 as the Kelham Tavern, the pub was renamed the Alma in 1856, after the Battle of the Alma River (SW Crimea).. On 20 September 1854, the combined forces of the British, French and Turks faced a Russian army of 33,600. At that time, the landlord was A Cook.



The pub was taken over by Sheffield brewer William Stones in 1876. A small entrance lobby with mosaic floor bearing the legend CANNON ALES, (c1912) leads into a corridor with terrazzo floor leading to a room on the left and a doorway to the servery on the right. The entrance lobby also leads to a room on the right.

In 1981, the bar was upgraded from a Formica-topped surface. The three-sided servery has a canopy including coloured glass over, and a clock under a rounded pediment. The latter is believed to be a payment-settling kiosk obtained from a Co-op butcher in Rotherham.

The left-hand room has bench seating on most of the walls. The Victorian-style fireplace with tiled base was installed in 1981. The right-hand room has a Victorian green tiled, cast iron and wood surround fireplace at the rear and has bench seating on the outside walls.

A 1914 plan (James R Wigfull for Messrs Wm Stones Ltd) shows a pub layout which is similar to the current layout with three exceptions. 1914 has two entrances to the building: the current position and a second corner entrance. The current corner room is split into two rooms: a Public Bar which is only accessible from the corner entrance and a Smoke Room which is accessible from the central corridor. The bar has a roun-



ded corner in the Public Bar. In addition, Cottages are shown at the rear of the pub. 1914 has these changing into Scullery, Pantry and Coals. There is also an upstairs Club Room in the same position as today's upstairs room.

Plans approved in 1941 (Wigfull, Inott & Ridgeway, Sheffield) show that, with the removal of an internal wall, the corner Public Bar has extended into the Smoke Room and that the bar is squared off into the current layout. The corner entrance has also been removed.

The pub became the Fat Cat on 29 July 1981, when the building was bought at auction for £33,750 by solicitor Bruce Bentley and his business partner, Sheffield Polytechnic economics lecturer Dave Wickett (1947–2012). It became one of the first real ale free houses in the UK. In 1989, Dave bought out the share owned by Bruce. Opening day (21 August 1981) saw queues down the street. The name was suggested by Dave's wife, Helen.

A 1982 plan shows that the Scullery, Pantry and Coals have changed into an extended Gents', a new Ladies' and Stores. The Club Room is now the Function Room. In addition, the Tap Room (above) is now named 'No-smoking room', the first such facility to be available in Sheffield. In 1986, this was mentioned in the House of Commons by Bassetlaw MP Joe Ashton⁵ and noted in Hansard. Unfortunately, the pub is formally recorded as being on 'Elmer Street'.

In the 1980s, an internal door in the right-hand room which led directly to the urinals was removed; customers were thus compelled to visit via the corridor. This door had been installed at some point post-WW2. 1999 plans (Melling, Ridgeway & Partners, Sheffield) show the conversion of the original Kelham Island Brewery into a Visitors' Centre.



The Fat Cat is one of several pubs flooded in both the 1864 and 2007 Sheffield floods.

In June 2018, local artist Matt Cockayne (Goo Design) spent three days painting a mural on the outside corner wall. Two years later, courtesy of Sheffield street-artist Bubba2000, the back wall gained



a spray-painted image of local hero Jarvis Cocker, the lead singer of Sheffield band Pulp.

The pub was CAMRA Sheffield & District PotY in 1982, 1992, 1996 and 2003.

Opposite the 'Cat is the site of the Globe Steel Works. In 1758 this included a silk mill. The building burnt down in both 1792 and 1810. It was twice rebuilt as a cotton mill and, in 1829, became the Sheffield Union Workhouse. In the 1864 Sheffield floods, it flooded to a depth of 1.2 m. The upper floors became a morgue for 124 of the dead. From 1882, Ibbotson Brothers took over the workhouse site.

Kelham Island Brewery

Alma Street, S3 8SA

Kelham Island and Neepsend Industrial Conservation Area

In 1990, under the instigation of Dave Wickett, Kelham Island Brewery opened. This was the first new independent brewery in Sheffield since 1937, when the Sheffield Free Brewery became a Limited Company.

The original brewery was in the beer garden of the Fat Cat: the image shows this brewery under construction. The kit

⁵ Ashton, J MP quoted in Hansard, 29 October 1986, tinyurl.com/47y6e8n9



came from the Oxford Brewery & Bakehouse (14 Gloucester Street, Oxford OX1 2BN).

