



## Lower Otter Restoration Project

### Minutes of the Stakeholder Group Meeting

Rolle Estate Office, 10:00 Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016

#### 1 – Attendance

Cllr Tom Wright (East Devon District Council and Budleigh Salterton Town Council) - Chair  
Sam Bridgewater (East Devon Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust / Clinton Devon Estates)  
Mike Williams (Environment Agency)  
Megan Rimmer (Environment Agency)  
Richard Spurway (Devon County Council)  
Chris Woodruff (East Devon AONB)  
Cllr Christine Channon (Devon County Council)  
Cllr Mike Clarke (East Budleigh & Bicton Parish Council)  
Cllr Geoff Jung (EDDC Colaton Raleigh)  
Cllr Ian Simpson (Otterton Parish Council)  
Cllr John Fudge (Otterton Parish Council)  
Ian Wycherley (Representing residents and businesses around South Farm)  
David Butler (Representing residents of Granary Lane)  
Haylor Lass (Otter Valley Association)  
Kate Ponting (Clinton Devon Estates)

#### 2 – Apologies

Steve Panks (Natural England)  
Steve Edmonds (East Devon District Council)  
Cllr Christopher Silverthorne (Colaton Raleigh Parish Council)  
Roger Saunders (Otter Valley Association)  
David Turner (East Devon District Council)  
Greg Evans (Budleigh Salterton Cricket Club)

#### 3 – Introductions

All parties introduced themselves

Noted new members – Otterton Parish Council

Cllr Tom Wright (East Devon District Council and Budleigh Salterton Town Council) to now chair the meetings from a point of independence and no fixed view or agenda.

#### **4 – Discussion: Shaping the Engagement Process**

Presentation given by Dr Sam Bridgewater and Mike Williams as an overview to shape the engagement process and to check that all parties are happy with the process. The presentation will be circulated with the minutes.

This outlined the stage that the work to date has reached. The next key milestone will be the submission of a business case to an Environment Agency national approvals panel for funds to begin feasibility study works. The business case needs to meet the objectives of both EA and EDPHCT (East Devon Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust). This will be submitted in the next few weeks and it is expected that the application will be considered over a further 4 to 6 week period. Once a decision has been made as to whether the HLF will be granted the Stakeholder group will be informed.

Whilst raising concerns and problems is an important part of the process it was recognised that the stakeholder group should also be of the mind-set to embrace an opportunity to enhance the area and note that environmental tourism is an ever growing industry for the area.

Discussion regarding the language used to describe the work being undertaken by the Environment Agency resulted in a conclusion that the use of the word ‘project’ may have been misunderstood by some stakeholders to believe that the concept was at a more determined and defined stage than has presently been reached. Discussion around perhaps changing the language used occurred, the conclusion was that now there is greater clarity in the understanding of the timeframes and the phase that the project is at it would not be necessary to change the name.

The Stakeholder Group recognised the need to use multiple channels of engagement at appropriate times and it was deemed at this stage an appropriate channel would be a written statement clearly giving the current position:

“At present there is no further detailed information available. The concept is in its infancy and the next stage will be to submit applications for funding which will, if successful, fund the necessary feasibility studies. “

All stakeholder group attendees are responsible for taking the message back to their respective organisations or groups.

In addition to this it has been agreed that a website will be set up which details all information, in particular including the ‘Issue Log’ which records all issues brought to the Stakeholder Group.

The website will be maintained by Clinton Devon Estates and will operate entirely separately from Estate matters. The Estate will meet the costs of the website, including any personnel resource required for the maintenance of the site and uploading of information.

Once a response has been received from HLF regarding funding, channels such as public meetings will be identified to give further updates.

The need for a Stakeholder Group representative on the Technical Steering Group was identified.

Questions were raised regarding how the estimated total project cost had been determined. It was explained that this figure was reached after collaborative work with Costs Consultants and experts within the given fields at the EA.

## **5 – Further project updates**

**5.1 FAB Link** – Proposal to bring electricity to UK from France to increase energy resilience FAB Link have been conducting information sessions at local community groups. The conclusion being that the information has been very clear and informative. Following 6 months exploratory research work five sites were identified in January. Of those five sites it seems that the Car Park at Budleigh Salterton may be a preferred option. It is likely that any formal decisions made will be made public in July 2016.

**5.2 Geology reports for cliffs** – Once a final version of this report is completed it will be circulated to the stakeholder group.

### **5.3 Project governance**

Reviewed proposed project governance structure. It was queried as to why the OVA were included as a specific involved group when other groups were not individually represented. It was explained that it was viewed that the OVA does in fact represent a very wide community.

The proposed Project Board was agreed.

## **6 – Issues Log**

The issues log was reviewed, a column will be added to the issue log to show the status of each item.

## **7 –AOB**

## **8 – Key Actions**

- Add Status column to Issue Log
- Send out revised Terms of Reference for the Stakeholder Group.
- Set up website – including salient outline points, issue log and all stakeholder group meeting papers
- Email Presentation to all stakeholder group members
- EA will submit Business Case for feasibility study funding
- Issues log and agenda to be sent out two weeks in advance of meetings

**9- Date of next meeting: Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September – Please confirm availability**