



Access the National Trails

Collectively improving accessibility across Britain's favourite walking routes.

About the project

Access the National Trails is part of a broader European initiative, My Accessible.EU, which aims to raise awareness about and develop mobile applications to assist with accessibility issues in European towns and cities. For more information, visit www.myaccessible.eu

Our National Trails are a fantastic natural resource that should be enjoyable for everyone. However, for wheelchair users, parents with pushchairs, and others with limited mobility, uncertainties about path conditions and facilities mean they are often hesitant to visit, due to fears about access.

Many of our trails *are* fully-accessible, but a total lack of **accessibility information** means they are still off-limits for many people. Some trails are mostly accessible, but have certain sections that are impassable for some people. By collecting information about the trails' conditions, and raising awareness about accessibility issues more broadly, we can enable more people to take advantage of the trails and derive many of the fantastic benefits that walking (or rolling) outdoors in a natural setting brings.

We will use mobile applications to capture imagery of the trails, and identify particular barriers to access – such as steps, mud or gravel. With volunteers from across the UK, we can work together to compile a database of reliable accessibility information, and raise awareness to encourage business owners and local authorities to reflect on the accessibility of their premises along the national trails.

How-to? Using the tools

The following information will provide step-by-step guidance for using each of the accessibility tools: Wheelmap, for rating the accessibility of different places; Mapillary, for capturing street level images of the trails; and the My Accessible.EU Obstacle Tagger, for recording details about individual barriers encountered.

Together, these tools can build up a detailed picture of each trail's accessibility, and be used to produce guides and recommendations for people with limited mobility.

Together we can make the National Trails more accessible for everyone!

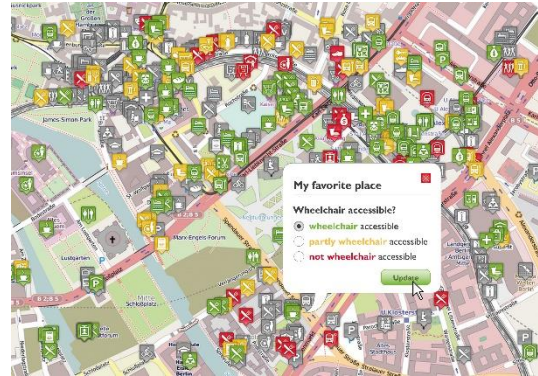
Wheelmap



Wheelmap.org is the world's most extensive database on wheelchair accessibility. It works similarly to Wikipedia in that anyone can add wheelchair accessibility data on public places such as restaurants, museums, train stations, stores, public offices or tourist attractions.

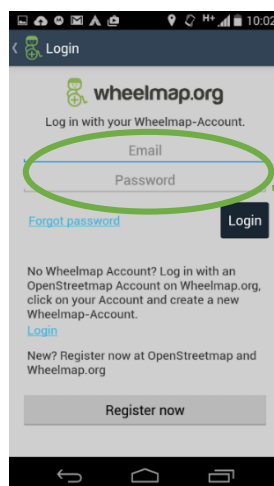
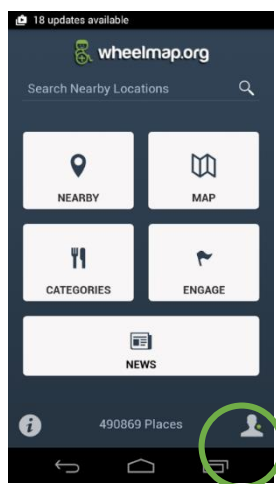
Public places are mapped according to their wheelchair accessibility by means of a simple traffic light system. Fully accessible places are marked green, those with limited accessibility yellow and a red marker indicates places that are not wheelchair accessible at all.

Since 2010, more than **550,000** locations have been tagged worldwide with regards to their wheelchair accessibility. Approximately 300 newly tagged locations are added every day. On the web, Wheelmap.org is available in 22 languages. The online map is also available for free as iOS and Android apps for mobile phones.



Download the Wheelmap app by searching for it in your mobile's app store, or visit <http://wheelmap.org/en/> and search for a location to view contributions.

