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PRESS RELEASE

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Tidal power proposal at Oldbury

Sustainable Thornbury is supporting the idea of building a tidal power station at Oldbury when the nuclear power station closes in 2008. The idea is for a lagoon, which would fill up at high tide. As the lagoon fills up and empties the water flow would turn turbines that would generate renewable electricity.

The proposal has been put forward by engineer Jeff Gash as an alternative to the tidal barrage supported by the Welsh Assembly. Mr Gash says tidal lagoons would be very much less damaging to the environment. He says "We could build tidal lagoon power stations all along the river. The flow of the river would hardly be affected, and the sites could be chosen where the wildlife would not be affected either. The Oldbury site could be the first of its kind in the country."

Mr Gash also claims that tidal lagoons would have much less impact than a barrage. He says "A barrage would be a huge project which would take years to build and would have a major impact on some wildlife sites of international importance. Tidal lagoons are very much smaller and could be built quite quickly. But this proposal needs funding urgently if it is to be a serious contender."

As an initial study, the tidal power station could be built in the place of the existing low water tidal reservoir. This could be built up to the level of the sea wall and already has a connection to the national grid as used currently by the nuclear power station.

Mr Gash is suggesting a tidal twin reservoir with four single direction turbine generators to maximise the electricity production in either direction. The existing tidal reservoir would need sea walls to be built with washbasins at either end of the reservoir to stir up the flow and reduce the amount of silt. Additionally, if this sort of groundwork is being carried out, he suggests wind turbines could be included in the package as the electrical connection would already be in place.

Attached is the full report produced by Jeff Gash and a map showing details of the proposal. For further details contact Jeff Gash on 01454-413836 or Alan Pinder on 01454-416778.