

Newsletter

Lower Otter Restoration Project

Promoting Adaptation to Changing Coasts



Welcome



This newsletter is to keep you up to date with progress as we construct the Lower Otter Restoration Project (LORP) on behalf of the Environment Agency. We are working closely with Jacobs who are the design consultant and landowner Clinton Devon Estates.

LORP is about adapting to climate change and safeguarding the Lower Otter for future generations. Adaptation is necessary because of threats from rising sea levels, greater intensity of storms and more frequent flood flows in the river. When finished, LORP will reconnect the river to its floodplain, allowing it to drain naturally. This will create intertidal saltmarshes, mudflats and freshwater habitats at Big Marsh and Little Marsh.

Key benefits of the project include

- a new footbridge on the SW Coast Path
- the raising and surfacing of some footpaths
- a new raised embankment to carry South Farm Road
- New parking provision
- Re-naturalisation of Budleigh Brook
- Budleigh Salterton Cricket Club is being relocated

The cost of the scheme is approximately £15m. Funding will come from Environment Agency Flood Defence Grant in Aid, £6.6m from the EU programme Promoting Adaptation to Changing Coasts (PACCo) and financial support from Clinton Devon Estates.

If you would like to find out more about the project please take a look at the LORP information

website: www.lowerotterrestorationproject.co.uk

Kier Construction Update

LORP got underway at the beginning of June with the creation of the new Budleigh Salterton cricket pitches. These works have progressed well and are now close to completion.

At the beginning of September we commenced tree and vegetation clearance and the creek excavations (see below). We have now installed pipes at South Farm Road bridge to manage water as part of our preparation for our piling operation. This piling will make a watertight enclosure (or coffer dam) of 50 metres by 20 metres with steel sheet piles – this will enable us to safely prepare the ground for the piers of the new road bridge. This will last for approximately 3 weeks.

We would like to thank local residents and businesses for their patience and understanding while we carry out our work.

We will continue to share information regularly to keep you up to date on our progress via newsletters and site noticeboards located at the Kier site compound, the new Budleigh Salterton Cricket Club site, South Farm Road, and the back of Lime Kiln car park.

KEY PROGRAMME DATES

- **Winter 2021**—Commence construction of South Farm Road bridge.
- **Spring 2022**—Commence works on new South Farm Road embankment, completion of creek networks (which will ultimately connect the site to the floodplain) and drainage structures. Raising and surfacing of some footpaths.
- **Autumn 2022**—Start road construction. Commence new footbridge north of Lime Kiln Carpark.
- **Winter 2022**—Tree planting and landscaping works.
- **Scheme completion 2023.**



Creek Network Excavation North of South Farm Road

Environment Agency

The recent flooding in October is something that we will see occurring more often as our climate changes and highlights the need to adapt the Lower Otter to this change.

Despite the flooding, good progress is being made on site.

Already you can see a new network of creeks in the fields above South Farm Road. These channels will enable the reconnection of the estuary to the floodplain. They will also enable flood waters to drain more quickly following flooding. The new cricket pitches are also now complete.

As well as delivering flood resilient infrastructure, the change of landscape involves an extensive planting programme replacing cleared trees, hedges and scrub, and creating areas of new woodland starting next year.

'This managed transformation of the Lower Otter means we are able to save and move the rarest plants, remove invasive Japanese Knotweed and plant more woodland and hedgerow with lots of native species that will thrive and survive here.'

'Without the works, many of the trees which have now been cleared would have died as sea level rise lead to the area becoming inundated with salt water. Whilst challenging in the construction phase, there is no doubt that this project will leave a lasting positive legacy.' said Dan Boswell for the Environment Agency.



If you would like to sign up for project updates, please visit [Updates \(lowerotterrestorationproject.co.uk\)](https://lowerotterrestorationproject.co.uk)

LORP Log Bank Donation

Kier are committed to their environmental and sustainability policy, which includes minimising waste and having a positive impact on our community. We welcomed the opportunity to donate wood from LORP to Axewoods.

'Axewoods is a volunteer woodland management and social forestry organisation that works for free in exchange for timber. We aim to provide the means by which members can secure their own woodfuel needs and address local fuel poverty by supplying, free of charge, wood fuel to those in need. Our Log Bank is an initiative to make dry, seasoned logs available free of charge to local people in fuel poverty and those in need of help. We simply accept referrals from local aid agencies, food banks, churches and age related charities. However, our most successful contacts come through the local informal networks and 'good neighbours' who tell us about those in need. In such a way we can reach those who would never ask for help or charity.'

'We are really grateful to Kier, Clinton Devon Estates and the Environment Agency for the opportunity to add to our stocks – with the current and future energy crisis looming, we expect to be very busy!' said Alan Dyer from Axewoods.



The Axewoods Team

Fish Rescue

As part of safeguarding the environment during construction, we removed fish ahead of works adjacent to South Farm Road on the 10th November.



Brown trout, lamprey, common eel and minnows were released downstream in to the River Otter





Budleigh Salterton Cricket Club

On Tuesday 2nd November Budleigh Salterton Cricket Club invited a few of their junior members along for a first viewing of the new cricket ground off East Budleigh Road, EX9 6JD.

A big thank you to Neil Rodger and Steve Gingell from STRI contractors who gave an interesting talk on how the pitches have been constructed, what is still to be completed and allowed us to visualise the finished cricket ground. There was an opportunity at the end for team members to do some ceremonial seed scattering.

