

Lower Otter Restoration Project

Key Objectives

The project partners wish to achieve the following key objectives for the lower Otter valley:

- Deliver more sustainable management in the face of climate change
- Improve natural functioning
- Improve the quality of habitats and wildlife
- Safeguard public access
- Reduce risk of contamination from the old municipal tip.

Work Done So Far

- **Review of existing data** and previous reports, including Haycock (2009) and Howick (2014).
- **Topographic survey** to help us understand the lie of the land and improve our computer model.
- **Computer modelling** to understand how the river, estuary and floodplain currently function and predict the effects of tide levels and river flows under different scenarios.
- **Ecological surveys** looking for the presence of any important or protected species and habitats. We want to avoid any negative impacts on them and mitigate these impacts where necessary.
- An independent review of guidance on **health risks caused by mosquitoes** is ongoing. This will inform any design work we carry out.
- **Assessing a list of options** against the key objectives and views of the Stakeholder Group to come to a shortlist.

Legal Requirements

The Environment Agency can only partially fund this project if it can **provide 14.5 hectares of intertidal habitat** of the right quality to compensate for losses in the Exe Estuary. There are further legal obligations that the project must meet in order to receive this funding:

- **No increase in flood risk** to property
- **No impact on groundwater abstractions** for drinking water.

In addition, the **support of the landowner**, Clinton Devon Estates, is required. This depends on meeting the key objectives.



Aerial image of the flooded valley



White Bridge



Existing wetland habitat