

# COUNTRYSIDE MOBILITY



## Project Update 10: Winter 2011

Winter has arrived and after a busy summer our Trampers and Wheelyboats get a bit of a rest as the weather usually keeps all but the keenest members (and us!) inside more often than out. However, don't forget that you can still make the most of those wonderful sunny winter days as the majority of our sites are open all year round. Why not wrap up warm and spend an hour or so 'out and about' with friends and family then enjoy a hot drink and something to eat at some of our partner site cafés afterwards?



Wimbleball Lake, Somerset

The past summer was the first full 'season' in operation since the scheme opened in June 2010. Since the start, more than 500 (five hundred) people have used Trampers for over 1150 (one thousand one hundred and fifty) hours in total. This is a great start but we need to get more people and sites involved next year to ensure we continue to receive funding in the future. Please help to 'spread the word' by telling friends and family (and of course staff at sites that don't yet have a Trumper or Wheelyboat) about the scheme.

With more than twenty countryside sites now involved, the South West is fast becoming one of the best accessible outdoor visitor destinations in the UK and with more sites joining next year, things can only get better!

Wimbleball Lake on the edge of Exmoor was the most recent site to join the scheme in September, adding a Trumper to the Wheelyboat already available there. We still only have three sites hiring Trampers in Cornwall and even fewer in some other counties but we are working hard to make sure this will not be the case for much longer.

Over the summer we ran a number of 'Tramper Trips' on Exmoor and Dartmoor and in East Devon. All were very popular and well attended. These events enable small groups of people to explore places or take part in activities and events at locations where Trampers can't permanently be based. Read on for details and dates of events already planned during 2012.



Dartmoor Tramper Trip

## More News...

In October we spent a day filming with BBC Spotlight News who were interested in the story of the success of the scheme in the first year. The filming resulted in a TV news feature which provided fantastic coverage and really helped promote the scheme to a wider audience. As a result, visits to our website increased and Haldon Forest Park (where the majority of the filming took place) have reported a noticeable rise in visitors since the filming. Thanks to all those who helped us out with the filming. For anyone who didn't see the feature you can watch again on our [YouTube page](#).



BBC Filming at Haldon Forest Park

Thanks to the Wheelyboat Trust, all fundraising is now complete for three new Wheelyboats that will be placed in Exeter (Haven Banks Education Centre), the Bridgwater and Taunton Canal (Maunsel Lock Canal Centre) and at Wareham Boat Hire. The Trust raised 50% of the costs of these boats with the remainder covered by our Lottery funding. We hope to have these boats on the water in time for next summer.

In September we conducted a survey of everyone who has used Trampers since the scheme started, and also staff at our partner sites

to make sure we are achieving what we originally set out to do. The results from the survey were very encouraging and have really helped help us to understand how we can develop, improve and expand the scheme in the future. The most important findings from the surveys were:

- 84% of Trumper users reported that the scheme had improved or significantly improved access to the countryside for them.
- 61% of partner sites reported that additional access improvement work has taken place as a result of becoming involved in the scheme.
- Trumper users reported a 99% satisfaction rate with the membership system and training provided by partner sites which is a great achievement.
- 61% of Trumper users found out about the scheme from a word of mouth recommendation, by seeing a Trumper or Wheelyboat in use or from seeing information at a partner site.

Thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the survey. (the free prize draw winners were Mrs P Hughes and Mrs T McGowan).



Bridgwater & Taunton Canal

## Outdoor Mobility Equipment Showcase Event

On the 10th February 2012 we are hosting an 'Outdoor Equipment Showcase' Event here at Isca House in Exeter between 11.00am and 6.00pm.

The event will provide an opportunity try out a range of the latest rugged, outdoor powered and manual mobility equipment and to find out more about the Countryside Mobility scheme and the participating sites.

The event is free and open to everyone and we would love to meet current and future CMSW members and staff from countryside sites and visitor attractions who might be considering operating mobility equipment in the future.

### Exhibitors will include (plus others):

- **Beamer Ltd with a NEW version of the Tramper!**
- **Molten Rock with the 'Boma 7'**
- **Quest 88 all-ability Cycling**
- **Team Hybrid hand cycles**
- **Horizon Ltd Mobility Scooters**
- **Mountain Trike**
- **Fieldmaster**
- **Swallow EMP**
- **Terrain Hopper**

We would like as many people to come along as possible to try equipment and let us know which might be suitable for us to include in the scheme in the future from both an equipment user and countryside manager perspective.

**DROP IN ANYTIME DURING THE DAY**  
**AMPLE FREE PARKING**  
**FREE REFRESHMENTS!**

Please contact [claire.stewart@livingoptions.org](mailto:claire.stewart@livingoptions.org) or telephone **01392 456522** for more details and directions to the event.



## New sites coming on 2012...

### Tarka Trail, Fremington Quay, Nr Bideford, North Devon

**Biketrail cycle hire will have a Trampler for hire from Fremington Quay next Spring!** Explore sections of the Tarka Trail along the beautiful Taw Estuary (a bird watcher's paradise!) from Fremington Quay to the Puffing Billy pub. Later in the year Trampler users will also be able to explore the nearby Home Farm Marsh nature reserve. This Trampler is being operated thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund through the North Devon AONB 'Life's Journey' project.