This pub brewery was installed by Hall's Oxford & West Brewery Company Limited in November 1984. Their regular beers included Old Wrot. This had an Original Gravity of 1072, suggesting ~7% ABV. The name seems to refer to 'Old Snout' or 'Old Nose.'

Brewing ceased in 1989. The pub became the Fuggle & Firkin in 1996, and the Goose in 2000. It reverted back to the original name, the Red Lion, in 2008. It remains open.

Halls had been taken over by Burton Brewery, Samuel Allsopp & Sons Ltd in 1926 when brewing ceased. By 1984, the company was part of the nationwide chain, Allied Breweries.

In 1999, a move of less than 100 m saw Kelham Island Brewery expand into the adjacent car park. A century earlier, this was the site of the Britannia corn mills.

The original brewing kit was donated to the Welbeck Estate (Nottinghamshire) and became the first kit for Welbeck Brewery (S80 3LT).



Pale Rider (5.2% ABV), one of the first UK beers to use American hops, was CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain (CBoB) in 2004. The head brewer was Paul Ward, who later moved to Bradfield Brewery. Pale Rider remains the only South Yorkshire brewed beer to reach the top three in this competition.

Following this triumph, the brewery was inundated by demand for Pale Rider. The 25 bbl/week production could not meet demand. They were approached by Ridley's Brewery (Hartford End, Essex) who subsequently contract brewed 60 bbl/week of Kelham Pale Island.

As well-known beer writer, Roger Protz said at the time: *'In the Ridley's sample room, I tasted the Sheffield and Essex versions of the beer and could not detect the slightest difference. But honesty is always the best policy and I have no doubt that Dave Wickett is right to make consumers aware that Pale Island is not brewed at Kelham Island.'*⁶

The following year, Ridley's was bought out by Greene King for £45.6m. Also in 2005, Dave advised Jim Harrison, the owner of Thornbridge Hall (Ashford-in-the Water, Derbyshire DE45 1NZ), when he opened a 10 bbl plant in the grounds. Later that year, Thornbridge Jaipur was born: a multi-award-winning IPA (5.9% ABV) which, like Pale Rider, uses United States hops. In 2025, Jaipur was the ninth top selling cask beer in the UK.

On Friday 6 May 2022, it was announced that Kelham Island Brewery would be going into voluntary liquidation and closing. This image was taken in May 2025.

The following September it was confirmed that the brewery and its assets (including recipes) had been acquired by a collaboration of six local entre-



preneurs working under the name of Kelham Island Brew Company. As registered at Companies House, their correspondence address is Herne Hill, London SE24 9LR. The beers have subsequently been contract-brewed by Thornbridge (Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1GS) and marketed as from Kelham Island Brewery.

In January 2026, a planning application⁷ to reimagine the brewery site as a seafood restaurant was approved: *'Overall, the proposed works are considered to be acceptable subject to relevant conditions, and the proposals would not have a harmful impact on the significance, character, and appearance of the Kelham Island & Neepsend Conservation Area, nor the setting of the adjacent Listed Building the Fat Cat public house'* (Delegated Officer Report).

The ex-brewery offices and retail outlet (Prospect House, 17 Alma Street, S3 8RY) reopened as a cocktail bar, Dirty Mirror, in July 2023.



⁶ Protz on Beer, 'Ridleys Brewery - Leaping The North/South Divide', 1 December 2004

protzonbeer.co.uk/features/2004/12/01/ridleys-brewery-leaping-the-north-south-divide

⁷ SCC planning application, December 2025, ref no 25/03500/FUL

Many ex-Kelham Island brewers have been involved in influential breweries. These include: Abbeydale, Bradfield, BrewDog, Magic Rock, Ossett, Stancill, Tapped, Thornbridge and Welbeck.

The oldest established brewery in Sheffield is now Abbeydale (established 1996). In 2024, this brewery became part of Sheffield Beerworks, an Employee Ownership Trust (EOT) which also includes the two Abbeydale managed outlets: their tap, Abbeydale Beerworks (opened May 2026, S7 1FL) and their long-established pub, the Rising Sun (S10 3QA).

2019 Street art by Jim Connolly on one of the telecom cabinets on Alma Street, just outside the site of the Kelham Island Brewery. Jim was responsible for much of the artwork that featured on the brewery's bottles and pump-clips.



