

Off-road update



Halloween is fast approaching, and there are a couple of scary tricks in this off-road update – like Dartmoor’s outdated byelaws criminalising cycling and a concerning increase in fatalities on rural roads.

Not to fear though: there are also a few treats, including tales of a long weekend Highland trip and tackling England east to west with teenagers, and more great prizes and tips for our #12nightsoutin1year bikepacking challenge.

We’ve also launched a new way you can get involved in speaking up for cycling, along with more online events and resources for campaigning in rural areas.

Best wishes,

Sophie Gordon, campaigns officer



(Image by Rob S/Flickr CC)

Dartmoor byelaws review: criminalising cycling?

Dartmoor National Park is currently consulting on new draft byelaws which would continue to criminalise straying off the path on a bike – despite there being an open right of access for walking and horse riding and no evidence that cycling causes more damage.

There's only a week left to respond to the consultation and call for a more reasonable and evidence-based approach to access for cycling to promote 'public enjoyment' of the National Park.

FIND OUT MORE



Does the West Kernow Way use footpaths?

In September 2021 Cycling UK launched the [West Kernow Way](#), a 150-mile bikepacking route around the western tip of Cornwall. It forms part of the European Regional Development Fund EXPERIENCE project, which aims to develop sustainable off-season tourism activities across six regions in England and France.

If you look closely at the route, you might notice some sections which are marked on the map as footpaths – but all is not as it appears. Delve into the ancient tales of the ‘lost ways’ and discover how to find them yourself.

FIND OUT MORE

If you're very organised and already thinking about Christmas presents, why not treat a friend to a [Cycling UK gift membership](#) with a free King Alfred's Way or Great North Trail guide thrown in?



Great rides: Lowestoft to Land's End and Cairngorm trails

Sticking with the Land's End theme, Jon Shaw shares an [off-road route](#) he pieced together from Suffolk to Cornwall, linking England's most easterly and westerly points.

What did his two teenagers make of dad's grand plans?

Further north, when Scotland's lockdown ended last year, Richard Ingham and son Jeremy spent three days [bikepacking across the Highlands](#) on the Dava Way.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Become a cycle champion

Want to speak up for cycling in rural areas, but not sure where to start?

There's now a brand new way to get involved with the [Cycle Advocacy Network \(CAN\)](#), by receiving campaign action ideas and invitations to future online events. Since we launched the network a year ago, over 200 volunteers have joined as local representatives of Cycling UK. They've taken part in virtual gatherings, including campaign briefings, discussions and surgery sessions, to support them to take action where they live.

You may not feel you have the time to join as a local rep, but we still want to support you to speak up for cycling where you live and be as effective as possible.

By connecting with the Cycle Advocacy Network as a [cycle champion](#), you'll receive updates on all the online events and information sessions, and new resources.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



“Rural communities must not be left behind”

Figures released by the Department for Transport at the end of September show a sharp rise in the rate of cyclist fatalities on rural A roads in Britain, while the death rate on urban roads continues to fall.

This [raises serious questions](#) about the provision of safe routes for cycling in rural areas, especially direct routes into towns, and whether a default speed limit of 60mph on winding and often relatively narrow rural roads is appropriate.

On 6 November, during the COP26 conference, Cycling UK is joining millions of others in a [day of global action](#), to tell governments that cycling offers huge potential to cut climate emissions, and that active travel must be urgently embraced as part of the solution to the climate crisis.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



OS Maps and Cycling UK focus on how to wild camp responsibly

Cycling UK has teamed up with OS Maps and adventure traveller Vedangi Kulkarni to produce a short film explaining [how to wild camp responsibly](#).

From advice on where to camp to how to go to the toilet responsibly (tip: pack it up and take it out) to picking up other people's rubbish as well as your own, it has all the advice needed to leave the countryside in a better state than when you found it.

It's part of our year-long cycle camping challenge called [#12nightsoutin1year](#) – take part this month and you could win an Exposure light.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Autumn bikepacking: why you should do it

Why are we still talking about camping in October?

Just because summer has ended, it doesn't mean you have to pack away your camping gear until next year. Cycling UK's Sam Jones revels in the delights of autumnal nocturnal adventures - especially by bike - and [recommends everyone gives it a go at least once](#).

Back in the warmer climes of August, Sam also offered to take TV legend Timmy Mallett out for an overnight trip. Would Timmy take him up on it? [You bet he would](#).

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



How (and why) to get involved with your Local Access Forum

Joining your Local Access Forum is a way to participate in discussions about improving access in your local area, influence recommendations, and make sure that cycling is represented and considered in decisions. In this new campaigner guide we explain how you can get involved.

[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



Sophie Gordon
Campaigns Officer
Cycling UK