



E-BIKE SAFETY MEASURES

The Power Points article in the Oct/Nov '24 issue makes a number of key safety points but doesn't describe the full range of precautions to reduce the possibility of an e-bike fire.

Batteries shouldn't be charged overnight, and bikes and charging batteries must never be allowed to block a possible escape route by being in or close to a lobby, hallway, staircase or doorway. If possible, batteries should be charged outside or in a location that is away from the main accommodation, in an area that is covered by a working smoke alarm and where it is possible to close a door on the area to help contain a fire.

Warning signs that may indicate that a lithium ion battery has become dangerous include a build up of excessive heat, any bulging or swelling out of shape, unusual noises, strong smells or charging problems.

I haven't made these observations to be alarmist. I believe that the benefits of e-bikes far outweigh any disadvantages associated with them.

Peter Cowup

It's worth restating that an e-bike from a reputable manufacturer, charged with the correct charger, is extremely unlikely to cause problems. The London Fire Brigade – which attended 143 e-bike fires in 2023 – singles out conversion kits, particularly those bought cheaply online and a used with a charger they weren't sold with. See london-fire.gov.uk/chargesafe.

ROUGH-STUFF GUIDANCE

I completely agree with Alan Ackroyd's letter (Oct/Nov '24) about grading off-road cycle routes. We use Sustrans maps a lot for cycle touring, and an off-road route (shown as

green) can be anything from lovely smooth tarmac to a singletrack path through undergrowth. Sometimes you can be lured onto a route thinking it is wonderful and then it changes to a rough, muddy surface. Maybe we need different colours for routes that need a mountain bike or gravel bike? There are people of all abilities and situations – children, adapted bike riders, tandemists – who really benefit from a rideable off-road route.

Sally Kertzman

COLD FEET

The letter from Clive Egginton in the Oct/Nov '24 issue sounded very familiar. Chilblains bother me as well. As one sufferer to another, my advice is to prevent the toes getting cold from the outset. Calf-length socks made of 100% silk work wonders as they allow the blood to keep warm as it passes down one's lower leg. I have also had success lining the insole with tinfoil and also raw fleece – often gathered from barbed wire fences and put into the toe box of shoes. This only works if the shoes are not too tight.

Thom Hadfield

SPEED E-BIKES

In the Oct/Nov '24 issue there is an item about the legality of electric bikes, accompanied by a picture of a Riese & Müller Supercharger GT Touring, which is captioned: "treated as a moped in the UK". This is not so. The model that is treated as a moped is the GT Touring HS (high speed). R&M sells many of its models with either the Performance Line CX motor or the Performance Line Speed motor. It is only the latter which is rated to 28mph.

Yoav Tzabar

Thanks for the correction. I did mean to reference the HS model.



Photo of the month

FLYING SCOT

Who remembers the old CTC Tourist Trials of the 1950s and '60s? They were 100 miles in eight hours, 130 miles in 12 hours and, the big one, 200 miles in 24 hours.

There was also a shorter one; I think it was 50 miles. The 200 miler was held on the nearest weekend to the longest day of the year as this allowed maximum daylight. Back then I cycled with Falkirk CTC on my beautiful Flying Scot. The photo was taken at Trossachs Pier on Loch Katrine.

Andrew Mitchell



CYCLING UK FORUM

Get immediate feedback from other members at forum.cyclinguk.org. Here's an abridged extract from a recent thread: [cyclinguk.org/forum-packing-touring](https://forum.cyclinguk.org/forum-packing-touring)



PACKING FOR TOURING
harlechjoe: I always pack light and always try to pack lighter. What are the essential items you pack for a long-distance bicycle tour and why are they important to you?

roubaixtuesday: Depends on the length of tour, accommodation and weather. I've done anything from full camping gear in a trailer to a single bar bag. I've *never* got to the top of a big climb and thought: "Really wish I'd packed more gear."

plancashire: I always pack a light pump. The Topeak Mini Morph is a tiny stand-pump – you push against the ground.

pwa: A small plastic bag of spare nuts, bolts, plastic ties, wire and insulation tape for unexpected roadside fixes to mudguards, racks, bottle cages, etc.

PH: I've got some light headphones that I sometimes regret not

having with me. Not just to pass some time in the evening, but also for any travel at either end of the tour.

simonhill: My 'extra' would be a small electric kettle. I use it for tea in the morning, then porridge for breakfast, with maybe a coffee. On arrival a mug or two of tea. Can also be used for pot noodles if necessary.

gbnz: Decent ear plugs. Benefits of a decent night's sleep can't be underestimated

VinceLedge: Kindle and a head torch, so I can read before I go to sleep and not disturb others.

Cowsham: I also take a spare pair of glasses and a spare phone (my old smartphone) cos if the main one breaks it's a major problem these days.

simonineaston: Always remember to plan carefully – then take half of the belongings and twice the money!