



Welcome

Riding a bike for fun often means we end up right back where we started. The draw is the journey, not the destination. We meander over the map, using favourite lanes, views, climbs, descents, and cafés, and finish where we began.

They're circular in that sense only. Looking at a GPS log in Strava or suchlike, the ride outline will be anything but round. That's especially true for off-road rides, which follow desire lines that haven't been memorialised in tarmac. Nice sections of trail are scattered like bird tracks on snow: they start, run for a while, then stop. It's up to whoever's leading the ride to link them together.

Unless you're at a trail centre, where it's done for you. Then the fun sections come thick and fast, snapped together like Scalextric track from the trail-builder's toolbox: straight, berm, drop-off, berm, steep descent, climb, straight. They're the ultimate circular routes.

Yet there's a less kinetic but more memorable kind of fun to be had in *not* going round in circles – to really *go somewhere*. Rides with aspirational destinations are perennially popular with touring cyclists: coast-to-coasts, end-to-ends, and more. There are far fewer off-road equivalents; long-distance trails are thin on the ground.

If you're looking for a new 800-mile off-road epic to ride next year, however, we've got just the thing...

DAN JOYCE
Cycle Editor

Local riding
To find any Member Group or Cycling UK affiliate, visit cyclinguk.org/groups or phone **01483 238301**

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On the cover
Pennine Bridleway near Dufton and High Cup Nick. Photo by Joolze Dymond

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Founded in 1878

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