

HEL福德 ESTUARY JETTY

MacAlister Elliott and Partners Ltd is conducting a feasibility study for the construction of a jetty on the environmentally sensitive Helford Estuary in west Cornwall. The estuary has been designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as well as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, because of its rare and abundant intertidal and marine flora and fauna including Couch's goby, a fish known from only three other sites. It has also been put forward as a candidate area for a European Special Area of Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive, which is aiming to create a Europe-wide network of protected areas.



Fishermen operating out of nearby Helford village are in desperate need of some kind of facility for loading and unloading their vessels since at present they can only bring dinghies into the beach below the village which causes significant safety and hygiene problems. The fishing industry is one of the few indigenous industries left in this part of Cornwall, where most of the houses in villages such as Helford are second homes or holiday cottages. The aim of MacAlister Elliott and Partners Ltd is to produce a jetty design which can meet the needs of the fishermen without compromising the environment. Impacts on terrestrial, intertidal and subtidal wildlife have to be minimised and the jetty must also blend sensitively with Helford village and the surrounding scenic area.



As an initial phase of the study, MacAlister Elliott and Partners Ltd has carried out an extensive consultation exercise, including fishermen's organisations, local conservation groups, English Nature, the Environment Agency and other statutory conservation and planning bodies. From this process a preliminary design for the jetty has been produced which meets key conservation concerns as well as the requirements of the fishermen. As the planning process progresses, more detailed studies on marine wildlife, sediment movement and pollution may be required to ensure that the jetty does not compromise the protected areas or wildlife in any way.