

The South Pennines Watershed Landscape Project, Pennine Prospects

The South Pennines Watershed Landscape Project seeks to tell the story of the landscape in terms of both the historic and the natural environment. More than a million people live in or around the South Pennine uplands, located between Leeds and Manchester, yet the site can still feel remote, wild and exhilarating. Its unique landscape has been an inspiration to artists and writers from the Brontës to Ted Hughes. There are significant pressures – for example, the peat resources are in the front line of the battle to mitigate climate change. Engaging local communities through projects based on science, archaeology and creative arts has improved understanding of the value of the landscape. Pennine Prospects, a rural regeneration non-government organisation, worked with volunteers and provided training to enable more people to be directly involved in caring for this fragile landscape.



The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe recognised the great value of the project. Located close to major cities, the South Pennines Watershed Landscape Project fully meets the Landscape Award criteria and complies with the provisions of the European Landscape Convention. This area is made available to many and varied urban populations. The complex project is representative of the long and sound tradition of integrated work on the landscape in the United Kingdom. It represents a textbook example of public awareness-raising. Landscape planning is a process which necessitates constant efforts and investments. The progress made needs to be consolidated and continued on an on-going basis. The many participants in this project are encouraged to develop it further.