

Lower Otter Restoration Project

Stakeholder Group

Draft Terms of Reference

Background

The Lower Otter Restoration Project is a partnership between the Environment Agency, Clinton Devon Estates and the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust that aims to deliver a planned, more sustainable way of managing the lower Otter Valley, rather than reacting to unplanned failure of infrastructure. Climate change and sea level rise make it likely that the embankments that currently exclude the tide will fail in the short to medium term.

The project will restore tidal flooding to parts of the former estuary of the River Otter. It will create some 60 hectares of mudflat, saltmarsh, reedbed and grazing marsh. The former waste tip will be protected from erosion. The restored intertidal habitat could also compensate for that lost to sea level rise and coastal squeeze in the Exe Estuary.

The Project will be led by the Environment Agency, with a Project Board including senior managers from both partners. A Steering Group comprising representatives from regulators and statutory bodies will provide advice and guidance to the Project Managers and Project Board. The Stakeholder Group includes a broad range of interested parties, including local residents and businesses, and will influence the development and implementation of the Project.

Purpose of the Stakeholder Group

Initially established with a smaller membership soon after project inception, the Stakeholder Group has been expanded so that all key stakeholders can contribute to the project.

The group will provide a forum for effective interchange of information between the Project partners and other interested parties. It will also enable open discussion of issues, with the intention of reaching consensus where possible.

The group will also influence the general direction of the project and the selection of options.

The remit of the Stakeholder Group does not extend to decision making or providing strategic direction, which are reserved to the Project Board.

Activities

- To receive updates from the Lower Otter Restoration Project Manager(s).
- To advise the Project Manager(s) of issues, concerns and opportunities relating to the development and implementation of the project.
- To consider and respond to issues and risks identified by the Project Manager(s) or Steering Group.
- To identify data and information that could be made available to the project.

Membership

The following table lists the representatives as at June 2016 and may be subject to change.

Organisation	Representative
East Devon Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust	Sam Bridgewater
Environment Agency	Hugh Davey
Natural England	Steve Panks
Devon County Council	Richard Spurway Cllr Christine Channon
East Devon District Council	Dave Turner Steve Edmonds Cllr Tom Wright (Chairman) Cllr Geoff Jung
East Devon AONB	Chris Woodruff
Otter Valley Association	Roger Saunders Haylor Lass
Granary Lane Residents	David Butler Lynne Jones
South Farm Residents / Businesses	Ian Wycherley
East Budleigh & Bickton Parish Council	Cllr Mike Clarke
Otterton Parish Council	Cllr Ian Simpson Cllr John Fudge
Colaton Raleigh Parish Council	Cllr Christopher Silverthorne
Budleigh Salterton Cricket Club	Greg Evans
Project Managers	Megan Rimmer (EA) Mike Williams

Meetings

- Will normally take place quarterly and will be held at the Rolle Estate Office.
- Will be minuted and the minutes circulated to group members.
- Will normally be chaired by an independent member of the group.