



August 2025 Newsletter #008

Opening Notes

Hello all!

It's great to see there has been a bit of a push regarding lane clearing recently. There have been a few evenings and weekends dedicated to cutting back overgrown lanes and moving debris in the last month which should result in a lane network which more people can use. But there are still more out there, and it's most likely up to us to identify the more remote ones and keep them cleared.

Behind the scenes there's been chat of an upcoming all-party parliamentary group to discuss Outdoor Recreation and Access to Nature. The national TRF is involved in these discussions, but more importantly to our Devon group, the MP for Exeter, Steve Race, is sitting in the group. As many of our members will be constituents of Exeter, there is a chance for more direct discussions with him from our members regarding access to routes.

Lastly, it was lovely to see so much positive feedback from our annual training and fun days at Hazelwood Farm. Unfortunately, I could not attend and will have to wait another year to find out what I've missed! For the same reasons I'm afraid this months newsletter is a bit restricted in content, so apologies in advance.

Keep on riding.

Michael

TRF Talk

Last Meeting

The last meeting was held on Tuesday 12th of August at the Cat and Fiddle Inn near Clyst St Mary.

We suspect the weather may have influenced numbers, but it was still well attended. Major points discussed were the upcoming (at that point) fun-day, the issuing of fuel

money and machinery running costs to those who attend lane clearing sessions, and the health and safety aspect of lane clearing.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th of September at the Cat and Fiddle Inn near Clyst St Mary, with the room available from around 1900 hours. The meeting itself will start at 2000 hours.

The minutes of the August meeting can be found by pressing the link below.

[August 2025 Meeting Minutes](#)

Lane Closures and Repairs

Those of you who frequent the forum may have seen our Lane Clearing Coordinator, Ian Collins (aka Wacky) is compiling a list of known lanes that require substantial work. Unfortunately, we are having issues with allowing members access to the private areas of the forum. Therefore, please post any lane issues on one of the public spaces.

There's been a big push towards lane clearance recently with some fantastic results. Our group has had an evening session at the end of July where two lanes were cleared, Ullacombe Lane (192-010/5161) near Upottery, and Lower Lye Lane (192-024/5174) near Stockland, and then a Sunday session in North Devon clearing a lane near Swimbridge (180-194/4908). There has also been another evening session at Rock Lane near Offwell (192-065/5214). This is on top of all the clearing, branch cutting, and debris moving that goes on across the county without any prompting.

Any time and help you can give to clear lanes keeps our hobby alive. We can't expect a small group of members to bear the burden of repairs and clearing forever.

Once incentive to help might be that at our last meeting, it was confirmed that group members would be able to claim back reasonable expenditure on tool use, and also mileage for attending lane clearing jobs. Hopefully more details on how to do this will follow.

At the recent monthly meeting, there was a suggestion of each member being nominated a lane to look after. Would this be something you are interested in? Let us know at the next meeting, or by contacting us through the forum or Facebook.

Rights of Way

There have been no immediate rights of way inquiries. Ray Tribe's notes from the meeting minutes above give a brief overview of what else has been happening, with notes about sharing GPX files and pushing the council to consider a change of terminology on their signage.

Trip Away

Devon members will have received an email with a quick questionnaire relating to a trip away, with the intent on gathering rough numbers. We have had 76 positive responses, so thank you to all who responded. Hopefully our group trip organiser, Julian Harman, will be able to move forward with his plans for a trip next year.

Stats from the Saddle

New Members

We had fourteen new members join us in July.

We hope to meet all of you at either one of our monthly meetings (currently held at the Cat and Fiddle Inn near Clyst St Mary), or out on the lanes.

You should have received a welcome pack email from Ray Tribe. Please check your junk email folder if you haven't received it. It is worth reading - it is very informative and may answer any questions you have. However, if you still require assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us, either through [the forum](#), our [private Facebook page](#), or through [email](#).

If no one is posting any rides, just ask on Facebook or the Forum!

Lane Stats and Run Reports

The top two riders logged in run reports this month were:

Sean Comber - Seven logged rides.

Julian Harman - Three logged rides.

... and ten other riders tying for third, all with two rides apiece.

Well done and thanks for posting your run reports.

The top lane ridden was

Naps Lane (192-262/5388), near Colaton Raleigh.

Please send your run reports to johnleah@blueyonder.co.uk

To prepare your run reports, you can either prepare a GPX file from your navigation device, or create a table of the lanes you've ridden. Please also include the names of the riders on your run, along with some basic information such as their address and/or TRF number (don't worry if you can't get all the info). You can also add photos and descriptions of the lanes if you wish.

By submitting run reports, we have the data on our side to show that we are using the lanes. This then helps us fight against their reclassification!

The button below will take you to a word document saved on a Google drive with a template table you can use to create your run report. Please save the file as a word document (.doc/.docx). When you are ready, attach the file to an email and send it to John.

[Run Report Template](#)

Tales from the Trails

**Colaton Raleigh Back Lane - one step closer to a car only
TRO?**



The above is a rare sight in Devon. At recent meetings it has been implied that perhaps there aren't any of these signs in Devon. However, there may be winds of change.

Back Lane near Colaton Raleigh (192-153/5294) has now been the subject of three Temporary Traffic Restriction Orders (TTRO) since last year due to some trees falling into the brook that runs alongside it. The displacement of the trees has caused upheaval and subsidence of the bank, which has prompted Devon County Council (DCC) to heavily restrict access to the lane.

However, between the latest TTROs, it has become apparent that a pair of bollards has been installed, one at each end of the collapsed section. The bollards are conveniently placed to allow access to all vehicles with ease apart from those with four-wheels and wider than a cart.

A small concession perhaps, and most likely not an appeasement to our group, but hopefully a sign of change?

Local Events

If you know of a local event that you'd like to see advertised here, please email newsletter@trfdevon.org.uk for consideration.



30/08/2025 - Anthony Reed Charity Trail Ride – Somerset TRF – Kilmington

A charity Trail ride in memory of Antony Reed who very sadly lost his battle with cancer earlier this year. All proceeds going to charity. A led ride in groups of six, with a pub lunch and social, then back out onto the trails.

[See Event](#)

13/09/2025 to 14/09/2025 - Jurassic Jaunt – Dorset TRF – Location TBA
More info to follow soon.

[See Event](#)





**19/10/2025 - Forest Ride Day –
Somerset TRF – Combe Sydenham
(between Wiveliscombe and Watchet)**
Come practice your riding skills at
Somerset TRF's Forest Ride Day. With a
4-mile main loop and offshoots of
varying difficulty, you can ride in a
controlled private environment.

[See Event](#)

National Events

Just like our Teign to Tamar, other TRF groups around the UK want to show you their trails through organised events. See the TRF events page to find out what's available.

[See Events](#)



Staying in Contact

There are many forms of communication in both the national TRF and the Devon TRF. Please see below to find what might suit you best. Click the green text to follow the link.



National TRF Website - The public website for the national TRF. Used to sign up to membership and give the public information about what we do nationally.

TRF Trail Website - The member's section of the national TRF. Use this to see national events, Trail Magazine editions, manage your membership and local groups, membership discounts, member news and more. This is accessed

with the email and password you used when you first signed up to the TRF.

GREENROADMAP



The Green Road Map (GRM) - The GRM is an interactive map that allows you to see all the known legal lanes in the country. The GRM requires a separate login which is made on the GRM homepage.



Devon TRF Website - The Devon TRF website. Used to showcase the work we do to the public. Also has links to our forum, and the dates of our events.



Devon TRF Forum - The Devon TRF forum. Used a message board for members to discuss everything bike and trail riding related and more. Find rides, lane clearing events, and news here. This requires a separate login which is created on the forum. We are currently experiencing difficulty with new members creating logins - we hope to solve this soon.



Devon TRF Public Facebook Page - The public Facebook group page of the Devon TRF. Used to broadcast news and messages publicly.

Devon TRF Members Only Facebook Page - The members only Facebook group page of the Devon TRF. Used to privately discuss trail riding, bikes, news and more. Requires verification to join (you will require your TRF membership number).



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