

The Russet Cider Trail Charitable Incorporated Organisation charity (1214142)

The Russet Cider Trail Charitable Incorporated Organisation became a charity (1214142) in July 2025. The purpose of the charity is to provide a safe cycle/pathway between Bishops Lydeard, Cotford St Luke and Norton Fitzwarren, enabling a route into Taunton. This is a Community Project and the trail will, wherever possible, follow the route of the West Somerset Railway, away from major traffic and within a natural environment. It has seven Trustees and two volunteers who all live locally.

We have made very big steps, engaging with three Parish councils, Somerset Council, the WSR and are part of the LCN Active Travel Group. Additionally, all landowners have been approached and connections made with other Active Travel organisations. We now have a preferred route and a workbook produced by a renowned civil engineer (1) with vast experience of working on Greenways and Cycleways, many of them in Somerset. We have three public engagement events planned between June and October 2026

As part of our development we have linked with the Quantock Eco charity and it has transferred its ring-fenced cycleway funds to The Russet Cider Trail CIO. After a period of time, when the charity was entirely funded by volunteer donations, we now have a small amount of funds which have been used on local hall hire fees and website costs.

As we are entering our public engagement phase we need start-up funding to enable us to meet the costs of facility hire, hosting events, producing information and publicity materials and promotional items. A budget is enclosed.

We have a copy of our constitution, minutes of meetings and a bank statement which are available on request.

We are very willing to meet with councillors to update them on our progress.

(1) Mr John Grimshaw CBE, Director of Greenways and Cyclepaths and creator of the National Cycle Network.