

Communities Against Dean Superquarry (CADS 2015)

To whom it may concern

The Guardian (Wednesday 18th March 2015), states that George Osborne will be entering negotiations to support Government backed investment into Tidal Lagoon Swansea Bay plc in Wales, the first of several proposed tidal lagoon energy projects.

As an environmental journalist, you may be interested to know that Mark Shorrock, CEO of Tidal Lagoon plc, is intending to source his rock armour for the project from **the currently disused, Dean Quarry, St. Keverne, Cornwall**, with devastating impacts on the local environment. The projects will need millions of tonnes of rock armour to build the lagoons. Please read this letter outlining community concerns: the plan to extend the quarry into a 'Super Quarry' to provide rock for the Tidal Lagoon at Swansea will completely alter the land and seascape characteristics on the east coast of The Lizard Peninsula. There is nothing green or environmentally friendly in Mark Shorrock's plans for The Lizard Peninsula.

The local communities are being kept in the dark and possibly misinformed as to the vast scale of the Shire Oak/Tidal Lagoon proposals for Dean Quarry.

Shire Oak Energy Ltd and Shire Oak Quarries Ltd are privately owned companies which also have Mark Shorrock as their CEO. It is through these company vehicles that Mark Shorrock appears to be planning to purchase and run the quarry, invoicing Tidal Lagoon Swansea Bay plc for the rock. Additionally, Good Energy plc (Juliet Davenport (CEO) is the wife of Mark Shorrock) have invested £500,400 of shareholder money into Tidal Lagoons Swansea Bay plc, despite the absence of full planning permission for the project. Good Energy equally trade on the image of green credentials, yet are indirectly investing in a project which will destroy a green landscape and a Marine Conservation Zone.

Whilst sourcing alternative renewable energy sources is vital for the future of society and the UK economy, this should not be at the expense of industrialising and damaging an area that has a sustainable future (both on land and at sea) based on the quality of its environment.

Before being mothballed in 2005, Dean Quarry took out around 200,000 tonnes per annum. The proposed super quarry will be extracting 1.5 million tonnes in the first year alone. To facilitate this, Mark Shorrock wants to replace the current condemned 30 metre jetty with two 50 metre jetties and a 535 metre breakwater straight across a Marine Conservation Zone.

Alternatively, the proposal is to take the rock out through the small village of St Keverne. The amount of lorries this will entail is in dispute.

Below is a photo of the old jetty providing an insight as to the impact these proposals will have on this beautiful area. It would introduce large scale industrial activity, never before seen on the peninsula and is incompatible with such a protected area.



Destruction of the Environment:

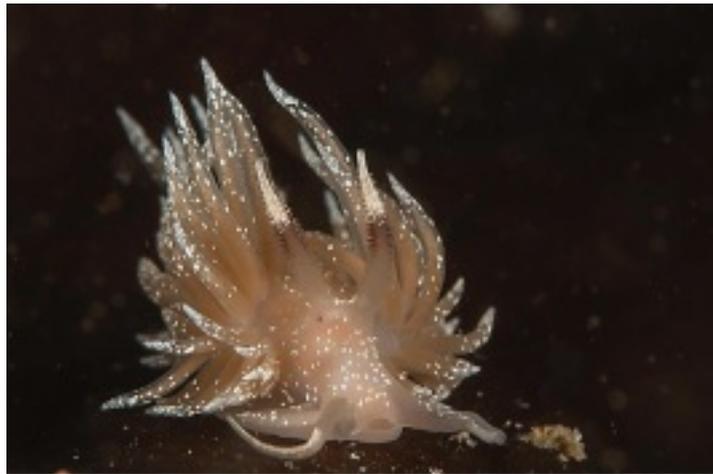
The Manacles (Marine Conservation Zone)

The Manacles, just off Dean Point and adjacent to the quarry, has been designated as a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ). The MCZ around the Manacles is one of only 27 in England and was designated as such by the Government, only 15 months ago. So important is this area that, “Save Our Ocean Giants” are now proposing that the Marine Protection Area around it should be extended. The impact of industrialisation would be extremely severe, both to the local area and further afield.

