



RUSSET CIDER TRAIL

A safe route for everyone





The Russet Cider Trail

A shared use path between **Bishops Lydeard**, **Cotford St Luke** and **Norton Fitzwarren**.

A safe cycling and walking route that connects with similar existing and planned routes to **Taunton** and **Wellington**.



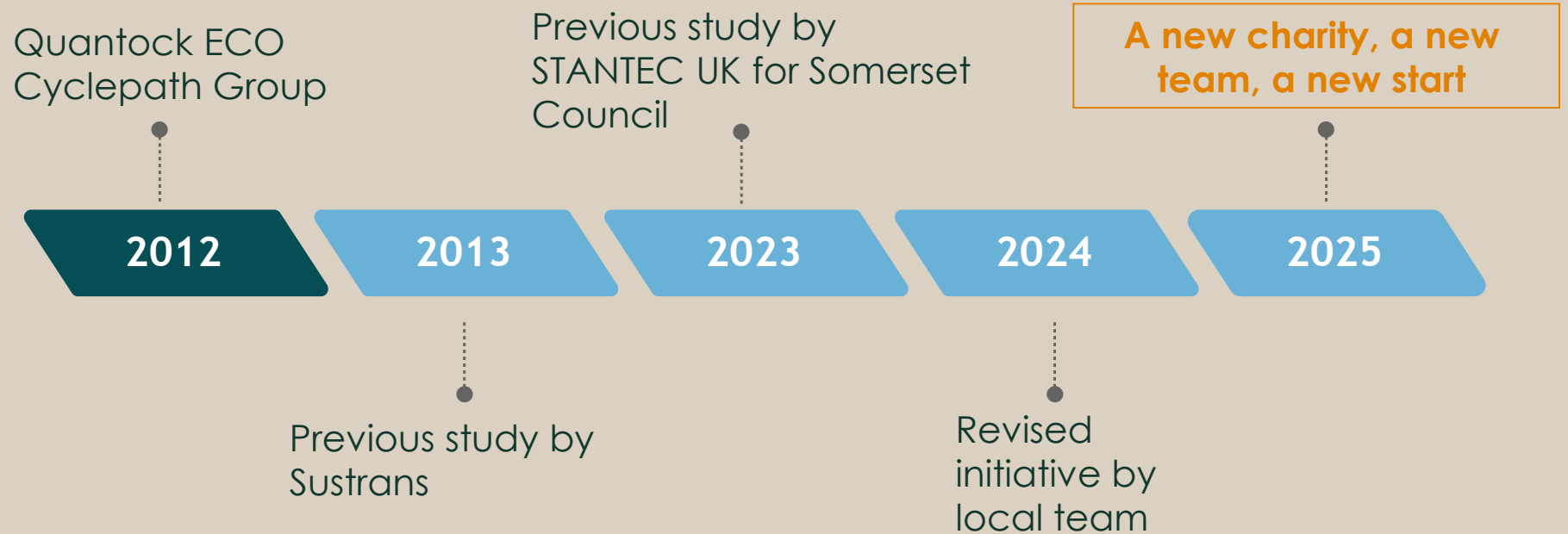


Why?

- 🍏 Current road busy and unsafe
- 🍏 Greater need as population and traffic numbers increase
- 🍏 Suitable for short journeys to work or school
- 🍏 Ideal for children and novice cyclists to gain confidence in safe environment
- 🍏 Links to public transport hub Taunton Railway Station
- 🍏 Enhances access to West Somerset Railway
- 🍏 Available for exercise and recreation for everyone
- 🍏 Links to Taunton cycle network and others