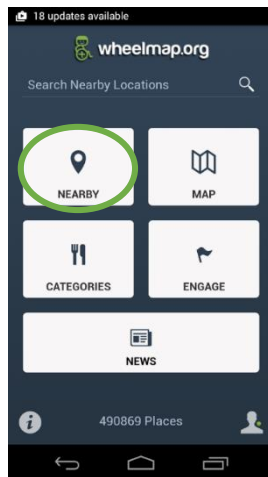
1. Log in



Email:
uclmappingparty@gmail.com

Password: PARTY123

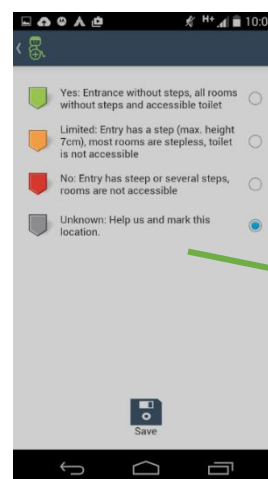
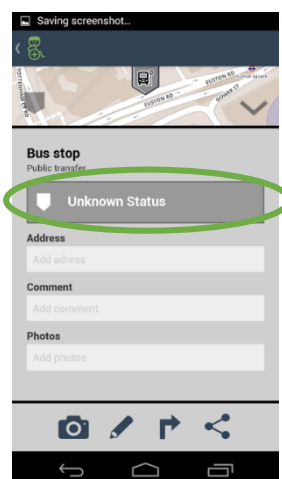
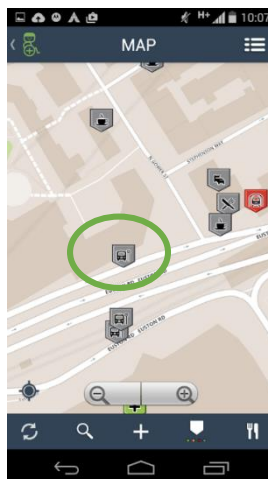
2. See nearby



Blue arrow shows your current location (make sure your phone's GPS is turned on!)

3. Add information to a point

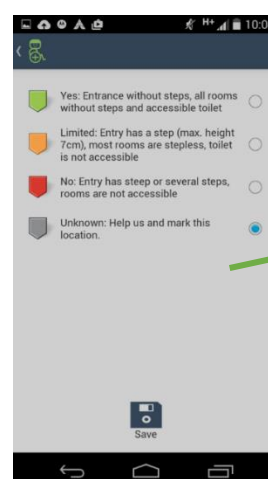
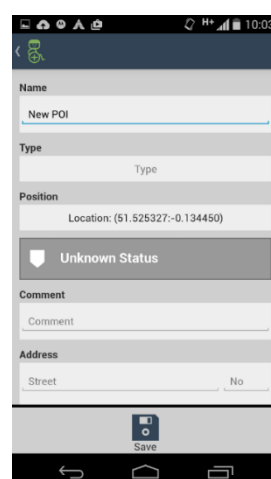
Grey icons are points that have not yet been rated.



How accessible is the building?
Select the appropriate option

4. Add a new point

Some points will not appear as icons on the map, so you will need to add them.



How accessible is the building?
Select the appropriate option

Mapillary



Mapillary is a worldwide street level photograph application. Like Google Street View, Mapillary works by collecting street level images and stitching them together. People all over the world are using Mapillary to record their favourite routes on all terrains. Mapillary images display basic details such as surface type and slope, so provide us with a simple overview of how accessible a route is.

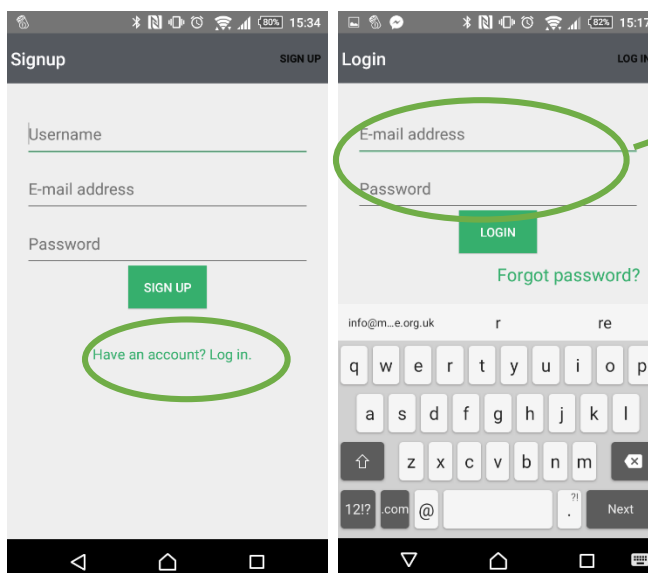
Mapillary works by taking photographs automatically as a user travels, then uploading them to the system when a WiFi connection is acquired. The frequency that photographs are taken at can be varied to suit the type of journey a user is taken: walk setting for example, takes a picture every 10 seconds.



