



**EVENING MEETING**

**MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> March 2011 at 5:30 PM**

One Great George Street, London

(Nearest tube: Westminster)

**Environmental perspectives on the  
Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study**

By

**Tom Matthewson (Parsons Brinkerhoff)**

For a brief synopsis see overleaf

**Admission free**

**Teas available from 5.00pm**

**For more information please contact**

**Tim Fuller (BDS Secretary) on 020 7665 2234 or  
email : [bds@ice.org.uk](mailto:bds@ice.org.uk)**

This meeting will also be streamed live on the internet. For more details on how to view this meeting online please visit the BDS website.



## Environmental perspectives on the Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study

The construction of a dam or barrage across the Severn Estuary and Bristol Channel has been investigated as early as the 19th century. The possibility of harnessing the 14-metre difference in the Severn Estuary tides for electricity generation has been investigated several times since the 1970s. A detailed study in 1989 determined that a Cardiff-Weston barrage was technically feasible and would have an annual output of approximately 17 terawatt hours but the government decided that a Severn barrage was not a cost-effective option for generating electricity at that time.

Between 2008 and 2010 the feasibility of constructing a barrage was investigated which focused on a shortlist of five schemes. DECC recently announced the findings of the Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study, concluding that it could not support a major scheme at the present time.

As part of the study a Strategic Environmental Assessment was carried out. Tom Matthewson was closely involved in the preparation of Strategic Environmental Assessment and he will give a perspective on the many environmental challenges posed by the harnessing of the power of the Severn Estuary's tides as a major source of low-carbon energy. He will also offer some suggestions on the lessons learnt for the assessment of other major infrastructure projects in the marine environment.

This will presentation will only describe information in the public domain through the DECC Website, and represent the personal views of the author.

Tom Matthewson has 17-years experience in impact assessment, specialising in the aquatic environment, gained in both the commercial and public sectors.