History





Our aims

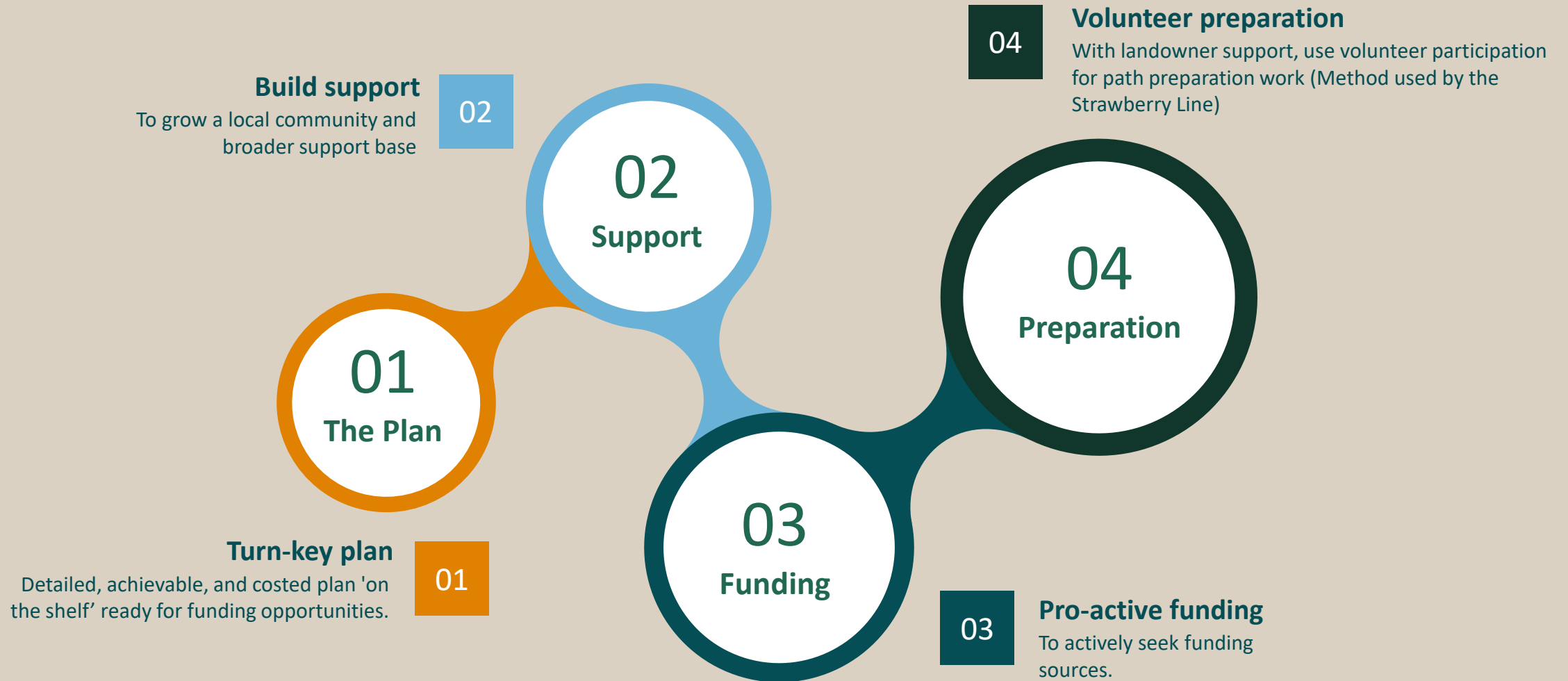


1. Provide facilities for recreation or other leisure time participation in the interest of social welfare for the general public with the object of improving their conditions of life by supporting the provision of a shared use path between Bishops Lydeard, Cotford St Luke and Norton Fitzwarren.

2. The Promotion of its use once built, with the aim of establishing a continuous safe walking and cycling route to Taunton.



Our strategy



An iterative process →



Status – Phase 1

Stakeholder engagement

Working with landowners, local authorities and communities to build a realistic and achievable outcome.

WE ARE HERE

Charitable status

Current key efforts are to structure the organization and gain charitable approval as a CIO.



Route planning

We are exploring several routes and engaging with other relevant organisations.



Previous research

We have gathered all previous studies and research

2024



Deliverable plan

A costed and achievable implementation plan, agreed by all stakeholders.





PROGRESS REPORT

🍏 Charitable Status achieved July 2025

🍏 Consultation and awareness

🍏 Project brief to Rachel Gilmour MP

🍏 Presentations to BL & NFW Parish Councils – support from both Councils

🍏 Communication with C-S-L Parish

🍏 SCC Councillors: Mike Rigby & Andy Sully

🍏 Representation at the Somerset Active Travel Working Group

🍏 Engagement with The Strawberry Line, The Grand Western Greenway project (Wellington/Taunton), The Steam Coast Trail

