

Lower Otter Valley

Planning application 22/0804/VAR

Variation of condition 2 of planning consent 20/2089/MFUL

[22/0804/VAR | Variation of condition 2 of planning consent 20/2089/MFUL \(Proposed breach of the River Otter embankment, Little Bank and Big Bank to restore the historic floodplain creating intertidal saltmarsh, mudflats and freshwater habitat at Big Marsh, and new freshwater habitat at Little Marsh; associated works including development of a new footbridge, realignment of South Farm Road, and creation of a new car park \(The Lower Otter Restoration Project\); accompanied by an Environmental Statement\) to facilitate alterations and raising of ground levels of public footpath \(12\) | Lower River Otter Valley East Of Budleigh Salterton And South West Of Otterton \(eastdevon.gov.uk\)](#)

What is being proposed

The Lower Otter Restoration Project (LORP) is a major project to create an historic floodplain. A variation to proposals for western footpath ((Budleigh Salterton Footpath 12 / East Budleigh Footpath 3) is proposed. This area is 7 hectares and less than 5% of the whole approved project. The planning application, if approved, will allow the FAB(France – Alderney – Britain) Link project to follow at a later date. Originally it was envisaged that the FAB Link interconnector works would have already been completed but those planning permissions have now lapsed. This application is to ensure that both the Environment Agency and FAB projects can be accommodated.

“The proposed amendment comprises:

- the raising of an embankment carrying the existing footpath;
- a line of sheet piles driven into the embankment (piles not visible following construction);
- the relocation of the trunk drain to enable raising of the embankment; and
- erosion protection (rip-rap) of sections of the embankment.

The embankment raising, relocation of the trunk drain and erosion protection would be undertaken as part of the Environment Agency scheme. The sheet piling would follow at a later date to allow the France – Alderney – Britain (FAB) Link project to install and protect their cables.” (Environmental Report)

Impact of the proposals on users

“Without this amendment, following the breach through the River Otter estuary embankment (near Lime Kiln car park) for which planning has been granted as part of the Lower Otter Restoration Project, the Western Footpath would be flooded approximately 300 occasions per year or 10% of the time at current sea levels and current path levels. This would reduce to approximately 20 occasions per year or 0.2% of the time (with the raising of the footpath proposed as part of this amendment).” (Environmental Report).

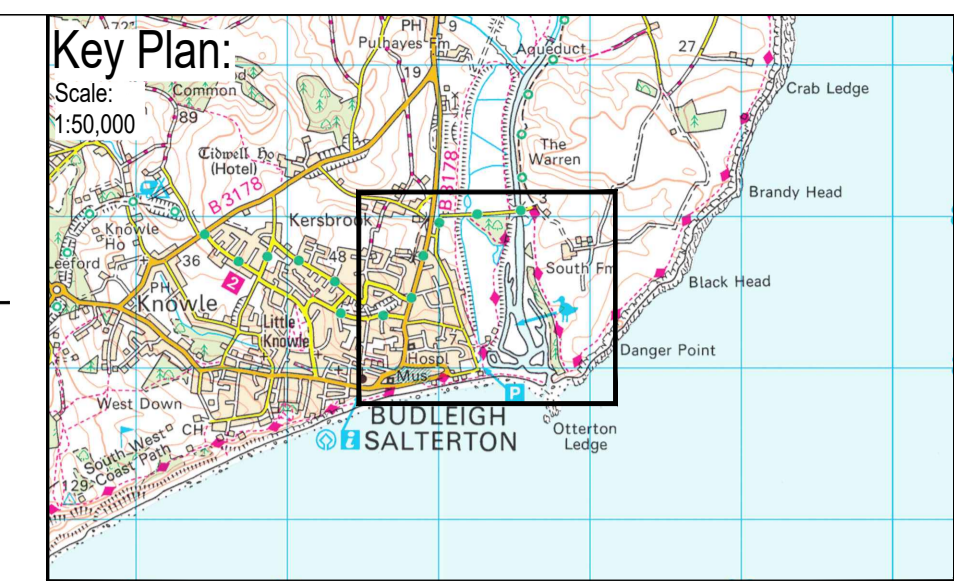
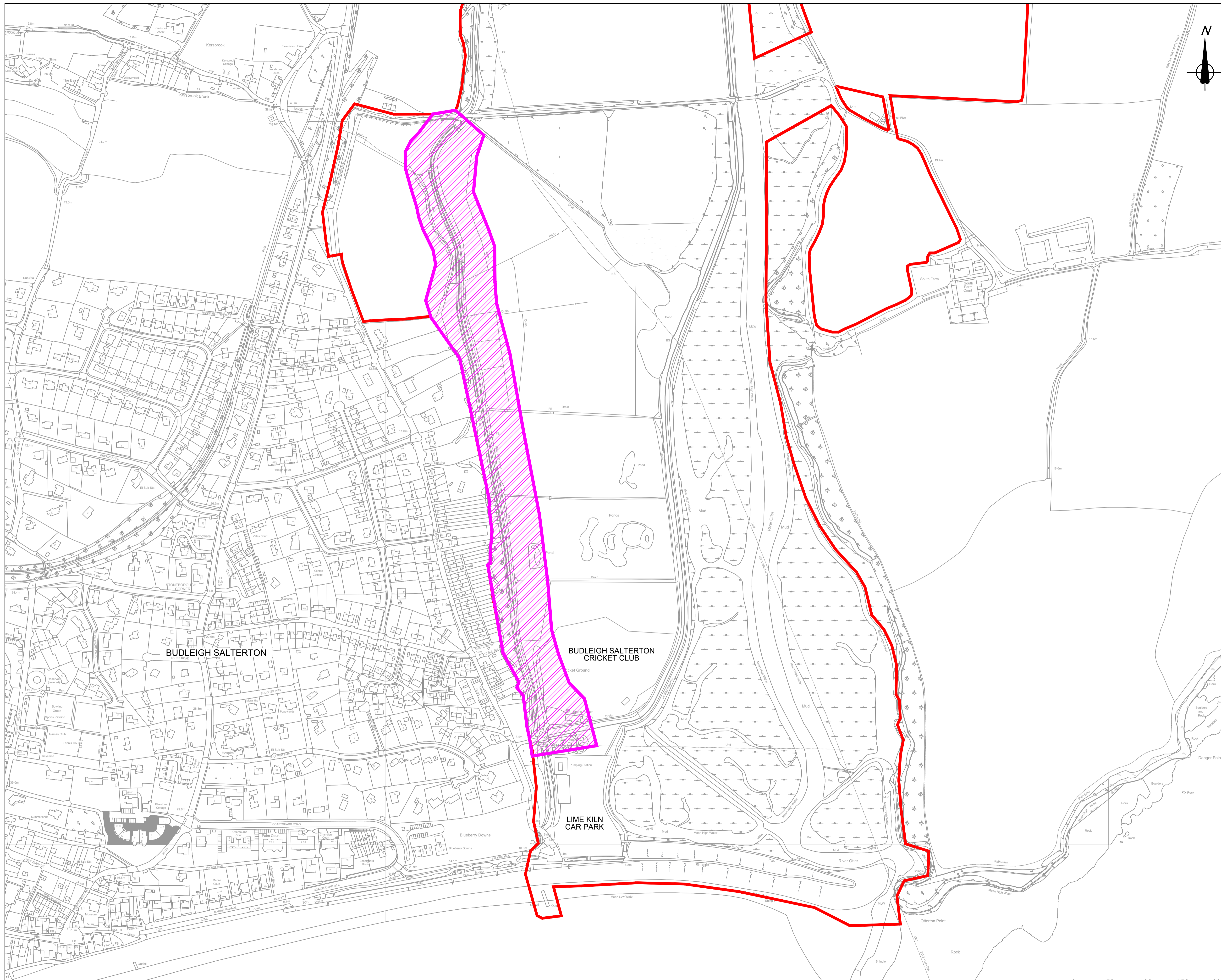
“Outside of spring high tide periods, the raised footpath is likely to improve both abled and less able users’ accessibility of this section of public footpath network, because of improved surfacing, path levelling and increased footpath width. These improvements may also serve to increase the numbers of pedestrians using the Western Footpath compared to both the current situation and the approved LORP scheme post-breach, although the presence of residual silt and mud covering the paths and potential erosion of the surface following tidal inundation may discourage the use of the path by some.” (Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment)

