

# TRAIL GRADINGS



“Do you think I’ll be good enough?!” If you’re asking yourself this, familiarise yourself with the trail grading explanations below. All trails are graded “Intermediate” and above – that means that you should have some experience riding mountain bike trails. We recommend you warm up on the blue trails first and be mindful of weather conditions as the character of the trails can change. Observe trail name board colours and look out for coloured arrows on trail splits.

This is a gravity-fed mountain bike park with professionally constructed bike park trails. The frequency of trail features such as jumps and drops is much greater here than a typical trail centre and although familiar, the grading index below is unique to this bike park.

## INTERMEDIATE

### What’s ahead?

Intermediate trails require previous off-road experience and are not for beginners. The trails are generally unsurfaced and are constructed from local dirt. The style of most blue trails is generally flowing and undulating and can allow riders to pick up speed if they are confident in their ability. There are technical features on blue trails but their nature is less-severe and are mostly rollable.

**Trail and surface types:** Bike-park-style flowing trails. The surfaces are mostly dirt, with some exposed roots and rocks.

**Gradients:** Moderate gradients, with some infrequent sharper inclines and grade-reversals.

**Technical Features:** Berms, pump rollers, rollable jumps and small drops.

**Required Skill Level:** Intermediate skills – riders must be able to brake safely on descents, corner at speed and safely navigate technical features.

**Bike quality:** A good quality and well-maintained mountain bike is essential. Ideally suited to mid to long-travel trail bikes with hydraulic disc brakes and off-road tyres.

## ADVANCED

### What’s ahead?

Advanced trails require a higher level of skill and stamina from the rider. Expect a higher frequency of technical features, some of which may not be rollable. Trail surfaces may have more exposed roots and rocks than intermediate trails and may be loose and variable.

**Trail and Surface Types:** Variable bike-park-style and natural trail styles with more varied surface types.

**Gradients:** More challenging and steeper gradients and off-cambers.

**Technical Features:** Exposed root sections, rock gardens, berms, unavoidable jumps and drops which may not be rollable.

**Required Skill Level:** Riders must be able to confidently handle uneven trail surfaces which can become slippery, larger unavoidable drops and jumps and more prolonged steep descents.

**Bike Quality:** A good quality and well-maintained mountain bike is essential. Ideally suited to long-travel trail and downhill bikes with hydraulic disc brakes and off-road tyres.

## EXPERT

### What’s ahead?

Expert trails command some of the highest difficulty of riding at the park. These trails are highly difficult and should only be ridden by confident and experience bike park riders. Trails range from technically challenging natural descents through to fast bike-park-style flow trails packed with unavoidable jumps and drops. These trails are for expert level riders only.

**Trail and Surface Types:** Often challenging surfaces, offering continuous difficulty. Styles vary from steep, natural downhill-style descents to bike park jump trails packed with large jumps.

**Gradients:** Can include prolonged, severe gradients and off-cambers.

**Technical Features:** Large unavoidable and committing jumps, often with gaps between take-offs and landings, step-downs and step-ups. Also expect large unavoidable drops with no ride-around line.

**Required Skill Level:** Riders should be of a very high technical standard who can confidently handle loose terrain and large jumps and drops.

**Bike Quality:** High quality and well-maintained long-travel trail or downhill bikes with working hydraulic disc brakes, off-road tyres and quality suspension.

## PRO

### What’s ahead?

Pro graded trails demand the highest skill and experience of any rider at the park. They are suitable only for professional or equivalent level riders who are confident with the largest of jumps, drops and other technical features. Trails marked as PRO will certainly have unavoidable jumps with gaps with no ride arounds. Riders who cannot ride the trail as intended should not attempt for the safety of themselves and their fellow riders.

**Trail and Surface Types:** Any surface type and style are possible. There are no limitations to the difficulty of trail surface types. Trails will have the largest constructed features, all of which will be obligatory.

**Gradients:** Can include prolonged, severe gradients and off-cambers.

**Technical Features:** The largest of jumps and drops are found within this grade. They are mandatory to navigate the trail safely and as intended. Almost all features will not have a ride around.

**Required Skill Level:** Professional or equivalent level of rider only. Considerable ability and experience are required.

**Bike Quality:** High quality and well-maintained long-travel trail or downhill bikes with working hydraulic disc brakes, off-road tyres and quality suspension.

Mountain biking can be a dangerous sport with inherent risk of injury, even death. Be sure that your equipment is working as it should before you ride.

Ask staff for tips on bike set up – we recommend increased tyre pressures and slower suspension rebound on our trails

Enjoy your ride!

# ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



## Rider's Responsibility Code

1. The trails are graded according to their skill level, please take the time to research which trail would suit your riding ability best. If in doubt start small and work your way up.
2. Ride slowly to start with and get to know the trails and obstacles. Never jump blind.
3. Whilst the trails are suitable for most abilities, we strongly advise that anyone under 16 should be accompanied by a competent and responsible adult rider. All under 16's must have a waiver signed by a parent/guardian before riding.
4. You must ALWAYS wear a helmet. We strongly advise you wear a full faced helmet, gloves and body armour (including a neck brace).
5. It is your responsibility to ensure that your bike is properly maintained and safe to use.
6. Make sure that you read and adhere to all advice signs and safety briefings while using the trails.
7. You must be aware of pedestrians where the track crosses the footpaths.
8. On occasions trails may have to be closed for routine maintenance work or because of adverse weather conditions. If the trails are taped off you **must not** ride the tracks.
9. Ensure that you follow instructions when using the gateway system to load onto the trailers.
10. Ensure that you remain seated in the seating area on the trailers. The tractor will not depart until the driver is happy that everyone has been seated safely.
11. It is your responsibility to ensure that your bike has been correctly loaded onto the trailer. If your bike is damaged due to it not being loaded correctly then we do not take responsibility for any damage which may occur.
12. All vehicles are parked at owner's risk.
13. The Black Mountains Cycle Centre will take no responsibility for any items left unattended on the uplift and would strongly advise against bringing any valuables with you.



## Emergency Information

In the event of an accident. Please inform a member of staff as soon as possible.

In case of emergency, dial 999 or 112 immediately.


### Location

Black Mountain Cycle Centre  
Great Llwygy Farm  
Abergavenny  
NP7 7PE

**First Aid:** Please inform a member of staff if first aid is required.

**Nearest Hospital (A&E):** Neville Hall Hospital, Abergavenny, NP7 7EG

**Grid Reference:** SO 32445 21213

 what3words = [///minus.worldwide.extra](https://www.what3words.com/minus.worldwide.extra)

## Bike & Kit Checklist

1. Helmets are mandatory, ensure that your helmet is in good shape and properly adjusted; we strongly recommend the use of full-face helmets. Gloves, eye protection and body armour are also highly recommended.
2. Inspect bike frame for cracks, damaged or dented areas.
3. Make sure your brakes are working efficiently.
4. Front and rear axles (quick release or bolt through type) should be tight and clamped shut.
5. Headset and stem must be secure with no looseness or play.
6. Handlebar and handlebar grips must be tight and unable to spin.
7. Seat and seat post need to be fastened securely.
8. Check that your tyres are in good condition and are inflated to a suitable pressure. We recommend higher pressures due to the nature of the riding style here.
9. Suspension should be working properly. We recommend that you slow down the rebound adjustment until you are used to the trails here.