

Fal River Links in Cornwall offers tourists a complete network of ferries, trains, fast water taxis and buses to explore the landscape and attractions along the river Fal. It is based around the Fal Estuary in West Cornwall, and includes the area around Falmouth, Truro and the Roseland Peninsula.

The project brought together over 50 organisations to ensure that visitors and local residents can explore the area around the Estuary without the need for a car. A simple London Underground-style map shows how to get around using a combination of ferries, trains, buses, a fast water taxi, walking and cycling trails.

Tourists can arrive by bus at the landingstage at Ponsharden, or by train into Falmouth or Truro, and hop onto a boat to many destinations on the Fal Estuary, including the National Trust's Trelissick Gardens, where a landing stage provides direct access. The map is shown in leaflets, which are widely available from outlets throughout Cornwall, and on signs at 15 locations. A website and brochure also provide information on great days out, suggested itineraries, walks, and learning opportunities.

The project includes four schemes developed by a partnership of different organisations to promote water transport on the river Fal and its estuary:

- A park and float/ride scheme in Falmouth;
- The Fal River Links scheme which is a joint marketing initiative between private ferry companies;
- Aqua Cab providing a fast water taxi service; and
- A new landing pontoon for ferries at the popular National Trust property, Trelissick.

Large cruise ships visiting the south west also use local boats to transport their visitors from Falmouth to Trelissick, rather than putting them on coaches to travel by road.

The Scheme was initiated locally by the Fal area National Trust manager and a local Ferry company and has been supported from the beginning by the regional and local Councils. The partnership was then able to apply for grant funding towards the building of the Trelissick landing stage and secured a Rural Renaissance grant for a funded officer in post for three years. The organisation has grown to include many more partners and is sponsored by, Cornwall County Council, Carrick District Council, Cornwall Enterprise, South West Regional Development Agency, National Trust, Environment Agency, Cornwall AONB, Cornwall Marine Network, Rural Partnership, Natural England, HSBC, among others.

For further information visit www.falriverlinks.co.uk