

# COUNTRYSIDE MOBILITY

## (South West)

Project Update 6: August - September 2010



### August and September Highlights

After the best summer for a long time, Autumn is officially here. The dry and dusty paths are now just a memory as the rain and mud returns. However do not fear, our **Trampers** are more than capable of tackling wet and muddy conditions and now is the time to get out to enjoy the wonderful autumn colours at any of the Countryside Mobility (CMSW) sites.



There are now 5 CMSW partner sites hiring Trampers to our members:

- **Durlston Country Park**
- **Berry Head National Nature Reserve**
- **Haldon Forest Park**
- **Siblyback Lake**
- **Stover Country Park**

Visit the **CMSW website** for more details about facilities and to book a Trampler.

Over 50 people have now joined the scheme and have been using our Trampers which is great news. Feedback from members on the membership application process and the training provided by site staff has been excellent and has also helped us improve the way we do things.

A press release sent out at the beginning of September resulted in some good media coverage including a mention in the **Daily Telegraph**. We have also recently distributed 10,000 flyers across the region to help more people find out about us.

Devon County Council's Public Rights of Way team have also provided funding to help us operate a Trampler on the 12km (7 mile) long **Granite Way** near Okehampton. Thanks to this funding we are now working with **Devon Cycle Hire** and hope to have a Trampler there for hire in the Spring.

We have also been busy with disability access audits at sites that will be joining the scheme early next year - see page 2 for more details.

The project Steering Group which helps shape the project also met for the third time in September.



A view from the Granite Way

## New Sites Coming Soon...

The last two months have been a busy time for us visiting potential new sites across the South West.

Thanks to the enthusiasm of rangers and site managers we are now developing new partnerships with a number of organisations that would like to make their sites more accessible.

If the Disability Access Audits that are currently underway haven't found any major obstacles the sites listed below are all very likely to have Trampers available for hire next spring.

- |                                     |            |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| • <b>Crickley Hill Country Park</b> | Gloucester |
| • <b>Castle Drogo</b>               | Dartmoor   |
| • <b>Heddon Valley</b>              | Exmoor     |
| • <b>Batsford Arboretum</b>         | Cotswolds  |
| • <b>Grand Western Canal</b>        | Tiverton   |
| • <b>Mount Edgcumbe</b>             | Plymouth   |
| • <b>Rosemoor Gardens</b>           | Torrington |
| • <b>Granite Way</b>                | Okehampton |

News of more sites to follow next time!



Crickley Hill, Gloucester



Heddon Valley, Exmoor

## Disability Access Audits



Access Auditing

Access auditing ensures that our partner sites comply as reasonably as possible with the Disability Discrimination Act and that paths and trails are suitable and safe to be used by Trampler users.

'd4', the training and consultancy division of Living Options Devon, undertake our access audits with CMSW staff and site managers. The fully-qualified and experienced auditors we work with have physical disabilities themselves and use Trampers to undertake the audits.

The audits look at site features and facilities such as, parking, cafés, signs, information boards, maps, toilets, visitor centres, as well as path surfaces, gates and other potential barriers. On many sites, small scale improvements are often required to improve accessibility.

**For more information about d4 auditing and training visit the [D4 website](#)**

## The First CMSW Wheelyboat is delivered

The first CMSW funded MKIII Wheelyboat has been delivered to **Tamar Lakes** near Bude, Cornwall and will be available to hire by CMSW members next spring. Funding for this boat was also provided by the Environment Agency and the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Sustainable Development fund.

The MKIII is the latest bow-loading Wheelyboat model and is the most versatile to date. It's larger than the previous models meaning that it is capable of carrying up to 5 people. It is perfectly suited for pleasure boating and nature watching as well as angling.

This Wheelyboat is operated by South West Lakes Trust (SWLT) and will cost £30 to hire for half a day or £45 to hire for a full day. The price includes fuel and a 20 minute training and safety session.



Anglers using a Wheelyboat

SWLT and other organisations operate Wheelyboats at sites across the country. **Visit the Wheelyboat Trust website for more details.**

## Exmoor Guided Trampler Trips

We are in the early stages of planning some guided 'Trampler trips' as part of an exciting new programme of guided tours of some of Exmoor's beautiful moorland areas. The tours are being developed by the National Park Authority with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.



Trampers on Dartmoor

CMSW will be providing up to 6 Trampers to allow people with limited mobility to take part in these tours to find out more about the wildlife and history of Exmoor's moorland. The trips, starting in 2011, will be planned and routes audited by National Park Authority and CMSW staff to ensure they are suitable and safe for use by people using our Trampers.

**Contact us to register your interest in attending these guided trips in 2011.**

**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:

**01392 456522**, or email [info@countrysidemobility.org](mailto:info@countrysidemobility.org)