Kelham Island

Kelham Island and Neepsend Industrial Conservation Area

Kelham Island, a long artificial island, was created by the Normans in the C12th when a stretch of water – thought to be the oldest ‘goit’ or mill race in Sheffield – was constructed. It diverted water from the River Don at Ball Street weir, and was designed to assist industry, including the Lord of the Manor’s corn mill.

By 1637 the town armourer, Kellam Homer, owned a water-powered grinding workshop on the island. By 1674, this was known as Kelham Wheel. In 1758, a second water wheel was built to power a silk mill. By the start of the C19th, the area was known as Kelham Island.



The remains of the old water wheels are still visible next to the entrance to the island. At this point, the goit goes underground before re-entering the River Don at Lady’s Bridge.

Approaching the museum, on your right is a mural of a white Yorkshire rose set in a marble frame. This was created by Tech Moon, as part of the 2025 Lick of Paint Festival.

In October 2022, Kelham Island was rated as the 35th ‘coolest neighbourhood in the world’ by *Time Out* magazine.

Kelham Island Museum

Alma Street, S3 8SA

Kelham Island and Neepsend Industrial Conservation Area

The museum buildings were built in 1897 as a steam-powered generating station providing electricity for the Sheffield Tramways.

The ramp and Upper Hall were created in 1939 after the building ceased use as a generating station and became a transport base for the Yorkshire Electricity Board (YEB).

In 1976, the site was acquired by the Sheffield City Museums Department, Kelham Island Industrial Museum opening on 30 April 1982 (Dame Margaret Weston, director of the Science Museum). The (first floor) Charlesworth Transport Gallery was opened on 9 November 2005 by Sir Norman Adsetts: ex-chair of Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and ex-managing director of Sheffield Insulations Group.

Since 2014, the museum has been the home of the annual CAMRA Sheffield Steel City Beer & Cider Festival (SCBF). 2026 saw SCBF50, the 50th event and the 11th to be held in the museum.

Other homes for the festival were:

1975	1	Tapton Hall of Residence
1976–1988	13	Lower Refectory, Sheffield University #1
1989–1992	4	Sheffield City Polytechnic, Students Union #2
1993	1	University House, Sheffield University #1
1994–2000	7	Nelson Mandela Building, Sheffield Hallam University #2
2001–2006	6	St Phillips Social Club
2007	1	Darnall Liberal Club
2008–2010	3	Cemetery Park
2011–2013	3	Ponds Forge International Sports Centre
2014–date*	11	Kelham Island Museum

#1, #2 – the same space before and after a change of name

*No SCBF in 2020 and 2021 (Covid restrictions)

Built in 1904 by Davy Brothers, the River Don Steam Engine is housed in a 1922 building. The Engine worked for over 50 years at Cammell Laird’s Grimesthorpe Works, before relocating in 1957 to the English Steel Corporation River Don Works, rolling shield plates destined for nuclear reactors. Operation required a 15-strong team, including one furnace-man.



In 1978, it moved to the museum. Weighing almost 400 tons, it is believed to be the most powerful remaining steam engine in the world (12,000 horsepower).

Rapidly growing industry in the C19th required copious quantities of steel to replace the less reliable cast iron which was commonly used in construction projects.

1856 saw the development of Henry Bessemer's process whereby oxygen is blown through pig iron in a 'converter' to burn-off impurities, resulting in a stronger metal. The remaining metal contains only small amounts of carbon (<0.1%): it would now be known as mild steel.

