

Project Update 15: Summer 2015



Get Out and Enjoy the South West!

With summer well underway and the Met Office reporting better than average weather to date in the South West, Countryside Mobility provides the perfect way to see some of the region's best outdoor attractions.

The most consistent piece of feedback we receive is "more sites, more Trampers".

Well, always keen to oblige, this spring has seen a number of new sites come on board for you to try.

You'll find out more about them later in the newsletter along with an introduction from the Project Manager, the latest award for the scheme and much more.

Thank you for your support!

Are You Making the Most of Your Membership?

We're often told that Countryside Mobility membership offers great value for money but are you making the most of it?

With the number of sites growing each year you may not be aware of all of those that are on offer at the moment. You'll find a full list of sites at the end of the newsletter to browse through. Why not try somewhere that you've never visited or take the opportunity to make a repeat visit to an old favourite.

Not only does this help you get the most of your membership but it also helps the future of the scheme.

Each of our partner sites pay an annual fee to host a Trampler and with pressure on their finances, it is important that they are well used for the sites to be encouraged to continue supporting the scheme.



So this summer make more of your membership, and as you're enjoying the views, have the added satisfaction of knowing that you are helping the scheme's future.

Four New Sites for 2015! Which Will You Try First?

2015 sees a further expansion of the sites available for members to enjoy.

Thanks to funding from the Wolfson Foundation and The Nineveh Trust, Countryside Mobility has been able to expand the availability of Trampers. Thanks also to these partner sites for the commitment shown in investing in offering this service.

Please do support them by getting out to enjoy them over the coming months.

1. Hestercombe Gardens, Taunton

Hestercombe Gardens is one of Somerset's leading attractions and easily reached just a few minutes off the M5.

The Trampler is perfect for exploring the 50 acres of landscaped gardens.

The gardens comprise a unique combination of 3 centuries of garden design: Coplestone Warre Bampfylde's Georgian landscape garden, the Victorian terrace and shrubbery and the stunning Edwardian garden designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll.



The award-winning visitor facilities include the warm and welcoming Stables Cafe, the Gardens Shop and the Hestercombe Gallery.

Arranging Your Visit to Hestercombe

Open: **10 - 6 every day (last entry 5pm)**

Phone: **01823 413923**

Website: **www.hestercombe.com**

Email: **info@hestercombe.com**

Tips: **Booking in advance is recommended to avoid disappointment.**



2. National Trust Golden Cap Estate, Dorset

Golden Cap is one of the most famous points along the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site.

Although the top of the summit is inaccessible to the Trampler, the site offers fantastic clifftop and woodland circular routes with far reaching views making it a 'must-visit' site for Countryside Mobility members.



Arranging Your Visit to the Golden Cap Estate

The Trampler must be booked in advance for one of the following times:

Tuesday and Thursday at 9am or 2pm

Saturday and Sunday anytime between 9am and 2pm

Phone: **01297 489481**

Website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/goldencap

Email: goldencap@nationaltrust.org.uk

Directions:

The Trampler is located at Filcombe Farm (postcode: DT6 6EP).

From Bridport and the east, drive through Chideock village on the A35 and at the top of the steep hill, take the next left into the narrow, unmarked lane (just before the dual carriageway).

From the west, go through Morecombelake and after passing Felicity's Farm Shop, take the first turn on the right onto an unmarked lane (just at the end of the short dual carriageway).

Follow this narrow lane. After 50 metres **ignore** the first turning left (signposted 'Golden Cap Car Park'). Instead continue straight on. After around 400 metres take the next turning left signposted Filcombe Farm. After around 200 metres you will arrive at the Farm where you can use the car park.

Please note that, while there are plans to develop facilities at the site, there are currently no refreshments on site. There is a (non-Accessible) toilet. However, within a few minutes' drive there are facilities at Seatown, Chideock and Charmouth.

Note that some routes require the Trampler user to be accompanied.



3. National Trust Trelissick, Cornwall



Set between Truro and Falmouth on its own peninsula with extensive views of the estuary of the River Fal, Trelissick has one of the most amazing natural settings in the country.

There are more than 30 acres of garden to explore, with twisting paths that lead through significant collections of hydrangeas, rhododendrons and year-round woodland plants.

In addition to the estate walks and views facilities include a renowned art gallery, gift shop, café and second-hand bookshop combining to make a great day out.