Construction details

“The proposed footpath would be approximately 1.5 m in width and would be constructed using imported fill material with a 6 mm granite dust finish as used on the northern section of the footpath. Where sections of the trunk drain are being relocated, the existing trunk drain would be backfilled with material from the construction of the realigned trunk drain to the east. During periods of moderate to high winds and over high tides, wind will generate waves within the site. In order to dissipate wave energy and defend against erosion of the footpath embankment it is proposed that a 1:20 side slope is provided along most of the eastern side of the footpath. This slope would vegetate with intertidal plant species which would absorb wave energy and protect the footpath from damage. Where the full 1:20 slope is not possible due to restrictions imposed by South West Water surface water outfalls, a steeper side slope of approximately 1:3 is required with additional erosion protection. In these areas, largely around the existing outfalls, it is proposed that rip-rap be used. The rip-rap would be formed from loosely placed stone designed to absorb wave energy and prevent erosion. Rip-rap would be used over approximately 215 m of embankment with a typical width of 1-2 m and an overall total area of approximately 310 m². Rip-rap size would be determined at detailed design but likely to have an indicative diameter of between 200-300 mm. The extent of rip-rap would be minimised by only using over sections of embankment with a 1:3 side slope and further landscaping would be done to blend these sections of steep slope with the more typical 1:20 side slopes proposed elsewhere along the reach. Locally sourced material would be used as rip-rap where possible.” (Environmental Report)

Summary

“In summary, whilst the raising of the footpath and associated works would result in localised change to the setting of the immediate landscape and wider World Heritage Site, AONB and Jurassic Coast, due to the limited scale of the works and taking into consideration the benefits arising with regard to public accessibility to the footpath, it is considered that the proposed amendment is unlikely to give rise to any landscape and visual significant adverse effects over and above those arising from the approved LORP Scheme.” (Environmental Report)



Key:
 Red Line boundary
 Western Footpath Area of Interest

Notes:
 1. Area of interest is approximately 70000m³

Rev	Rev. Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Rev'd	Appr'd
P01	01/04/21	FOR CONSTRUCTION	NH	NH	SM	TW

<p>Apature, Pynes Hill Court, Pynes Hill, Exeter, EX2 5SP Tel: +44 (0) 1392 265800 www.jacobs.com</p>	

Client: Environment Agency, Devon County Council
Project partners: CLINTON DEVON ESTATES

Project: LOWER OTTER RESTORATION PROJECT

Drawing title: WESTERN FOOTPATH AREA OF INTEREST

Drawing status: S2

Scale	AS SHOWN	DO NOT SCALE
Jacobs No.	684492	Rev P01
Client no.		

Drawing number: ENVIMSW002045-CH2-000-000-DR-LP-0102
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SOUTH PLAN
 SCALE 1:2,500 AT A1, 1:5,000 AT A3

