

The story of *Dream*

Sutton Manor is a special place...

One of the most productive coal mines in Northwest England until its abrupt closure in 1991, subsequently transformed into a community woodland, the site is now home to a mesmerising, landmark sculpture by a world-class artist: *Dream* by Jaume Plensa.

→ Background

The creation of a gateway public art feature on the site was first proposed in 2003, building on the local community's long-standing aspiration for a memorial to the former Sutton Manor Colliery.

The opportunity to realise this dream came when Sutton Manor was chosen as one of only seven out of 1,400 publicly nominated UK locations to be developed and filmed for Channel 4's ground-breaking "Big Art Project".

The site was selected thanks to its rich cultural heritage and the passion of the ex-miners who nominated it, plus its potential regeneration impact and prominent location - over 100,000 vehicles pass by daily on the M62 motorway (that's over 35 million a year!).



→ The Artist

World-renowned Spanish artist Jaume Plensa has completed major commissions across the globe, his hitherto most famous work being *The Crown Fountain in Chicago*.

His public artworks in the UK include *Blake* - a light sculpture at the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art in Gateshead, and *Breathing* - the illuminated glass dome of BBC Broadcasting House in London.

The Yorkshire Sculpture Park is hosting the first major national exhibition of Jaume's work from April to September 2011.



→ The Artwork

The 20 metre high sculpture is made of pre-cast concrete and Spanish dolomite. This lends it a luminescent finish in contrast to the black of the coal that still lies below, and means its appearance alters according to the weather and time of day.

Dream takes the form of a girl's head with her eyes closed, in a seemingly dream-like state, resting on a plinth inspired by the small tally that identified each miner. The notion is simple but profound, for in Jaume's own words "when we dream, anything is possible..."

The concept was inspired by the former motto of St.Helens and the colliery - *ex terra lucem* ("from the earth comes light"). It was also directly informed by ex-miners and the wider local community who, rather than a mining monument, wanted an aspirational, forward-looking sculpture that would create a beautiful, inspiring, space for future generations.

The intent was also to put St.Helens "on the map", symbolise the area's post-industrial transformation, become a new regional landmark, and generate economic benefits plus local pride.



→ Acknowledgement & Awards

Dream was commissioned and delivered by St.Helens Council, with the close involvement of former miners from Sutton Manor Colliery, and the support of Channel 4, Arts Council England, the European Union, The Art Fund, the Northwest Development Agency, Liverpool Biennial, and the Forestry Commission.

Dream has won a host of awards (Civic Trust, Marsh Prize, British Precast Concrete Federation, RTPI North West, NWDA, Merseyside Civic Society) for its tourism, technical, planning, and community involvement merits, as well as for its artistic excellence. It also enjoys VisitEngland's Places of Interest Quality Assurance (PIQAS) accreditation.

Dream was publicly launched on 31 May 2009. The site is managed by the Forestry Commission as part of the wider Sutton Manor community woodland.



→ Dream Interpretation

We have created a wide range of resources to enable visitors to discover, explore and experience the site's history and ecology, as well as explain the amazing story of the artwork itself.

These include:

- Adult and children's audio guides of the circular walking trail
- Mp3/ipod podcasts on added points of particular interest
- A children's "image hunters" treasure trail (with a small prize for those who complete it!)
- An education pack for schools and teachers
- Smartphone Apps
- Augmented reality 3D pit head visualisations (smart phone required)
- A geocaching trail
- A digital toposcope of the surrounding views

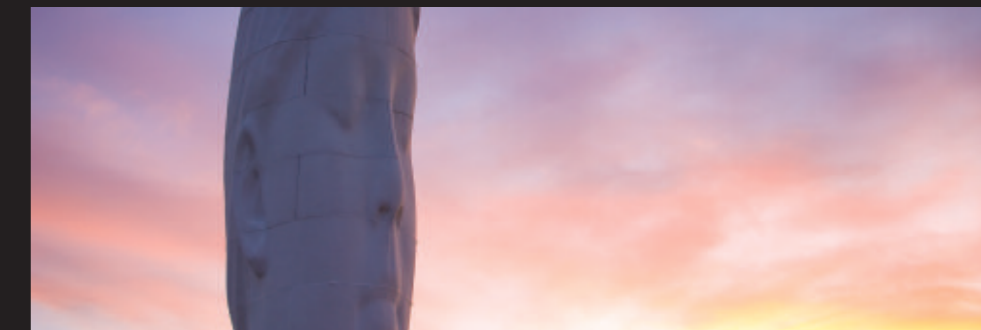
All materials are entirely free of charge and available from www.dreamsthelens.com

