

Court victory for villagers in 'David and Goliath' quarry planning battle

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Campaigners fighting a "superquarry" they fear will decimate their remote corner of rural Cornwall have been handed an early Christmas present after a High Court judge ruled in their favour.

St Keverne, a close-knit village near the tip of Cornwall's beautiful Lizard peninsula, has been staging a David and Goliath fight against proposals to reopen Dean Quarry a few hundred yards from many front doors.

Now, a judge who oversaw a judicial review last month has announced that planning permission granted by Cornwall Council was unlawful.

This means that the go-ahead has been rescinded.

Silke Roskilly, of Cornwall Against Dean Superquarry (CADS), said it was "very good news."

"I am very pleased and happy that the judge agreed with our opinion," said Mrs Roskilly, whose family runs a dairy farm making award-winning ice cream.

Lorries driving to the quarry would have had to drive past the dairy farm.

"What a fantastic Christmas present," she said.

Shire Oak Quarries, the firm behind the plan, said it would await developments from Cornwall Council, but reiterated it had valid consent to extract minerals from the site.

"We are disappointed with the judgment and now await the council's next steps in relation to determining our application for ancillary works," said a spokesman.

"Dean Quarry has a valid minerals consent to operate



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until August 2035 and that consent is unaffected by today's decision."

Dean Quarry has been in mothballs since 2008 and up to then had been a longstanding but relatively small-scale operation.

It saw about 200,000 tonnes of minerals extracted every

year. However, the site owners want to massively scale up production to around 1.2million tonnes a year to build a power-generating tidal lagoon hundreds of miles away in Swansea Bay, although a spokesman said this is not yet confirmed.

CADS had lodged the legal challenge over the way Cornwall Council granted permission to energy company Shire Oak for buildings at the quarry earlier this year.

The judicial review was heard at the High Court in Bristol last month.

The challenge was lodged in the name of Silke Roskilly.

The action group said: "Silke Roskilly and all of us from CADS would like to thank everyone for their gen-

erosity and moral support."

Cornwall Council granted planning permission to Shire Oak earlier this year for buildings at the quarry, including an office, staff room and explosives store.

CADS argued that the council's decision was unlawful and that, given the scale of the development, planners should have asked for an environmental-impact assessment.

The council defended its decision, arguing that the application did not need an assessment.

The company still has to submit an application to the Government agency Marine Management Organisation for the building of a breakwater and jetties, to take the rock away by ship.