


Fill that hole: the app for that

 Building on the success of CTC's pothole reporting website fillthathole.org.uk, CTC has launched an iPhone app for reporting potholes and road defects.

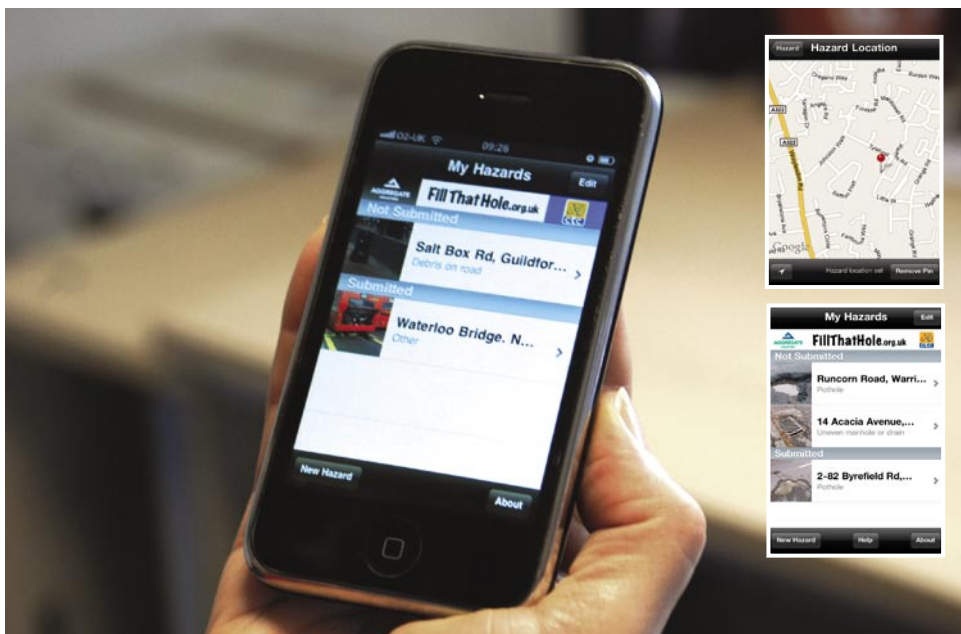
The app uses GPS to locate the pothole on a map on the iPhone. You just take a picture of the pothole using the iPhone's camera and fill in a few details. The report is automatically added to the website and the highway authority is notified.

CTC project coordinator Alec McCalden said: 'Our app makes it much easier to use Fill That Hole, as you can report a pothole on the spot. You don't need to wait until you get home. Plus it is extremely quick to upload photos to show the defect in detail. We're really grateful to Tenero in Guildford who created this easy to use tool, Aggregate Industries for


sponsoring the development, and our army of CTC members who tested the app for us.'

CTC set up Fill That Hole in 2007 after receiving complaints about the state of the roads. While local authorities often struggle to find the resources to inspect their roads for potholes, they are generally pretty quick to repair any defects we tell them about – not least because they would then be liable if a cyclist were later injured by a pothole which had previously been reported to them. In short, sending in pothole reports via Fill That Hole really does work!

So if you are fed up with cycling around potholes, download the app and make sure they get fixed. The app is called Fill That Hole and is free from the Apple iTunes Store. More details can be found at fillthathole.org.uk.




SHIMANO IN CHARGE

 Electric bikes have come on apace lately. If proof were needed that they've entered the mainstream, Shimano's new electric bike groupset could be it.

Named STEPS (Shimano Total Electric Power System), the electric-assist element comprises a 250W front hub motor and a 24V/4Ah lithium ion battery, with a top speed of 25km/h (15mph). Also appearing are Shimano's Di2 electric-cable gear shifters, used in their road groupset of that name and in their CyberNexus utility groupset.

Lights powered from the main battery are included, with the rear incorporated into the battery itself. The battery recharges in an hour and is said to be good for 3,000 recharge cycles. You can also top it up while riding using Shimano's 'E-Gain' system – essentially regenerative braking, with an option to turn it on while riding downhill.

Anthem goes large

 Demand or supply problems – or both – have limited the uptake of 29er mountain bikes in the UK, but the momentum behind big (700C) wheels remains. They're already popular in the United States, and we think their pros outweigh their cons for wheels-on-the-ground mountain biking.

Will 2011 tip the balance for them here? Maybe. Specialized are importing a selection of their 29er range into the UK for 2011, while Giant have launched three 29er versions of

their popular short-travel cross-country bike, the Anthem.

The first outing of the Anthem 29er's prototype resulted in a race win (at the Sea Otter Super D race in California in early 2010). For 2011, there are three production models of the Anthem X 29er – named 1, 2 and 3. Each comes with 100mm Maestro rear suspension and 100mm forks with tapered steerers and 15mm 'Thru Axles'. A Giant insider told us that 'at least one'



of the models will come to the UK – if so, we're guessing the 2 or 3 (pictured). We don't know if the frameset will be sold by itself in the UK.

More information at giant-bicycles.com.