



Roger Geffen

Peter Orr
© PETER ORR PHOTOGRAPHY

Opening up the Ridgeway



Roger Geffen

Policy Director
Cycling UK

About Cycling UK

- 64,000 members, founded 1878
- Cycling activities, membership services (legal, insurance, magazine)
- Campaigning nationally and locally, to maximise the health environmental, economic and quality of life benefits of cycling for people of all ages and abilities
- Cycling development e.g. cycle training, projects for under-represented / disadvantaged groups



we are
cycling
The cyclists' champion **UK**



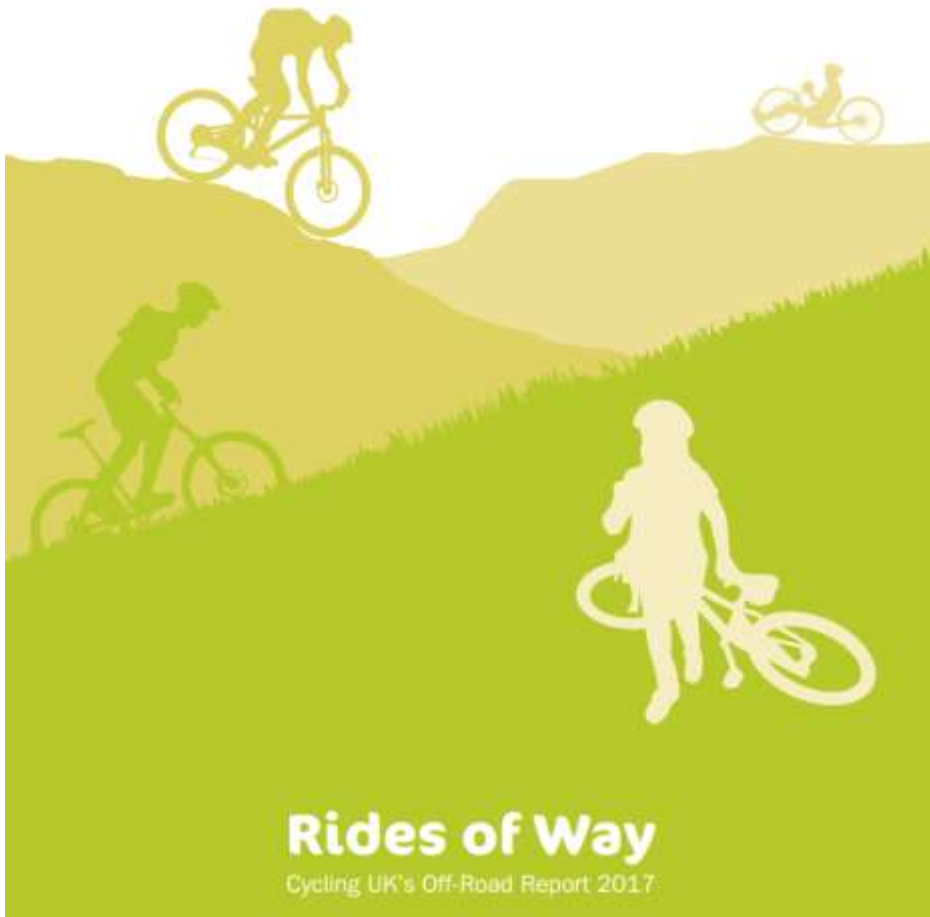
Our campaigning

Covers 6 themes:

- **Commitment to cycling:** cycling's place in transport, planning, economic, environmental policy
- **Design for cycling:** the planning and design of roads, streets and junctions, new developments, highway maintenance
- **Safe drivers and vehicles:** traffic law and enforcement, lorries etc
- **'Smarter choices':** cycle training, promotion of cycling in schools and workplaces, to under-represented groups etc
- **Public transport integration:** trains, buses, tram / transit systems, aviation, shipping – and hire bikes!
- **Off-road access** – rights of way, canals/riversides, key landowners and designated sites / areas etc

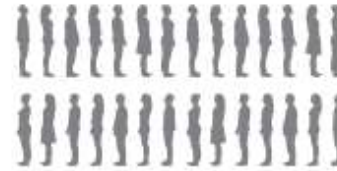


Rides of Way report



Off-road access Survey Results

11,482
people completed the survey



Top motivators
for cycling off-road:

