

## The Chiltern Society

## North Chilterns Path Maintenance Volunteers

**Grant awarded:** £3,172

**Date:** February 2017

The grant was used to purchase a trailer for the Chiltern Society's North Chilterns Path Maintenance Volunteers who carry out a wide range of access improvements across the Rights of Way network in the north of the Chiltern Hills AONB.

On receiving the grant we purchased an Ifor Williams box trailer to transport tools, equipment and materials to work sites across the Chilterns. We also had the trailer branded to help with promoting the work of the group as they carried out their activities.

The trailer has been hugely beneficial to the Path Maintenance Volunteers and the Chiltern Society as a whole allowing the group to become more self sufficient, grow in numbers and expand its expertise, geographic range and diversity of work.



## Project Successes;

- Increased the capacity of the volunteer group by enabling more and a broader range of tools and equipment can be transported to jobs.
- Increased training opportunities for volunteers as we are now able to carry power tools safely and materials so volunteers have learnt to install infrastructure such as gates.
- Increased diversity of work portfolio due to the ability to carry heavy materials e.g. gates, steps, way markers.
- Increased number of rights of way improved
- Being able to offer a more diverse range of work and work in more areas which has indirectly meant we have been able to attract more volunteers to the group and have seen an increase in the numbers participating.
- The group continues to grow and become more self-sufficient with more group leaders.
- The trailer has formed the focus for a group of volunteers to look after tools, load up the trailer and tow it to the work sites.
- The volunteer group received Highly Commended in the Dacorum Clean, Safe and Green Community Champion Award 2017 for their work across the borough. Having the trailer has played an important role in gaining this award.



**Volunteers installing a new oak bench along a ROW in Hertfordshire.**



**Volunteers installing steps on a steep slope through Upper Sundon Quarry – a popular walking route and nature reserve.**



**The North Chilterns Path Maintenance Volunteers receiving their Community Champion Award in October 2017**