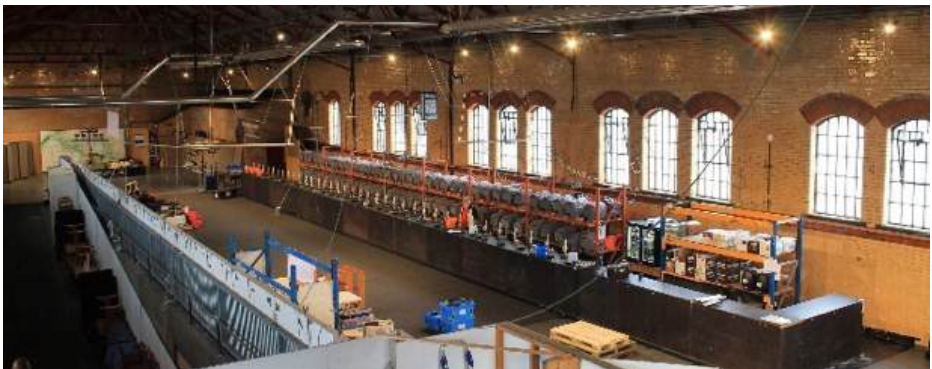
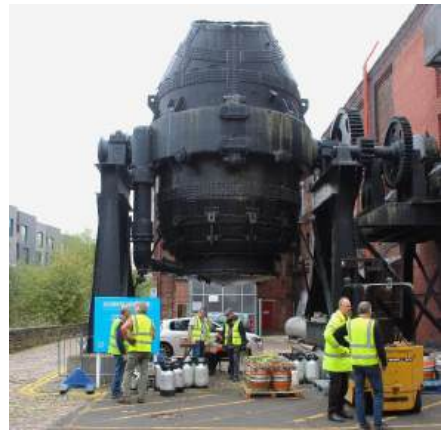
Henry (1813–98) had developed a process which would produce bulk steel by a fast, easy and controlled method. He announced this development in a paper read to the Mechanical Section of the British Association at Cheltenham on 11 August: 'On the Manufacture of Malleable Iron and Steel without Fuel'.

Other steel makers eagerly took on this process and developed its use. Robert Mushet, for example, added manganese alloy to the mix. In 1866, Bessemer,

whose own process was not economically viable without Mushet's method for improving quality, decided to pay Mushet an annual pension of £300. This was paid for over 20 years; possibly with a view to keeping the Mushets from taking legal action.

A Bessemer converter made five tons of steel from pig iron in 20–30 minutes whereas the established cementation furnace took 14–15 days to produce 40–50 lbs.

Henry Bessemer and Company was founded in Sheffield in 1858. By 1868, there were 18 Bessemer steel works with 57 converters.



Before retiring to Sheffield, once the world's most prolific steel town, the Kelham Island Bessemer converter (manufactured in 1934) was one of the last pair at the British Steel Corporation (BSC) Workington Steelworks when it closed in 1974. Cumbria was a major producer of iron ore into the middle of the C20th. The first Bessemer steel plant in the area was built by the West Cumberland Iron and Steel Company in 1872.

In 2004, this converter was awarded an Engineering Heritage Award from the Institution of Mechanical Engineers.



Millowners Arms

Kelham Island Museum, S3 8SA

camra.org.uk/pubs/148092

**Kelham Island and Neepsend
Industrial Conservation Area**



**OCR (Outstanding Conversions
and Restorations)**

Opened by HRH Duke of Gloucester, the Millowners was created in 2013, from a derelict 1902 storeroom as Horbury Joinery's third project for the Sheffield Industrial Museums Trust at Kelham Island. It hosts displays showcasing long-closed local breweries.

The design is of a typical old pub as decorated in the 1970s. The doors and windows were acid-etched with the pub name and the bar, including glass shelves, was made to measure.



The interior also includes period radiators, light fittings, and nicotine-stained walls. In 2013, it had a Yorkshire dartboard: no trebles or outer bullseye, and a bullseye which is smaller than on a standard board. It since been replaced by the usual board.

Outside is a reclaimed red telephone box, which, in 2024, became the local lending library.

The project started with a strip out of the steel frame mezzanine floor and damp-proof treatment. The existing cast iron circular roof support columns remain. The £60,000 project was funded by the River Don Millowners Association. This Association developed in the C19th at a time when water power was essential for industry.

