



RRC Site Visit Series

Lower River Otter, Devon

Tuesday 16th May 2023

Join us in East Devon to see progress on the Lower Otter Restoration Project, now nearing completion. Project delivery has been challenging, requiring working in the floodplain in all seasons, working around protected species and on a site subject to intense public scrutiny. The intention is that the lessons learned here will be available to help others working on similar projects elsewhere.



**Environment
Agency**

Site visit lead
Mike Williams
(Environment Agency)



The Project

The Lower Otter Restoration Project (LORP) is a managed realignment that will deliver adaptation to climate change, creating a more sustainable and more biodiverse landscape. Some 200 years ago, about three quarters of the Otter Estuary was enclosed within embankments, turning mudflats and saltmarsh into grazing land. LORP is restoring some 55 hectares of inter-tidal habitat by breaching those embankments and reconnecting the river and estuary to their floodplain. As well as the restoration of rare and declining habitats, a road has been raised, two bridges built, a former landfill better protected and a cricket club relocated to a flood-free site.

LORP is led by the Environment Agency, working in partnership with the landowner, Clinton Devon Estates, and project funding includes an €18m contribution from the Interreg France Channel England programme through the PACCo Project, which enables sharing of learning from the Otter and the French partner project in the Saône valley in Normandy. PACCo aims to show that it is better to adapt to climate change early and in a managed way. A guide has been produced to inform others of the risks and issues that need to be considered as part of such a project.

LORP will be completed in Summer 2023 and the current programme has the breach allowing tidal flooding to be made in May. An extensive period of monitoring will take place, to include habitat development, species distribution and abundance, and geomorphology.

Information

This site visit is **FREE to RRC members** (£10 deposit to be refunded following attendance at site visit). If space is available, non-members are welcome to attend at a cost of £30. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. To book a place please complete a booking form at the [link here](#). Booking closes when all spaces are allocated.

- The visit will start at 10:00 and end by 15:00. This will include time for a packed lunch (not supplied). There is also a café on the sea front
- Meeting point: Lime Kiln, Granary Lane, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6JD. This is a car park on the sea front which is pay and display
- Walking boots and waterproof clothing are recommended
- Toilet facilities are available

[Watch project videos](#)

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