

SHEFFIELD'S SEWER GAS DESTRUCTOR LAMPS

Joseph Edmund Webb, a builder from Birmingham, patented his sewer gas destructor in the 1890's, forming the Webb Engineering Company. The lamps worked by creating an intense heat within the hood which drew the air from the sewers below and burned off any impurities.

The original Sheffield sewers were badly laid out and detailed and there was a danger of disease from the fetid stagnant gases which were poorly vented off. The gas lamps, fed by the town gas supply, were installed at high points in the system and were connected directly to the sewer - and were usually left on all the time. This gave a 'chimney effect' which drew air through the old sewers to draw out the stagnant sewer gases.

The columns are fitted with a ladder bar which also supports the hinged top of the hood when open for cleaning or maintenance. Maintenance requirements were low, changing the mantle and cleaning the glass would be the only regular items. The lamps carry base plates which state "**J.E.WEBBS PATENT SEWER GAS DESTRUCTOR**" and "**WEBB LAMP Co. LIMITED BIRMINGHAM**".

Eighty four of these street lamps were erected in Sheffield between 1914 and 1935, the largest number in any British town, due mainly to the many hills in the area where gas could be trapped. Twenty-two of the lamps remain in the city, although some of them are in a poor state of repair. Three lamps in the Nether Edge/Sharrow area are particularly well maintained and illuminated, thanks to the efforts of the local residents' association. Ten lamps survive in the area of Whitley Bay and Monkseaton in North Tyneside, whilst Blyth in Northumberland has five, which have been restored by the local council. Winchester has one, close to the Cathedral.

Within ten years of their introduction these lamps were to be found all over the country and in many other parts of the world. Now they are extremely rare.





Photograph	Location	• Features
	<p>Brincliffe Edge Road, opposite Union Road</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painted Green • Housing present • Glass intact • Both ladder bars present • Illuminated
	<p>Sharrow Head roundabout</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painted Blue • Housing present • Glass intact • Both ladder bars present • Illuminated
	<p>Top of Stewart Road, off Sharrowvale Road</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painted Red • Housing present • Glass intact • Both ladder bars present (one slightly bent) • Illuminated
	<p>Junction of School Road and Glebe Road, Crookes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painted Green • Housing present • Glass intact • Both ladder bars present • Not illuminated

Photograph	Location	• Features
	<p>Above Malin Bridge, junction of Kendal Road and Portsea Road</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painted Blue • Housing present • Glass intact • Both ladder bars present • Not illuminated
	<p>Westbourne Road, opposite Southbourne Road, Broomhill</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painted Blue • Housing present • Glass intact • Both ladder bars present • Not illuminated
	<p>Eldon Street, just off West Street</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painted Green • Housing present • Glass intact • Both ladder bars present • Not illuminated
	<p>Portobello, just outside the old Jessop Hospital</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painted Red • Housing present • Glass intact • Both ladder bars present • Not illuminated

Photograph	Location	• Features
	<p>Top of Moor Oaks Road, Crookes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painted Green • Housing present • Glass intact • Both ladder bars present • Not illuminated
	<p>Rural Lane</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painted Red • Housing present • Glass intact • Both ladder bars present • Not illuminated
	<p>Upper Albert Road - junction with Rushdale Road</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painted Green • Housing present • Glass intact • Both ladder bars present • Not illuminated
	<p>Lancing Road - north of junction with Cherry Street</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painted Blue • Housing present • Glass intact • Both ladder bars present • Not illuminated

Photograph	Location	• Features
	<p>Park Lane - junction with Antrim Avenue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painted Red • Housing present • Glass almost intact • Both ladder bars present • Not illuminated
	<p>Junction of Mulehouse Road and Stannington View Road, Crookes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painted Green • Housing present • Glass almost intact • Both ladder bars present • Not illuminated
	<p>Junction of Shiregreen Lane and Monckton Road, Wincobank</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painted Green • Housing present • Glass not intact • Both ladder bars present • Not illuminated
	<p>Alderson Road, off London Road</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painted Red • Housing present • Glass not intact • One ladder bar present

Photograph	Location	• Features
	<p>Junction of Kent Road and Nicholson Road, Heeley Green</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painted Green • Housing present • Glass not intact • One ladder bar present
	<p>Junction of Fox Hill Road and Camborne Road, Birley Carr</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painted Green • Housing present • Glass not intact • One ladder bar present
	<p>Toftwood Road, Crookes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painted Green • Housing not present • Both ladder bars present
	<p>Stothard Road, Crookes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painted Green • Housing not present • Both ladder bars present

Photograph	Location	• Features
	<p>Bishopcourt Road</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painted Green • Housing not present • Both ladder bars present
	<p>Junction of Tipton Street and Jenkin Road, Wincobank</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painted Red • Housing not present • One ladder bar present