

# GRITTOPIA

Saturday 9 June 2018 | RIDERS' NOTES

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# Welcome to

# GRITOPIA

Saturday 9 June

Peebles

**PLEASE READ THIS INFO CAREFULLY -  
IT CONTAINS THINGS YOU NEED TO  
KNOW FOR THE RACE.**

**Grit, gravel, or whatever you call it - want to try a cycling adventure into the lesser known corners of the Tweed Valley?**

Gritopia will take you places you've never been in the valley hinterland, with mile after mile of empty grit and gravel... and a few stretches of quiet tarmac linking it all up.

The course will be around 60km with some big climbs along the way lifting you to spectacular high roads and ancient trails.

Aimed at any bike rider who's up for an adventure, the event works as a first time gravel event but will also have plenty of fun for the more experienced gravellist. You can do it on any suitable bike - which means a dedicated gravel bike will be perfect, a fast-rolling XC mountain bike will be fine, but a small-tyred pure road race bike might not be - and the gearing might be unhelpful in one or two places!



## EVENT START/FINISH & REGISTRATION

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TweedLove Festival Village  
Tweed Green, Peebles,  
EH45 8AP

The event will be signposted from the  
A72 main road.

Parking info below.

The event takes place in the Forestry  
Commission Scotland's Tweed Valley  
Forest Park, and Leithen Water  
Estate.

Thanks to sponsors ORTLIEB, High 5  
and WTB for their support.

Event organised by the Hillside  
Outside / TweedLove crew.

## ABOUT THE EVENT

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Gritopia is TweedLove's first gravel/adventure bike  
event. The route visits many roads less travelled and  
some beautiful unknown corners of the Tweed Valley.

This is an adventure ride which takes in some seldom  
used trails and forest roads, so you should be  
prepared and self-supporting accordingly.

You will be given a timing card to record your overall  
time, but it's most definitely NOT a race. While we  
don't want you to take all day out there, we do want  
you to enjoy the scenery, the solitude (maybe!), and  
most important, have a great day out on your bike.

## WHAT SORT OF BIKE?

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The event is aimed at adventure/gravel/CX style bike  
riders, but xc mountain bikes will work very well too.  
Long travel MTBs and race-minded road bikes won't  
offer the optimum riding pleasure here though.

## EVENT COURSE DETAILS

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**Course length:** 58km approx

**Total ascent:** 1600m approx

The ride starts in the TweedLove event village in Peebles  
and heads (fairly relentlessly!) up forest roads and  
singletrack in Glentress to the comms mast at over 600m.  
Then we drop down into Leithen Water valley on a huge,  
sweeping grassy descent – your bike will want to go  
super-fast here, so take care - before climbing up towards  
(but stopping short of) the windfarm on Bowbeat Hill.  
This climb includes a favourite local testpiece – the short  
but fairly brutal Craighope climb. Next is a high traverse of  
the forest followed by a long gravel descent to the valley  
floor past an ancient ruined tower down to Williamslee,  
and some flat gravel at last.

Next up is a tarmac cruise down to Innerleithen, where the  
route crosses the Tweed, heads out past Traquair and then  
up into Cardrona Forest for a tour of one of the Tweed  
Valley Forest Park's less frequented woodlands. A fast roll  
down forest roads back to the B7062 and a tarmac spin  
for a few miles, passing Kailzie Gardens (and further on  
but not quite as lovely, our office!) and the route finishes  
up back at the festival village in Peebles.

