
BERGAMONT

GRITTOPIA



tweedlove bike festival

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EVENT PRODUCTION GROUP
Lights, Stage, Effects



NETHER PIRN FARM



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WELCOME



BERGAMONT

GRITTOPIA

Saturday 8 June

Nether Pirn Farm

A big Tweed Valley backcountry adventure, with mile after mile of empty grit and gravel, with a few stretches of quiet tarmac linking it all up.

Perfect for all road less travelled fans, all you need is a spirit of adventure and a bike that can despatch the miles on a variety of surfaces, leaving the traffic far behind and often far below you.

Expect some big climbs, spectacular situations and ancient trails. Leaves from the Festival Village and back in time for an evening of festival goodness!

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

VOID



TEMPEST BREWING CO.

STRAIGHTCUT

WHERE

Race start/finish and registration:

Transcend Festival Village
Nether Pirn Farm,
Innerleithen,
Scottish Borders
EH44 6PA

See the separate Festival Info pdf included with this email for directions, parking, camping, accommodation and other useful information.



TweedLove Gritopia is sponsored by **Bergamont**.

Bergamont make some of the best gravel bikes on the market.

Check them out [here](#).

The event will be signposted from the A72 main road.

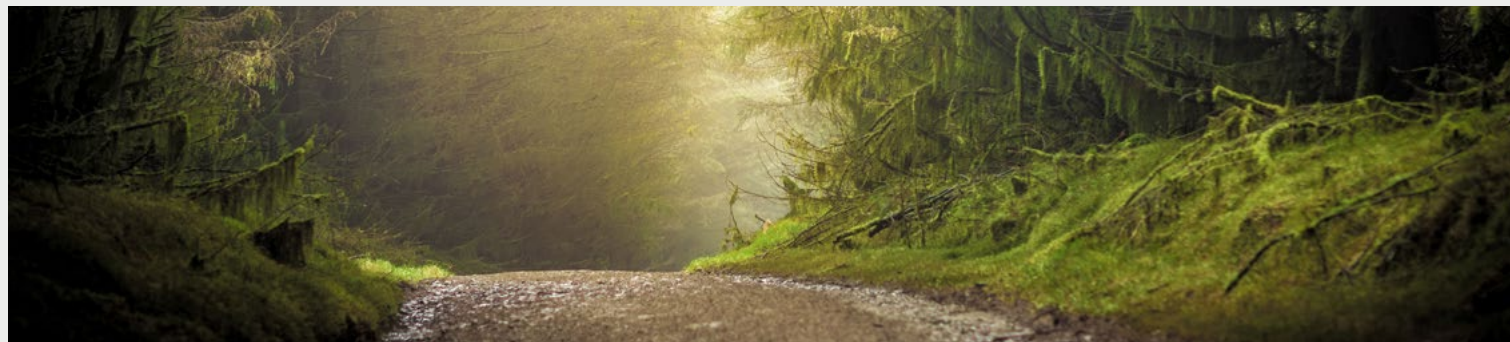
Parking info below.

Thanks also to **WTB, Straight Cut** and **High 5** for their support.

Transcend Festival is supported by **Tempest Brewing Co**.

Special thanks to **VOID Cycling** – TweedLove's official clothing partner.

Be sure to arrive at the festival/event village in plenty of time. Take your entry confirmation email (print or on your phone) to registration at the event village and you'll get your number board, map etc.



ABOUT THE EVENT

Event organised by the Hillside Outside / TweedLove crew.

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

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.

The event is intended to be a kind of off-road sportive – where you can choose to do a long route or a shorter one.

WHAT SORT OF BIKE?

The event is aimed at adventure/gravel/CX style bike riders, but xc mountain bikes will work very well too. Long travel MTBs will be hard work, while full-on road bikes are unlikely to cope with the terrain or gradients

EVENT COURSE DETAILS

You will be given a waterproof route map at Registration, but the course is clearly marked with blue arrows throughout.

This year the course has three separate loops, each with its own character. For event safety, riders must ride the course in the prescribed order – we have sweepers behind the last rider to ensure no-one is stuck or left behind.

