



Cycling on Cleeve Common

Cleeve Common is a wonderful place to mountain bike. It offers numerous and varied tracks and, of course, magnificent views in a peaceful setting. You should however be aware that the fragile habitats of the Common are protected by law as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The Common is privately owned land that is managed and regulated by a Registered Charity, the Board of Conservators, which was established by Act of Parliament in 1890.

What right of access is there for cyclists on Cleeve Common?

The 1890 Act of Parliament and latterly the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) gives the 'right to roam' anywhere on the Common, but only on foot. Aside from the bridleways/byways, there is **no statutory access** for cyclists on the Common.

Elsewhere, permissive access, on established tracks only, is granted by Cleeve Common Board of Conservators to those who sign up to and adhere to the Code of Conduct. We welcome those cyclists to enjoy the Common sensitively for many years to come.

Code of Conduct

You can help us to conserve Cleeve Common, protecting this fantastic resource today and for future generations. Please note that the code of conduct is advisory and is not enforced by law; the only statutory access for cyclists is on public bridleways.

Where can I cycle?

Permissive access for cyclists is granted **on established tracks only**. Creation of new tracks will fragment the habitats on the Common and can disturb the wildlife. Please help us to prevent erosion and to maintain the valuable habitats on the Common.



- Do not cycle on soft or narrow grass tracks.
- Please be extra cautious in wet weather to prevent erosion. If tracks are muddy or churned up seek an alternative route.
- Please help us prevent new tracks forming by not cutting through areas of vegetation.
- NEVER construct jumps. Digging/moving earth on a SSSI is an offence.
- Minimise disturbance over patches of scree, piles of spoil or bare rock – there are very rare species living in these habitats; some of which are critically endangered (eg. Limestone fern and musk orchid illustrated to the left).
- Never ride over lumpy, grassy areas of old quarry spoil – there are very rare species living in these habitats and their range is very restricted over the Common (as above).
- Be mindful of livestock. Give animals the chance to get out of your way and **always** close the gates behind you, ensuring that they latch properly.
- Always give way to horse-riders, walkers and runners. Be mindful of golfers. Please pass horses at a walking pace and if the horse looks startled please offer to get off your bike.

- Please observe the minimum impact code: leave things as you find them and take only photographs and please take any litter home with you.

Where is cycling not permitted?

Permissive access is **not** granted in the following areas.



Scheduled Ancient Monuments (Shown in orange on the map)

These archaeological monuments are nationally important and are legally protected from damage. Erosion can threaten the integrity of the Monuments and can be very expensive to repair. Please help us to prevent erosion of these monuments.

- Cycling is not permitted on the Monuments
- You can cross the Monuments where there is a surfaced, limestone track but **do not** cycle over grassed areas where there is no established track and please be extra careful in wet conditions.

Highly sensitive wildlife areas (Shown in red on the map)

- These areas of the Common are particularly ecologically sensitive, owing to the large number of rare and critically endangered species which occur here.
- Permissive access is only granted in these areas to cyclists riding in single file.
- Keep **strictly** to **established** tracks.
- Please ride down the middle of tracks, as rare plants tend to grow along the edges.
- Do not cycle over scree or spoil piles or bare/shingly earth.
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The Golf Course (Shown in yellow on the map)

- Please help us to make space for everybody to enjoy the Common. Cycling is not permitted on the golf course.
- You can cross the golf course where there is a wide, established track but **never** cross the fairways, greens or tees.

Look after yourself

- You are strongly advised to have valid third party insurance when visiting the Common.
- Please always carry a phone with the Ranger number programmed in: 07756 828 458.
- Remember to wear a cycle helmet which conforms to recognised safety standards.
- In the event of a serious accident or emergency **always** dial 999 first. Then call the Ranger phone number, as the Rangers can help the emergency services with directions and off-road vehicles.

Signing up to the Code of Conduct

- We ask you to sign up and adhere to this Code of Conduct in order to obtain permissive access to cycle on Cleeve Common. We simply ask that you provide your name and an email address so that we can keep in touch, notifying you of any temporary or permanent changes to the Code, and new electric fencing during winter.
- As with other recreational activities, the impact of cycling will be monitored and the Board retains the right to amend/add to this Code of Conduct at any time (see website).

Supporting the management of Cleeve Common

- Did you know the registered charity in charge of managing the Common gets no core funding and is reliant on private donations and grants for conservation of the SSSI?
- We offer a 24/7 Ranger service that is often utilised by mountain bikers in times of emergency. We get no funding to carry out this service.
- Our ranger checks all the gates daily, ensuring they are easy for people to use, and responds to call outs when people forget to close them and livestock escape.
- Having so many visitors enjoying Cleeve Common is a costly exercise for the charity.
- If you are able to support our work with a financial contribution of any size, you will be ensuring Cleeve Common remains the special place it is today, and open for future generations of visitors and cyclists to enjoy.
- Please keep us informed if you see something untoward while out biking, and keep in touch with us on facebook and via email conservators@cleevecommon.org.uk / www.cleevecommon.org.uk