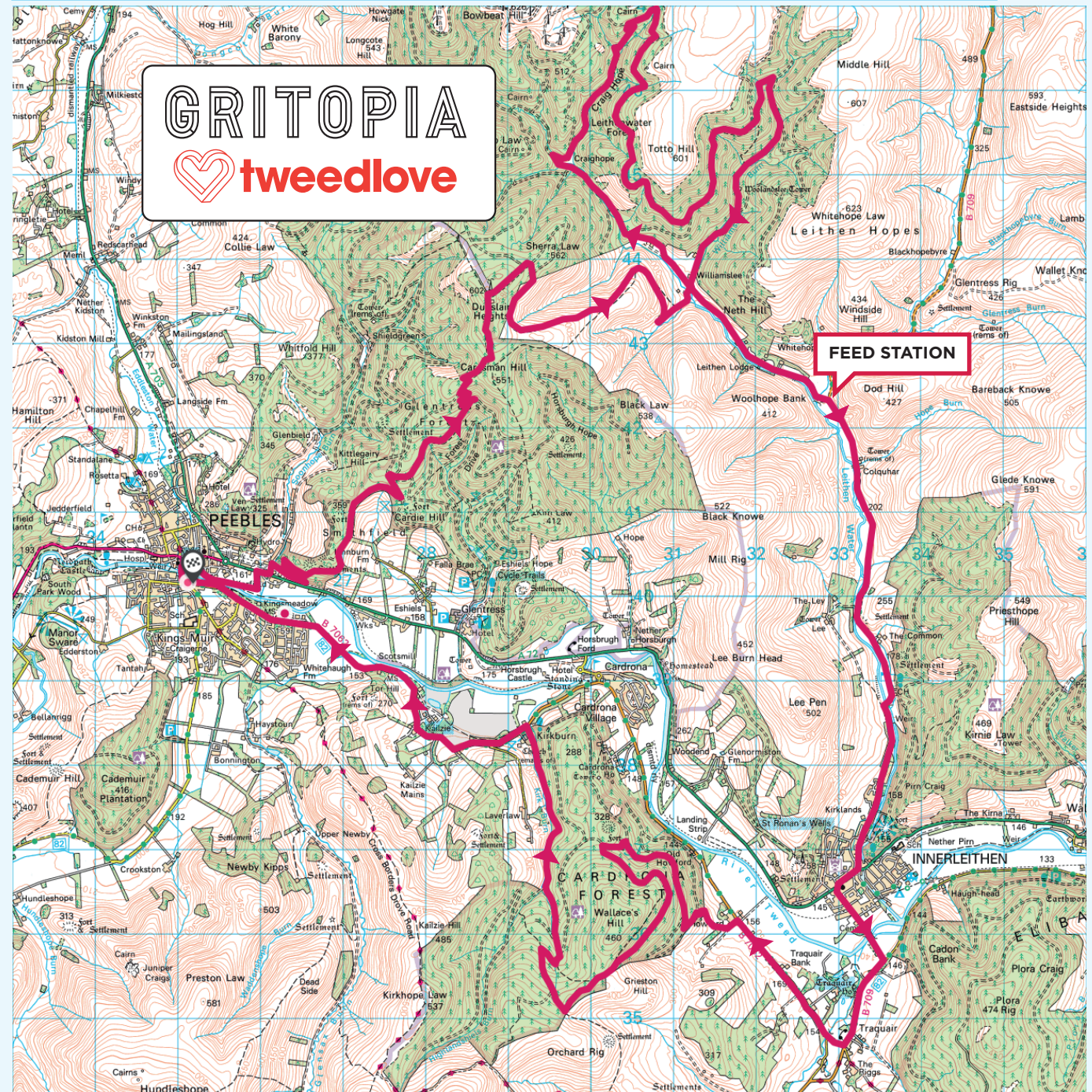
**TAKE CARE!**

Please take great care on any road sections, where traffic will be present. Please note that some of the descents are fast, but surfaces can be very unpredictable in places, with hazards in the form of loose gravel, slippery grass, bigger stones, unexpected wildlife, working vehicles and walkers all possibly making an appearance to throw a curve ball at your adventure ride.

Ride safely, please do watch out for and be courteous to hillwalkers and other forest users, and remember part of the fun of this kind of riding is self-reliance and an ability to find your way round the backcountry.

**COURSE MARKING**

The course is marked by blue arrows throughout, and occasional tags of red and white Tweedlove tape. Please always look out for signs at junctions. You'll also have a copy of the course map to guide you.

**COURSE MAP**

## EVENT SCHEDULE

### Saturday 9 June

6.30–8.30pm Fri 8 June and  
8:30–10.30am Saturday:

Registration

This is where you collect your number board.

From 8.30am:

Timing chip collection

From 9.30am: Start

First riders out from 9am

**Event briefing** – there will be important rider messages repeated from 8.45am as riders get ready to start the event. Please listen carefully to these messages, as they will contain important information about the event and the course.