31%
health and fitness

24%
technical challenge

and for Women:

26.3%
health

26.1%
enjoying nature



91%

rate off-road
cycling fairly or
very important
for their **mental**
health



90%

say off-road cycling is
fairly or very important for
their **physical** health

74%

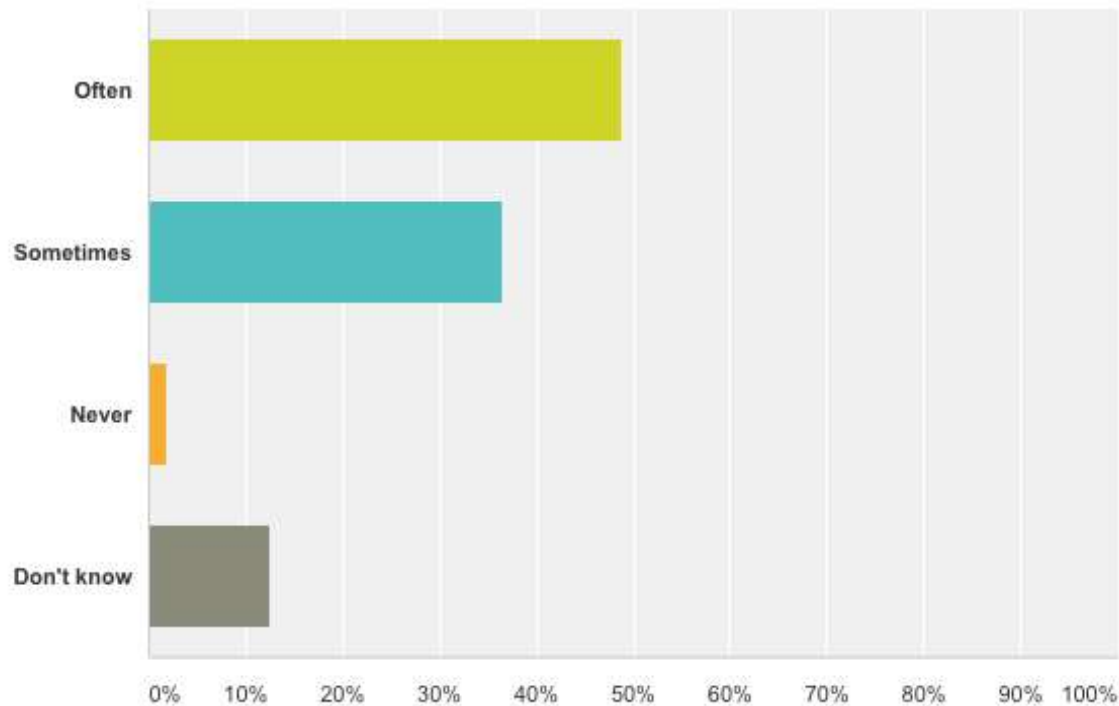
consider the rights of way
system **unsuitable**



