



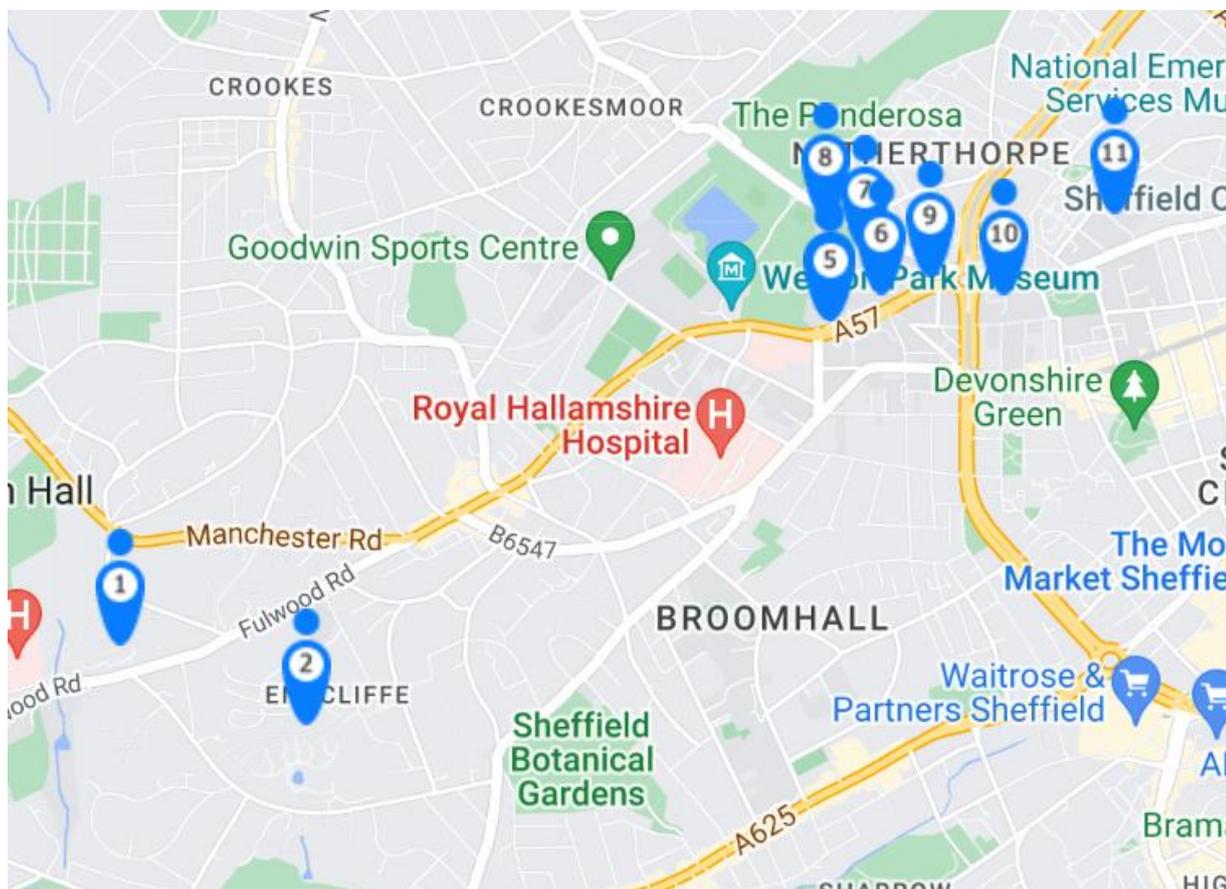
The University  
Of  
Sheffield.

## University of Sheffield Heritage Collection Sculpture Map

This map takes you on a tour to see 11 impressive sculptures that are part of the [University Heritage Collection](#), and are displayed across the University of Sheffield campus.

You can follow the map to see the sculptures in person or do a virtual tour by opening this [link](#). We recommend starting the tour at number 1 in the student villages, so that the hills work in your favour!

It takes approximately 2 hours to complete the tour and every sculpture is accessible by wheelchair, but you may need to check with building porters on your arrival for access. Sculptures inside university buildings will only be accessible during that building's opening hours, which is usually 9am-5pm during term time.



(Sculptures 3 and 4 are hidden by number 5!)