Arranging Your Visit to Trelissick:

Open: **10:30— 17:30 (varies by season)**

Phone: **01872 862090**

Email: **trelistick@nationaltrust.org.uk**

Website: **www.nationaltrust.org.uk/trelissick-garden/**

Tips: **Booking in advance is recommended to avoid disappointment.**



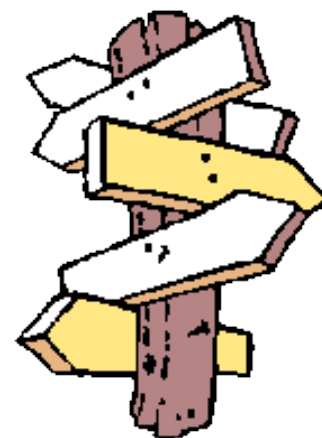
Where next? Let us know your ideas.

We're keen to continue expanding the number of sites that Countryside Mobility is available.

Ultimately, this comes down to the site being able to make the financial and staff commitment to operate the Tramper hire.

However, it's always good to know of potential sites that we could approach.

We have a number of potential new sites for next year but if you have any ideas of your own please send us an email to: info@countrysidemobility.org . We'd love to hear your suggestions.



It's also worth sharing your interest with those at the site so that they know there is a demand before we approach them.

More New Sites for 2015!

4. National Trust Lanhydrock, Cornwall



One of the largest and most popular National Trust properties in South West England, Lanhydrock is also easy to reach located just a few minutes off the A30 close to Bodmin.

A Tramper will be available for visitors to explore miles of footpaths around the wider country estate and parkland including ancient woodlands, meadows and tranquil riverside paths.

Arranging Your Visit to Lanhydrock

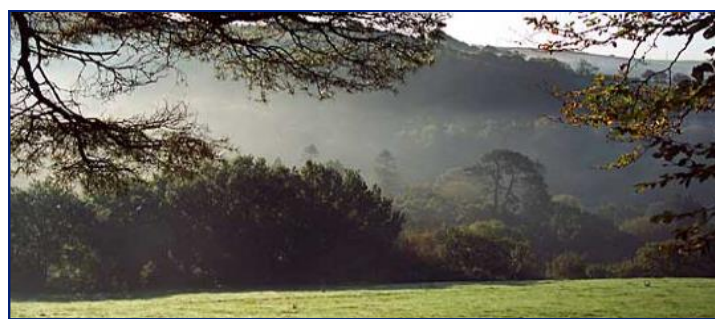
Open: **Varies by season. Check the website or call for current hours**

Phone: **01208 265950**

Website: **www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lanhydrock**

Email: **lanhydrock@nationaltrust.org.uk**

Tips: **Booking in advance is recommended to avoid disappointment.**



Standard mobility scooters are also available to hire for those wishing to explore the formal gardens.

Hello from Neil, the new Project Manager!

Earlier this year, Neil Warren took over from James Maben who ran the scheme from its inception in 2010.

“It’s a real privilege to be involved in an initiative that makes such a difference to peoples’ quality of life”, says Neil.

“I’ve spent the last 10 years working in various roles looking to make tourism a force for good in South West England but nothing compares with the impact of this initiative.

It’s such a beautiful region and it’s great to give everyone the chance to access and enjoy it, whether alone or with friends and family”.



Don’t forget to Gift Aid your membership if you are able to! It adds 25p for every £1.

Best in the West! Countryside Mobility Bags its Latest Award



Back in February, Countryside Mobility dusted off their best bib and tucker once again for the South West Tourism Excellence Awards.

In 2014 it had been Bronze but much to our delight, this time we struck Gold (along with the Bath Preservation Trust, but we don't mind sharing).

The ceremony, held at the newly rebuilt Grand Pier in Weston-Super-Mare, was attended by celebrities like Michael Eavis (of Glastonbury fame) and Nathan Outlaw (celebrity chef). Nevil Salisbury-Rood, Living Options Devon Trustee, and Countryside Mobility member, Tracy Higgins were on hand to pick up the Award in the 'Access and Inclusivity' category.

Watch their reaction and hear what it means to receive this award by visiting the Countryside Mobility YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/user/CMSW2010

Alternatively, search online for the video "Countryside Mobility Strikes Gold".



Help Make Waves with the River Teign's Wheelyboat!

Our good friends at The Wheelyboat Trust provide a great complementary service to Countryside Mobility with their wheelchair accessible boats.

Volunteers are wanted to help in running the Wheelyboat V20 (pictured) based on the River Teign for inshore use.



