

COUNTRYSIDE MOBILITY



Project Update 11: Summer 2012

According to our calendar it's summer but as we write this project update the South West is being battered by high winds and rain – it's more like October than June! Fingers crossed things will improve soon as there are now more Trampler and Wheelyboat sites than ever before involved in the scheme, all waiting to be explored!

Countryside Mobility has gone from strength to strength over the last six months with 25 sites now participating in the scheme and more joining later this summer. More than 700 (seven hundred) people have now used our Trampers and Wheelyboats for over 1700 hours in total, and early indications are that 2012 is going to be our best year yet with equipment bookings and membership applications on the rise.



Off-road mobility equipment event

Back in February we held an off-road mobility equipment showcase event in Exeter. The idea of the event was to showcase a range of specialist 'off-road' mobility equipment that can be used to access the countryside. The event was well attended, and 10 equipment suppliers demonstrated their products. There really was something to suit everyone at the event from accessible cycles to the latest scooter models. For anyone who didn't make it you can see some photos from the day on our Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/CountrysideMobility>

Send us your photos!

The Harris family sent us this great picture of the whole family at Durlston Country Park. Have you taken any photos whilst out and about on Trampler's or Wheelyboats? If so, we would love to see them and with your permission we would like to use them on our website and for other promotional work.

Please email photos to:

info@countrysidemobility.org or post them on our Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/CountrysideMobility>



The Harris Family at Durlston Country Park

More News...

Biketrail Cycle Hire, situated on the Tarka Trail at Fremington Quay (near Barnstaple), is the latest site to take delivery of a Trampler. The Trampler is being partly funded by the North Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) as part of the 'Life's Journey' project. Situated just down the road in Bude, **The Weir Café** received their Trampler a few days before, which can be used along the Bude Canal and other circular routes around Whalesborough Farm.



RSPB Arne and Poole Harbour

Dorset sites **RSPB Arne** and **Holton Lee** also joined the scheme recently and both sites are situated near Wareham on the edge of Poole harbour. Earlier in the year, **National Trust Buckland Abbey** began hiring out a Trampler, and at the end of June **Trebah Gardens** in Cornwall will be joining the scheme. Read on for more details about these fantastic new sites.

New Route from the Granite Way

Earlier this year one of our regular Trampler users suggested an idea for a new route (to the pub!) from the **Granite Way** near Okehampton. The majority of the route was perfectly suited to the Trampler but there was one bridge crossing a stream that was not quite wide enough to take a Trampler. Luckily, the Dartmoor National Park Authority area Ranger helped out and then the bridge was widened giving Trampler users access to the pub for lunch along a lovely route.



Gordon on the widened bridge

Our thanks go to Gordon Guest for helping audit the route and to Rob Taylor, Dartmoor area Ranger for organising the bridge improvement work.

For details of the new route contact **Devon Cycle Hire on 01837 861141**.

Countryside Mobility Receives Award

Exmoor National Park Authority has recently presented the Countryside Mobility scheme with an award in recognition of the contribution it has made to increasing opportunities for people with limited mobility to enjoy the National Park. There are two Trampler sites on Exmoor and the scheme has also been providing scooters for use at events and guided walks.



Exeter Wheelyboat launched!

On 23rd May the latest Countryside Mobility funded wheelchair accessible Wheelyboat was officially launched by Devon County Councillor Vanessa Newcombe at **Haven Banks Outdoor Education Centre** at Exeter Quay. Councillor Newcombe helped raise funding for the boat on behalf of Haven Banks.

The Mk III Wheelyboat was designed and developed by The Wheelyboat Trust. At 5.3m long it is a versatile craft with a carrying capacity of eight people including wheelchairs. It is fitted with a drive-from-wheelchair



console enabling people even with quite severe impairments to experience driving the boat themselves. Additional funds for the boat were generously provided by Haven Banks and:

- Big Lottery / Natural England
- Bernard Sunley Foundation
- Elmgrant Trust
- Good Neighbours Trust
- Nineveh Charitable Trust
- Frognal Trust
- Norman Family Charitable Trust
- Suzuki GB

To book the Wheelyboat phone **Haven Banks** on **01392 434688**.

Inspiration 4 Ability Event 2-3rd August, Bristol

Countryside Mobility will be exhibiting at the '**Inspiration 4 Ability**' show, a national event that showcases the best in innovation and inspiration for disabled people. The exhibition is to be held on **Thursday and Friday 2nd - 3rd August 2012** at University of West of England, Bristol.