From 9.00am: The Ride

After collecting your timing chip, go to the Gritopia start area. You'll be directed when to go – please do as the start marshal asks as there may be a lot of riders leaving at once.

The start marshal will start your timing card so you have an accurate time for when you cross the start line. (If you don't do this, you won't get a correct time, and perhaps no result at all.)

## ENTRIES

Online entries are now closed. Entries are no longer transferable or refundable. Some entry places may be available on the day at registration.

## REGISTRATION

All riders must register and collect number boards before beginning the ride. Number boards must be attached to bikes and visible for the duration of the event.

Emergency contact details of all riders will be checked at registration, so make sure you have this info with you when registering.

## TIMING CHIP COLLECTION

Timing chip collection is before the ride on Saturday 2 June, from 8.30am. When collecting your timing chip, please ensure that you know your rider/board number, as it appears on your number board (which you will be given at registration).

## TIMING

You will be given a timing card, which you must use at the start and finish, and **YOU MUST HAND IT IN AGAIN AT THE END TO GET YOUR TIMES.**

Timing cards should be worn on your right wrist and although they do not actually need to be inserted into the card readers, they do need to be placed very near to the readers (within 4 cm) and the timing station will beep to confirm that it has registered your time. Think of it as punching your card at the card reader, rather than swiping a credit card.

Your need to dib at the very start, before you leave the Event village/HQ, and at the end of the event when

you return. At the end of the ride, before you hand in your card at the Timing Tent – when you'll be given your results. You will be given a print-out of your time at the end, and this will also be posted on the event webpage, and on TweedLove's Facebook page

**Timing cards must be returned to get results. Non-returned cards will be charged at £30 per card.**

**You should aim to finish the course in 4.5 – 5 hours. After 5 hours, signage will still be in place but marshals may no longer be in their positions. The course sweeper will inform you in this case.**

## RETIRING EARLY?

If you retire for any reason please inform Event HQ on 07495 082086 – please program this number into your phone prior to the event as this will ensure that it is easily available to you.

A sweeper will go round the course behind the last riders.

In the event of a tie, the highest placed rider in the final stage of the race will be awarded a higher placing.

All results will be available online on the TweedLove website as soon as possible after the event.

## PARKING

Please note, there will be no parking available at Tweed Green.

Car parking in Peebles – Edinburgh Road car park EH45 8AY, Kingsmeadows Road car park and Hay Lodge car park are the advised parking for event entrants.

These are a short distance from the event village. There is extensive free parking on many side streets around town, but please park responsibly and courteously. Visit [http://en.parkopedia.co.uk/parking/peebles\\_united\\_kingdom/?ac=1&country=UK&lat=55.653071&lng=-3.193641999999999544&ampl\\_devid=7426e5f7-7674-4776-9f52-1d4c82c3e794](http://en.parkopedia.co.uk/parking/peebles_united_kingdom/?ac=1&country=UK&lat=55.653071&lng=-3.193641999999999544&ampl_devid=7426e5f7-7674-4776-9f52-1d4c82c3e794) for info on lots of places to park in Peebles.

### WHAT WILL THE TRAIL AND ROUTE SURFACES BE LIKE?

Surfaces include grit and gravel, smooth forest road and rough, stony forest roads, dirt tracks, grass tracks, smooth and rocky singletrack, tarmac – so pretty much everything. There are no steep technical descents, but there are steep climbing sections. Some descents will be potentially very fast, so check your speed and take care.

### FOOD AND WATER ON COURSE

The location of the feed station is highlighted on the route map. All riders may use the feed stations. All riders should also ensure that they have enough provisions for the event.

#### Feed station will have:

- Water
- High Five Zero
- High Five Energy Products
- Cake
- Bananas

Please note, the route also passes cafes on Innerleithen High St and the café at Traquair House.



### IN THE EVENT VILLAGE

There are all sorts of food, coffee and drink vendors in the event village, and a bar.

Fresh drinking water will be available on site. Bike wash available at the hotel. Please use the litter bins provided. Thanks.

There are public toilets at Kingsmeadows Car Park, also on School Brae, next to the event village and at the event village itself.

### FIRST AID

Tweed Valley Mountain Rescue Team. Contact via Marshal or Marshal Control (Marshal Control **07375 949390**). There will be first aid in the Event Village, and also out on course.