🍏 Engagement with Taunton Area Cycling Campaign & Cycle Somerset

🍏 Website/Facebook

🍏 SPARK- Charity application & fundraising

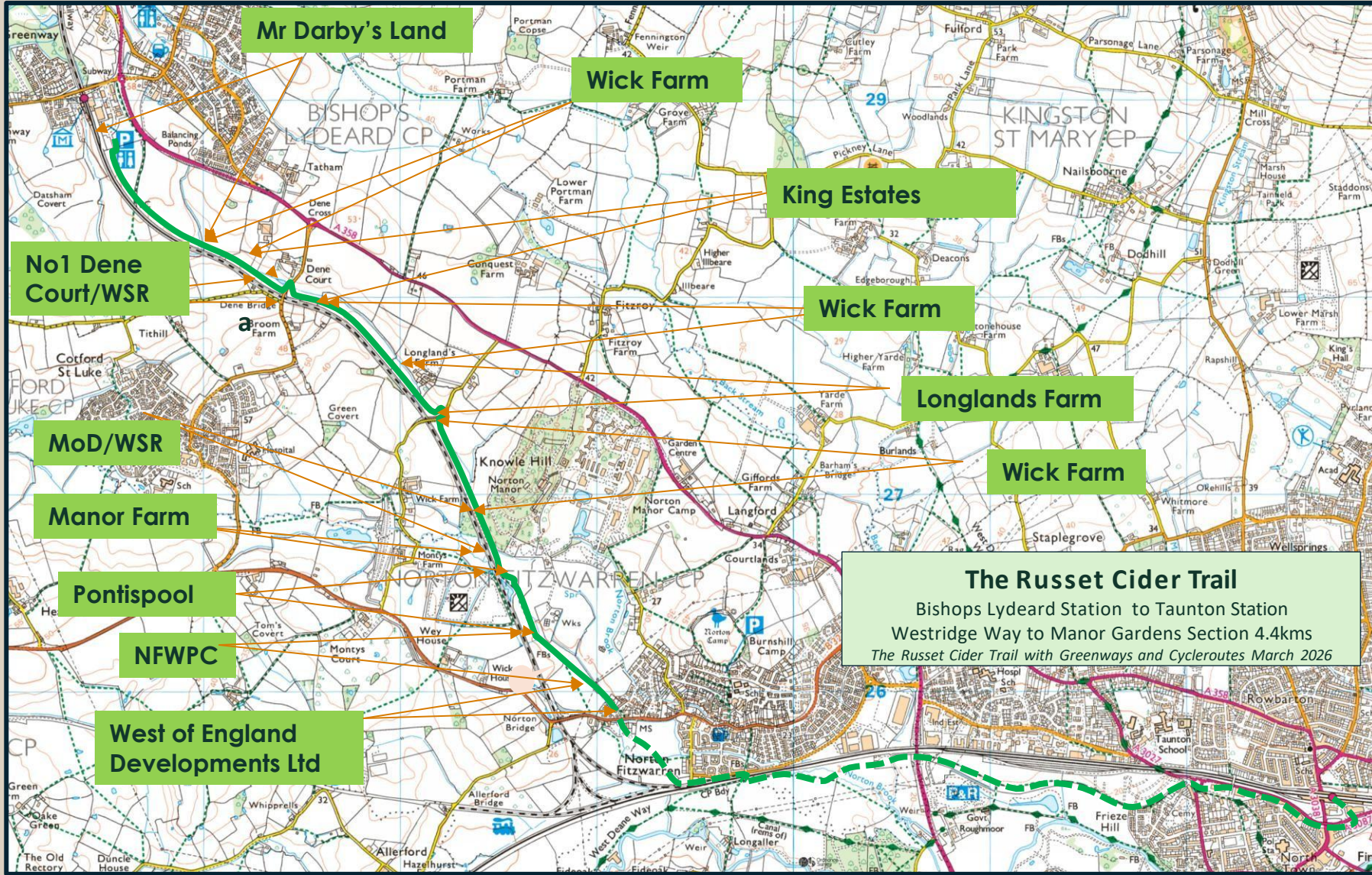
🍏 Association with Cycle Paths and Greenways Ltd (John Grimshaw CBE)

🍏 Landowner Engagement

🍏 Route Plan....



LANDOWNER ENGAGEMENT



THE LANDOWNERS



John Grimshaw CBE

Co-Founder of Sustrans.

Creator of the National Cycle Network.