Rides of way report

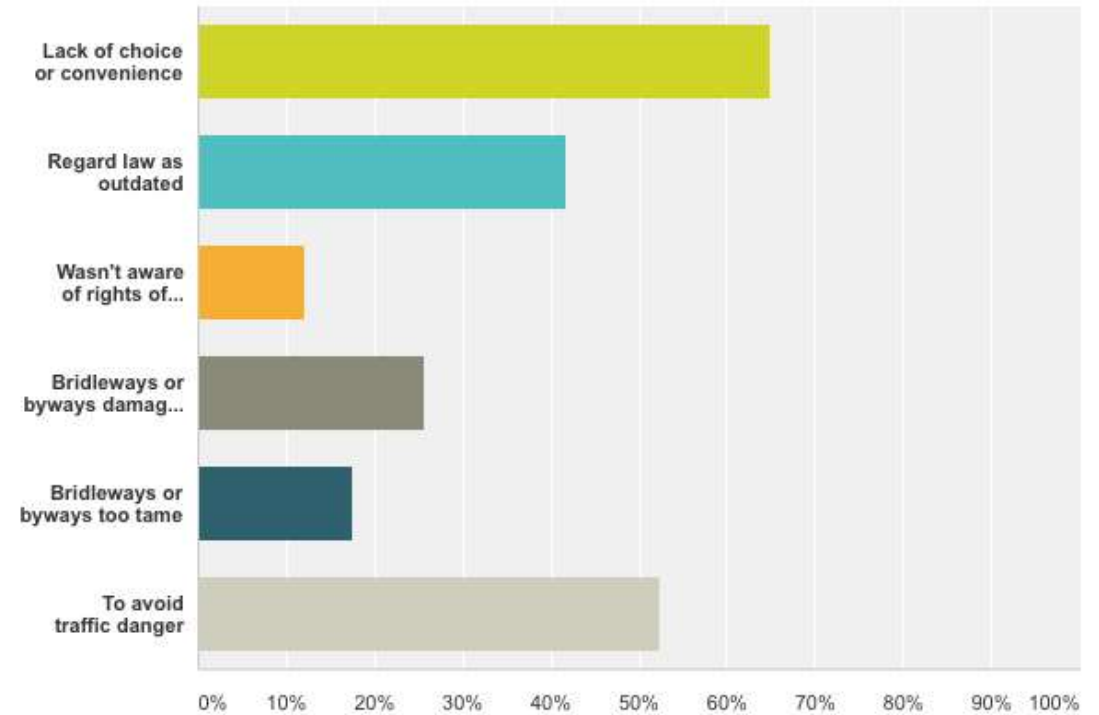
Does the existing Public Rights of Way (PROW) network make it difficult to put together a "legal" route?

Answered: 8,356 Skipped: 986



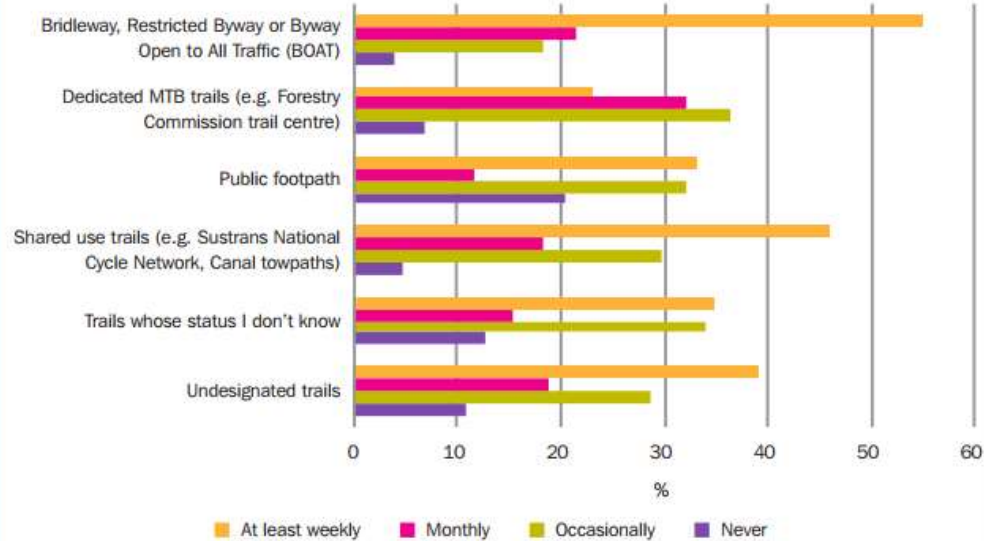
If you ride on footpaths and undesignated trails, please explain why (select as many as applicable)

Answered: 7,838 Skipped: 1,504



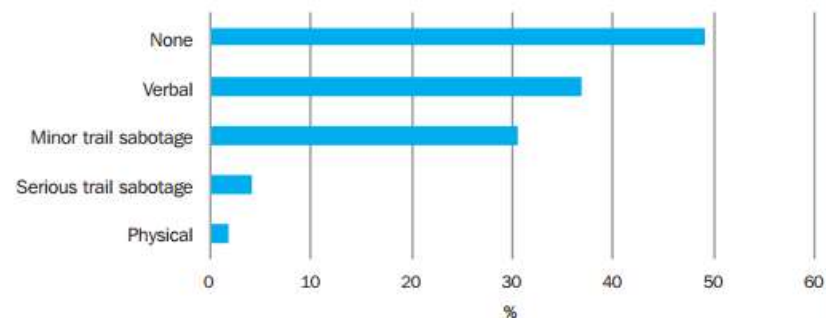
Where do people ride?

