

## Project Update 3: April 2010



'**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 disabilities living in and visiting the South West.

We will be working with partner organisations to place Tramper all-terrain mobility scooters ([www.tramper.co.uk](http://www.tramper.co.uk)) and wheelchair accessible Wheelyboats ([www.wheelyboats.org](http://www.wheelyboats.org)) at countryside and coastal sites including country parks, woodlands and lakes across the South West. The equipment will be available to hire for a small fee for anyone becoming a Countryside Mobility member.

This will provide disabled people with a real outdoor experience, and will allow them to access new areas of the countryside with independence, whether alone or with friends and family.

### April Highlights

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#### The first sites where the Trampers will be available to hire, from June 2010:

- Berry Head National Nature Reserve (Brixham, Devon)
- Durlston Country Park (Swanage, Dorset)
- Haldon Forest Country Park (Exeter, Devon)
- Stover Country Park (Newton Abbot, Devon)

Site staff will be undertaking training to ensure they are fully prepared for operating the scheme and hiring out equipment. Disability Access Audits have also been completed for these sites to make sure they are fully accessible for disabled visitors.

**Countryside Mobility Membership Scheme** systems and procedures are being finalised. The initial annual charge for members of the public wanting to use the equipment will be £8.50 plus a small additional hire charge at participating sites. Proposed hire charges are £2.50 for 1-2 hours, £5 for 2-4 hours, and £10 for over 4 hours. These charges are required to cover administration costs and to support the development of the project.



Countryside Mobility (South West),  
Living Options Devon, ISCA House,  
Haven Bank, Exeter, EX2 8DS



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The **Countryside Mobility website** is under construction and should go live in June. The site will include information about membership, the mobility equipment, booking procedures, and the locations of sites and facilities.

**Countryside Mobility South West is hoping to work with** Plymouth-based charity, **Scoot-A-Long** ([www.scoot-a-long.org.uk](http://www.scoot-a-long.org.uk)). They raise funds to purchase scooters and wheelchairs to take disabled people on trips to places such as Dartmoor, Exmoor, and the Camel Trail. This year they are one of the charities shortlisted to receive the proceeds from the Plymouth Mega-Ride motorcycle charity ride. You can vote up until 30<sup>th</sup> May by visiting the Plymouth Mega-Ride website:

[http://www.mega-ride.co.uk/PMR\\_Vote\\_For\\_This\\_Year\\_Charities.htm](http://www.mega-ride.co.uk/PMR_Vote_For_This_Year_Charities.htm)

### Attendance at Events

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CMSW staff will be attending the LiNNeO (Living Network/ Network Options) social event at Exeter Football Club on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May between 7 and 9pm to promote the project to service users aged 21 to 50. For more information contact: Ian Jubb on 01392 459222 or [Ian.Jubb@livingoptions.org](mailto:Ian.Jubb@livingoptions.org).

### Coming Next Month

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- Launch of CMSW website
- More information about Trampler and Wheelyboat sites
- Detailed information about the Countryside Mobility Membership Scheme

This is a regular monthly update that is intended to keep stakeholders informed as the project develops. The update will cover highlights from the last month and also look ahead to upcoming events and activities.

If you would like more information about any aspects of the project then please contact James Maben or Claire Stewart on 01392 456522, or [james.maben@livingoptions.org](mailto:james.maben@livingoptions.org) or [claire.stewart@livingoptions.org](mailto:claire.stewart@livingoptions.org)