



Watch this

Children having fun on bikes is always cheering. When it's 8-year-old Ellis Brewer, it's jaw dropping. The junior biker was filmed putting his Early Rider Hellion X20 through its paces at Avoriaz Bike Park in France by filmmaker Yannick Boissenot. Early Rider's Andy Loveland said: "This film isn't just about showcasing a product, it's about what's possible when young riders are given the right tools and the freedom to explore." The bike is (ahem) £1,699; details at eu.earlyrider.com. Watch the video at: bit.ly/8yearold-hellion-MTB.



Bombtrack Beyond+ Midtail

A longtail is a cargo bike with an extended rear end. The chainstays of this 'midtail' are 580mm – closer to a Jones Plus LWB (483mm) than a Surly Big Dummy (821mm). As such, Bombtrack's claim that it's built for bikepacking as well as heavy hauling seems plausible. It has an integral rear rack, 29x2.6in tyres and frame mounts for everything. It's 17.1kg and rated to carry 200kg. Bike £2,750, frameset £1,150. bombtrack.com



Find a local group near you and enjoy a ride this weekend: cyclinguk.org/group-listing

Freewheel

A short tour around the wonderful world of cycling

On my bike



Max on home turf at the launch event for Royal Chilterns Way, which he designed

Max Darkins

Guidebook writer and Royal Chilterns Way route designer

Why do you cycle? Fitness and fun, but I'm also lucky enough to be able to call it work for much of the time, too.

How far do you ride each week? It varies a lot depending on what work I'm doing and the time of the year. It's nearly always off road, and could be 300 miles a week when checking and signing routes, or in winter as little as 10 miles if I'm just taking my

dog, Rocky, for a blast around the local woods.

Which of your bikes is your favourite? It depends on where and why I'm riding, but at the moment it's a Stooze Mk4 (rigid, steel MTB with big tyres – pictured), which makes my local riding in the Chilterns fun. It's also low maintenance, which is a win in my books.

What do you always take with you when cycling? A GPS or phone so I can explore and record any new, interesting-looking trails. And a hard-boiled egg, with a little sachet of salt, as it's my favourite trail food.

Who mends your punctures? Me. I try to do all my bike maintenance.

If you had £100 to spend on