How often do you ride on these types of trail?



- 56% of respondents ride on bridleways or byways at least weekly
- 47% do so on national trails
- 33% do so on footpaths
- Over 1/3 ride at least weekly on trails whose status they don't know
- Most experience little or no conflict

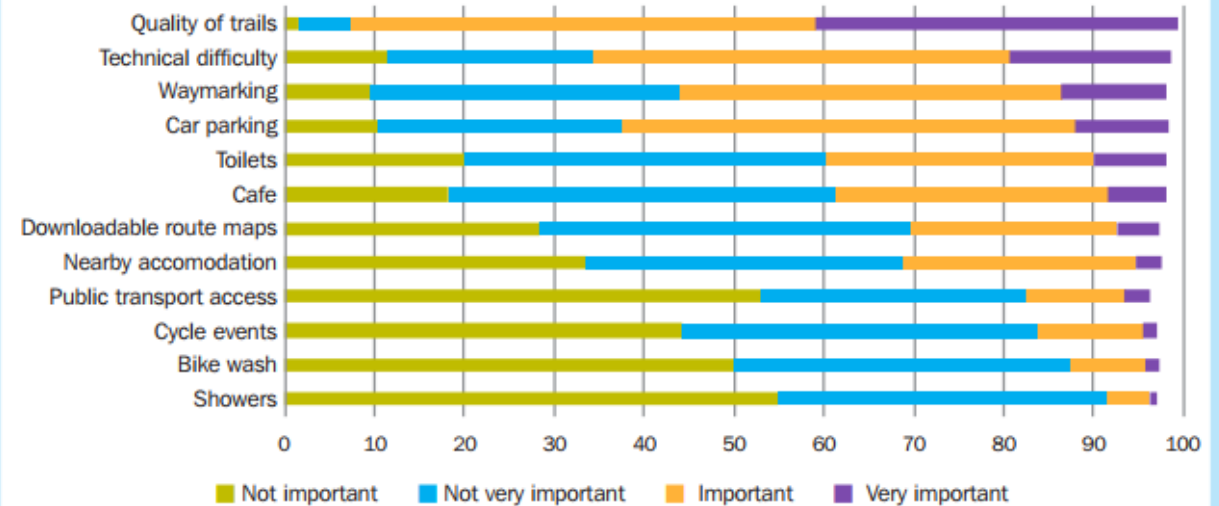
Have you experienced conflict with other trail users in the last two years?



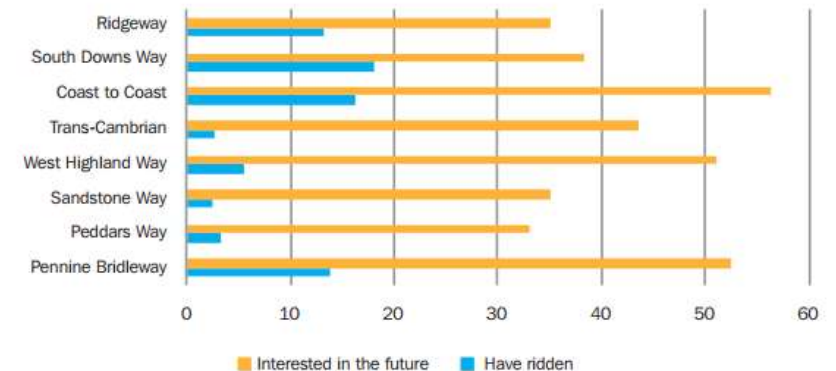
Away visits by bike

- Nearly 10,000 have cycled away from home areas in past 2 years
- Of these, 3/4 visited trail centres, 3/5 chose national parks, rural RoWs or open country
- Quality of trails is top factor, then technical difficulty.
- Waymarking is far more important for less experienced cyclists
- Ridgeway is a popular multi-day destination, but could do better!

