

## DULVERTON WEIR & LEAT CONSERVATION TRUST

Volunteers cleared undergrowth on 'the Island' adjacent to Dulverton Weir in preparation of the archaeological dig which is planned for July. Volunteers worked in the rain for 5 hours.

Photo (right) shows L to R volunteers Tim, Clive, Peter, Patrick Watts-Mabbott Volunteer & Outreach Officer Exmoor National Park Authority and Philip Hull Trustee Dulverton Weir & Leat Conservation Trust.

Patrick Watts-Mabbott said "we had a great day splashing across the leat to get to the back of the weir where we were working. Definitely a day to remember. If anyone is interested in getting involved in this and wider projects on Exmoor why not take a look at the National Park website at [www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/getinvolved](http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/getinvolved)"

Philip Hull Trustee comments: "community involvement is a key part of the project and we are most grateful to ENPA and their 'get involved initiative' volunteers. There are further volunteering opportunities directly with the Trust arising shortly and we welcome contact from anyone who wants to join in on this fantastic project to understand and preserve Dulverton's medieval history".

On the same day as the work was being carried out on 'the Island', Dulverton local resident John Dunscombe had a surprise when walking his dog. Just in front of the Old Bakehouse in Chapel Street, close to the centre of town he



saw an otter.

Photo (below) shows an otter of the type seen by John



John says: "I always look over the wall into the leat as one can often see a Dipper but imagine my surprise and delight to see an Otter pop its head above the vegetation. But as soon as it saw me, it quickly ducked out of sight"

This is not the first time Otters have been sighted on the Dulverton Weir & Leat system. Seeing an elusive Otter (they are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981)

is one of the most rewarding wildlife experiences in Britain. They feed on fish and eels and work by the Trust and its partners have led to more eels being sighted in this area of the leat. Richard Partington Trustee of DWLCT comments: "we hope that the work of the Trust and its partners will lead to more sightings like this"

Marcus Kravis, Executive Member for Assets at Somerset West and Taunton Council, said: "We are delighted to be working in partnership with the Trust on this exciting project to restore the iconic weir and leat to its rightful place as part of Dulverton's heritage. It is wonderful to see that volunteers have started preparation work already. Their commitment makes all the difference and I would encourage anyone who recognises the importance of this waterway to get involved in the joint effort to restore and safeguard this medieval leat and weir system".

Somerset West & Taunton Council has completed repairs to Dulverton Leat approximately 100 yds of the leat bank has been repaired and

the footpath alongside it has been upgraded allowing easier access for those wishing to view this beautiful part of Dulverton. The footpath is now open and accessible to all.

These repairs are an important part of the initiative in by Somerset West and Taunton Council in partnership with Dulverton Weir & Leat Conservation Trust to restore and safeguard Dulverton's medieval weir & leat system for the whole community.

Philip Hull Trustee of DWLCT says; "The Trust are most grateful to the council for their hard work and pleased that this project is beginning to make progress. We want everyone in the community to be able to enjoy and appreciate this valuable ancient monument which is recognised by academics as one of the best preserved medieval weir & leat systems in England".



**DULVERTON  
WEIR & LEAT  
CONSERVATION  
TRUST**

Our partners

