

Client: Oak Holdings plc
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THE YES! PROJECT

In January 2005, Oak Holdings submitted a planning application for a £300 million leisure, sports and entertainment project at a 320-acre former contaminated colliery site adjacent to the Rother Country Valley Park. The proposal received a massive boost recently when Sheffield Council announced its support and when Sony and Venue Solutions signed up to showcase at the scheme as partners. YES! will feature various sporting and leisure facilities including an Olympic standard canoe slalom, extreme sports, a live music venue and many other attractions.

Steve Lewis, chief executive at Oak Holdings says, "The sporting and leisure aspects of the YES! project complements the urban renaissance programme throughout South Yorkshire. Furthermore, the scheme will greatly improve the tourism offer in the region whilst creating around 2,700 jobs, an undisputable local economic benefit".

Oak is working on the YES! project in joint venture with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, having been appointed preferred developer in 2003. Other operators already secured at the project include Venture Xtreme, which will provide extreme sports for visitors, and Baydrive Group, which will showcase its innovative virtual golfing facilities at YES!