

Off-road update



Well, here we are, back in lockdown and dreaming of future adventures.

It might seem impossible to make any cycling plans at the moment, but that doesn't mean we can't think about it – to inspire you, we've got 21 cycle routes for 2021 and a list of fantastic events that we really hope will be going ahead this year.

If lockdown restrictions have had you taking the whole family out for rides, we've been testing out a range of mountain bikes for teenagers and gravel bikes with smaller frames.

In England there are some exciting campaign updates on access, and there's also a chance to have your say on an update of the Countryside Code, to help ensure that people who have recently got into outdoor activities know how to do it responsibly.

Best wishes

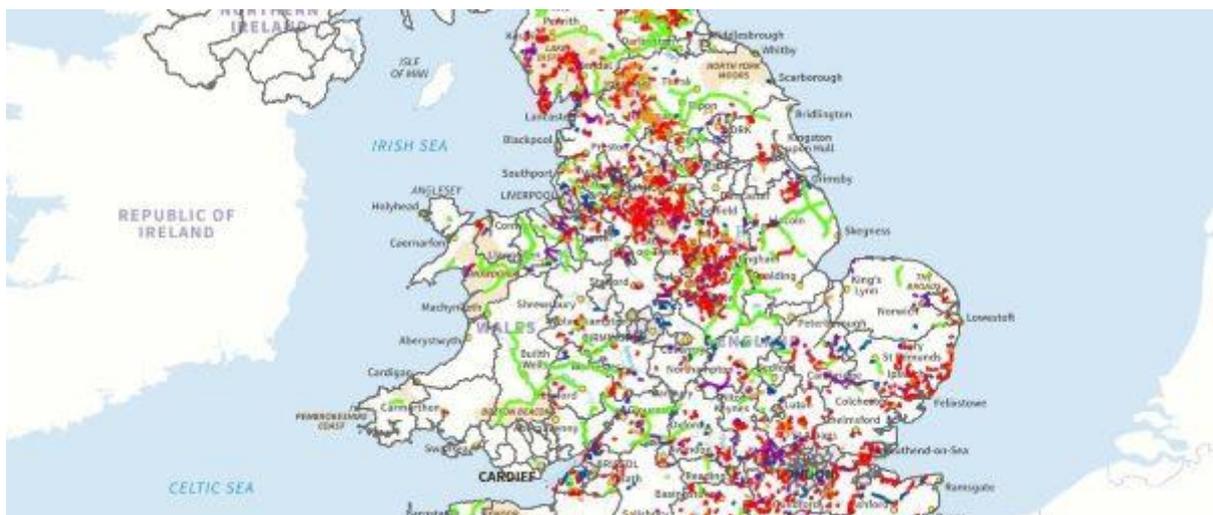
**Sophie Gordon**, campaigns officer



## Cycle routes and events to look forward to in 2021

To celebrate the start of 2021, we've listed [21 of our favourite routes](#) from across the UK. With something for all abilities, each route has an interactive map and GPX file. We hope it inspires you to go on an amazing cycle ride this year. Plus, while the year ahead is uncertain, that shouldn't stop us from planning for better times. In this round up, Cycling UK highlights a variety of events across the UK for riders of all interests.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



## Are your missing link routes on the map?

Thousands of routes have already been added to Cycling UK's 'missing links' map, revealing the paths and tracks in England which could form crucial traffic-free cycling connections.

You can use our map tool to add the routes you'd like to be able to ride on, and then get in touch with your local authority to suggest where future improvements could be made to help more people explore their local area by bike.

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### On test: mountain bikes for teenagers, small gravel bikes, and gravel tyres

Our testers have been busy over the past few months trying out new bikes and kit. If you need some buying advice, we've got you covered.

- [Mountain bikes for teenagers](#)
- [Small gravel bikes](#)
- [Gravel tyres](#)



## New plans for farming post-Brexit – what it means for access

The UK Government has [unveiled new plans for farming in England after Brexit](#).

The changes could bring potential benefits for public access – but the way things currently stand, Cycling UK is concerned that access won't be prioritised and will fall by the wayside.

As part of the [Outdoor Access Alliance](#), Cycling UK has proposed [two amendments](#) to the Environment Bill which would include “public access to and enjoyment of the natural environment” as a priority area for target-setting.

The good news is these amendments are due to be debated in Parliament around Monday 18 January. But to ensure the amendments are passed, we need to drum up support from more MPs – and that's where you come in.

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## Countryside Code survey

Natural England is seeking your views on a refresh of the Countryside Code, to ensure that everyone knows how to look after the environment and other people when out in the countryside.

There's still time to have your say before the survey closes on Monday 11 January.

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**Great North Trail named as route of the year**

We were thrilled that the Great North Trail received a Bronze award for ‘Best new route’ at the [2020 Bikepacking Awards](#) – and it was even more exciting to be named ‘Route of the year’ in the public vote.

If riding all or part of the 800-mile trail from the Peak District to the north coast of Scotland is on your bucket list, you can find all the details on the [route pages](#) and in the [printed route guide](#) to help you plan your adventure.

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## Plans to criminalise trespass to be debated in Parliament

At the beginning of 2020, the UK government consulted on plans to make ‘intentional trespass’ a criminal offence in England and Wales (rather than a civil one as it is now).

Cycling UK responded to the consultation, setting out our concerns that the [vaguely worded proposals could unintentionally include wild camping](#).

Following a large public petition, the proposals are due to be debated in Parliament on Monday 25 January. The group who started the petition have provided a [template letter](#) you can send to your MP to ask them to attend the debate and speak against criminalising trespass.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



## **The MountainBikeNI Awards are now open – vote for your favourites**

If you ride in Northern Ireland, show your support by voting for the trail centres, clubs, cafés and accommodation that make mountain biking great.

Voting takes just two minutes and you can win a fantastic prize from Chain Reaction Cycles - a work stand mat and 39 piece tool kit.

**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](https://cyclinguk.org/offroadcampaigns)**



**Sophie Gordon**  
Campaigns Officer  
Cycling UK

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