



Know Your Neighbourhood Open Country

Cycling and walking along the TPT

Thanks to the generous funding provided by the Know Your Neighbourhood scheme, Open Country, a registered charitable organisation with a strong history of supporting disabled individuals in enjoying and accessing the great outdoors, had the opportunity to create lasting memories along the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT). These day trips were specially designed to cater to a group of individuals who might not otherwise have had the chance to experience the natural beauty of the countryside.

During the project, we were delighted to have 31 participants and 14 dedicated volunteers join us. It was heartening to see a diverse group of participants, ranging in age from 19 to 74 years old, all coming together to enjoy the TPT. This highlights the importance of making facilities like the TPT accessible to everyone, regardless of disabilities, as the desire to enjoy fresh air and the countryside knows no bounds. Our outings were thoughtfully designed to accommodate individuals with physical disabilities, including wheelchair users, sensory impairments, learning disabilities and mental health challenges, with a strong emphasis on recognising people's abilities and embracing diversity. One memorable participant was a blind member from Sheffield, for whom the Barnsley tandem rides provided a unique opportunity to cycle closer to home on long, flat routes.

To ensure that transportation was not a barrier, we provided fully accessible minibus support, ensuring that participants could focus on enjoying the experience rather than worrying about logistics. Thanks to the funding, everyone was even able to enjoy refreshments at Wigfield Farm before embarking on the return journey.

No one can capture the essence of the project quite like the individuals who were a part of it. Here's what they had to say:

- "Great day, thanks. When is the next one?!"
- "Really enjoyed it, would like to go again."
- "It was a very pleasant walk."
- "The routes are (mostly) flat, nice and wide, with some interesting features (like the sculpture trails) on the route."

The Trans Pennine Trail has also ignited inspiration for more adventures, and we are eager to organise future visits. We're immensely grateful to all those working to remove barriers along the route, making a significant difference to our community.

Additionally, we facilitate Nature Force and Trailblazer groups eager to contribute to access and conservation work in and around our Yorkshire countryside. If you have

any related projects in mind, that we could support, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us; we'd love to hear from you.

Project Officer, Ella Dixon – Open Country. Tel: 07426 716677



Open Country - Barnsley	
Aim of the Organisation	Open Country are a Yorkshire charity with over 33 years of experience of working alongside disabled people, helping them to access and enjoy the countryside. They accomplish this through a variety of outdoor activities and the provision of information, training and advice for all. They spend their days in the great outdoors, having fun whilst looking after the health and wellbeing of our group.
Contact:	wakefield@opencountry.org.uk
Website:	https://www.opencountry.org.uk/wakefield-project/
Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/opencountryyorkshire