

## Statement of meeting of Lower Otter Restoration Project Stakeholder Group

Meeting date: February 1, 2017, Temple Hall, Budleigh Salterton.

Now there is a formal Lower Otter Restoration Project partnership, with board members from Clinton Devon Estates and the Environment Agency, members of the stakeholder group have been asked to discuss a “long list” of options for the future direction of the project with those they represent, and to put forward any further options which may not yet have been considered. Comments and suggestions should be emailed to Jayne Savage at Clinton Devon Estates ([Jayne.Savage@ClintonDevon.com](mailto:Jayne.Savage@ClintonDevon.com)) by the end of February for distribution to the project team.

A special meeting will be held on March 15 at Seaton Wetlands Local Nature Reserve (to incorporate a visit to the inter-tidal habitat), so the stakeholder group can help produce a short list of options which will then go out to wider public consultation – likely to be in May or June 2017.

Members of the group also asked that the project should consider the impacts of a potential increase in visitor numbers to the area, particularly in respect of local car parking.

The group noted that:

- Engineering and environmental consultants CH2M Hill had been appointed, and that investigative work on the physical features of the estuary such as ground levels, bridges and culverts had begun.
- The project was continuing to investigate sources of funding for the relocation of Budleigh Salterton Cricket Club.
- Public Health England, with funding from NERC, (Natural Environment Research Council), has proposed using the Otter Valley as one of 12 sites for a research project called Wetland Life, which in part looks at mosquito ecology and management.
- Imminent tree felling near South Farm was being undertaken at the request of Western Power Distribution to ensure resilience of the power supply to the area, and was not connected with the Lower Otter Restoration Project.
- The website [www.lowerotterrestorationproject.co.uk](http://www.lowerotterrestorationproject.co.uk) is being updated with information about the project as it becomes available.

Cllr Tom Wright, Lower Otter Restoration Project Stakeholder Group chairman

02/02/2017