### NEW SITE - RSPB Arne, Wareham, Dorset

**Arne is the RSPB's flagship heathland site and will have a Trampler next Spring!** Arne is situated on a peninsula in Poole Harbour and is a great place to see thousands of wading birds, ducks, and geese. Other regular visitors include avocets, ospreys, Dartford Warblers and nightjars. There are two nature trails to explore as part of this vast expanse of open heathland and old oak woodland. There is plenty to see all year round, with beautiful views across Poole Harbour and the Purbeck Hills.



### NEW SITE - Batsford Arboretum, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire

**Two Trampers will be available for hire in early January 2012 at Batsford Arboretum,** which homes one of the largest private collections of trees and shrubs in the country. Situated near Moreton-in-Marsh (Gloucestershire), Batsford Arboretum is tucked away on a south facing escarpment of the Cotswold Hills. The Garden Centre and Garden Terrace Cafe, serving Hot meals and snacks, are open every day.



### NEW SITE - Holton Lee, Wareham, Dorset

**Holton Lee have an existing fleet of Trampers and other mobility vehicles and are joining the scheme next Spring.** Holton Lee is located on the edge of Lytchett Bay, the northern most part of Poole Harbour. Some of the land is farmed; the remaining areas form a mosaic of landscapes and habitats which include reed bed, deciduous woodland, coniferous woodland, meadows and heathland.



**News of more new sites next time...**

## 2012 TRAMPER EVENTS

Join us in 2012 and visit a range of beautiful places on Exmoor using our Trampers. Later in the year we hope to add some extra dates for similar events on Dartmoor.

### Exmoor National Park Authority — Big Adventure Days

Join us and Exmoor National Park Authority at their family 'Big Adventure Days' and some other outdoor events in 2012. Trampers will be available for existing members and for anyone wishing to try one for the first time to take part in guided walks and other activities.

- **13th April**                                    **Haddon Hill, near Dulverton**
- **6th June**                                        **Nutcombe Bottom, Dunster**
- **3rd August**                                    **Valley of Rocks, Lynmouth**
- **23rd August**                                   **Exmoor Pony Walk**
- **18th August**                                   **North Hill, Minehead**
- **13th October**                                **Deer Walk**
- **31st October**                                 **Webbers Post, near Wheddon Cross**

### Exmoor Society Walks

Join the Exmoor Society and National Trust on guided walks around the Heddon Valley, Parracombe. Trampers will be available for existing members and for anyone wishing to try one for the first time to take part in guided walks and other outdoor activities.

- **3rd May**                                         **Heddon Valley walk (1-2hrs)**
- **19th September**                           **Victorian carriageway walk (3-4hrs)**



Please phone **01392 456522** or email [info@countrysidemobility.org](mailto:info@countrysidemobility.org) for more details.

**News of more events next time and on our website...**

## COUNTRYSIDE MOBILITY TRAMPER SITES

Tramper all-terrain mobility scooters can be hired for just £2.50 per hour from the following sites (at some sites hire is included in the admission fee):

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Ashton Court                                | Bristol         |
| 2. Mount Edgcumbe, Torpoint                    | Cornwall        |
| 3. Siblyback Lake Country Park                 | Cornwall        |
| 4. Penrose Estate, nr Helston                  | Cornwall        |
| 5. Stover Country Park, Newton Abbot           | Devon           |
| 6. Haldon Forest Park, Exeter                  | Devon           |
| 7. Berry Head National Nature Reserve, Brixham | Devon           |
| 8. The Granite Way, Okehampton                 | Devon           |
| 9. Tamar Trails, Gunnislake                    | Devon           |
| 10. Saltram Estate, Plymouth                   | Devon           |
| 11. Heddon Valley, Exmoor                      | Devon           |
| 12. Grand Western Canal, Tiverton              | Devon           |
| 13. RHS Rosemoor Gardens, Torrington (2)       | Devon           |
| 14. Seale Hayne, Newton Abbot (2)              | Devon           |
| 15. Durlston Country Park                      | Dorset          |
| 16. Crickley Hill Country Park                 | Gloucestershire |
| 17. Batsford Arboretum (2 from Jan 2012)       | Gloucestershire |
| 18. Wimbleball Lake Country Park               | Somerset        |

## COUNTRYSIDE MOBILITY WHEELYBOAT SITES

All Wheelyboats are hired on a 'self drive' basis with instruction provided by staff at the hire site. At some sites it may be possible for an instructor to drive the boat if required - please contact the site directly to discuss this.

- |                                 |          |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Siblyback Lake Country Park  | Cornwall |
| 2. Stithians Lake Country Park  | Cornwall |
| 3. Tamar Lakes Country Park     | Cornwall |
| 4. Roadford Lake Country Park   | Devon    |
| 5. Wimbleball Lake Country Park | Somerset |

**Full location and booking details of all Tramper and Wheelyboat sites can be found at [www.countryside-mobility.org](http://www.countryside-mobility.org) or contact us for an easy-read list.**

**Countryside Mobility** is a Big Lottery funded project (through Natural England's 'Access to Nature' grant scheme) aiming to improve access to the countryside for people with limited mobility living in and visiting the South West. If you would like more information about the project then please visit our website or contact us on:

**Tel: 01392 456522, or Email: [info@countryside-mobility.org](mailto:info@countryside-mobility.org)**

