

Cornwall Against Dean Superquarry (CADS) gives initial response to economic claims made by Shire Oak Quarries on 5.7.2015.

Action group challenges developer commissioned report and deems any pledges made within it as conjecture.

According to CADS, the economic report commissioned by Shire Oak Quarries is out of date and flawed by inaccuracies and assumptions. Dated 1st June 2015, the report does not take into account the involvement of the China Harbour Engineering Company who were on 16th June 2015 awarded preferred contractor status at Dean Quarry. Many of the figures do not accord with the groups own information and important considerations have been willfully ignored by the authors. It is yet again another developer smoke screen as none of the economic benefits such as jobs are promised but are simply assumed. The report brushes across the local economy, villages and businesses, many of whom rely on the reputation of our unspoilt sea and landscape. It overlooks the fact that tourism within the TR12 post area is worth £45million each year, nearly £1billion over a 20 year period with 1,200 directly related jobs.

The report fails to mention the devastating environmental impacts of quarrying at the new proposed levels. CADS feel that one cannot put a direct economic value on nature and the unique and pristine environment of the Lizard Peninsula. The Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) that will be decimated by this development harbours many unique species and habitats that are found nowhere else on the British Isles.

There is much evidence to show that access to nature has significant positive effects on human health and wellbeing. The downstream economic implications of eroding access to nature are hard to quantify but are likely to be substantial (e.g. for the NHS). Allowing projects like the one proposed at Dean (in areas that are protected by our highest levels of national legislation) to go ahead sets a precedent for further such developments and the continual loss of our natural landscape for short term economic gains for the few. In an already over populated and over developed country our Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB's) are priceless.

A spokesperson for CADS said " It is quite unbelievable that a learned economist could think that simply by setting out Shire Oak Quarries' stall under an entirely unbased set of assumptions can believe that he can convince the general public that reinstating quarrying at Dean is a great economic idea. He has missed that vital other ingredient in his economic

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analysis, that is defining accurately the existing and growing economy of the region, placing a value on it and then making the comparison. Only by doing this could he effectively illustrate what is at stake and what might be lost. The assumption of twenty years of continuous uninterrupted operation at Dean is totally spurious in the light of uncertainty of the viability of tidal lagoon power generation as proposed here in the UK and also the huge planning hurdles to be faced in the future”.

The Chinese Harbour Engineering Co. will be bankrolling Dean Quarry and building the marine works there. Little in the way of real local jobs will be available. In an already over populated developed country our areas of outstanding natural beauty are priceless. Since in this case there are cheaper options available for the rock CADS questions whether we really should be destroying our few remaining unique and pristine environments for short term profit for the few?

CADS are preparing it's own socio-economic report. The action group owe it to Cornwall and to the people of St Keverne, Coverack and the East Lizard to get this right and will be releasing a detailed response in due course.

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NOTE TO EDITORS

The site of Dean Quarry is within the Coverack to Porthoustock Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), within an Area of Natural Beauty (AONB), adjacent to National Trust (NT) land at Lowland Point, on the South West Coast Path, surrounded by the Lizard Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and extends seaward into the Manacles Marine Conservation Zone. This is one of only 27 MCZs in the UK, hard-won, and only recently designated, with 174 MPs and Lords as signatories. They have each been alerted to this issue. Another tranche is under consultation and if The Manacles MCZ is breached, it will be a test case for the integrity of the entire chain of UK MCZs.

Future extraction levels of rock armour and aggregate at Dean Quarry could be as high as a 1500% on historic levels. CADS have been conservative in quoting a more than 500% increase in future production due to consistently, inconsistent figures by Shire Oak Quarries.

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CADS need to be raise money to fight the developer's planning application for the third of a mile long breakwater and jetties. Donations can be made on the CADS website at www.cads2015.com.

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Aerial view of Dean Quarry prior to re-opening and upscaling.