Guest speakers include Katie Piper (featured on Channel 4 documentaries 'My Beautiful Face'), former Welsh Guardsman and Falklands War survivor, Simon Weston OBE, Paralympic triple gold medal winner Peter Hull, Ruth Gould - CEO of Disability and Deaf Arts, blind Paralympian Lee Greatbatch and 2012 Paralympic competitor Judith Hamer.

Register for free tickets and come along and see us there www.inspiration4ability.co.uk

Find us on Twitter and Facebook

Our newsletters are published every six months but you can also keep up to date with Countryside Mobility news, details of events and notifications of new sites by becoming a Facebook friend or by following us on Twitter:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CountrysideMobility

Twitter: @CMSouthWest



New 2012 Tramper sites

Buckland Abbey, Yelverton, Devon

1 Tramper is available for hire at **Buckland Abbey**. Nestling in the Tavy Valley, the abbey and estate offer visitors historical memorabilia and exhibitions, charming traditional gardens, peace and tranquillity, and fantastic views across Devon and Cornwall. Tramper users can enjoy a circular route around the estate that takes in a cross-section of the Dartmoor landscape, including farm and woodland. With an abundance of wildlife and planting to admire, there is something for everyone to enjoy along this beautiful path. **Phone 01822 856045** for bookings and more information.



Tarka Trail, Fremington Quay, Nr Bideford, North Devon

Biketrail Cycle Hire now have a Tramper for hire from **Fremington Quay** for people to explore sections of the Tarka Trail along the beautiful Taw Estuary (a bird watcher's paradise!). Later in the year Tramper users will also be able to explore the nearby Home Farm Marsh nature reserve. This Tramper is being operated thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund through the North Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty 'Life's Journey' project. **Phone 01271 372586** for bookings and more information.



Trebah Gardens, Falmouth, Cornwall

From 26th June, Trebah Gardens will have a Tramper available for hire. Trebah is a sub-tropical paradise with a stunning coastal backdrop, and rated among the 80 finest gardens in the world. Discover the magic of this beautiful Cornish valley garden, explore under canopies bursting with exotic blooms and follow vibrant tunnels of colour that cascade down to a secluded beach on the Helford River. **Phone 01326 252200** for bookings and more information.



Bude Canal and Whalesborough Farm

Whalesborough Farm is set in 500 acres of beautiful countryside near Bude and now has 1 Tramper available for hire from The Weir Coffee House, Bistro and Wildlife Centre. There are two routes accessible to Tramper users, the first is around the farm with access to some wonderful coastal views (and access to the nearby pub) and the second is along the Bude Canal into the centre of Bude with an alternative return route along a traffic-free cycle way. **Phone 01288 362234** for bookings and more information.



More new sites...

Batsford Arboretum, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire

2 Trampers are available for hire at **Batsford Arboretum**, which houses one of the largest private collections of trees and shrubs in the country. Situated near Moreton-in-Marsh, Batsford 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. **Phone 01386 701441** for bookings and more information.



RSPB Arne, Wareham, Dorset

1 Tramper is now available at Arne, the RSPB's flagship heathland site, with a vast expanse of open heathland and old oak woodland, and a variety of special wildlife to see including dragonflies, sand lizards, ospreys, Dartford warblers and nightjars. Poole Harbour is next to the reserve, home to winter waders and wildfowl, including the largest wintering population of avocets in the UK. 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, Corfe Castle, and the Purbeck Hills. **Phone 01929 553360** for bookings and more information.



Holton Lee, Wareham, Dorset

Holton Lee has an existing fleet of Trampers and other mobility vehicles that are now available for hire through the scheme. 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 that include reed beds, deciduous woodland, coniferous woodland, meadows and heathland. **Phone 01202 625562** for bookings and more information.



Summer Tramper Taster Days

Once again we are running some FREE Tramper taster days this summer on Exmoor and Dartmoor. 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. As spaces are limited, priority will be given to people who have not yet had an opportunity to try a Tramper, but existing members can still come along and take part if spaces are available.

Phone 01392 456522 to book your place - event details are over the page.

Summer Tramper Taster Days

Haytor, Dartmoor - Friday 6th July

Trip 1: 10:30am - 1:00pm **Trip 2:** 2:00pm - 4:30pm

Join Dartmoor National Park Authority Rangers for a guided trip around Haytor Rock and the adjoining historic moorland. Discover how the granite Tors of Dartmoor were formed, learn about the wildlife that now inhabits the area and take in the widespread views.

Accessible parking and toilets are available at the start of the route at the Haytor Visitor Centre.