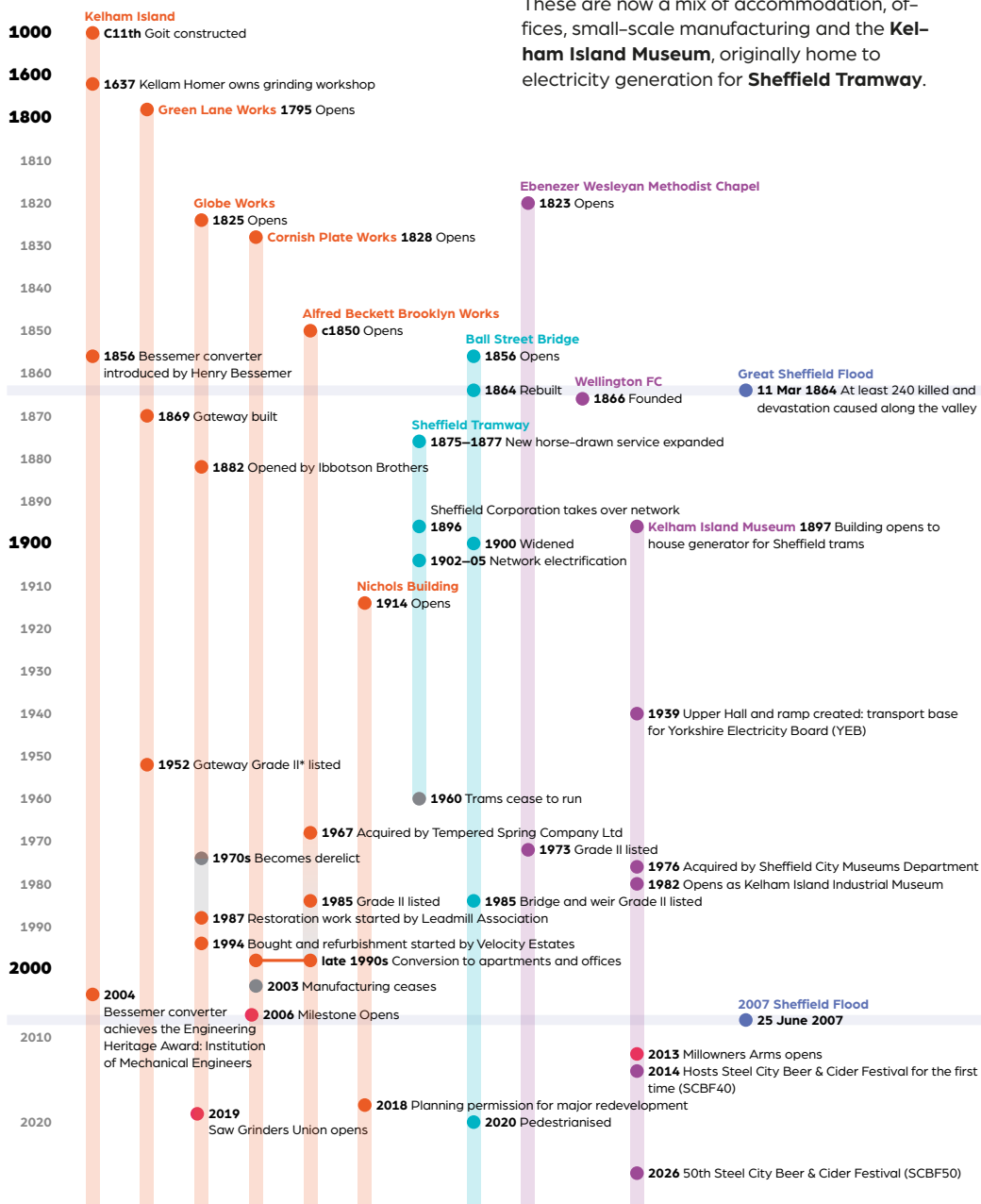
As part of the construction, MWS Joinery Ltd included a C17th stone fireplace, taken from the closed Travellers Inn (Wadsley Bridge, S6 1LQ). The pub closed in 2011: the fireplace dates from 1697 and bears the initials, 'GC'. These refer to local yeoman George Carr.

The building opened as a permanent bar in November 2019.

Timelines

Industry | Transport | Community

The mid-C19th saw several large manufacturing bases established in **Kelham Island**. These are now a mix of accommodation, offices, small-scale manufacturing and the **Kelham Island Museum**, originally home to electricity generation for **Sheffield Tramway**.

