

Off-road update



What a strange time for lovers of the outdoors. I hope you're healthy and well and not feeling too much like a pent-up puppy staring out of the window. At least we can be grateful that cycling is still one of the things we can do – [skiers have to be a little more creative](#). Just remember [Singletrack magazine's](#) mantra: 'No car, no gnar, not far'. [Check out Cycling UK's coronavirus guidance](#).

The good news is you can still get involved with Cycling UK's #12nightsoutin1year competition – albeit from your garden or lounge. This second edition of our quarterly off-road updates also features a new long-distance off-road trail and news about our campaign to increase access, Trails for Wales.

Keep an eye out on 29 April for an exclusive chat between Anna Glowinski and trailblazing freeride MTBer Veronique Sandler, part of Cycling UK's ['An audience with...'](#) series.

Best wishes,

Sophie Gordon, Cycling UK

PS - if you have a friend who'd be interested in these updates, [let them know they can sign up here](#).



Sierra Nevada with the Adventure Syndicate

If you need a bit of escapism at the moment, how about tales of bikepacking in the Spanish mountains? Adventure cycling is for everyone, but it's easy to be held back by doubts. Jo Gibson joined eight other women on a bikepacking journey of discovery.

If that sounds a bit too warm and sunny for your liking, new short bikepacking film [Rainspotting](#) is a great watch to inspire future trips.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Help keep our rights of way network open for everyone

Our rights of way network in England and Wales is one of our most precious assets, and being confined to our homes during the coronavirus outbreak has highlighted how important our public paths are to help us connect with nature when we are able to. We explain how you can help keep the rights of way network open for everyone to use when you're out for your daily exercise.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Is it OK for me to wild camp right now?

Cycling UK's [#12nightsoutin1year](#) bikepacking and wild camping challenge is in its fourth month now, however with the UK in lockdown, Cycling UK's Sam Jones is urging folk to abandon the wilderness (for now) and try something different.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

In March, the Government consulted on whether to make 'intentional trespass' a criminal offence – but because of vague wording, Cycling UK was concerned that this could be interpreted to criminalise wild camping. Cycling UK's national off-road advisor Kieran Foster explains [what it means for cycle touring and bikepacking](#).



Post-lockdown adventure: King Alfred's Way

This summer (coronavirus restrictions permitting) Cycling UK will launch its newest long-distance off-road trail, a 220-mile loop around the heart of historic Wessex.

King Alfred's Way will transport riders through 5,000 years of history, taking in Stonehenge, Avebury stone circle, Iron Age hill forts, Farnham Castle, and Winchester and Salisbury Cathedrals.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Trails for Wales: Cycling UK and OpenMTB to help shape Welsh access reform

Changes to improve Wales' access legislation won't happen overnight, but with the right people involved the time taken will be worthwhile.

At the beginning of the year the Welsh Government announced the make-up of the three expert groups which will help shape the way people access the Welsh countryside, including Duncan Dollimore and Kieran Foster from Cycling UK, and OpenMTB's Tom Hutton.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Save your trails before they are lost for good

Over 10,000 miles of paths across England and Wales are at risk of being lost forever, unless we make an effort to put them on the map. In many places, adding historic rights of way to the map could form a crucial link between existing bridleways and byways.

Cycling UK has been busy researching behind the scenes – most recently involving an application for 24 routes in the New Forest, based on historic records from Parliamentary archives. If successful, this will add around 60 miles of lost bridleways and restricted byways to the definitive map.

Find out how you can get involved and put your trails on the map before it's too late.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Local campaigners in Kent a step closer to claiming a footpath as a bridleway

Local campaigners are one step closer on their mission to get a footpath near Sevenoaks upgraded to a bridleway based on evidence of use, after winning an appeal with support from Cycling UK.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



How to make cycling better for the next generation

Whatever your views on Brexit, leaving the EU means the UK has to create its own laws around environmental protection. The new Environment Bill has the

potential to make our roads safer and open up more traffic-free routes – and we're seizing that opportunity.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Heads up: it's likely that soon we'll need your help to make some noise about new farming subsidies, otherwise known as the Environmental Land Management Scheme. Cycling UK was dismayed to see that there is nothing in the scheme about enhancing public access to the countryside in the criteria for payments, so we'll be teaming up with other outdoor organisations to make sure it gets a mention.

Get involved!

Our work to increase access to the countryside for everyone to enjoy is only possible thanks to our members and supporters.

If you want to play a part in helping more people discover the joy of cycling in our forests, glens and moors, we'd love you to get involved.

[HOW YOU CAN HELP](#)

cyclinguk.org/offroadcampaigns



Sophie Gordon
Campaigns Officer
Cycling UK

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