

Launch of South Pennines Park – 13 September 2021 in Bradford



Helen Noble, Chief Executive of Pennine Prospects who is leading the project did the keynote speech at the launch of an alternative National Park – the South Pennines Park. She said that the need for a park was absolutely clear because of climate change and because the South Pennines Park region needs a champion at national level to fight for it, protect it and seek sustainable investment.

The South Pennines Park, which will cover 460 square miles, includes parts of Yorkshire, including Todmorden, Greater Manchester as well as parts of Rossendale, Bury, Bolton and Rochdale was launched on September 13. It aims to ensure residents and visitors enjoy the natural resources of the only upland in England that is not a designated National Park or Area of Outstanding Beauty.

Over 8 million people live within 30 minutes of the park and more than 660,000 live in it — twice the population of all the English National Parks put together.

First discussed in the 1940s, the new model is being established by Pennine Prospects, who are working in partnership with local authorities in the park area, as well as Natural England, United Utilities, Yorkshire Water, the National Trust, transport providers and other communities and conservation groups.

Helen said that the South Yorkshire Park is an area of stunning scenery; a spectacular ever-evolving landscape that has been moulded and shaped by the people, the packhorses, footsteps of yesteryear; rich in industrial and cultural heritage. She added that establishing the park will ensure support for cross boundary working on key projects, like flood protection, tourism, transport, heritage and conservation. She pointed out that this is an exciting, bold forward-thinking vision for one of the UK's most diverse and unique regions and that she was excited to be taking an inclusive approach to making the South Pennines Park work for the people who live, work and visit it.

She said that this will unlock the resources needed to ensure residents and visitors enjoy the positive benefits of being closer to nature.



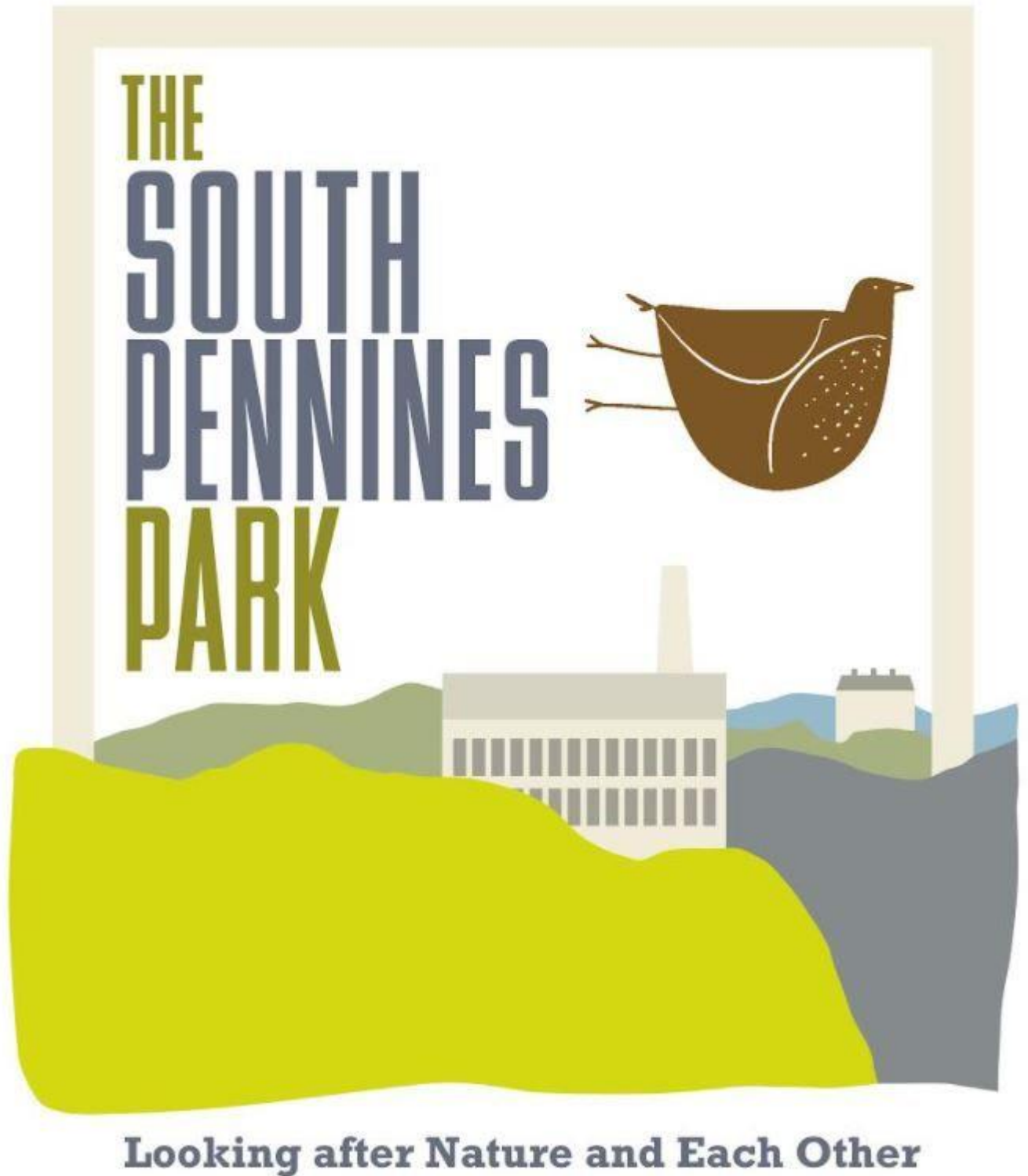
Map of South Yorkshire Park

Tracy Brabin, the Mayor of West Yorkshire, gave an excellent speech linking the launch to the West Yorkshire Climate Emergency Action Plan.



The launch event saw the unveiling of the new park logo, the showing of a showcase film for the area, details about local community art projects and a performance of an anthem for the park from folk duo Belinda O’Hoole and Heidi Tidow.





Logo for the new National Park.