Please contact info@theteignboathouse.com for more information.

To find out more about The Wheelyboat Trust and the sixteen locations around the South West where boats can be found visit www.wheelyboats.org

If sailing is more your thing then check out the Sailability initiative run by the Royal Yachting Association. Search online for "Sailability".

Living Options Tramps Up the Tamar for Countryside Mobility

Earlier this month, Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) hosted their annual Discovery Trail Challenge.

This year their chosen charity was Living Options Devon with Countryside Mobility the focus of the funds raised.

It seemed only polite to join in and so a team of 7 from the charity took part with friends, family and other supporters of the walk.



The 15 mile walk took them along a beautiful meandering series of paths following the Tamar upstream from the outskirts of Plymouth to Tree Surfers at the Tamar Trails, just outside Gunnislake. A very appropriate place for the walk to finish as it is one of our Tramer hire locations. (Do visit if you get the opportunity!).

With donations still coming the total raised stands at over £13 hundred, a great effort from all concerned and a big thank you in particular to the Tamar Valley AONB for all organising it before, and on, the day.

You can still donate at www.justgiving.com/teams/livingoptions

Tramper Tales: Your Experiences of Countryside Mobility

We recently received this feedback from a new member who agreed that we could share it. It got such a good response on Facebook that we thought we'd share it here:

“My wife and I have just returned from our holiday, based in Halwill Junction. It's people like you and your network that allowed me, as a disabled person, to see the sights that were off limits to me.

I found out about you via a simple web search for mobility scooter hire near Holsworthy. The first one at Rosemoor introduced us to other possibilities, and your amazing scheme, let alone the generosity of your outreach to people like me. So, had to go to Lydford Gorge. Last one was the Granite Way.

I had resigned myself to the idea of staying in my car to soak up the views, but thankfully, you facilitated a better option. Thank you so very, very much. You made our first holiday for 2 years so much better for us. My wife could enjoy it more without worrying about my mobility, or lack of it”.



Your Countryside Mobility Sites for 2015!

Site	Near...	Phone		
Mount Edgcumbe House & Park	Plymouth	01752 822236	Details of each site including booking requirements, site facilities and whether the Tramper user needs to be accompanied can be found on our website.	
National Trust Lanhydrock	Bodmin	01208 265950		
National Trust Penrose	Helston	01326 561407		
National Trust Trelissick	Truro	01872 862090		
Siblyback Lake	Liskeard	01579 246522		
Trebah Garden	Falmouth	01326 252200		
National Trust St Michael's Mount	Penzance	01736 710265		
The Weir, Bude Canal	Bude	01288 362234		
National Trust Arlington Court	Barnstaple	01271 372586		
Seaton Wetlands	Seaton	01395 517557		
Dartington Gardens	Totnes	01803 847058		
The Granite Way—Devon Cycle Hire	Okehampton	01837 861141		
Glen Lynn Gorge	Lynmouth	01598 753207		
Haldon Forest Park	Exeter	0300 0675826	It is generally recommended to book in advance. This is especially true at busy times of the week and year. On some smaller sites it is essential.	
National Trust Lydford Gorge	Launceston	01822 820320		
National Trust Heddon Valley	Lynton	01598 763306		
National Trust Buckland Abbey	Tavistock	01822 856045		
National Trust Parke	Bovey Tracey	01626 834748		
National Trust Saltram	Plymouth	01752 333503		
RHS Rosemoor	Torrington	01805 626810		
Hannah's at Seale Hayne	Newton Abbot	01626 325800		
Stover Country Park	Newton Abbot	01626 835236		
Tamar Trails Centre	Tavistock	01822 833409		Don't forget to share memories and photos with us on our Facebook and Twitter pages.
Avon Heath Country Park	Ringwood	01425 478082		
RSPB Arne	Wareham	01929 553360		
Durlston Country Park	Swanage	01929 424443		
National Trust Golden Cap	Bridport	01297 489481		
Holton Lee	Poole	01202 625562	Have a great time!	
Moors Valley Country Park	Ringwood	01425 470721		
Batsford Arboretum	Evesham	01386 701441		
Crickley Hill Country Park	Cheltenham	01452 863170		
National Trust Dunster Castle	Minehead	01643 821314		
Hestercombe Gardens	Taunton	01823 413923		
National Trust Tyntesfield	Bristol	01275 461900		
Wimbleball Lake	Exmoor	01398 371460		