

# Responsible Motorbike Trail riding

This document is a draft item to give the feel of what may appear here.

## TRAIL RIDE WITH MINIMUM IMPACT

- Stay on legal routes. These may be public rights of way or privately owned land such as trail parks open to the public where a fee will be charged.
- On privately owned land you must have the permission of the land owner.
- On muddy or delicate grass surfaces moderate the throttle and use the clutch to gain maximum traction with minimum wheelspin. Once a grass surface is destroyed it may never grow back again, so be particularly careful with throttle and brakes.
- On switchbacks, avoid roosting around the apex of the turn when climbing or brake-sliding during descent, both of which gouge the trail.
- Don't ride around fallen logs; it is best to move them or ride over them.
- When negotiating any obstacle, stay loose over the bike to allow for sudden direction changes.
- Cross streams only at designated fording points or where the trail crosses the stream.
- Routes which have soft muddy surfaces should be avoided in wet weather.
- Noise is the aspect which causes most complaints so make sure your vehicle is effectively silenced.
- Ride at reasonable speed taking regard of conditions and visibility.

## RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

- Be considerate of others on the road or trail.
- Ride only where permitted.
- Leave gates as you find them, open if open, closed if closed. It is a good idea if the person who opens the gate also closes it. Do not allow the first person who opens the gate to ride away, as the last rider may assume that the gate does not need closing.
- Treat others with respect. Give way to walkers, horses and cyclists. On a narrow lane, stop and switch off engines.
- Keep the noise and dust down.
- Don't leave litter, take it home with you.

## EDUCATE YOURSELF, PLAN AND PREPARE BEFORE YOU GO

- Suitable Rights of Way are usually Byways Open to All Traffic (BOAT) and UCRs which have not received a tarmac surface.
- Most OS maps are accurate but they still contain some errors. To be sure, you will need to consult the Highway Authority for the area in which you wish to ride. BOATs will be shown on the Definitive Map (DM) held by the right of way office. UCRs are shown on the List of Streets (LoS). Local clubs will also be able to assist with information.
- If riding on private land, be sure to ask permission from the landowner(s).
- Check the weather forecast.
- Wear appropriate clothing for the weather forecast and the routes you anticipate riding.
- Buddy up with two or three riders. Riding solo can leave you vulnerable if you have an accident or breakdown. Designate meeting areas in case of separation.
- Know your limitations. Watch your time, your fuel, and your energy.
- Don't mix riding with alcohol and/or drugs.
- Understand how to operate your motorcycle and its controls.
- There are commercial facilities offering trail and offroad riding tuition, both for riders with their own motorcycles and riders who wish to hire a bike. An internet search will give you some contacts.
- Make sure your vehicle is mechanically up to task. Be prepared with tools, supplies and spares for trailside repairs.

## ALLOW FOR FUTURE USE OF THE OUTDOORS, LEAVE IT BETTER THAN YOU FOUND IT

- Carry a bag for rubbish on your vehicle and pick up litter left by others.
- Avoid "spooking" livestock and wildlife you encounter.
- Avoid sensitive habitats, wetlands, steams, and meadows.
- Following a ride, wash your motorcycle to reduce the spread of noxious weeds.

## DISCOVER THE REWARDS OF RESPONSIBLE RECREATION

- Trail and offroad riding provides the opportunity to get away from the rush of everyday life and builds family traditions.

- Careless and noisy riding can cause damage and may result in closing areas.
- Respect the environment and trail users. By using common sense and common courtesy, what is available today will be here to enjoy tomorrow.