



Countryside Mobility SW Project Project Summary

The aim of our project is to greatly increase the opportunities for mobility impaired people and their families to experience and enjoy the South West countryside. We will purchase specialised mobility vehicles (initially Trampler mobility scooters and Wheelyboats) that are then made available to loan or hire at sites throughout the South West. The funds will be spent on the equipment and project management support.

By working with user groups to identify, audit, and then help promote the project, and Countryside Site Managers (and others) who will be hosting and booking out the vehicles, with funding we can rapidly improve the opportunities to visit the countryside for many tens of thousands of disabled and older people who live in or visit the region.

Building on the experience of sites which already loan out mobility scooters, we will be developing standard systems for risk assessments and booking them out, as this will provide consistency for users, confidence for Site Managers that liability concerns are met, and enable monitoring of use. The site requirements to be able to operate the project are quite limiting, in that we need a network of suitable paths (or inland water) and a nearby manned centre (with trained staff) from where the vehicles can be loaned from and new users trained and assessed in their use.

To maximise the number of loan sites, in addition to visitor centres, we will work with private businesses such as cycle hire companies. By developing a standard system, it will enable the project to continue growing as funds allow, and be expanded (or replicated) in other areas. We also plan to purchase a small fleet of Trampler mobility scooters, along with a trailer (with toilet facilities) to transport them in, so that they can be used on guided walks run by a range of countryside organisations based at a residential centre that specialises in offering activity holidays for disabled people, which will maximise usage.

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