So far, over 30 million photographs have been uploaded by users across the world. Mapillary is available for Android, IOS and Windows Phones.

Download the Mapillary app by searching for it in your mobile's app store, or visit <https://www.mapillary.com/map> and search for a location to view contributions.

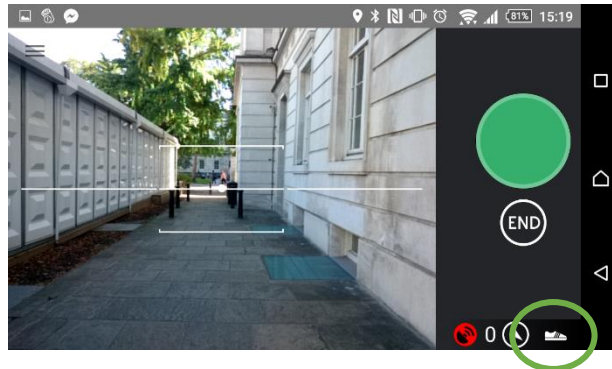
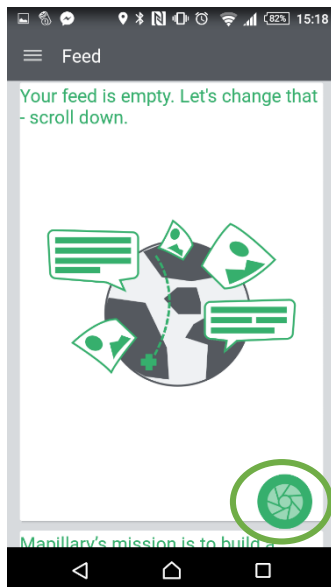
1. Log in

Two side-by-side screenshots of the Mapillary app's user interface. The left screenshot shows the 'Signup' screen with fields for 'Username', 'E-mail address', and 'Password', a green 'SIGN UP' button, and a link that says 'Have an account? Log in.' The right screenshot shows the 'Login' screen with fields for 'E-mail address' and 'Password', a green 'LOGIN' button, and a link that says 'Forgot password?'. A green oval highlights the 'E-mail address' field on the login screen, with an arrow pointing from it to a text box on the right.

