

# Last battle of an old castle wall

Morning Telegraph Reporter April 72

For 700 years, the old castle wall stood proudly, defying cannon fire, siege and even progress... until Sheffield Corporation workmen moved in.

In just a few short days they did what seven centuries of storm and strife had failed to do — and the wall came tumbling down.

But the wall may still be the centre of one last battle — only this time words, and not cannon balls, are flying.

The opening salvo came last night from historian Mr Edward Vickers.

He hit out angrily after learning that the wall, the last above-ground trace of the city's 13th Century castle, had been destroyed.

"I think it is a tragedy. It's absolutely terrible," said Mr Vickers, vice president of the Hallamshire Historic Buildings Society.

"It shows again that the city council are just not interested in historic buildings in Sheffield."

## Safe

The wall, which jutted out from the steep, paved embankment, was the only part of the castle — built in 1270 and demolished after the Civil War — still visible from the ground.

A spokesman for the town planning department said that urgent work had to be carried out to make the 15-foot-high embankment safe — and the only way to do it was to build a retaining wall at the bottom and fill in the trench it made.

"We contacted the Department of the Environment informally before we went ahead, and they intimated that they would not object if we could arranged to give the public easier access to the underground remains of the building," he said.

"In view of the danger of the bank the work was unfortunate but unavoidable. In fact the wall wasn't demolished, it slipped and collapsed during the work.

"It is difficult to say whether these stones were definitely part of the castle wall, but in any case I am sure that, unless they were specially pointed out, they would not have made a great impression on anyone."

## Castle wall

By T T O'Mullane

SIR, — In 1930 the city authorities discovered part of the foundations of the walling of Sheffield Castle.

The steep, paved embankment in Castlegate was deliberately built by the Corporation to allow some stones of the castle wall to remain in their original position and to project out of the face of the incline.

By allowing these wall remnants to be destroyed, the City Planning Department has undone the preservation work which was the result of the powers of imagination of its predecessors of some 40 years ago. — T T O'Mullane, Wilson House, 272 Kimberworth Road, Rotherham.

**BID TO PLACE CASTLE RUINS ON VIEW**

The chairman of the Markets Committee, Mrs. Doris Mulhearn, has been to see the ruins of the old Sheffield Castle beneath the market. She is accompanied by Mr. T. T. O'Mullane, who has written a letter to the committee asking for the ruins to be placed on view. Mrs. Mulhearn said she was pleased to see the ruins and that she would like to see them more often. She said she would like to see them more often. She said she would like to see them more often.

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By a staff reporter  
Sheffield, 25th April

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