

Ride Pendle Routes

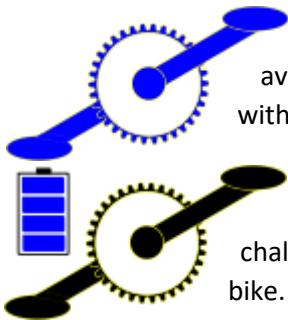
Route and Trail Grading

Routes and trails have been graded by the following definitions:

Blue

These are the most accessible routes and trails. Generally family friendly and a good place to start. In some circumstances, a blue route may contain a red graded trail. This is due to a judgement of the route as a whole being made rather than grading the route by its hardest feature.

An example of a Blue Graded Trail would be a trail with varied or rough surfaces with no significant features that require MTB skills to negotiate. We have created the following icons to help communicate gradings.

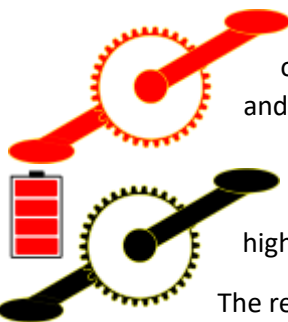


An example of a Blue route would be anything which a person with an average level of fitness, but little cycling experience should be able to access without significant challenge. Due to the nature of the terrain, these are not always flat, but they are generally easier and shorter!

Where a trail, or route, is graded red or black due to the level of physical challenge, it may be a blue if you're riding an eBike, but a Red on a conventional bike. These eBike specific icons could be more relevant here.

Red

These are a natural progression once you feel comfortable with red graded routes and trails. They offer moderate challenge but aren't extreme. Sometimes, red routes can feature a small number of more challenging features, these will be well spaced out so that there is time to recover between them!



An example of a Red trail would be something that requires the rider to get out of the saddle in order to climb or negotiate obstacles. There shouldn't be and need to take wheels off the ground on a red trail.

An example of a Red route would be something which features mainly red trails, features more than one red trail in close succession and/or requires a higher level of physical fitness and experience.

The red eBike icon notates trails and routes that are still red, even with assistance!

Black

These are the 'expert' Trails and routes! They may involve steeper climbs, bigger distances or more technically challenging trails. Some of the Black graded trails in the Pendle Hill Landscape require a bit of experience with navigation too.



An example of a Black trail would be something which requires the rider to lift the front wheel in order to be able to negotiate obstacles, negotiate multiple challenges, such as loose rocks on a steep climb and ride narrow sections of trail where precision is needed. These trails may also offer a significant physical challenge or require a little bit of navigational skill.

An example of a Black route would be a longer ride that features multiple challenging climbs, these may be in close proximity to each other, requiring the rider to manage their effort well!



Battery range may be a factor in deciding that a route is Black, even on an eBike. It can be very frustrating to run out of charge, just when you need it and this is possible on longer routes with significant climbing.

Bike Choice

There is a lot of variety in types of bikes available and this can make it a little confusing when it comes to choosing the right one for you. The following breaks down the key differences between types of bikes and what they are for.

MTB

Mountain Bikes are designed for use on rough off road terrain.

Most of them have some form of suspension and gearing tends to be easier than other types of bikes. This is what makes them suitable for challenging terrain.

The limitations of mountain Bikes are their ability to cover ground on paved roads. They tend to be heavier, less efficient, and slower than other bikes on smooth surfaces.

Road Bike

Road Bikes are designed to be efficient on smooth, well paved surfaces.

They have smooth, narrow tyres and are generally geared for going fast rather than dealing with difficult terrain. Most road bikes have drop handlebars, offering the rider multiple hand positions, which helps to access a range of riding positions throughout a longer ride.

The limitations of road bikes is their ability to negotiate technically challenging terrain.

Hybrid

A Hybrid is a compromise between a road bike and a mountain bike.

Some have suspension and both the tyres and gearing are in between road and mountain bikes.

Whilst a hybrid will never be as nimble as an MTB or as efficient as a road bike, they are a good compromise for a casual rider who wants to be able to access both on and off road rides.

Gravel/Adventure Bike

Gravel/Adventure bikes are designed for long distances on mixed terrain.

They tend to be lighter than a Hybrid and have drop handlebars, making them more suitable for longer rides. Some Gravel bikes can be fitted with mountain bike tyres, opening up access to more technically challenging terrain.

They don't tend to have suspension and the ones that do offer far less travel than an MTB. If you choose to ride a Gravel Bike on technical off-road trails, it will require a higher level of skill than an MTB.

When fitted with more efficient tyres, Gravel Bikes can also be a more forgiving alternative to a road bike in areas where the terrain is hilly and road surfaces are less than ideal.

eBikes

An eBike is a bicycle which offers support with pedalling via an electric motor. In order for it, it must meet the EAPC (electrically assisted pedal cycles) standards, which are:

- Riders must be at least 14 years of age
- The motor may only engage whilst the rider is pedalling
- Maximum power output of 250 watts
- Pedalling assistance limited to speeds lower than 15.5mph

- Some eBikes will have a 'walk mode' which uses the motor whilst the bike is being pushed. This must not exceed 4mph

If an EACP exceeds these conditions, it may still be road legal, but will be classed as an electric motorcycle and require registration, appropriate licences etc. it will most likely be an L1e vehicle.

L1e vehicles - An eBike which is capable of self-propelling and/or providing assistance at speeds over 15.5mph is classed as an electric moped by the DVLA (L1e). This means that they must be registered, insured and displaying a licence plate to be used on the roads. It is OK to ride an L1e vehicle on a Byway, but not a Bridleway.

<https://www.gov.uk/electric-bike-rules>