



In the frame

Lightweight trousers for fair-weather riding.
The sale price of £55 is more realistic

Other options



DFYRS TYRANT TRAIL TROUSER £99.99

No women's-specific option, but a great fit regardless. Zipped pockets and a ratchet buckle make these a go-to favourite. Durable fabric holds up to rough trail conditions. dfyrs.com



WINCH AND PLUMMET MTB PRO PANTS £84.99

A looser fit, but water repellency makes these a great choice for damp rides without the 'boil in the bag' feel of waterproof options. winchandplummet.co.uk



DHB

Trail Trousers Womens

£55, evanscycles.com

- + COMFORTABLE
- NOT VERY HARDWEARING
- LACK OF ADJUSTABILITY

Lightweight off-road kit that doesn't sacrifice too much in the way of durability or protection is something I'm always on the lookout for. These trousers didn't really meet my criteria, even though the price has been slashed. (The original RRP was £179.)

In terms of comfort, dhb has done a great job. The four-way stretch in the fabric feels natural, and I never felt restricted, even on gravel climbs where I was shifting around a lot. Being a slightly loose fit, there was plenty of room for kneepads on MTB rides. I was less keen on the pockets: the open pockets are anxiety inducing even on smooth rides, and the set-back design of the single, zipped side pocket leaves your phone, keys and multitool rattling around, bouncing in the stretch fabric. I found myself reaching for a bumbag instead.

Featuring an elasticated waistband and single button clasp, these lack the adjustability of many similarly priced trousers, and they sit a little low on the hips. On jumpier MTB rides, they do shift

around somewhat – especially if you habitually leave your phone and other accoutrements in the pocket. There are belt loops for further cinching if that's your thing, but on a leisure off-road ride this wasn't for me. I don't want to have to use a belt with trail trousers.

I also felt a little let down by the weather protection and toughness. These trousers are clearly designed for fair-weather riding and didn't hold up to winter muck. They dry quickly once wet, but during a couple of soggy laps they soaked through fast. When it comes to durability, they're fine for wide tracks but I've noticed some slight tugs on the fabric from tighter singletrack. ●

Jaz Morse

Verdict

These trousers are best suited to summer MTB, dry gravel rides and general outdoor use. They do their job well when conditions are right, but if you regularly ride rough, wet trails, you'll probably want something tougher and more weatherproof.