

Lower Otter Restoration Project

An update on the project we are delivering for your local community



Construction update:

Works to the North of the site have now been completed. This is a successful milestone for the project and one which the team are all proud of;

The removal of the existing Aqueduct has allowed the connection of Budleigh Brook to the new creek network.

East Budleigh footpath 3, including Big Bank footpath have been well used since they were temporarily made available to the public and there has been lots of positive feedback on this area. It will (as previously advised) be necessary to close this footpath from 6th March – 31st May so that it can be linked to the new South Farm Road can be undertaken.

The tip area has also received its own enhancement including the planting of over 12,000 trees.

To the south of the LORP site (Lime Kiln Car Park area) the piling works which provide the foundations for the footbridge have been completed and construction has commenced on piers and bridge abutments. Works to the footpath on the west of the site (between Lime Kiln car park and South Farm Road) continues at pace with alterations to the existing trunk drain alignment already completed.

South West Water are currently working in the Lime Kiln Car Park area improving the resilience to the Combined Sewage Overflow (CSO) outfall. We understand that these works are progressing to plan and should be complete by April. In the following few weeks, the team will start reducing the working and compound area to give it back to public use.



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Key Construction Dates:

Whilst construction activities will continue in the area for some time, sections of the works are being completed and we can look forward to returning more areas to the public. The new South Farm Road will become operational from 4th March.

- Footpath 12B (footpath on the west of the valley, heading north from South Farm Road), including Big Bank footpath will be closed between 6th March – 31st May so that it can be linked to the new South Farm Road can be undertaken.
- Revised date of the breach is now, May. This is mainly due to high winds over Christmas period preventing the use of the Crane and cold weather meaning the concrete could not be poured.
- New car park along South Farm Road opening this summer



Environment Agency Update

The project site is really taking shape now and we think that it is becoming increasingly easy to see the positive legacy that the project is going to leave to both people and wildlife.

I am particularly enjoying seeing the planting around the site (weather allowing we hope to commence the planting the equivalent of around 4 football pitches of broadleaf woodland and scrub) and the viewing areas from which people will be able to enjoy the birdlife attracted to the site.

This month will also see a milestone in the opening of South Farm Road to the public, providing a much needed secure link between the Budleigh and businesses and residents to the east of the river.

Dan Boswell EA Project Manager



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Ecology Update

As the days got shorter and the nights cool, the summer migrants start to leave us and begin their migration back to their wintering quarters, and as we started to move into winter the wintering migrants started to arrive. During this period there have been some record-breaking numbers of certain species on the project. We have had 50+ Lapwing and a peak count of 104 black tailed Godwits both record numbers for the Lower Otter. There have been good numbers of Snipe and Curlew, along with Greenshank, common and green Sandpipers, redshank, ringed plover and dunlin regularly being seen around the site.



Large numbers of waterfowl have taken advantage of the newly created habitat with shelduck, gadwall, shoveler, teal and wigeon just to name a few can regularly be seen, along with a variety of geese including brent, snow and graylag. Six tufted ducks were also observed which is a new record number for this species.

A Great White Egret has spent a few days feeding and resting onsite, an unusual bird for Devon. Water Pipits are often found, attracting bird watchers from afar as they are not often seen.

As the leaves started to fall this gave us an opportunity to survey for natural dormouse nests, we found several along the hedgerows bordering the footpaths. This gives us a small insight on how the population is doing.

As part of the project, reed cutting management below the old landfill site is now underway allowing the reedbed to regenerate with younger/stronger regrowth, an implementation seen on many RSPB reserves.

We will start raising the water levels over the low-lying areas of the site – starting in the north of the site starting next week. The depth of water will be limited and carefully monitored to ensure that this does not have an impact on residents or users of the site. We are doing this ahead of the breach works to ensure that wildlife such as small mammals and reptiles do not move into the area which will ultimately become intertidal. Water levels are likely to remain raised until the point of the breach of the existing estuary embankment.

As the works progress and the habitat changes and matures it's going to be exciting to see what turns up next.

- Mark Wills, Hi-Line Ecologist



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Considerate Constructor Scheme

Following a 3rd visit in December, the team had it confirmed that they had retained their score of 'Excellent' with another **45/45**



This reaffirmed the continued focus on the community the LORP team work within, the actions surrounding the environmental factors as well as the going above and beyond to be an superb contractor on behalf of it's client, The Environment Agency.

Community Engagement

Lower Otter Team Saves Christmas!

Heavy rain prior to Christmas brought its challenges and the River Otter flooded the South Farm Road. Wanting to help where they could, the team allowed Pynes Farm Shop, cut off from their customers by flood waters, to move into the canteen within the LORP compound; making sure everyone picked up their meats for Christmas. The festive spirit was high and everyone took pleasure in supporting the pop up shop.



Guided Tours

The Lower Otter Restoration Project Tours have become extremely popular, some months even selling out, which shows how interested people are in the scheme. Mike Williams from the Environment Agency has spoken in length about all aspects of the scheme. Feedback has been brilliant, specifically noting his knowledge and passion about the project.

Site opening hours

08:00 - 17:00 Monday – Friday

Out of hours contact telephone number
07815 493 883

Keeping you informed

Tell us the best way we can keep you up to date with the latest information.

- Newsletters
- Social Media
- Website
- Emails
- Text message notifications
- Face to Face meetings

We will then be able to make use of the most popular methods.

Simply email exmouth.plo@kier.co.uk

Get in touch

If you have any questions or queries then please get in touch with Kelly

Email: exmouth.plo@kier.co.uk

Telephone: 07716 223 056

Thank you!