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## Hedge of Friendship:

- Jo Fairfax
- 2008
- Wood and Light Panels
- Each panel HWD/cm: 236 x 128 x 16.5
- ID: 1648
- Ranmoor Student Accommodation, External



Jo Fairfax (active 1995-) is a part of NESTA, which is a charity dedicated to science, technology, and the arts. Fairfax is interested in light installations and interactive works and was touched by the sense of friendship at the University, wanting to reflect that in his piece. When two people stand between the frames, the panels glow, signalling closeness and the beginning of the long-lasting friendships. This piece offers scope for human interaction and a couple's photograph.

The sloping hedges behind the panels represent the hills of Sheffield, and they wrap around one of the oldest oak trees in the area. With that in mind, the sculpture is built into the landscape, making the piece as architectural as it is artistic. Having sculptures in the student villages makes them feel like more than just halls of residence; they become communities with a culture and atmosphere.

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## Ingots:

- Mark Firth
- 2009
- Steel
- HWD/cm: 294 x 277 x 120
- ID: 1433
- Endcliffe Student Accommodation, External

Mark Firth (1952-) turns engineering into an art form, working with various metals and producing geometric abstractions of the industrial world. Firth has a strong connection with Sheffield's past since that his great-great-grandfather of the same name was a renowned steel manufacturer and founder of Firth College, now the University of Sheffield.



At almost three metres tall, the Ingots serve as a striking visual asset of the student village, with the green of Endcliffe student village being complemented by Sheffield's steel foundations. As the sides have oxidised to give the work its rusted appearance, they have developed a brown-orange exterior that plays into the industrial aesthetic. The top surfaces are polished and reflect the sky, offering a new perspective when viewed by those in flats above ground floor. In his initial proposal, Firth commented that the sculpture could be interpreted as a reflection of the tempering and forging of future academics.

Click [here](#) to read a blog about Ingots as part of the University Library's 'Unique and Distinctive Collections' resource.

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## On the Primacy of the Square:

- Mark Firth
- 2005
- Aluminium
- HWD/cm: 207.5 x 249.7 x 24
- ID: 940
- Firth Court, Main Staircase

Mark Firth (1952-) is interested in the 'beauty of precision' and constructs that reflect Sheffield's steel industry. Given the artist's previously noted connection to the University, it is fitting that this sculpture is located in the building named after his great-great-grandfather. Firth Court was the first building built



deliberately for Firth College, the University's predecessor, and was founded on philanthropic gestures and funds raised by Sheffield workers.

*On the Primacy of the Square* represents the tool used to generate a perfect right angle and is made to appear solid. The tool itself was invented for precision, and the work needed to create this scaled up model required skilled and accurate metalwork, as is the speciality and interest of Mark Firth. Once again, Firth draws upon influences from Sheffield's industrial history.

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## Bust of Mark Firth:

- Albert Bruce-Joy
- 1879
- Marble
- HWD/cm: 90 x 71 x 34.5
- ID: 519
- Firth Court, First Floor Corridor

The subject of this sculpture, Mark Firth (1819-1880), was a local steel manufacturer and philanthropist. In 1875, Firth became mayor of Sheffield, and in 1879 he founded Firth College. This sculpture was presented to Firth by his contemporaries in 1879 for his contributions to the city of Sheffield. The University is widely heralded as a truly civic institution due to the gestures of Firth and his townspeople, with Firth's legacy still being central to the University's ethics and success.

The pedestal on which the sculpture sits is inscribed in gold lettering which reads:

"MARK FIRTH ESQ / FOUNDER / OF THIS COLLEGE / PRESENTED / BY HIS TOWNSMEN / 1879"

Albert Bruce Joy (1842-1924), the artist, was a famed portrait sculptor. Some of his other installations include a statue of William Gladstone in London and William Harvey in Kent.



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## Bas Reliefs:

- Studio of Bertel Thorvaldsen
- C. 1831-1834
- Carrara Marble
- Both Panels HWD/cm: 95 x 79.9 x 6.5
- ID: 525
- Firth Court, First Floor Corridor



Bertel Thorvaldsen (1770-1844) was one of the greatest neoclassical sculptors of the nineteenth century. Neoclassicism aimed at capturing the essence of Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome. In the top panel, Thorvaldsen depicts Pan, a heroic Greek god with the horns and legs of a goat. In the lower panel he portrays a Bacchante, a follower of Bacchus, the Greek god of wine. In both, there is a baby Satyr. Mythological creatures symbolised the ideal virtues displayed by the ancient gods.

Thorvaldsen had a studio in Rome for 40 years, where he employed a number of assistants to help create his work. One such assistant, named Ludwig von Hofer (1801-1887), received payment for an adaptation of these reliefs. This may imply that Thorvaldsen trusted Von Hofer to carry out his work. These reliefs are half of a set of four, though it is undocumented how many were adapted from the original plaster cast created by Thorvaldsen.