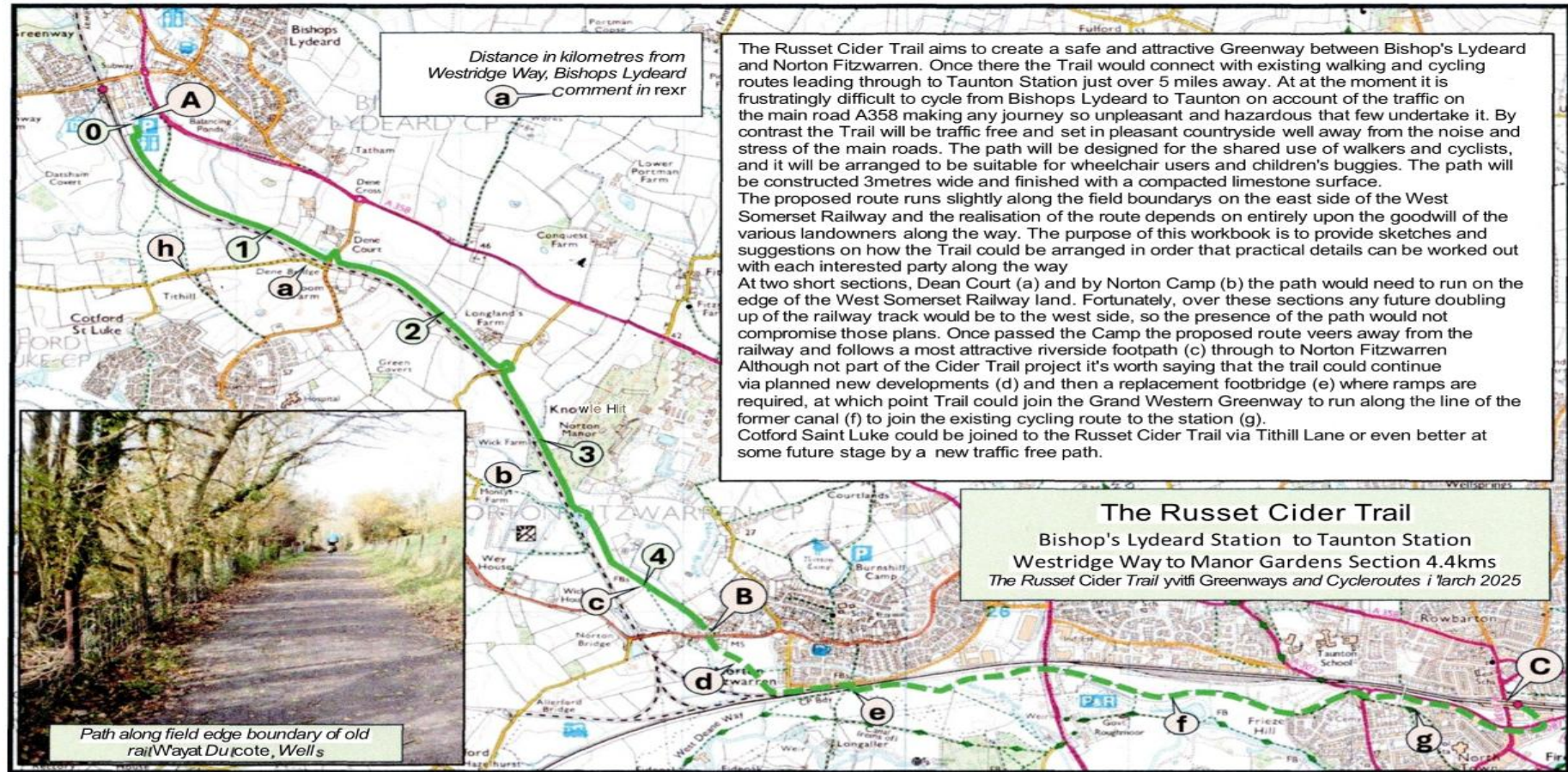
Involved in Cycle Path and Shared User Path construction since 1978.

Recent & continuing work: Strawberry Line & The Somerset Circle.

Request of SCC – reinvigorating the Steam Coast Trail – creating a path from Williton to Minehead.

18th March 2026: Conducted a survey from
Bishops Lydeard – NFW.

From this survey has delivered a ‘Workbook’
detailing how the path is to be constructed.



WORKBOOK – PLAN OVERVIEW



COMMUNICATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

 WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

 SURVEY OF THE COMMUNITY

 EVENT PARTICIPATION



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 🍏 3rd June: Briefing to Taunton Area Cycle Campaign Group
- 🍏 10th June: Briefing/Discussions with WSR General Manager
- 🍏 30th June: Landowner and Stakeholder lunchtime meeting
(Halse Village Hall)
- 🍏 11th July: Stall at the Bishops Lydeard Fete.
- 🍏 TBC: Launch event



Governance

Charitable Incorporated Organisation



Richard Brooksbank
Chair



Tony Hampson
Secretary



Annette Law
Treasurer



Andy Winterbottom
Trustee



Contact



Richard Brooksbank

chairman@russetcidertail.org





RUSSET CIDER TRAIL

QUESTIONS?

