

Off-road update



Well, I think we can all agree it's been an unusual summer so far! I hope you're keeping well as we gradually shuffle out of lockdown. If you're struggling to keep track of the constantly-changing guidance on who you can ride with and where, our regularly updated [coronavirus Q&A](#) can hopefully help clear things up.

It's great to see people starting to be able to go out carefully on adventures again – I've loved following the exploits of father-and-son team Rich and Tom in the [Great North Trail Facebook group](#).

With campsites beginning to reopen, we're pleased to be able to return to the original spirit of our 2020 bikepacking challenge – you can find out how to enter this month's competition below.

We also have a progress update on access reform in Wales, and a brilliant chat on how to encourage more women to give mountain biking a go.

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](#).



King Alfred's Way coming soon

We know a lot of you are keen to get out and ride [King Alfred's Way](#), a new 350km circular trail around historic Wessex. Unfortunately the coronavirus lockdown delayed things a bit, but we've now been able to fully test-ride the route and are finalising the route guide, to launch in late August with full maps and gpx files. If you want to be the first to get your hands on a copy of the guidebook, which delves into the rich history and archaeology along the route and includes the full route on 1:50 000 Ordnance Survey maps, it will be available to pre-order soon so keep an eye out for an email alert.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Back to bikepacking

Our 2020 [challenge](#) to spend a night under the stars each month was scuppered slightly by coronavirus restrictions, but it's been great to see some creative lockdown camping in recent months – whether it's stringing a hammock up in the garden or erecting a tent in the living room.

As lockdown restrictions begin to ease in some parts of the UK and overnight stays become possible at campsites, Cycling UK is returning to the original spirit of the #12nightsoutin1year challenge and would love to see pictures of your socially distanced overnight adventures by bike. The best picture submitted will win a vibrant [CamelChops handlebar bag](#) which is sure to get you noticed.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



A virtual journey along the Great North Trail

If riding the 800-mile Great North Trail is on your post-lockdown bucket list, get the lowdown on the route by catching up on our [Facebook Live talk](#) to whet your appetite for some of the amazing places you'll pass through along the route.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Update on access reform in Wales

You may be aware that last year the Welsh Government [committed to changing access laws](#) to enable more people to enjoy the outdoors. [Expert advisory groups](#) (including representatives from Cycling UK and OpenMTB) are now meeting regularly to work out exactly how the changes should be implemented. Like many things, the process was delayed a bit by COVID-19, and it's now unlikely that proposals for new legislation will be debated in the Senedd before the elections next May, which makes the outcome slightly more uncertain. If you live in Wales, we'll be in touch shortly with how you can help encourage your MS to support the changes.



How do we encourage more women into mountain biking?

As part of our Women's Festival of Cycling, we had a fascinating chat with a panel of fantastic female off-roaders Ally Campbell, Polly Clark and Hannah Dobson, to discuss how we can break down the barriers and help more women discover just how much fun it is riding off the beaten track. [Catch up on it here.](#)

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



One of the UK's toughest bike rides?

Perhaps not physically – but you'll need the fair winds of fortune on your side if you want to cross the Kyle of Durness and reach the [Cape Wrath lighthouse](#). Many have been forced to turn back by ferocious weather conditions putting the tiny ferry out of action.

While we wouldn't advise travelling to the most remote corner of the Scottish Highlands for the moment, this article may well plant the seed of inspiration for a future trip to claim your place in the [Cape Wrath Fellowship](#).

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Recovery plan for the outdoor sector in Wales

As part of Outdoor Alliance Wales, Cycling UK and OpenMTB have contributed to a [plan of action](#) about how the outdoor sector can begin to safely reopen. For mountain biking, we have recommended a phased restarting of mountain biking activities depending on the level of risk. Trail cycling on rights of way and woodland trails has continued throughout lockdown, and trail centres are now beginning to reopen – but gravity-orientated bike parks and races and events will take a bit more consideration.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



New report on economic impact of cycle tourism

It's one of the main motivations for a bike ride – the coffee and cake stop. But do you ever pause to pat yourself on the back for contributing to the local economy? Cycling UK has pulled together existing information about the economic impact of all kinds of cycle tourism in the UK – from traditional pannier-laden touring to exploring new singletrack away from home – into a [handy eight-page factsheet](#).

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

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



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