### NEAREST HOSPITAL CLINIC

#### Borders General Hospital

Melrose  
Roxburghshire  
TD6 9BS  
01896 826000

### HOW TO GET HERE

Peebles is located about 23 miles South of Edinburgh. It's within easy reach of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle, the Scottish central belt and the North of England. The postcode for the event Village for sat navs is EH45 8LX.

## ACCOMMODATION AND LOCAL FACILITIES

The Tweed Valley is now a major UK and international mountain cycling destination. Covering over 1800 square miles of countryside it contains an abundance of world class riding and excellent natural trails. The Sustrans multi-use path linking Peebles & Innerleithen will form the main artery for racers moving between the towns and is a great way for spectators to get around too.

Peebles is the hub of the event. Sitting on the banks of the River Tweed in the heart of the Tweed Valley it's just 45 minutes from Edinburgh. Peebles is packed with things to do, places to eat, and has several supermarkets and bike shops to gather supplies.

Peebles Hydro Hotel are our official accommodation partners:  
[www.peebleshydro.co.uk](http://www.peebleshydro.co.uk)

## RULES AND IMPORTANT INFO

1. You must provide an emergency contact number for each rider.
2. Number boards should be attached to your bars at all times during the event.
3. Under no circumstances will aggressive riding or behaviour towards other riders be tolerated. Anyone found to be discourteous in any way to other riders will be disqualified from the race and future events.
4. Most of the route is open to the public, but short sections of singletrack will be closed to riders in this event only.
5. Road sections are on open roads – the Highway Code applies at all times.
6. Attending/listening to race briefings is mandatory.
7. Anyone caught course cutting will be disqualified and banned from future events.

## NUMBER BOARDS

Every rider will get a number board. Number boards must be fixed on the handlebars (we'll provide the zip ties) and must be readable throughout the competition.

Medical conditions and emergency contact details must be completed on the reverse of the number board.

## WHO WINS?

There's no actual winner as it's not a race, but results will be published on the TweedLove Facebook page and on the event webpage shortly after the event.



## BIKES, SAFETY, COURTESY, COMMON SENSE

1. Helmets are compulsory and must be fastened at all times when cycling (including climbing and on transition stages). They must be in good condition. Helmets can be full-face or open style.
2. Signage will be in place along the entire course warning traffic of the event, but riders are always responsible for their own safety.
3. The course includes public roads with traffic present, where you must ride responsibly and considerately, and follow the Highway Code at all times. For riders from abroad, please remember to ride on the left.
4. Every rider is responsible for their bike and equipment. The condition, quality and construction should be suitable to ensure the safety of riders or other persons. Riders must carry sufficient spares for their own use.
5. All equipment used at an event must be fit for purpose and ridden / used at riders own risk.
6. Bar end plugs must be fitted.

## Other recommended equipment:

- Mobile phone (charged!) Please carry this with you.
- Full body cover and waterproof jacket if conditions cold/wet
- Suitable backpack or bikebags
- Emergency blanket
- Innertubes/ puncture repair kit, spares
- Multi tool
- Basic, well maintained first aid kit
- Map
- Food and fluids
- Eye protection (glasses or goggles)
- Riders must obey all event marshals' and event officials' instructions.
- Please don't drop any litter

The organisers retain the right to change rules, terms and conditions as required.

The event is open for anyone 16 years of age or older on the 9 June 2018. Our event policy is that children age 14 or 15 must ride with a responsible adult, but must have parental consent to take part. Anyone age 16 or older rides as an adult.

Any riders under 16 must ride with a responsible adult and will also need to have a parental consent form completed at registration.

<http://tweedlove.com/onthehillside/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/PARENTAL-CONSENT-FORM-MTB.pdf>

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION

### #gritopia #tweedlovest

We'll be sharing images and results from the event, make sure you follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

We also want to hear from you, use **#gritopia #tweedlovest** and share:

- Your best event memories
- Your favourite training and event photos and videos
- And of course a photo with you!

### TweedLove Bike Festival

Join us again over 8-10 June for the TweedLove Bike Festival – Ride, race, demo a new bike, or just hang out at the UK's best bike festival!

**#tweedlovest**

**www.tweedlove.com**

*Have a great day and enjoy the ride!*



**SHIMANO**