

# Lower Otter Restoration Project

## *What happens if we do nothing?*

There are many risks if we don't act now. These include:

- **Catastrophic failure of the embankments** – these are now nearing the end of their useful life, and a future major flood or tidal event could lead to their failure. The risk of failure is expected to increase with sea level rise and with more intense and frequent storms. This could:
  - cause **significant, prolonged and frequent flooding** of farmland and the Budleigh Salterton Cricket Club
  - **compromise access routes** such as South Farm Road and the South West Coast Path
  - cause **erosion of the old municipal tip**, leading to potential contamination.
- **Ongoing and costly maintenance** of the embankments and the outfalls. The future capability to carry out maintenance or repairs is unknown. It is uncertain whether money could be found to repair the banks after a failure. The cost of maintaining the outfalls is increasing due to build up of sediment and shingle.



Flooding of heavily-used path along river embankment



Budleigh Salterton Cricket Club under water



Prolonged flooding of grazing meadows in lower Otter valley



Access along South Farm Road compromised during a flood event