

What lies beneath my feet?

We spend our time rushing around the busy, bustling streets of Sheffield but have you ever stopped and wondered what goes on beneath? In this report you will go on a journey underground where you'll discover forgotten streets and precious jewels.

Wires and Pipes

Just below the pavement, there are wires and pipes wherever you look. Water pipes send water into homes and schools and important cables send electricity so everyone can watch TV and turn their lights on. When it rains, water flows through the gutters in the street. Then, it gushes rapidly down the storm drains below, where it is carried off to nearby rivers.

Living Things

It isn't all wires and pipes underground, there is a lot of life too! Many animals make their home underground because it keeps their babies safe. Badgers make their home cosy by filling it up with dry grass and leaves. Wriggling centipedes squirm through the soil searching for bugs to eat. Wherever there are dead plants, you'll find earthworms.

Artefacts and Fossils

"It's the best place to learn about the past" say many historians, if you ask them about what lies beneath. An archaeologist's treasure chest. Digging for many hours, they uncover artefacts like stone spoons, which tell them how people used to eat in the past.

Hidden Secrets

Even further down, there is more than just artefacts left behind. Historians have found whole streets buried. How is it possible for a whole street to be underground? Many people wonder but it is true. Where new roads and houses have been built, under the pavement, whole streets with houses, staircases and tunnels have been completely forgotten about. Who knows what could be lurking down there haunting the empty streets. Spooky!

Caves and Mines

Mining for coal happens deep underground where igneous rock is formed. The rock is formed by large amounts of pressure and heat. Coal is used to create electricity. In the past, it was burned on fires to make heating in people's homes. There are also caves underground. They are formed when water flows through and wears away the rock over thousands of years. If you're lucky you might even see some diamonds sparkling in the Earth's crust. They are a type of mineral that form deep in the Earth's mantle.