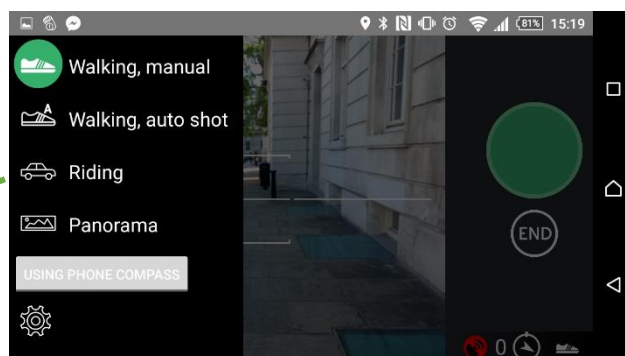
Email:
info@mappingforchange.org.uk

Password: cap4access

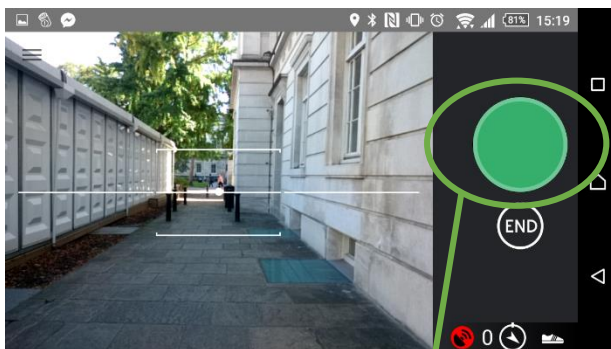
2. Choose your setting



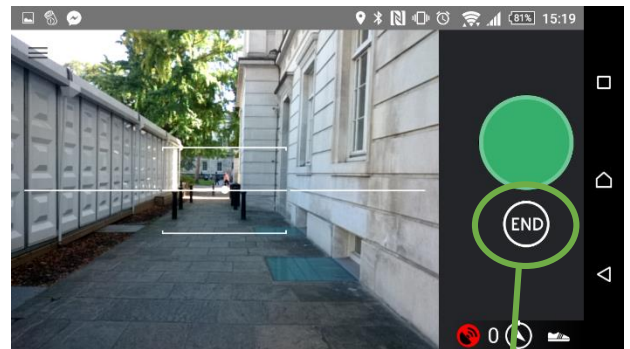
Select the most appropriate option



3. Recording and uploading



Tap the green button to begin. Remember to hold your phone up while taking photos



When you have reached the end of the route, or wish to stop taking photos, select 'end'

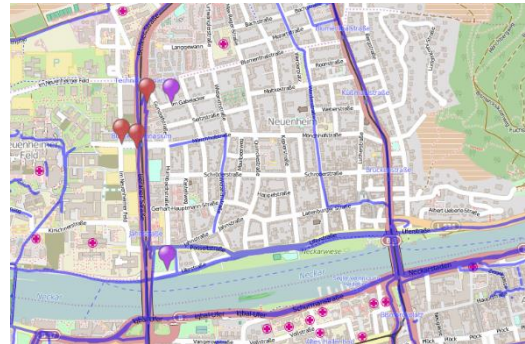
Your photos will be uploaded automatically when your phone connects to WiFi.

MyAccessible.EU Obstacle Tagger

My Accessible.EU Obstacle Tagger is a mobile and web application that has been developed within the project to collect information about barriers to accessibility that people encounter when out and about in the built and natural environment.

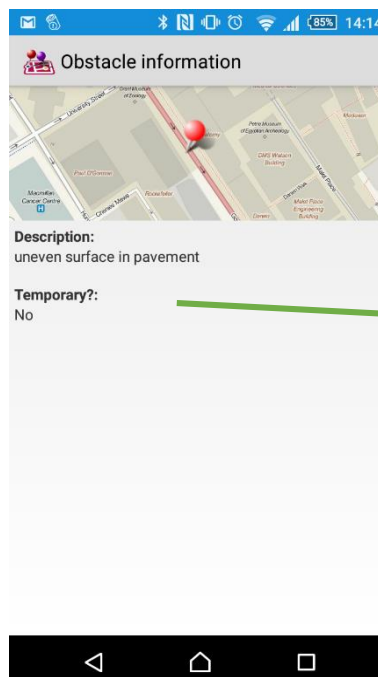
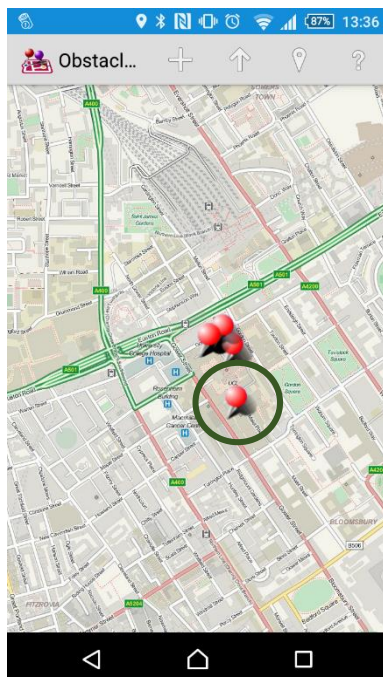
The application works by enabling people to upload details of particular barriers, such as steps or uneven surfaces, onto a map. Also displayed are images taken from Mapillary (the blue lines), to provide extra details.

My Accessible.EU's obstacle tagger is online, and available to download for Android and IOS mobile phones.



