

Quarry poses light pollution threat, astronomer warns

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LIGHT pollution from the proposed reopening of Dean Quarry could threaten the region's "heritage of starry skies", an astronomer has warned.

The concerns have been raised weeks before a judicial review over Cornwall Council's decision to grant planning permission for matters relating to the site's operation without carrying out a full environmental impact assessment.

Shire Oak Quarries intends to reopen the site in St Keverne to provide up to three million tonnes of rock to its sister company to build a tidal lagoon in Swansea, Wales.

Subject to planning permission, the developers said rock would be transported by sea about two or three times a week from the Lizard - with some barges, each capable of transporting 10,000 tonnes at a time, being loaded during the night.

Bob Mizon, co-ordinator of the British Astronomical Association's Commission for Dark Skies, said



CONTROVERSIAL: The reopening of Dean Quarry continues to cause concern.

light pollution as a result of operations at the quarry within the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty should be considered when

assessing the environmental impact.

He said: "As the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) has so often stated in its recent initiatives

on the subject of light intrusion into rural areas, the loss of rural dark skies is as damaging to the rural quality of life and tranquillity as are more conventional and less measurable issues of visual intrusion, and this fact is too often not taken into account when assessing environmental impacts."

He added: "We would earnestly request that environmental concerns should in this case override arguments for industrial expansion into the countryside, and that our heritage of starry skies above should be a priority in this matter."

The Cornwall Against Dean Superquarry (CADS) campaign group, which has fiercely opposed the development, claims the quarry would have a "devastating environmental impact" on the area.

CADS's chairman Silke Roskilly will face Cornwall Council at a judicial review on November 13.

The hearing was called on the grounds that the council did not carry out an environmental impact assessment before it granted planning permission for a reception building, fuel storage area, fencing, processing plant, explosive store and vehicle parking area to support the reopening of the quarry.

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views like this
Picture by Jan