

## **Cornish Community Seeks Help to Save its its Coastline and Livelihood**

Community Against Dean Superquarry launch appeal to save the Manacles Marine Conservation Zone from Power Station Developer

Cornish action group Community Against Dean Superquarry (CADS ) have announced the launch of an appeal to help fund the UK's first legal test case of industrialisation within a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ).

The small Cornish communities on the Lizard Peninsula have, for months, been threatened with the reopening and massive upsizing of a disused coastal quarry. Developer, Shire Oak Quarries Ltd, plan to extract and ship millions of tonnes of rock to Swansea Bay to build a tidal power station. The villagers in this idyllic, ecologically sensitive part of Cornwall fear their economy, jobs and environment will be permanently damaged by the vast scale of the proposed quarrying.

So far CADS have fought the initial planning application on a limited budget and with local voluntary donations. The group are now preparing to fight the impending planning application for a huge 535m (more than a third of a mile long) breakwater and two jetties to load massive barges night and day. This involves dumping a million tonnes of rock on to a newly designated Marine Conservation Zone and is set to become the first legal test case for MCZs within the UK. CADS recognise that it is going to be an expensive challenge. According to Julie Lewis-Thompson a member of CADs "What Shire Oak Quarries Ltd, sister company of Tidal Lagoon Swansea Bay want to do is environmentally damaging and morally wrong. This part of Cornwall just won't survive industrialisation on this scale. It is inappropriate in an area that already has the protected status of the following - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and MCZ status. We won't be able to win this battle on our own. It will be the first time the status of an MCZ has been tested in the UK legal system, setting a precedent for all future applications. We are going to need to pull on the purse strings of everyone who loves Cornwall".

The Marine Conservation Society fears that if the planning application is approved, it will set a precedent that weakens the protection of all MCZs. Dr Jean-Luc Solandt, the society's biodiversity policy officer, says the breakwater will damage protected maerl beds

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- coral-like structures that harbour urchins, anemones, crabs, sponges, sea cucumbers and dozens of other creatures. He said that it would interrupt the flow of water, causing sediment to smother the maerl beds.

Gabriel Yvon-Durocher, senior lecturer in the natural environment at the University of Exeter, has written to George Eustice, the marine minister, saying Shire Oak Quarries Ltd's environmental assessment has failed to consider the likely levels of underwater noise from the construction and use of the breakwater and jetties. The company's claim there would be no impact on basking sharks, dolphins and porpoises was "not based on any evidence and therefore entirely bogus".

Donations to help CADS fund its legal battle against Shire Oak Quarries Ltd can be made on their web site at [www.cads2015.com](http://www.cads2015.com) or by posting a cheque to "Community Against Dean Super Quarry" at Badger Cottage, Tregellast Barton Farm, St Keverne, Helston, Cornwall, TR12 6NX.

###

## **ENDS**

Further information and imagery available from:

Alison McGregor

Phone 07432 457393

[www.cads2015.com](http://www.cads2015.com)

Twitter: @cads2015

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CADS2015](http://www.facebook.com/CADS2015)

Community Against Dean Superquarry (CADS) is a community action group set up to protect the Manacles Marine Conservation Zone and land communities from the destruction threatened by the reopening and upscaling of Dean Quarry, near St Keverne in Cornwall.