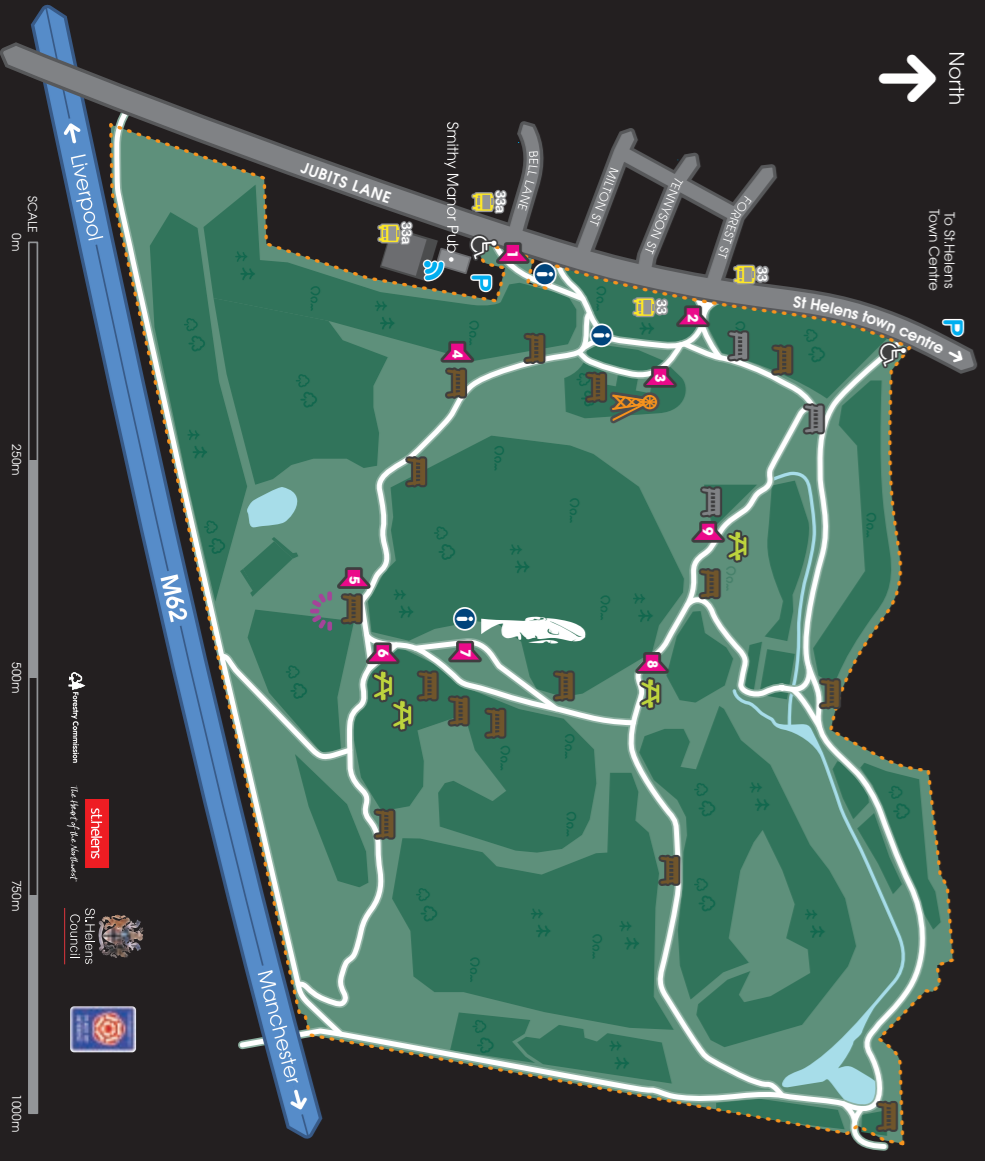
In addition, the website contains images, videos, downloads and an oral history database, as well as the full story of how *Dream* came to be realised.

Free wi-fi has been installed in the pub at the *Dream* site car park and entrance so that you can download the materials from our phone-friendly website when you arrive.

