

Project Update 2: March 2010



'**Countryside Mobility**' is a Big Lottery funded project (through Natural England's 'Access to Nature' grant scheme) which aims to improve access to the countryside for people with disabilities living in and visiting the South West region.

We will be working with a range of partner organisations to place Trampler all-terrain mobility scooters (www.tramper.co.uk) and wheelchair accessible Wheelyboats (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. The exact locations are still being agreed but the first equipment will be available for hire this summer...watch this space for more details!!

March Highlights

The Countryside Mobility Logo has been finalised after consultation with stakeholders, Living Options Devon service users, the Steering Group and Project Board. The logo can be seen at the top of the page and will be used on all promotional material and displayed on mobility equipment.

The Project Steering Group met for the first time on 16th March at Stover Country Park. Eighteen people attended the meeting representing Countryside sites, disability and access groups, the project funders Natural England and the Project Team. The implementation of the project was discussed along with the challenges that will need to be resolved to ensure the project is a success (notes from the meeting are available on request).



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



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The first Trumper Scooters have been delivered to some of the 'Phase 1' sites including the Living Options Devon office in Exeter. The first Trampers will be available to hire to Countryside Mobility members from the end of May.

The first wheelchair accessible Wheelyboat has been ordered from the Wheelyboat Trust. This will be available for hire at [Tamar Lakes](#) near Bude in Cornwall sometime in May. This boat has been part funded by the Environment Agency and will be operated by the South West Lakes Trust. A 'launch' event for this boat will be organised over the summer.



Site Access Audits are underway at a number of Phase 1 sites. Living Options Devon Access Auditor Yvonne Pope has been busy visiting sites to ensure they are fully accessible to disabled people who will visit to hire a Trumper. After each visit a report is issued to the site with recommendations on any improvements that could be made.

Coming Next Month

More details about the Countryside Mobility membership scheme, work starts on the new website and details about the first countryside sites that will be hiring Trampers this summer.

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 on 01392 456522, 07540 722311 or james.maben@livingoptions.org