

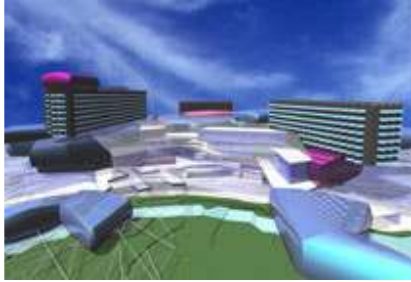
## OAK HOLDINGS

EGI

14.07.06

### No govt call in Rotherham's YES! scheme

Samantha McClary 14/07/2006 09:15



YES!: 327-acre ex-coalfield site

Chief executive Steve Lewis said: "This approval has come some months in advance of our expectations and is a major step forward for us.

"It is very rare that projects of this size are not called in for Government consideration and thus we are delighted that the Government has given RMBC the power to grant the YES! project with planning permission, having already received confirmation of their support earlier this year.

Oak Holdings' £300m YES! project in Rotherham moved a step closer today when the Government decided not to call the scheme in.

"Naturally there are still various hurdles to jump but we are nevertheless confident that construction at the site will soon be underway, generating significant benefits to the local community."

The Government Office for Yorkshire and Humber said it would entrust the local planning authority of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council with responsibility for the planning application.

It said: "Local planning authorities are normally best placed to make decisions relating to their areas and having carefully considered the relevant planning issues raised by this proposal, together with all the representations received, the secretary of state has concluded that her intervention would not be justified."

Oak Holdings is proposing a leisure and entertainment scheme on the 327-acre ex-coalfield site, which adjoins the Rother Valley Country Park.