The audioguides can also be accessed onsite via mobile phone at a local call rate (or free as part of your inclusive minutes) by dialling 01744 303 123.

"*Ex terra lucem;*
from the earth comes light"

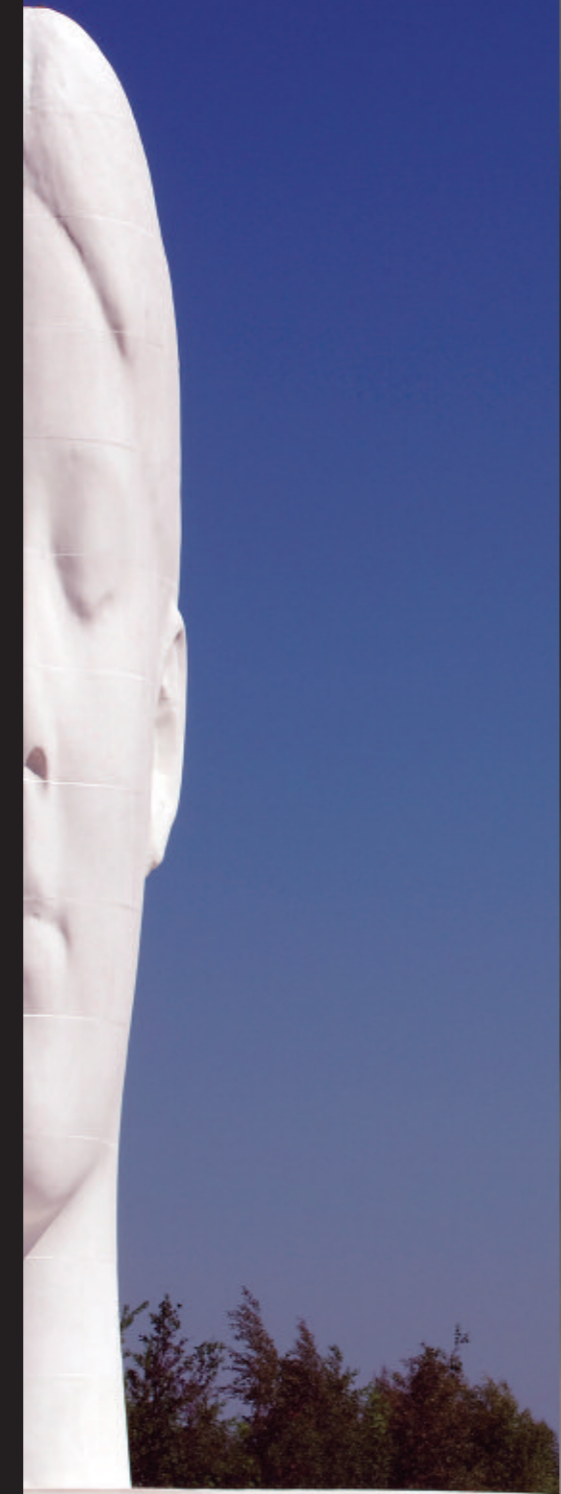




Key

- Site boundary
- Parking
- Bus stop
- Wi-Fi access
- Information signs
- Disabled access gate
- Audio points
- Footpaths
- 3D visualisation
- Wooden bench
- Picnic table
- Digital toposcope
- Dream sculpture
- Heritage bench

dreamsthelens.com



“When we dream, anything is possible...”

Jaume Plensa



→ Location & Accessibility

Dream is situated close to Junction 7 of the M62 motorway, midway between Manchester and Liverpool.

Parking is available at the Smithy Manor pub (Jubits Lane, St.Helens WA9 4BB), at the base of Sutton Manor, from where it is a 10 -15 minute walk up to *Dream*.

Since *Dream* was first launched, the footpaths have been comprehensively upgraded, and new seating and two disabled access gates installed.

Please note that sturdy footwear is advisable and the summit of Sutton Manor is not easily accessible to wheelchair users because of the gradient of the path.

There are regular bus services to Sutton Manor from the nearest rail station at Lea Green and from St.Helens town centre. Call the Traveline hotline on 0871 200 22 33 or see www.letstravelwise.org/public for detailed public transport information.

See www.visitsthelens.com, our official tourism website, for detailed visitor information about St.Helens and the wider region.

