The River Otter and its estuary have a long history of modification by man which has resulted in a loss of natural processes. The effect of these changes means that flood flows are unable to pass down the river channel to the estuary, forcing them into historic floodplains. Poor drainage results in prolonged flooding of South Farm Rd, public footpaths, the cricket club and threatens an old municipal tip.

The Lower Otter Restoration Project aims to work with nature to create a more sustainable way of managing an important site for wildlife and the public.

**RISKS IF WE DO NOTHING**

- On-going and costly maintenance
- Reduced natural biodiversity and habitats
- Loss of public footpath access and threats to public highway to South Farm
- Continued flooding of Budleigh Salterton Cricket Club
- Catastrophic breaching of embankments
- Erosion of old municipal tip

**OPPORTUNITIES IF WE ACT NOW**

- Secured and improved public access
- Secured and protected public amenities
- Enhanced natural wildlife habitats
- Restored natural ecological order of the estuary
- Restoration of 60 hectares of wetland habitat
- Otter Valley allowed to respond and adapt naturally to climate change
- Enhancement of the area for environmental tourism
- Enhanced conservation standing

For further information visit

www.lowerotterrestorationproject.co.uk

FACTS ABOUT

THE LOWER OTTER RESTORATION PROJECT

The graphics overleaf show the history of modification on the Lower Otter, and a vision for how it might look in the future. However, there are a number of technical, economic and social issues that must first be considered before deciding whether future intervention is desirable. A full Options Appraisal assessing the costs and benefits of a range of potential options, including accepting the current status quo, will be considered during 2016 and 2017.

"Working with nature"
THE PAST
10,000 BC – 1800
Over thousands of years the natural, meandering path of the River Otter and its Estuary are created. Wildlife thrives and is able to adapt naturally to change.

NOW
1800 – 2016
Much of the estuary is reclaimed for agriculture; an embankment restricts the ability of the river to move which becomes disconnected from its floodplain. Further modifications include the development of an old municipal tip and a cricket club; flooding associated with climate change begins to threaten access, the old tip and recreational infrastructure.

THE FUTURE!
2020 ONWARDS
River reconnected to its floodplain whilst access protected and enhanced; original habitats restored; river and wildlife allowed to respond naturally to climate change.

FACTS ABOUT THE PAST
10,000 BC - 1800
- Over thousands of years the natural, meandering path of the River Otter and its Estuary are created. Wildlife thrives and is able to adapt naturally to change.

SECURING THE OLD ESTUARY FOR PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE