



October 2025 Newsletter #010

Opening Notes

Hello all!

Back in April I visited Wales for a long weekend of riding and was over the moon that such great trails and landscapes were only five hours away (in a van anyway). Well, after a visit to north Devon last month, I must admit there are equally great trails and landscapes just an hour or two up the road from me, in our own county!

I was truly taken aback by the length and variety of lanes, and with great views of Exmoor, the Bristol Channel, Lundy and more, there weren't many dull moments. And that's not to say that riding in the east, or south of our county is dull either – we're blessed with such a variety of landscapes and geology here. All I have to do now is head to the west for a day or two to try and complete the package.

Keep on riding!

Michael

TRF Talk

Last Meeting

The last meeting was held on Tuesday 14th of October at The Saddlers in Lympstone.

It was well attended, and we filled the small space we were apportioned. The main points were the discussion of finding a new meeting place, and our possible inclusion on the Dartmoor National Park Local Access Forum, which would give us a foot in the door relating to the small number of trails we can access there.

Julian Harman also gave an update on his plans for a Devon TRF weekend away, laying out his decision making process and what he hopes to achieve next. We also had a treasurers report, with figures reported for our two main events of the year, Teign to Tamar, and Hazelwood Farm.

In mentioning Hazelwood Farm, it is with sad news that the owner, Bryan Hingston, passed away recently. Our Events Organiser, John Heal, attended his funeral, also representing the TRF.

The provisional dates for Teign to Tamar were discussed, with 24th-27th April 2026 being decided on, so make sure to stick those in your diary! There was also talk of a Christmas charity ride on Saturday 20th December.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th of November at the Saddlers Arm, Lympstone, with the space available from around 1830 hours. The meeting itself will start at 2000 hours.

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

October 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.

It appears that Devon County Council have been a bit naughty and started working on Denbury Prison Lane (202-048/5564) without informing anyone. Their intentions appear to be smoothing the surface, and filling the two notoriously deep and persistent water traps on the lane. Some will rejoice with dry socks, others not so much. Please keep the group updated via forum or Facebook if you're in the area!

Group chair Trevor Foxon snapped some pictures.



On his quest to video every lane in Devon, Jack Delve came across a pile of logs which were laid across a lane near Deercombe House (Alderford) (180-008/4776) in a slightly unnatural way. This is apparently an ongoing issue so members in the Lynton area may have to be vigilant. If anyone wants some free fire wood, you know where to go.



We have had no further news regarding the tree fallen across Alston Wash Lane (202-248/5761) near Slapton. This will likely require some use of a chainsaw, so if anyone with a certificate of competency is free to chop this up, their help would be much appreciated. The work required can be seen below.



We've also had no news regarding:

- Allhallows Lane (192-217/5355) near Uffculme - reported as being very overgrown with small branches and foliage.
- Hansel Lane (202-344/5846) near Strete/Slapton - reported as having a fallen tree across the lane with access underneath.

Ball Hill (180-095/4847) near Bideford has a small group volunteering to work on it on Sunday 23rd November. The hedgerows of the lane are very overgrown. Anyone who wants to volunteer should check out the thread on the forum, linked below. Note, it is titled with the wrong lane number.

[Ball Hill Lane Clearing Thread](#)

Some lovely volunteers have been out clearing lanes around the county.

Lane clearing coordinator Ian Collins, his dad Pops, and another friend cleared a fallen tree on what is known as either East Hill Lane, or Flint Lane (192-093/5241) near Sidbury.



Five members attended the second go at clearing Swimbridge Lane (180-194/4980). Thank you to Ian Collins, Ray Tribe, Tony Hockins, Ken Brooks, and Graham for their help. You can see the before and after below.



After being given a small trim last month, the same clump of trees on Seaway Lane (192-109/5254) near Tipton St. John slid further down the bank. However, the group known as Muddy Mondays cleared it promptly. Thank you to Ralph, Mark, Nick, and Nick.



After reporting it last month, Neil Morgan and his sister have cleared the fallen tree on Hewsters Lane (202-230/5743). Thank you very much! Before and after below.



Rights of Way

Ray has only had one RoW enquiry this month, relating to a road near Budleigh Salterton that doesn't affect our riding network. Otherwise, he reports that it has been quiet.

Local News

Hopefully most Devon TRF members will have received a couple of emails over the last few months regarding a Devon TRF organised trip away. The event, being organised by Julian Harman, is aimed at bringing members from across the county together in another part of the country to ride and socialise together.

So far, the event will likely be in mid-Wales, around the end of May, start of June. Keep an eye out for information regarding this trip away!

Meeting Place

With the unexpected closure of the Dolphin Hotel at the start of the year, and the recent temporary closure of the Cat and Fiddle Inn due to roof repairs, we are currently without a permanent meeting place. This month's meeting was held at the Saddlers Arms near Lympstone, which whilst workable, doesn't have an enclosed meeting space free from the noise and workings of the rest of the pub and restaurant.

When the Cat and Fiddle re-opens, it works as a meeting place. However, there are doubts as to whether it will be re-opened in time for our AGM in December. This is an important event for our group and is usually well attended. We are also looking for somewhere perhaps more permanent as a monthly meeting location.

Our requirements are a separate meeting room for meetings and guest speakers, no disturbance from other clients, food being served, adequate parking, and a fairly central location or easy to access from arterial routes.

With all this in mind, if anyone has any suggestions as to where our group could have our AGM, and/or our monthly meetings, please forward them to group chair Trevor Foxon, using the link below.

[Email Trevor](#)

Stats from the Saddle

New Members

We had eleven new members join us in September.

We hope to meet all of you at either one of our monthly meetings (currently/temporarily held at the Saddlers Arms, Lympstone), 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 some 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

No lane stats this month unfortunately, which makes everyone a winner!

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

A Journey Through Geology and Legislation - Sean Comber

This month's special feature is by group secretary Sean Comber.

I heard a while back that Devon TRF stalwart Chris Cole had been talking to Somerset Chair and National TRF bigwig Martin Keswick about gaining access to restricted byways by getting permissions to ride from landowners adjacent to said lanes. Martin picked up this idea and ran with it. Chris picked me up in his van early on a glorious September morning, full of crisp, clean air and the promise of a fascinating day out. We left the comfort of our Devon home and crossed the border to meet Martin in the depths of rural west Somerset, in the shadow of the magnificent Quantock Hills. Today we would have the opportunity to ride 4 restricted byways where Martin had arranged access via landowners associated with these rights of way. Although four lanes do not

sound a lot in the whole scheme of things, they add to an existing network of unclassified county roads (UCRs) and a byway, that makes for a much more interesting and worthwhile day out, when you are out on motorbikes biased towards riding non-tarmac roads.'

Read the full article from Sean using the link below.

Journey Through Geology and Legislation

Have you got something you want to share with our group and further afield? Send your submission to newsletter@trfdevon.org.uk for consideration.

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.



01/11/2025 - Training Day – Devon Classic Scramble Club – Smeatharpe
Come practice your riding skills at Devon Classic Scramble Club. With ACU approved instructors, this event is aimed at beginners or those looking to improve their skills in a safe environment. Book through Devon Classic Scramble Club.

Devon Classic Scramble Club

09/11/2025 - Devon TRF AGM – Location TBA

If you're going to come to a meeting, make it this one. The AGM marks the end of the year for a club, and involves elections for group officer roles, and of course a free buffet.





05/06/2026 to 08/06/2026 - Devon TRF Weekend Away – Knighton, Powys, Wales

Join Devon TRF for their organised weekend away. This year we are based in

Knighton in Wales, just on the border with England, and will be running rides around the area for three days for people of all abilities.

24/04/2026 to 27/04/2026 (provisional) -

Teign to Tamar – Devon TRF –

Ashburton

Join Devon TRF for their annual Teign to Tamar event. Led rides around some of the best lanes in the county, with camping and lodges available.



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
Facebook



DEVON
Members
Facebook

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).



Devon TRF

Trail Riders Fellowship (TRF), 218 Strand, London, WC2R 1AT

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