



Tell us why your town, village or suburb is the hottest place to live, and tweet us a picture @TheSTHome #STbestplaces

26.03.2017

Billy Richards/Getty Images; Matthew Taylor/Dan Saunders/Alamy

## SHEFFIELD



**Cutting edge**  
Left, a view across the city. Peddler Market, above, offers street food, while Kelham Island, below, is now a hot address



## VOCAL LOCAL

Dr Emma Ashcroft, engineer

Originally from Lancashire, Emma, 35, studied in Sheffield, then stayed put after securing an engineering job at the Advanced Manufacturing Park. She and her husband, Shaun, a healthcare assistant, bought their first home in Owlthorpe in 2008, then moved to a £275,000 four-bedder on the Waverley estate in 2014.

"We're close to the motorway and can get to the city centre easily," Emma says. There's also plenty close at hand to entertain the children (Freya, 3, and Finley, 18 months), including the Botanical Gardens and the Tropical Butterfly House. The couple met other families through a local baby group: "The friendships continued after we returned to work. We meet for playdates or evening socials."

Emma does say that facilities on the new estate are limited: "The question is the school. When we made the move, we hoped it would be built in two years – now it looks as if it won't be ready until 2019 or 2020."



With its industrial heart being transformed and tired flats given a trendy makeover, the Steel City is showing its mettle, says **Sue Chester**

**Why it's hot** Two big regeneration projects have breathed new life into the city of steel. The developer Citu has turned the 19th-century manufacturing works on Kelham Island into a chic urban 'hood with a quirky feel – the clock tower is supposed to lean like that, apparently – and more boutique businesses than you can wave a 60-piece cutlery set at.

Across town, five minutes' walk from the station, Urban Splash has just completed phase one of its elegant overhaul of the infamous 1950s Park Hill estate, a bruising, love-it-or-hate-it wall that dominates the city centre. It only escaped demolition when English Heritage declared it the largest listed structure in Europe.

The community-minded makeover has softened what some see as a carbuncle. Residents enjoy views of the city and the Peak District, while the surroundings are covered in wild flowers and include a sculpture park that will host outdoor film screenings in summer.

More transformation is taking place on the former Orgrave colliery site, east

of the city (and technically in Rotherham). Renamed Waverley, it will provide 4,000 homes, shops, leisure and community services in a lakeside setting over the next 20 years. It's just over the road from the shiny Advanced Manufacturing Park, where Boeing and Rolls-Royce will rub shoulders with McLaren (which recently announced plans to build a £50m factory here). Together, they are set to bring thousands of new jobs to the region.

**Why it's not** The hilly landscape limits the flow of main roads through the city, leading to plenty of rush-hour frustration. And partying students can mean noisy evenings in popular neighbourhoods such as Ranmoor and Ecclesall.

**Education, education, education** Wybourne Community primary, near Park Hill, is rated good by Ofsted; Tapton secondary, in Crosspool, is outstanding (and oversubscribed). Independent options include Sheffield High School for girls, in Broomhill, and Mylnhurst prep, in Ecclesall.

## Going places



## ECCLESALL

You can stroll to pubs, cafes and shops from this two-bedroom, two-bathroom, first-floor apartment, a mile and a half from the city centre. And if you can't be bothered to make the short trip to the Peak District, Endcliffe Park is on the doorstep. **0114 268 3682, spencersstateagents.co.uk**



## KELHAM ISLAND

In Little Kelham, near the heart of the revitalised area, this house has two bedrooms on the second floor, with a living room below and a kitchen-diner at ground level. There's a shared garden, and wireless tech and triple glazing should keep energy bills down. **0113 320 2357, littlekelham.com**

**Get connected** Rail links (London at least 2hr, Leeds from 39min, but typically 1hr or more) should improve with HS2, but if you don't want to wait that long (and only want to go to Rotherham), hop on the new tram-train, which is due to open next year, linking with the existing tram network.

Broadband is well taken care of, thanks to a £22m fund to plug gaps left by commercial operators.

**Be seen in** Shakespeare's pub, close to Kelham Island, has live music and a huge selection of local ales. In Sellers Wheel, a short stroll from Park Hill, there's the trendy, Kiwi-style Tamper cafe. For Sheffield's poshest nosh, try the eight-course, £60 tasting menu at Rafter's, an old favourite in Ranmoor.

**Buy in** At the Little Kelham development, prices run from £150,000 for a one-bedroom house to £295,000 for a four-bedder with a garage. Rents in Park Hill start at £600pcm.

If you're after kudos, head for Dore, a smart western suburb mocked as Doré on account of its upwardly mobile aspirations. The average price of a detached home here is £495,000, according to Rightmove. Millhouses is popular with young families because of its schools, and Ecclesall is a tasty favourite, with eateries, cafes and boutique shops.

**Why we love it** Fantastic urban culture, a bike ride from the Peak District.