



The Pebblebed Heaths support an amazing array of short and longer trails for mountain bikers to explore. Today's riders will shape the future condition of the trails and the image of mountain biking. By following this code and encouraging others to do the same, you can be sure that you are enjoying this special landscape in a way that respects other visitors, landowners, animals and wildlife. Some of the trails are sensitive to damage and erosion, following the code will help keep them in good condition for all to use and enjoy far into the future.

### **Pass slow and say hi! Give way to walkers and horses.**

Slow down when passing other visitors and avoid kicking up dust and pebbles. Remember that horses can be spooked if they don't know you are there. By calling out a friendly greeting other visitors will realise that you are close by, making it easier for everyone to share the trails. We all love to explore the heaths with friends and family but large bunched up groups of riders can be intimidating. Ride no more than two abreast and when passing other visitors all pass on the same side.

### **Follow trails to protect the landscape and wildlife, avoid widening trails or creating new lines.**

Keeping to trails protects the special habitats and the rare wildlife that live in them. This is particularly important during the bird breeding season from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> July. Many heathland birds breed on the ground so are easily disturbed, leaving eggs or chicks exposed to the cold and predators. It is a criminal offence to ride on scheduled monuments such as Woodbury Castle hillfort, so please enjoy these places on foot.

### **Take care of yourself and the trails, avoid routes that are sensitive to damage.**

Plan your route. The heaths provide a brilliant range of access for cyclists, so choose a route that matches your ability. Know your equipment and wear the right protective gear. Wet and muddy trails are more vulnerable to damage and erosion so adjust your riding and consider using alternative routes. Using these sections less, or only in dry weather, will help protect the trails for all to enjoy.

**Always shut the gates,  
read and follow signs and report any problems.**

Livestock graze upon the heaths, closing gates keeps grazing animals where they should be. On a group ride please make sure the last rider shuts the gate. We want all visitors to stay safe and enjoy their visit so we will put out information that we feel would be useful. Signs, our websites and social media feeds are the best way to find out about work that is happening or about grazing animals that may influence where you chose to ride. You can also help us by reporting any problems that you see during your visit.

**Don't modify trails or build jumps.**

Please don't physically modify trails or create jumps which can be dangerous for other users. As well as statutory Open Access to the heaths, there is also permissive access to many of the woodlands associated with them. You are free to enjoy riding through these, but any structures that appear will be removed.

**Organised cycling events need a licence from the land manager.**

All events on the heaths need to be licenced by the land manager, this includes cycling events or companies that lead organised rides. Please contact the land manager if you would like to plan an event or think you might require a license to operate your business on the heaths. If you take part in an organised ride please check the organisers have permission from the land owner.

