

CTC Draft Standards for Grading Waymarked Recreational Cycle TrailsVersion 10.7.98

Grade	Green – Easy	Blue – Moderate	Red – Difficult	Black - Severe
Suitable for	“Non-cyclists” and families. Children riding solo. Bikes with child seats or trailers. Touring bikes. Bikes for those with disabilities	Occasional cyclists with experience of road use or easy trails. Reasonably fit families. Children 10+ yrs riding solo. Suitable for mountain bikes or Hybrids	Regular cyclists with experience of moderate trails. Suitable for off road quality mountain bike riders	Expert mountain bike riders who expect and relish technical challenges.
Trail Types	Rail trails, towpaths, reservoir trails, estate or forestry tracks. Traffic quietened roads	As “Green” plus bridleways, byways and unsurfaced unclassified roads. Lightly trafficked lanes	Any useable trail with pushing or portage unlike to exceed 2% of total distance.	Any combination, but with the expectation of technical riding or a combination of unforgiving terrain, considerable distances or climbs
Target Length	5-10 km	10-20 km	10-50 km	Up to 100 km
Maximum Climb	Up to 50m	Up to 100m	Up to 500m	Up to 1000m
Gradient	Shallow climbs and descent, capable of being ridden by children and non fit adults.	Shallow/moderate climbs + short sections of steeper climbs which may have to be walked.	A wide range of climbs and descents of a challenging nature.	Any rideable gradient. May include “drop offs”
Surface/Width	Black top or compacted limestone or gravel. Essentially smooth with few loose surfaces. Minimum 2-3m width.	Mostly sealed surfaces. Less than 10% earth based singletrack of width below 2m.	Any combination of width and surfaces.	Expected to include at least 30% singletrack and 70% offroad riding with challenging surfaces.
Acceptable Hazards	The target should be nil. Any avoidable hazards should be identified in promotional literature and through notices at trail head and site of hazard.	Some loose surfaces, ruts, potholes and/or tree roots may be expected.	The route should be judged on the basis that a reasonably experienced rider riding within his/her level of skill and prevailing ground conditions should not be expected to fall.	Hazards are expected, as assessed and agreed by an expert user. Falling off will be expected.

Notes

These standards are not intended to be prescriptive, but should be used to provide broad guidance.

Full risk assessment should be made on all trails, following CTC guidelines.

All trails should, where possible, have shortcut options and these, plus the main trail should be clearly and comprehensively waymarked.

Backup literature should clearly indicate the route, grade, distance, climb and likely riding time and this information should be reinforced by trailhead notices.

Information giving the combination of trail grades likely to be encountered on permanent trail quest courses should be provided27.6.98