



RRC Site Visit Series

River Otter Beaver Project

Thursday July 11th 2019



Devon
Wildlife Trust

Site Visit lead

Mark Elliott (Devon Wildlife Trust)

Sam Bridgewater (Clinton Devon Estates)

Project information

The River Otter Beaver Trial is the first licensed release of beavers into the wild in England. The trial is running from 2015 - 2020 and covers the entire 250km² of the River Otter catchment, which contains over 600km of watercourse. Beavers have now explored the 50km of the main stem of the River Otter, and extensively colonised the River Tale (its largest tributary). It is now estimated that there might be as many as 13 family groups living throughout the catchment.



The greatest effects of their engineering activity on watercourse morphology have occurred where territories are focused in headwater streams, and to date there are five beaver families building dam complexes in the smaller tributaries. This is increasing heterogeneity, creating meanders and spectacular in-channel habitats, taking water out of channel, and restoring natural processes.

[View RiverWiki case study](#)

[Watch Project video](#)



Site Visit information

There is a charge of **£10 for RRC Members for this visit due to transportation hire**. If space is available, non-members are welcome to attend at an **additional** cost of £30. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

To book a place please email us: rrc@therrc.co.uk, booking closes when all spaces are allocated.

Brief agenda

09:30 – Meet at Clinton Devon Estates, Budleigh Salterton, Devon

10:00 – Minibus to site one to hear about River Otter Beaver Trial and see beaver dam and created wetland

12:30 – Return to car park. Minibus to Lower Otter Estuary Restoration project

13:30 – Travel to upper Tale (eat lunch on route) and see stretch of River affected by beaver activity

16:45 – Arrive back at Bicton car park

Web: www.therrc.co.uk Email: rrc@therrc.co.uk Tel: 01234 752979

