

Lower Otter Restoration Project

Stakeholder Update October 2016

Project approval and funding:

The Environment Agency's National Project Approvals Service has approved the business case for the appraisal phase of the project. We have also now received financial sign off at Director level.

We have been developing our bid for funding from Heritage Lottery Fund and they are generally supportive. Our bid will go to the funding board in January, with a decision expected in March.

We are also continuing to develop our bid for Interreg Va funding. We have received guidance both from Defra and the Interreg secretariat to carry on despite the Brexit vote. We anticipate submitting a bid in early 2017.

Project development:

We have tendered the appraisal and outline design phase of the project through the Environment Agency's Water and Environment Management framework. We have received formal offers from two consultants and expect to award the contract later this month. A summary of the scope of the contract has been circulated with the papers for the next meeting.

The consultant's report on the stability of the cliffs on the western edge of the estuary supports our view that the risk of erosion from water is low. The report will be available shortly.

Further ground investigations at a potential site for the relocation of Budleigh Salterton Cricket Club have been commissioned in partnership with the club. The results will tell us whether it is physically possible to create a cricket ground on the site. Other agreements and permissions would still be required.

We have made good progress on confirming membership of the Technical Steering Group. This group will inform decision making by the Project Board and will complement the work of the Stakeholder Group.

FAB link:

There has been a public consultation on this project and both the Environment Agency and Clinton Devon Estates have responded. The car park at Budleigh Salterton is the preferred landfall location and the route north from there is likely to follow the alignment of the western footpath. This may enable the path to be raised and levelled, with some benefits for the Project, but FAB link is unlikely to be a major funding source.