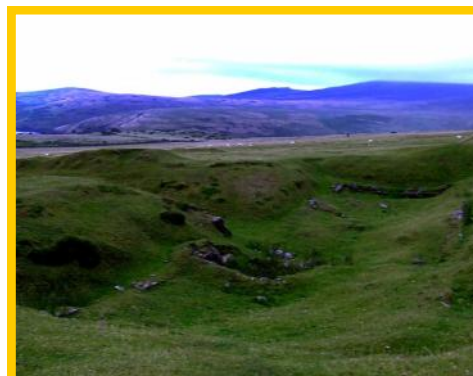


Granite Way and Sourton Tor, Okehampton - Friday 20th July

Trip 1: 10:30am - 1:00pm **Trip 2:** 2:00pm - 4:30pm

Join Dartmoor National Park Authority Rangers for a guided walk along a stretch of the Granite Way and then climb up onto Sourton Tor to learn about the Ice Factory and take in the fantastic views.

Parking at Devon Cycle Hire and public accessible toilets nearby.



North Hill (Minehead) Big Adventure Day - 18th August

Join us and 'The Heart of Exmoor' project at the North Hill Big Adventure Day between 10am and 4pm for events including guided walks, World War 2 vintage vehicles and living history displays. Accessible parking and toilets are available at the event.

Car parking is at North Hill (Tank Grounds), Moor Wood.



Exmoor Pony Walk - 23rd August

Join us, Exmoor National Park Rangers, and the Heart of Exmoor's Pony Officer from 2:00pm until 4:00pm to discover more about the Exmoor ponies on Haddon Hill. The walk will be accompanied by a special guest, a friendly Exmoor Pony from The Moorland Mousie Trust!

Parking and accessible toilets at Haddon Hill car park.



Summer Tramper Taster Days

Victorian Carriageway Walk (Heddon Valley) - 19th September

Join the Exmoor Society on a guided walk along the old cliff top carriageway towards Woody Bay, climbing gradually from sea level to 700 metres with stunning views both East and West along the Exmoor coast and across to South Wales. The walk starts at 10:30 am and finishes at 1:30 pm, followed by an optional afternoon tea at the Hunters Inn.

National Trust parking and accessible toilet in Heddon Valley.



Exmoor Deer Walk - 13th October

Join a National Park Ranger between 10:00 am and 12:00 pm to see and hear Exmoor's Wild Red Deer during the rutting season. The walk starts near Luccombe, Somerset.

Please wear rustle-free clothing. Unfortunately no accessible toilet is available for this event.



Webbers Post (Wheddon Cross) Big Adventure Day - 31st October

Join us and 'The Heart of Exmoor' project at the Webbers Post Big Adventure Day between 10am and 4pm for events and activities. Hear the stags roaring and experience the wonderful autumn colours of the Horner woodlands.

The car park for the event is bumpy and uneven but we can bring a Tramper to your car. There will be an accessible toilet at this event.



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.

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|---|----------|
| 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. Haven Banks Outdoor Education Centre | Devon |

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):

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| 1. Ashton Court | Bristol |
| 2. Mount Edgcumbe, Torpoint | Cornwall |
| 3. Siblyback Lake Country Park | Cornwall |
| 4. Penrose Estate, nr Helston | Cornwall |
| 5. Bude Canal and Whalesborough Farm | Cornwall |
| 6. Trebah Gardens, Falmouth (from 26th June) | Cornwall |
| 7. Buckland Abbey, Yelverton | Devon |
| 8. Stover Country Park, Newton Abbot | Devon |
| 9. Haldon Forest Park, Exeter | Devon |
| 10. Berry Head National Nature Reserve, Brixham | Devon |
| 11. The Granite Way, Okehampton | Devon |
| 12. Tamar Trails, Gunnislake | Devon |
| 13. Saltram Estate, Plymouth | Devon |
| 14. Heddon Valley, Exmoor | Devon |
| 15. Grand Western Canal, Tiverton | Devon |
| 16. RHS Rosemoor Gardens, Torrington (2) | Devon |
| 17. Seale Hayne, Newton Abbot (2) | Devon |
| 18. Tarka Trail, Fremington Quay, nr Bideford | Devon |
| 19. Durlston Country Park | Dorset |
| 20. RSPB Arne, Wareham | Dorset |
| 21. Holton Lee, Wareham | Dorset |
| 22. Crickley Hill Country Park | Gloucestershire |
| 23. Batsford Arboretum (2) | Gloucestershire |
| 24. Wimbleball Lake Country Park | Somerset |

Full location and booking details of all Tramper and Wheelyboat sites can be found at www.countrysidemobility.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. For more information please visit our website or contact us:

Tel: 01392 456522 **Email: info@countrysidemobility.org**