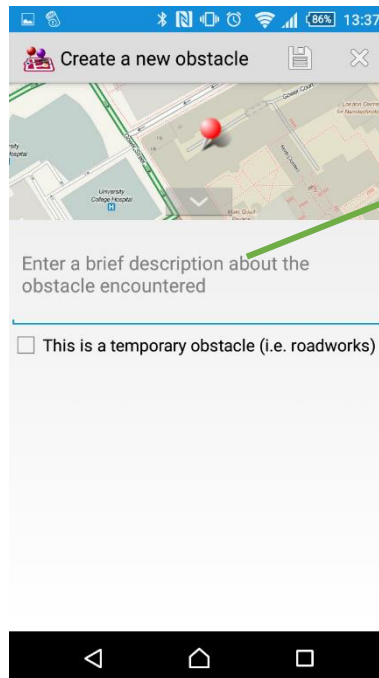
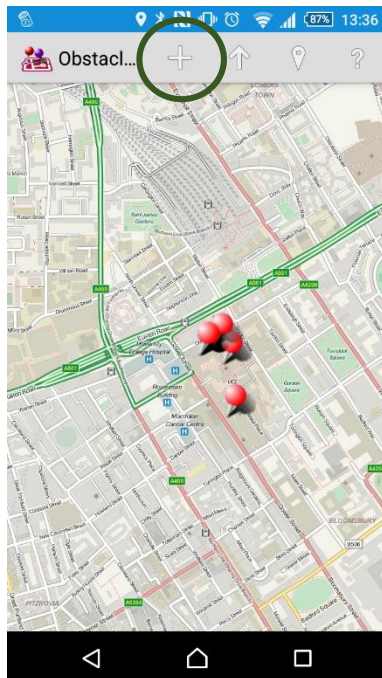
You can download the application by visiting <http://cap4navi.geog.uni-heidelberg.de/ObstacleTracker-0.0.1/download.html> and clicking 'download the app'. To view your contributions and the contributions of others, visit <http://cap4navi.geog.uni-heidelberg.de/ObstacleTracker-0.0.1/>

1. View a tagged obstacle



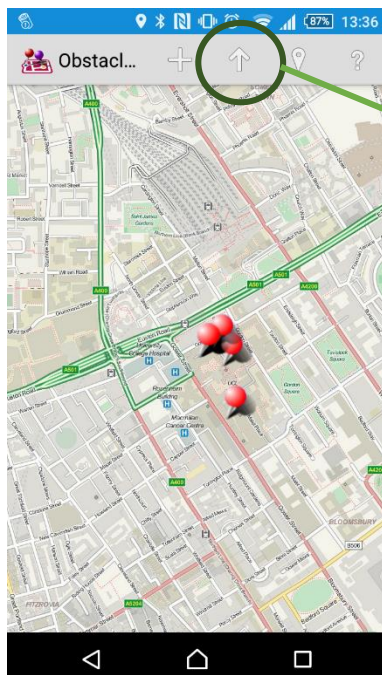
Clicking on a point will bring up details about the obstacle

2. Add a new obstacle



Here you can enter details about the obstacle – e.g, steps in the path

3. Upload obstacles



Make sure you select the upwards arrow to upload your obstacles to the map

What next?

Thank you for participating and helping more people to access the National Trails!

Your hard work is just the beginning. We need to build momentum in our towns and communities and get more volunteers involved along all the National Trails; all 2,500 miles of them. It isn't going to happen overnight, but with enthusiasm and dedication we can make real changes and open up our natural environment to everyone.

When each trail has enough information collected, we will have all the tools we need to produce accessibility guides with all the information necessary for people to plan a visit.

Us collecting this information is fantastic, but it won't change disabling aspects of the environment. To really make a difference and create a more enabling environment, we need to raise awareness in our communities and work with local organisations to make improvements to the accessibility of their premises.

Now you have all the tools to go out and collect this information, why not organise a small group activity with some friends? When curious passer-by's notice a strange group of people pointing mobile phones at the ground, you can let them know what you're up to. When you stop for lunch, why not have a chat with the owner about the accessibility of their premises? It may be that accessibility hasn't even crossed their mind!

There's lots of ways to get involved, and we will be organising more events across the country. Let us know how you get on, and keep up-to-date with what we're up to by:

- visiting our website: www.mappingforchange.org.uk
- following us on Twitter: @mapping4change
- looking us up on Facebook: www.facebook.com/mappingforchange
- sending us an email: info@mappingforchange.org.uk
- Or giving us a ring! 020 7679 2296