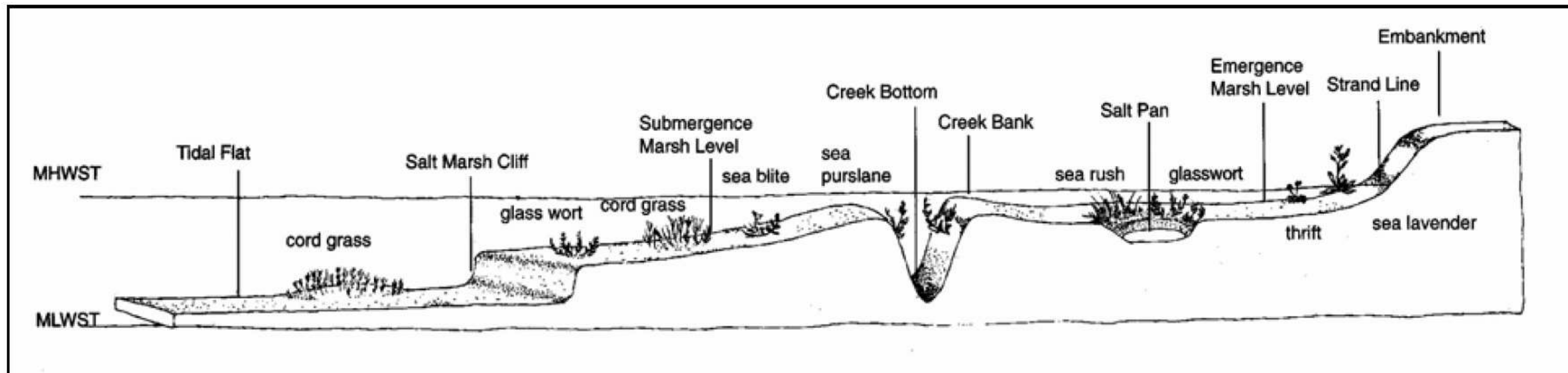


Lower Otter Restoration Project

What is Intertidal Habitat?

Intertidal habitats (including mudflat and saltmarsh) are areas that are above water at low tide and under water at high tide. They are often of international importance as they are typically rich in wildlife and support many different wading birds and wildfowl.



Section through typical intertidal saltmarsh and mudflat habitat
(source: www.abdn.ac.uk/geospatial)



Black-tailed godwit
(photo courtesy of Ian Kirk)

In the lower Otter valley, we can increase the amount of intertidal habitat by breaching or removing the artificial River Otter embankment to allow seawater to enter at certain times. We can also create a network of creeks to help the seawater reach different parts of this new habitat area and drain the area as the tide recedes.

Should the project proceed, we will design these areas so they form suitable habitats for a wide range of bird species, including rare birds like the black-tailed godwit. The photos on this board show well-established intertidal habitats across the UK.

We are working with Natural England to identify the most effective means of attracting the greatest habitat value.



Intertidal habitat (mudflat and lower saltmarsh) at Steart Marshes



Mudflat area created at Goosemoor, Devon



The Otter Estuary, from the Lime Kiln car park