For this reason there is also a minimum speed requirement. This isn't a tough challenge for riders, it's just to ensure marshals and event crew don't have to stay in position if a rider decided to take a detour or ditch the ride and spend the afternoon watching ospreys instead of cycling!

Important: You will come to timing check points along the route. YOU MUST TOUCH YOUR ELECTRONIC TIMING CARD ON THESE CHECK STATIONS. That way we can record which loops you've completed and give you an overall time and set of results for the event. (More info below.)

You can stop and head back to HQ for sustenance or to soak up the festival whenever you want – after completing Zone 1, or after Zones 1 & 2. It's a quick trip back to the Transcend event village.

Grit 1: Traquair and Elibank Forest

31km / 743m of ascent

A lovely section of gravel tracks, with surfaces going from smooth to rough, some lovely views and a 'tough but fun' singletrack switchback timed climb if you want it. Just dib your card at the bottom and the top timing stations and you'll get your hill climb time at the end. It's a stiff climb but 100% achievable!

To get to this section you'll first zip along a few kms of gently descending tarmac on the valley floor, then turn right and into the forest at Glenbenna. The climbing starts soon after!

Grit 2: Cardrona Forest

16km / 365m

A shorter loop with a very different character. Surfaces vary from smooth forest roads to rocky singletrack, grass tracks and farm tracks – a bit of everything. A short spin on tarmac takes you to a steep singletrack path and access into the woods. Forest roads and singletrack take you to a high moorland track and an old trail back down to Glen Estate. Please shut all the gates after you! This loop has some beautiful views and we've often seen ospreys and even golden eagles up here. Back on the tarmac for a while – and time for the big decision... Back for a beer, music and some grub – or onto Zone 3, which as fate would have it is the toughest section of the day...



Grit 3 : Leithen Water Forest

41km / 969m

Including all three parts definitely qualifies this event as a proper gravel bike challenge, as you're taking on around 90km and over 2000m of climbing on off-road conditions.

After about 10km on the road north from Innerleithen it's back onto the grit for a gentle ride up Leithen Water glen, followed by a far less gentle climb right up to near the top of Glentress Forest on a grass track. This part of the course is a tale of two big climbs, the second one of which follows immediately after you've descended forest roads (variable surfaces due to recent timber extraction – so take it easy) to the valley floor. Almost immediately it's time to head up an increasingly steep brute of a rough road which delivers you onto a high traverse road with some ups and downs along the way – taking you to a long, fast descent to the bottom of the valley again. Please note, part of this road washed away last year and was damaged by severe flooding, so the surface is the roughest of the day for a section. Extra air in the tyres might be a good idea here, as punctures await the unprepared! Once you're down it's an easy spin back out the way you came, followed by downhill tarmac all the way back to the festival (and the free beer courtesy of Tempest Brewing) which awaits you.

Please note, so we don't end up with volunteers and crew out on the hill for too long, the last time you'll be permitted to start the third section is 2.30pm. Please make sure you've handed your timing card back in at the event village by 6pm.

NEED ASSISTANCE?

As well as marshals in strategic positions there will be riding marshals wearing hi viz riding on the course. If you need assistance, ask a marshal or use the phone number on your number board – it connects with the festival Event Control HQ.

PUNCTURES

There are some rough sections and punctures are a possibility! Remember to carry spares. Marshals may have some spare tubes, and the feed stations too, these will be £6 each if you need one. There will be a track pump at feed stations.

HAZARDS

TAKE CARE!