The Manacles are renowned for their fast flowing tidal currents and clear waters which are home to a great biodiversity of marine life – jewel anemones, sea fans, plumose anemones, spiny lobster and the rare, protected pink Maerl, which will be damaged by increased turbidity in the water. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee at DEFRA has stated that Maerl beds should be treated as a non-renewable resource.

Detailed below are a couple of photographs of the underwater life around The Manacles. Harbour porpoise, bottlenose dolphins and grey seals are frequently seen off the coast here. Minke Whales use the area to seasonally feed and it is one of the top four UK hotspots for basking sharks – they too are likely to be driven away. There is new research being done to show that sea giants, especially the Harbour Porpoise, are susceptible to underwater noise so how will the blasting and loading of the rock armour onto 10,000 tonne barges affect them?

The Government should give priority to ensuring that the few areas of relatively pristine marine habitat that we have left in the UK remain properly protected. Many conservation organisations and leading academics are very concerned about the government's failure to deliver the full network of MCZs that were recommended by the scientific community. The Manacles MCZ is one of only 27, out of 120 proposed. The Manacles did not have protected status when Dean was last a working quarry and the new Marine Conservation Zone here MUST be taken into account. This is now a national asset.



Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Site of Special Scientific Interest

A super quarry will result in the industrialisation of a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and is also adjacent to two Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).

The tranquil landscape would be disrupted by the intrusion of a man made excavation with associated quarry and harbour installations on an enormous scale.

The combination of unusual geology, topography and mild oceanic climate has led to the development of a unique flora at the neighbouring **Lowland Point (owned by the National Trust)**, with many rare and endangered species. These provide breeding grounds for a wide range of birds and a stop off points for migratory birds, all of which would be impacted by industrialisation of the quarry. Despite repeated attempts to engage the National Trust, they do not seem interested in the development of the super quarry and the threat to the environment.

Historical Achaelogy

The Manacles is also an important site of many historic wrecks. The position of the proposed breakwater is right over the famous wreck 'The John' which went down in 1855 with the loss of 194 lives. Not far from the breakwater lie other famous wrecks – The Mohegan, The Andola, The Spiridian Vagliano and The HMS Primrose.

Destruction of local industry

Local Employment

This development is unlikely to provide much local employment. The engineers and various experts will need to be bought in from outside the local community, as has the new quarry manager, and the only jobs created for local people will be a potential 30, low paid, unskilled jobs. These will be offset by the many jobs that will be lost:

Tourism

This is the main source of income and one which is on the increase each year. The community is likely to lose much of the area's tourism which will have a negative impact on any associated trades such as property maintenance, retail, restaurants, kayaking, diving, and similar. The reverberating noise of the explosives (potentially from 9am – 5pm on weekdays and Saturday mornings) and the noise of the stone being loaded at any time of the day or night to suit the quarry, will not only decimate the tourist trade in the immediate area (Coverack, St. Keverne and the adjacent hamlets) but will have a knock on effect on the whole of the Lizard Peninsula. The Lizard Peninsula will inevitably become associated with the super quarry in people's minds. This may impact further afield to areas in Cornwall which benefit from the high level of tourism within the county.

Currently, the Lizard Peninsula is a highly desirable destination for tourists, offering peace, clean air, blue skies, beautiful landscapes, the South West Coast Path National Trail (Lonely Planet rate this as one of the best walks in the world) and a stunning marine environment. This should not be traded in for noise, air pollution, a scarred landscape and loss of a marine biodiversity.

Tourism has a very low impact on the environment. The majority of the revenue generated is put back into the community. When the Prime Minister unveiled the Governments Long Term Economic Plan for the South West, only a few weeks ago, one of the main points was "to support the tourism sector, to draw more people to the south-west's beautiful countryside and coastlines, with the aim of increasing the number of annual overseas visits to the south-west to 3 million by 2020, creating around 7,000 more jobs". This aim will be in direct conflict with the outcome of the development of the quarry.

