

BRITANNIA & THE TIDAL ENERGY WAVE: TO RULE OR BE RULED?



From a feature in Cleantech Magazine, 2012



Space-ship Earth's Apollo 13 mission to 2050



Group debate St Malo 2013: bridging gaps to the future of tidal energy

When tidal lagoons earned millennial review
They were offshore, detached, and treated as new
By not blocking off either estuary or river
Their boon of clean power to feebly deliver

Then along came the worries of sea level rise
To complicate matters, and make us all wise
To the need to adapt, and invest in the future
Through data amassed by a friendly computer



The issues at stake covered much that relates
To living by coastlines whose constancy dates
From Canute-like attempts to hold back the tide
Of nature's own systems to limit man's pride



So up spake a doctor of lesser renown
Though with forebear direct Capability Brown:
'To get what we want, a new system is needed
Allowing all valid concerns to be heeded'

The British Isles' Flags



So came into being a tracing quadratic
To link North Wales' region to matters aquatic
And maximise scope, from the Dee to the Menai,
For power and protection, in steps, to the many

This solution was stuff of which engineers dreamed,
Or so to a learned Professor it seemed,
When modelling from Cardiff the first iteration
Of quotients to signpost the whole British nation



Ten years it had taken to bring this together,
Ten years of rethinking, and wondering whether
The appliance of science was solely required
For resilient attitudes so to be fired.....



Stuart Anderson, May 2016

thanks to Ken, Mark, Andrew, Peter, Bob, John, Roger, Iain, Gordon, Hugh & Barry

That flow rates, as tripled with two-way inventions,
Could halt every trend for the best of intentions
To lead to that end-place far, far less than good
From blindness distinguishing trees from the wood

For this labour had DECC a rare place to afford
On its own Marine Energy Programme Board
For bargaining prices and values unseen
Of sea-sided energy thought to be green

The other development worth a remark,
Was labelled a new Marine Energy Park
For Devon and Cornwall, with others to come:
Tho' the Irish Sea seemed a bit harder to some

Yet what is the point of a vision so mean
It fails to encompass things yet to be seen;
When all things on offer for deliberation
Are the mere preconceptions of one generation?

For if Telford and Brown can serve as the tutor,
No solitary expert will set out our future,
Since the will to succeed in a fashion transcendent
Means the sharing of values on others dependent