

Off-road update



Whether you're in full lockdown or some variation of tier restrictions at the moment, I hope you're managing to get out for a few rides however you can.

In this issue we get to work fixing the missing links in your off-road routes in England, and there is an update on access in Wales. We've got a whole range of advice, from riding King Alfred's Way to choosing outdoor kit. And there's a cracking route exploring the stunning Dorset scenery to whet your appetite for future rides.

So grab a cuppa and let's chat all things off-road.

Sophie Gordon, campaigns officer



Where are the missing links in your off-road routes?

We've all experienced that frustrating moment: you want to go from *here* to *there*, but in between there's a section you're not able to ride on. Perhaps it's a track that's classed as a footpath, a disused railway line, or a trail that would cut out a section of busy road.

With our new [mapping tool](#), you can identify your missing link routes and ask your council to make plans to connect them.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



King Alfred's Way: your questions answered

What's the terrain like? Where can I stay along the way? We've pulled together some [frequently asked questions](#) about King Alfred's Way to give you the answers all in one place. If you want to go into detail about the [best bike and kit](#), MTB tester

and route guide author Guy Kesteven is your man – and his [‘Time Travel Gravel’ videos](#) are well worth a watch too.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Tent, bivvy or hammock – what’s best for bikepacking?

It’s now that time of year where sleeping out is only appealing to a hardy few, but if you’re considering some new outdoor gear for Christmas you’ll need to figure out which camp you’re in when it comes to camping setup. It’s a fiercely contested question, so we asked Katherine Moore of ADVNTR.cc to talk us through the pros and cons.

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Dorset 330 bikepacking challenge

Long sunlit evenings may seem a long way away now, but you can still get inspired for future long days out on the bike with this 330km bikepacking challenge around the most beautiful spots in Dorset, by Harry Griffiths of [Freewheel](#).

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



49,000 miles of lost rights of way – help put them on the map

During spring and summer, thousands of volunteers used an online tool created by Ramblers to compare old and new maps, and uncovered over [49,000 miles of lost rights of way](#) that don't appear on current maps.

Many of these are bridleway and byway routes which could form useful links for cycling. They might not appear on the map at all, or they may have been incorrectly recorded as footpaths.

If these aren't [added to the map](#) by the cut-off date of 1 January 2026, they could be lost forever.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Trails for Wales update

Last year the Welsh Government [committed to introduce legislation](#) to widen access laws, including making most rights of way multi-use by default. Cycling UK and OpenMTB, alongside other user groups and landowner organisations, are [helping to advise](#) on the details of how this could work in practice.

Due to Covid-19 delays, it's now unlikely that the legislation will be debated in the Senedd before the election in May, which makes the outcome a bit more uncertain. In the next off-road update, we'll let you know how you can support the campaign in the run-up to the election.



Cycling on towpaths

Canal towpaths can be a relaxing place to cycle beside the water, as well as providing useful connecting routes away from traffic. When cycling on towpaths, follow the towpath code to make sure that everyone can enjoy the space.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Review: Endura MT500 waterproof short

No one likes damp shorts on a long ride. Cycling UK's committed kit reviewer Sam Jones rode through the deepest puddles he could find to put Endura's waterproof shorts to the test.

[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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