

## LOWER OTTER RESTORATION PROJECT

**Client:** KIER

**Value:** £480,000

**Duration:** 6 weeks

### Project Detail

Suttle Projects work at 'LORP' is part of the greater scheme Kier are doing on behalf of the Environment Agency, adapting to changing coasts as a result of climate change. (Detailed in the government press release below).

In order to safeguard the Lower Otter for future generations, adaptations are required because of the threat from rising sea levels, greater intensity of storms and more frequent floor 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.

Suttle Projects have been tasked with the piling for a new 70m footbridge to carry the South West Coast footpath, maintaining the existing route to South Farm Road and beyond. Without this the other work to connect the river estuary to the flood plains would cause this area to flood, making the footpath inaccessible.

We are installing 20, 700mm diameter bearing piles, installed with steel casings driven to a depth of -22m, tremie placed concrete and the removal of the steel tubes. The design was completed by our in house team and the piles were constructed using our Soilmec R210 for the rotary bored piling, and our Movax SG65 to install the sheet pile cofferdams.



Figure 1: Some of the completed rotary bored piling



Figure 2: Sheet piling in progress

## **Background Information:**

The £15 million project is the English arm of a €25.7 million Anglo-French venture, Promoting Adaptation to Changing Coasts (PACCo), supported by Interreg France Channel England. Work is also going ahead on a similar project in the Saône estuary, Normandy.

The PACCo project is looking at how climate change threatens coastal areas and the adaptation work that will be needed to deal with the threats. Such adaptation will bring with it the possibility of long-term social, environmental and economic benefits, such as improved well-being for residents and visitors, more environmental tourism and a greater variety of wetland birds inhabiting the area.

Project manager for the Environment Agency, Dan Boswell said:

This is an important project demonstrating how countries can work together to find solutions to help tackle climate change. I'm really pleased that the work is now underway. It will have huge benefits, not only through the way we adapt to meet the challenge of climate change, but to the people and wildlife that share this area.

Director of Nature Recovery with Devon Wildlife Trust, Peter Burgess, also welcomed the start of the work:

The Lower Otter Restoration Project is hugely complex and has required a great deal of courage, commitment and sheer hard work to get to this exciting stage.

Devon Wildlife Trust is following the project very closely and is looking forward to the overwhelming benefits allowing more space for wildlife and natural processes will bring. Our estuaries are some of the richest habitats for wildlife anywhere in the country – providing critical nursery areas for fish and billions of creatures at the base of the food chain and vital food for a host of water birds.

The success and lessons learnt through LORP will be critical in influencing many more exciting projects across the south west which are essential if we are to rebuild our coastal habitat health and the wealth of benefits they provide for people.

**From gov.uk press release**