



## Additional Risk Assessment – Off-Road Rides

### Crawley Wheelers Cycling Club Additional Risk Assessment Introduction

Off-road rides may include sections that are on-road, as well as sections on unsurfaced tracks including bridleways, gravel paths, forest tracks and dedicated mountain bike trails.

This risk assessment should be read alongside the standard risk assessment and is only intended to assess the risk from additional hazards that are not normally present on road rides.

**All riders are reminded that they are responsible for their own safety; individuals take part in any group activity at their own risk. We strongly urge all riders to obtain appropriate 3rd party insurance as a minimum. It should be noted that no liability shall be attached to Crawley Wheelers Cycling Club (including its officials and members) for any injury, loss or damage suffered.**

Risk Assessment: Additional Club Off-Road Rides

Location: All Crawley Wheelers Cycling Club off Road Ride Routes  
Document Reference: Risk Assessments.

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Other relevant Risk Assessment: Crawley Wheelers Standard Risk Assessment - Road Rides

Activity	Hazard	Who is at risk	Level (H/M/L)	Control Measures Recommended	Residual Risk (H/M/L)	FURTHER ACTION RECOMMENDED/REQUIRED		
						Y/N	what	Person Responsible
1. Pre-Ride	Equipment: Suitability	Rider	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommended that Cycles and parts (e.g. tyres) used for off-road rides must be designed for that specific purpose i.e. cyclo-cross or mountain bikes, with off-road tyres</li> </ul>	No Risk	N		Rider
2. Ride	Natural trail features e.g. roots, rocks and drops	Rider	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Riders must ride single file and leave sufficient stopping gaps between each other when entering trails that have hazardous natural features e.g. single-track</li> <li>All riders should announce any trail features they are aware of before entering a section of trail</li> <li>All riders should announce any natural hazards for any riders following them</li> <li>All riders are responsible for riding within their own ability and should stop and dismount where a section may put them at risk of falling</li> <li>Riders overtaking should announce to the rider in front of their intention and only overtake where it is safe to do so.</li> </ul>	M	N		Rider, Ride Captain
3. Ride	Man-made trail features e.g. jumps, berms, drops, rock gardens and board-walks	Rider	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Riders must ride single file and leave large stopping gaps between each other when entering trails that have hazardous natural features e.g. single-track</li> <li>Club rides should avoid using extreme or very difficult trails where possible. If there is a section that should prove difficult, it is each rider's responsibility to either attempt or avoid the extreme or difficult section.</li> </ul>	M	N		Rider, Ride Captain

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						Y/N	what	Person Responsible
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Routes with small drops or jumps should only be used for club rides if they have alternative routes to ride around them</li> <li>The ride captain should announce any trail features they are aware of before entering a section of trail</li> <li>All riders should announce any natural hazards for any riders following them</li> <li>All riders are responsible for riding within their own ability and should stop and dismount where a section would put them at risk of falling</li> </ul>				
4. Ride	Separation - increased risk when not on a marked highway	Rider	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When entering any section of trail, a dedicated last rider should be appointed</li> <li>The leader should wait at the end of a section, encourage riders to re-group in an area that is safe and off the trail, and wait for the last rider</li> </ul>	L	N		Rider, Ride Captain, nominated last rider
5. Ride	Water – including crossing streams	Rider	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the rider leader deems water to be too deep (more than knee deep) it is recommended that riders should cross on foot.</li> <li>Riders must decide if they feel confident to ride across water or dismount if shallow (less than knee height).</li> <li>Alternative routes that avoid water crossings should be used if possible.</li> </ul>	L	N		Rider, Ride Captain
6. Ride	Forestry operations	Rider	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Routes should avoid areas of active forestry operations where there is an alternative available</li> <li>Riders should increase their awareness of potential traffic in these areas</li> </ul>	L	N		Rider, Ride Captain

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						Y/N	what	Person Responsible
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All signs and instructions must be followed</li> </ul>				
7. Ride	Access Rights	Public	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Routes must not trespass and may not use private property unless there is a right-of-way, Byway, Bridleway or permission has been given (e.g. a dedicated trail centre)</li> <li>It is the responsibility of all riders to observe cycling advising signs, including dismounting on any public footpaths</li> </ul>	No Risk	N		Rider, Ride Captain