When visiting an area to ride, what do you consider important?



Riding multi-day trails



Trails for Wales

- Welsh Government recently consulted on plans to open up footpaths for cycle use
- Cycling UK forged alliance with Ramblers, Disabled Ramblers, British Horse Society plus climbers, cavers and canoeists to support greater access.
- c16,000 responses, 11,000 from cyclists



Managed access?

- N.B. We do NOT seek blanket access to all footpaths! – we agree with Ramblers that some restrictions will be necessary. We're discussing mutually agreed solutions.
- However most footpaths are lightly used, and cyclists cause little damage.
- Countryside Commission (now Natural England) research found conflict was v limited, most users unconcerned, while others tended to overstate it.
- Main issue: sufficient width for level of use.

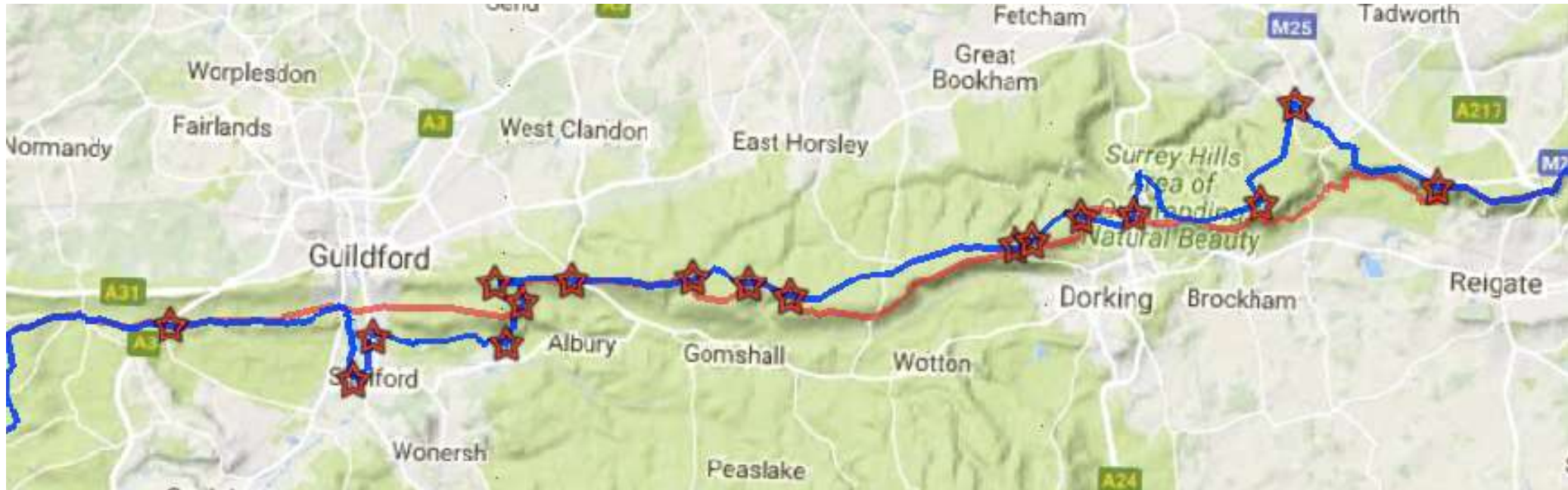


Joe and Petunia

- Nobody denies that a minority of our community causes problems... Yet this is true of all user groups: dog walkers & sheep worrying, ramblers & gates, etc etc
- Not used as a justification for access restrictions
- Cycling UK wants to promote responsible access, but give and take is needed. The cycling community is much more likely to engage if they feel their needs are recognised.



Creating multi-user trails



- We've worked with Natural England, Surrey Hills AONB, Surrey Council, landowners etc to develop a cycling alternative to the N Downs Way plus a link to the S Downs way. Few upgrades needed.
- Keen to open similar discussion over the Ridgeway.
- Or is it already legal?!

Opening up the Ridgeway

we are
cycling
The cyclists' champion **UK**



Roger Geffen

Policy Director
Cycling UK