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## Charles Darwin and his Discoveries:

- Jason Thomson
- 1998
- Oak
- Each panel HWD/cm: 252 x 350 x 3.5
- ID: 686
- Alfred Denny Building, Ground Floor Reception

Upon entrance to the Alfred Denny Building, you are greeted by a huge 7-panel sculpture depicting the discoveries of Charles Darwin. Alfred Denny (1860 - 1947) was the University's first Professor of Biology, and the building named after him houses the Biomedical Science and Animal & Plant Science departments.



[Jason Thomson](#) (active c.1989-), a local sculptor, was commissioned to create these panels. Thomson's studio is on Brown Street in Sheffield, and his medium and scale of output varies substantially from stone to bone, metal to wood. This carved relief was made from a single oak tree. Each panel reflects a range of interests among the students and staff in the department. For example, Darwin is depicted amidst the skull of a gorilla and a fossil, representing the theory of evolution. The pile of books is indicative of both Darwin's research and the scholarship produced by the department.

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## Four Rings:

- Austin Wright
- 1960
- Aluminium
- HWD/cm: 47 x 72 x 40
- ID: 523
- Western Bank Library, Ground Floor

Austin Wright (1911-1997) was a sculptor known for his imaginative metalwork and he used aluminium when creating *Four Rings*. The rings are rough and skeletal in shape, with varying textures on each surface. The base is smooth on top but scraped round the edges, and the rings themselves have an organic texture which illustrates Wright's commitment to representing naturality. Wright moved to his 'adopted county' of Yorkshire in 1937, where he was inspired by the local landscape, and the ring form is recurrent in his art.

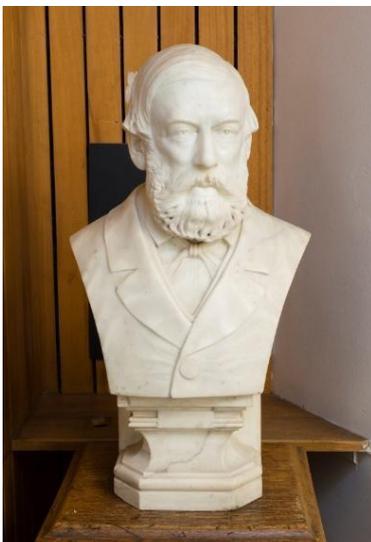


Four Rings is asymmetrical and offers a 360 viewpoint where the form changes depending on which angle it is observed from. It was exhibited in Western Bank Library in 1960 when the library building was completed. The Sheffield University's Fine Art Society organised the exhibition and purchased the sculpture, later donating it to the University Heritage Collections in the 1990s.

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## Bust of Henry Clifton Sorby:

- Attributed to William Ellis
- C.1882
- Carrara Marble
- HWD/cm: 68.3 x 22.5 x 20
- ID: 533
- Department of Geography and Urban Planning Building, B Floor Corridor



Henry Clifton Sorby (1826-1908) was one of the original benefactors of Firth College, now the University of Sheffield. He became the first president of the University in 1882. To this day he is internationally acclaimed for his work in geology, with many journals and organisations existing in his name, such as the Sorby Natural History Society. The society organises events and publishes a monthly newsletter relating to geology and wildlife conservation.

Due to his popularity, various busts of Sorby exist around Sheffield. This has led to discussion about who the sculptor was. A plaster cast was given to Weston Park Museum in 1882 by William Ellis (c.1824-1882), and it is believed that the University's sculpture is the marble version of this cast. Ellis was a member of the Sheffield Society of Artists and was a relatively successful portrait sculptor.

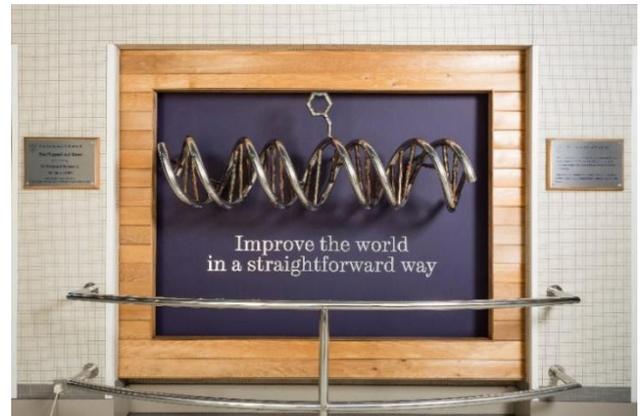
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## The Flipped-out Base:

- Andrew Langley
- 2005
- Stainless Steel
- HWD/cm: 74 x 191 x 54.5
- ID: 1525
- Richard Roberts Building, Ground Floor Atrium

One base of this DNA strand is flipped out to represent the discovery by Xiaodong Cheng and Richard Roberts (1943-). Together, they discovered the first base flip, a revolutionary breakthrough concerning the repairment of DNA. Roberts is an alumnus of the University of Sheffield, and he earned a Nobel Prize for his findings in 1993.