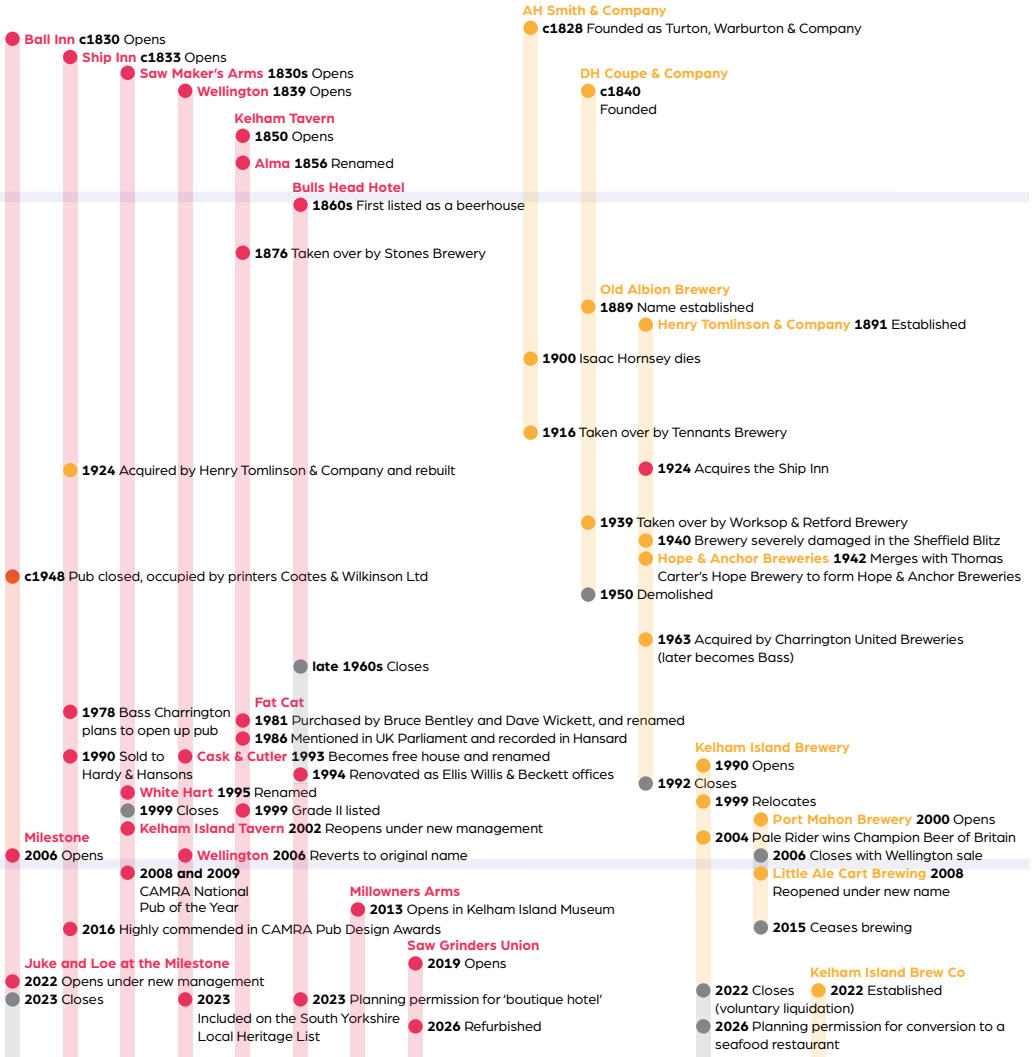


Pubs and Bars

The long-established **Fat Cat** (originally Kelham Tavern), **Kelham Island Tavern** (originally Saw Maker's Arms), **Ship Inn** and **Wellington** have been joined by modern bars such as **Millowners Arms**, **Salt** and the **Saw Grinders Union** opening in historic venues.

Breweries

The 1990s saw both the last of the area's historic breweries close and the beginning of a new wave of independent Sheffield brewers with the opening of **Kelham Island Brewery**. In the 2000s **Port Mahon** and then **Little Ale Cart** operated out of premises adjacent to the Wellington.



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KELHAM ISLAND BREWERY

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SHEFFIELD PUB HERITAGE WALK

4

KELHAM ISLAND

This booklet describes a pub heritage walk (one mile) in the Kelham Island area of Sheffield.

Included:

- Map and directions
- Information about places of interest
- Pub descriptions
- Timelines of events

Dave Pickersgill:

- Core member of CAMRA's Pub Heritage Group
- Editor of *Sheffield's Real Heritage Pubs*
- Local organiser of the 2023 Members' Weekend AGM & Conference
- CAMRA Campaigner of the Year 2025 runner-up

RRP: £2.99



CAMRA
Sheffield & District

Booklet sponsors:



Abbeydale Brewery

The oldest established brewery in Sheffield (1996). In 2024, this brewery became part of Sheffield Beerworks, an Employee Ownership Trust (EOT) which also includes the two Abbeydale managed outlets: their tap, Abbeydale Beerworks, and their long-established pub, the Rising Sun.



Kelham Island Brewery

Established in 1990, Kelham Island Brewery was a pioneer of the modern British beer movement. Following the brand being saved by a local consortium in 2022, they continue to brew many of the original recipes, preserving heritage while looking to the future.