Fishing

The local fishermen have had to stop netting on The Manacles because it is an MCZ so are at a loss to understand why heavy industrialisation may be allowed to take place. They are also concerned for the following reasons:

- The continual pounding of the seabed whilst the breakwater and jetties are under construction will cause vibrations scaring the fish away. The Manacles has for centuries been an area used by local fishermen and is an important Bass breeding ground, this

work will have a detrimental effect not only on the bass, but also on other fish and shellfish stocks, which provide a living for local fishermen.

- Loss of fishing gear: the quarry ships will anchor off the coast at Coverack whilst awaiting further instructions. They may anchor on top of tiers of nets and pots dragging valuable fishing equipment when they move. This will mean heavy losses to fishermen of thousands of pounds. The fishermen cannot insure their equipment so they have to bear these losses themselves.

Farming

The nearby farmers are very concerned about the quarry dust settling across their fields and have worries about the cattle ingesting the silica. There have been no studies to show how this might affect both the animal's health and their milk. 4,000,000 litres of milk per annum are produced within a mile of the quarry – much of it organic.

Impact on the Business Community

There are numerous small businesses within the area, such as The Cornish Sea Salt Co., which employs 35 people, The Cornish Seaweed Company and Roskillys. These businesses could be destroyed by any pollution in the immediate environment.

- Heavy machinery at the quarry will increase risks of oil contamination within the marine environment.
- Ammonium Sulphates, in the explosives, can cause compound runoff containing nitrogen which, in turn, may cause increased turbidity in the waters and algal growth, both of which would damage the marine organisms
- Silica dust settling on the ground could be ingested by local dairy herds with subsequent environmental health implications and an impact on milk production

Roskilly's is a main tourist attraction and famed nationwide for ice cream production, with around 50,000 visitors per annum. It is sited next door to the quarry. They have 35 full time employees rising to 60 employees in the summer. Tourists would no longer wish to sit outside Roskillys to enjoy a meal or an ice cream, with huge quarry trucks moving along the lane through out the day! Their trade would be devastated by such a development and the jobs they provide would disappear.

Danger to Health

In 2009 the World Health Organisation reaffirmed that crystalline silica is a known carcinogen.

Quarrying on this scale produces airborne silica dust which can travel some distance. Since this is a coastal quarry, sea breezes will enable the silica dust to be airborne for over

2km. The primary school is less than 1km from the quarry. In small amounts crystalline silica can cause long term health hazards which include **silicosis, pulmonary disease and cancer**. It can create breathing problems for people who have asthma, emphysema, and other obstructive lung diseases. Because the dust never leaves the lungs, its sharp edges can continue to cause irritation and inflammation for many years to come. Disease may not show up until years later, even if a person is no longer breathing silica dust.

Children, the elderly, and people who already have health problems are more affected by silica dust, but anyone can be made ill by breathing this air pollutant. Since Dean Quarry was last operational, there has been much research as to the health issues around the 2.5 particulates. With the current knowledge, it is highly inappropriate to have a quarry of the proposed size so near to population centres and indeed so very close to a primary school.

There are three coastal super quarries on the western seaboard of Northern Europe and for the reasons above they are all at a distance from any community. Glensanda in Scotland is 7 miles from the nearest road and the two in Norway are similarly remote.

Lack of Infrastructure to Cope with the Development

The infrastructure in this area is simply not suitable for this scale of development. The narrow country lanes will not be able to cope with the increase in traffic and the size of the trucks and tankers. The route to the Quarry will go either through St. Keverne Square, turning right (which is not possible for a large tanker) to go past the primary school or along the narrow rural lane through Roskilly's Organic Farm, (with literally a few inches to spare).

Tidal Lagoon Swansea Bay/Shire Oak Energy have are proposing at least five more sites for tidal lagoons in South Wales and the Severn Estuary. 10% of this very expensive green energy from Swansea will go to Good Energy plc. The community believes that the proposed investment in developing Dean Quarry is with the intention of supplying rock for other projects., not just for Swansea Bay. This is just the thin end of a very big wedge.

