This project aims to equip a trailer with a mobile broadband satellite system, wireless network, special needs PCs and PDAs to provide trainer-supported internet access for the disabled in rural communities in Devon. Training programmes are available to enable the visually disabled and the learning disabled to live independently. After individual skills assessment and lifestyle profiling, training and supported development of individual plans in the mobile unit, participants will be provided with special needs adapted home computers (via Leonard Cheshire programme) or a PDA for home access to tools, planners, email, internet-based self-support groups. The training provided by the mobile unit will enable participants to manage their own finances, shop on-line, use email, use discussion groups and Rural Focus’s closed bulletin boards, access leisure activities.

DML Apprentices at Devonport Dockyard will convert the trailer as part of their projects and development training. Gregory’s Transport will transport the trailer within Devon.

The trailer will be used by the WestCountry Access Website team of disabled volunteers to collect the data for the WestCountry Access Website which aims to provide access information and disabled user reviews of leisure and holiday facilities in Devon. This website will be self-funding via advertising revenue from hotel, restaurant, local tourist businesses and activity venues.

Rural Focus is a charity Reg No: 1108435 which already has one trailer currently providing pre-release training for prisoners at Dartmoor Prison. [This is supported by Devon NHS Trust, Devon County Council Drivers Centre, DML, MG Rover.]