

SHEFFIELD MANOR EXCAVATIONS, 1976
9TH AUGUST - 28TH AUGUST, 1976

VOLUNTEERS wanted

£2 a day subsistence is offered, together with additional financial help for non-residents of Sheffield requiring accommodation, or to Sheffield students who retain their accommodation. Details on request.

Volunteers may arrange their own accommodation or can be sent a list of available accommodation on request.

SITE SUPERVISOR wanted. Details on request.

THE SITE

The earliest building was probably a Medieval hunting lodge, recorded around 1480 as having been re-furbished, and sited in the centre of Sheffield Park, famous for its deer hunting. The main house was built around 1525 as an alternative residence to Sheffield Castle, by the Talbot family, the Earls of Shrewsbury. No original plans or pictures survive, but the house appears to have been built in a typical early 16th century style with twin red brick octagonal towers flanking the main entrance, and the main buildings ranged round an inner courtyard.

Famous guests at the house include Cardinal Wolsey in 1529, shortly before his death; and Mary Queen of Scots who for 14 years, from 1570 to 1584, was held prisoner by the 6th Earl of Shrewsbury. She spent most of her imprisonment in Sheffield, either at the Castle or at the Manor. In 1708 part of the house was deliberately demolished and the rest leased out to tenants, who included a potter. Excavation has shown that he built a kiln into the ruins in the early 18th century.

The ruins of the 16th century manor house are a scheduled ancient monument and restoration of the surviving masonry is in progress. Since 1968 Sheffield City Museums have been carrying out excavations on the site.

THE EXCAVATION

The eighth season of excavation will be directed by Pauline Beswick, B.A., A.M.A., Keeper of Antiquities, Sheffield City Museum.

Work will be concentrated on the ruins and inner courtyard of the 16th century manor house.

LOCATION

The site (SK 375865) is on Manor Lane, off City Road, A616, 1½ miles S.E. of the City Centre, and close to several bus routes.

APPLY TO: Miss P. Beswick, City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield S10 2TP.
Telephone 0742 27226;