At a conference on Coastal Futures held in London this January, Joanna Lane of Tidal Lagoon did not mention Dean Quarry in their presentation. However when questioned about it, she replied that Dean Quarry was the main quarry considered. Tidal Lagoon are very wary in mentioning Dean Quarry in their presentations to the wider, global and investment community. However their presentation and literature to the community around St Keverne indicated that they are very much linked.

Marine Environmental Accident

The Manacles is an extremely treacherous shipping area. Navigating the Inner Manacles with 2 tugs guiding a 10,000 tonne barge laden with rock armour several times a week, is surely an accident waiting to happen.

Other Options for Sourcing Stone

There are other options for sourcing the stone.

It could come from one of two remote super quarries in Norway, which have already supplied rock armour to Wales for Coastal defences and manmade reefs. Halsvik Superquarry in Norway could supply all the rock and already has BES 6001 credentials with a track record of supplying the Environment Agency. Recently, the Norwegian Krona has dropped 20% against Sterling in the last few months and along with the decrease in the price of oil it may be more financially viable to source rock from here, as opposed to facing protracted opposition from the community.

These quarries are endorsed, accredited and already have the infrastructure in place to provide transport of rock by sea.

There are quarries in South Wales could provide some of the rock armour and would be closer to transport to the development projects.

It could be proposed that using Dean Quarry is about Mark Shorrocks's remit in maximising profits whilst reducing costs, but at the expense of the Cornish environment and established industries. Additionally, one has to calculate how much the privately owned Shire Oak Energy Ltd or Shire Oak Quarries Ltd would reap in profits by supplying millions of tonnes of rock armour. The proposed walkway at Tidal Lagoon Swansea Bay alone is 9.5 km long and would need rock on either side.

Update 1st February 2015.

On 30th January Tidal Lagoon/Shire Oak Energy held a presentation in St. Keverne (standing room only) where the community was informed that rock would be extracted for at least three lagoons from Dean Quarry. It was proposed that plans would be submitted to Cornwall Council within the next few weeks for a breakwater 535m long and two 50m jetties, across the MCZ.

Mark Shorrocks indicated that if the community blocked the breakwater, then the company would transport the rock via road – around 230 laden lorries per day going through the village on the narrow routes mentioned above (subsequent letters have stated that there would only be 12 lorries per day, but the figures do not correctly calculate in accordance with the rock requirements). Calculations by the community, based on the amount to be

extracted, put a figure of 300 lorries leaving the quarry per day, with return trips indicating a figure of 600 lorry movements through the village per day.

Mark Shorrocks also threatened to bring the heavy equipment onto the site via Roll on –Roll off boats, thus threatening the MCZ further by compressing the habitat.

The Environmental impact assessments were sketchy and incomplete – in fact done over just a few days in July 2014, or, perhaps, desk based. There was no socio economic assessment and only a minimal health assessment.

All members of the public were banned from recording the meeting. An official recording was made by Shire Oak/Tidal Lagoons which Mark Shorrocks stated would be released as a transcript to all those who attended the meeting. The full transcript has not been released, despite numerous requests.

Update 2nd March:

Tidal Lagoon have submitted the EIA scoping for Cardiff Tidal Lagoon to the planning inspectorate – this will have a breakwater 22km long and be 7 times the size of the one at Swansea. Mark Shorrocks intends to supply the rock for this lagoon from Dean Quarry.

Repeated letters to key politicians have gone unacknowledged and it seems as though the concerns of the community are being brushed under the carpet as an inconvenience.

Mark Shorrocks needs to be persuaded of the benefits of acquiring the rock from elsewhere.

This will be the first test of the integrity of the protected status of a Marine Conservation Zone. If this proposal goes ahead it will send out a very clear message that not only Tidal Lagoon Swansea Bay, but also The MMO and the Government consider them to be expendable.

What is the point of creating an ANOB, an SSSI, SAC's and a MCZ if the planners are going to ride roughshod all over them, to suit industrial and capitalist demands.

Yours sincerely

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& Alison McGregor
On behalf of Community Against Dean Super Quarry

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