This will no doubt be the first of many wonderful memories that will be made at the new ground for some of its members, and all those who were able to make it on the day seemed excited and equally impressed by this fantastic new site.

Thank you also to Bill Roper from Budleigh Salterton Cricket Club and Kate Ponting from Clinton Devon Estates for their support in organising this event.



Members Talk and Seed Scattering at BSCC
New Cricket Ground

Ecology



Ecologists working at LORP

A team of ecologists working on behalf of the Lower Otter Restoration Project are undertaking a variety of inspections to ensure impacts to wildlife are minimised during construction works. Previous ecological surveys have been undertaken to determine the presence or likely absence of European and UK Protected Species.

The LORP site contains a diverse range of species including hazel dormice, brown long-eared bat, reptiles, cetti's warbler, and harvest mice. Notable plant species on site include galingale, orchids and divided sedge.

Finger-tip searches of all vegetation within the site have been undertaken and any active nests or roosts are left in situ, and undisturbed until the animals become independent. The vegetation is being cleared in stages, and in a directional approach, to persuade animals to move into retained habitat.

Three invasive species grow in the Lower Otter area. These are Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam and water ferns. As these species are non-native in the UK, additional measures are required for their eradication. Areas containing these species have been cordoned off to prevent access by foot or machine to limit spreading across the site. Cleaning stations have also been installed to disinfect equipment and footwear at the start and end of the working day.

OPEN DOORS

Get into Construction

Careers in Construction

We recently invited along local Secondary Schools and Colleges to the Kier site offices in Budleigh Salterton as part of Open Doors week 4-9th October, which is an initiative delivered by Build UK. One of our main aims of the event was to change the traditional representation of the construction industry, moving away from muddy boots and hard hats towards highly skilled trades.

Members of our team talked about their job roles and the various paths they had taken through education and previous careers. The event also allowed us to share some fantastic opportunities within Kier for young people through work experience, apprenticeships, and degree apprenticeships.

Please visit <https://www.kier.co.uk/careers> to see our latest vacancies.



Further information on Careers in Construction can be found here

<https://www.youthemployment.org.uk/careers-construction-things-need-know/>

<https://www.goconstruct.org/learn-about-construction/>

<https://www.stem.org.uk/>



WOULD YOU LIKE REGULAR CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS UPDATES AND OUR NEWSLETTER EMAILED TO YOU?

Please send an email to Exmouth.PLO@kier.co.uk and we will add you to our email list.

Footpaths Access Update

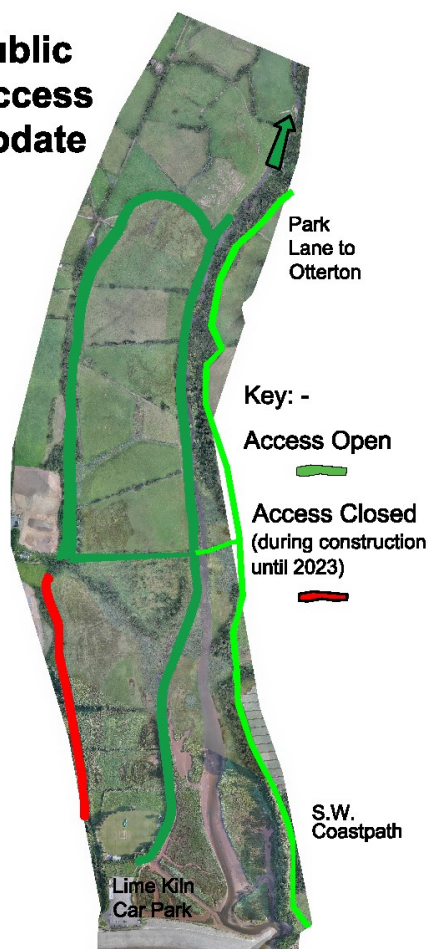
The Eastern footpath north and south of South Farm Road (Lime Kiln Carpark through to Otterton) is OPEN, but on occasion may be marshalled, and pedestrians may be asked to wait until it is safe for them to continue.

The Western footpath (left of Cricket Club) to South Farm Road is CLOSED during the works.

The South Western Coast Path and access along Park Lane to Otterton will remain OPEN.

All updates will be displayed in the LORP noticeboards.

Public Access Update



Considerate Constructors



Registered site
www.ccscheme.org.uk

As a site we are registered with the Considerate Constructors Scheme. The scheme monitor visits the site at regular intervals during construction and records our performance. The important aspects of construction which are monitored are:

- Care about **Appearance**
- Respect for the **Community**
- Protect the **Environment**
- Secure everyone's **Safety**
- Value of the **Workforce**.

If you would like to find out more, please visit www.ccscheme.org.uk



From all of the
Kier Team

The Kier Foundation

The Kier Foundation's current charity partner is End Youth Homelessness. This year Kier set their employees the challenge of a night time sleep out to help transform young lives. As well as being a sponsorship event Kier Foundation Donated £25 for every person who signed up. Kat Holgate, from Kier at Budleigh Salterton, took up the challenge by raising awareness and £314 for this life-changing charity.

Kier are HERE!



We welcome your comments

Your comments and feedback are important to us. We have a post box on our Lower Otter Restoration Project noticeboard outside the site compound at the top of Granary Lane, if you would like to get in touch or alternatively contact our public liaison officer as detailed below:

Email: exmouth.PLO@kier.co.uk

Mobile : 07716 223056