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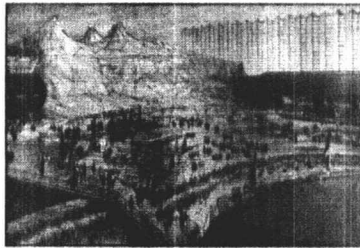
Complex set to be centre of sporting excellence

DEVELOPERS of a proposed multi-million pound leisure, sports and entertainment complex next to Rother Valley Park this week promised "a comprehensive world-class destination" as they submitted revised details.

Oak Holdings are pressing ahead with the YES! project on a 320-acre former contaminated colliery site, which they say will be transformed into a tourist attraction employing up to 2,700 workers.

The focus is now switching to an extreme sports centre, including a white-water canoeing course, a golf driving range, a multi-media centre, hotels and restaurants.

Initial proposals to include a West End-style theatre, cinema and bowling alley have been dropped after protests from Sheffield City Council that existing businesses within its boundaries could be hit.



Oak Holdings' YES! project

Steve Lewis, chief executive of Oak Holdings, said: "The scheme has evolved following extensive consultation.

"The increased interest particularly in the sporting and daytime leisure aspects of the YES! project, complements the urban renaissance programme throughout South Yorkshire, and means the pro-

ject is destined to become a comprehensive world-class destination."

Sony, Venue Solutions and the Baydrive Group have signed memoranda of understanding to be major partners in the development.

Details of the revised application will be assessed by Rotherham Borough Council.

In principle, the authority is welcoming the revised proposal with its greater emphasis on sport and leisure.

Spokesman Adam Wilkinson said: "The scheme will enhance the South Yorkshire tourism drive, and indeed that of the North of England. Additionally it will provide significant economic benefit to this region."

Support has also come from government regeneration agency Yorkshire Forward.