Andrew Langley (1967-) specialises in large metal sculptures. The inner bases of this sculpture are welded to the outer spiral, and they have a rainbow stain that occurs when steel is heated past a certain point. In diagrams of a base flip, the inner strands are often depicted in multicolour to indicate the various nucleobases, and the rainbow stain reflects this.



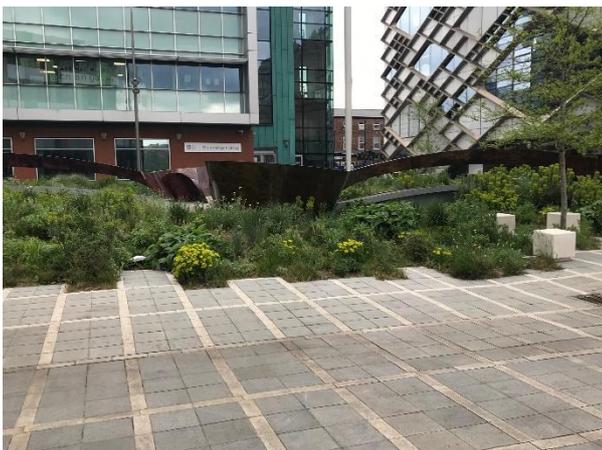
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## The Garden of Pooled Talents:

- Studio Broadbent
- 2015
- Metal
- Each Ladle Pool Area: 3.6 x 2.6m
- ID: N/A
- Jessop West, External

This piece was commissioned in 2015 as part of the regeneration plan in the area between the Jessop West and Diamond buildings. It is not part of the Heritage Collection, but it is definitely worth seeing on the way. Two paths meet in the middle of this structure, drawing in arts and humanities students from Jessop West, and science-oriented students from the Diamond. They meet in the middle where the

ladles tilt slightly inward, pouring and pooling their contents. From ground level they resemble ladles, nodding to Sheffield's history of cutlery-making. The ladles are identical other than their finish.

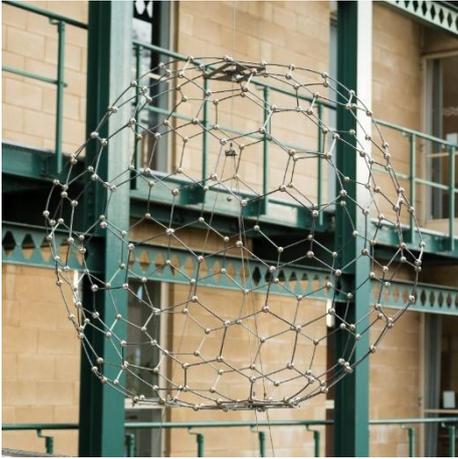


The landform was built onto an existing hard surface, known as a podium deck landscape, and it serves as a visual spectacle as much as an interactive feature. The plants change with the seasons and are arranged in an outward rippling effect. Details on the types of plants and more information on the structure can be found [here](#).

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## Giant Buckyball C240:

- UOS Central Mechanical Workshop
- 2005
- Stainless Steel
- HWD/cm: 120 x 145 x 140
- ID: 1177
- Kroto Research Institute, External



Harry Kroto (1939-2016), an alumnus of the University of Sheffield, discovered the buckyball in 1985. Kroto received a Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1996 for his breakthrough. Buckyballs are made of carbon atoms and are hollow like a ball. The phenomenon was so named because of its resemblance to the domed projects of architect [Buckminster Fuller](#) (1895-1983).

Kroto's work went beyond his scientific research, and he was extraordinarily passionate about making science accessible for the younger generations. He visited the University of Sheffield every year after his discovery to run workshops on his research and to expose South Yorkshire Schools to an engaging and practical side of science. Margaret Kroto, his wife, carried on his legacy after his death in 2016 made a donation that helped launch the Kroto Family Education Foundation, which gives young people the chance to study buckyballs in a Kroto School Laboratory.

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**All information researched and written by Murray Wood, MA History.**

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