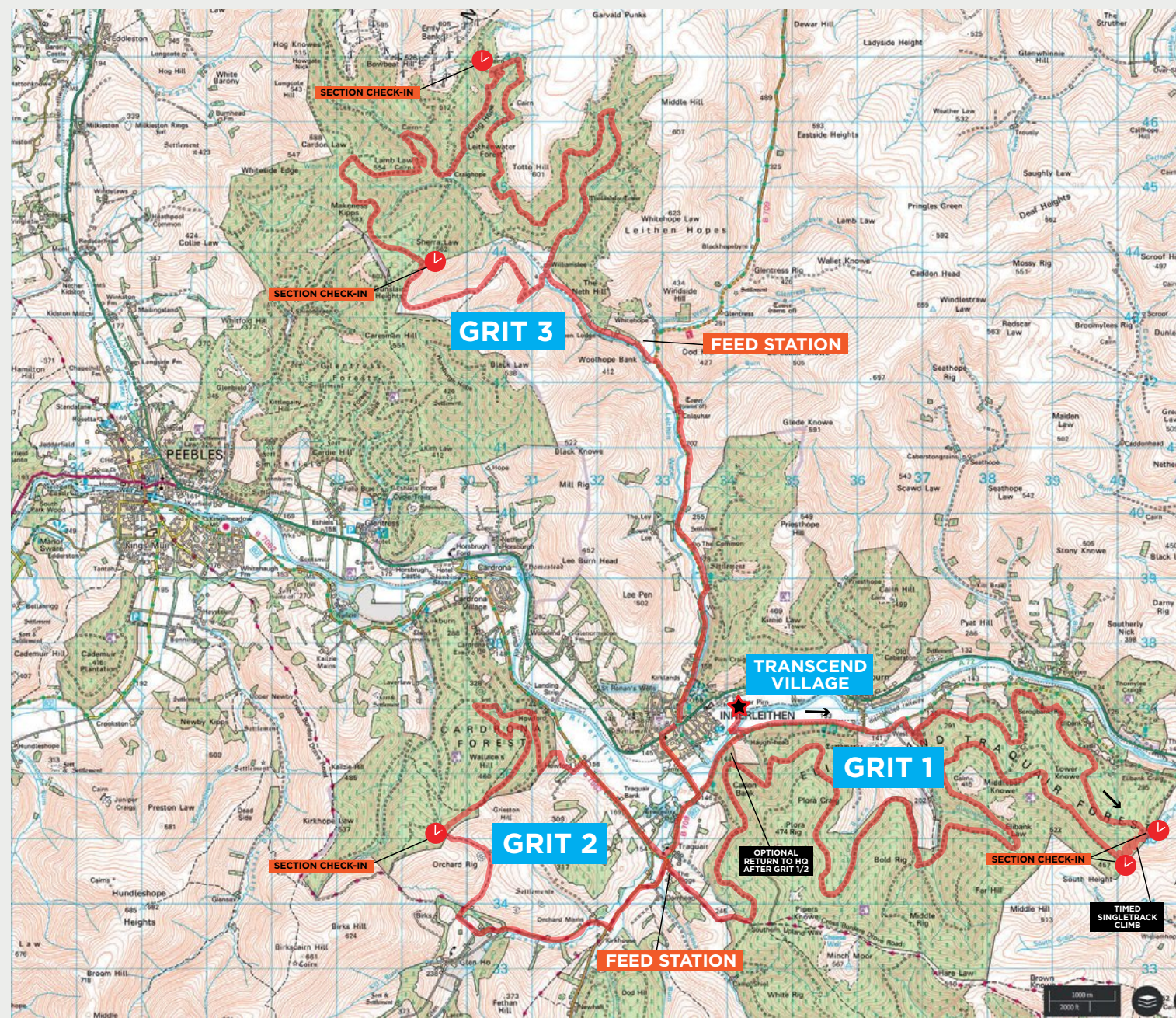
Please note that some of the descents are fast, but surfaces can be very unpredictable in places, with hazards in the form of loose gravel, slippery grass, bigger stones, unexpected wildlife, working vehicles and walkers all possibly making an appearance to throw a curve ball at your adventure ride.

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. Which brings us onto...

COURSE MARKING

The course is marked by blue arrows throughout, with small blue waymarking flags between the arrows. Please always look out for signs at junctions. Bergamont have also provided some cool wooden event signage for us, so look out for the logo!

You'll also have a copy of the course map to guide you.



EVENT SCHEDULE

Registration Times

2pm – 7pm: Friday 7 June

9.30am – 10.30am: Saturday 8 June

This is where you collect your number board

Timing chip collection:

From 9.30am Saturday 8 June

Event briefing – there will be important rider messages repeated from 9.30am 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.

The Ride

10.30am: First riders leave

After collecting your timing chip, go to the Gritopia start area. You'll be directed when to go – please do as the start marshal ask 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.)

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

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 touched onto or 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.

You need to 'dib' this card at the very start, before you leave the Event Village/HQ, at any timing/check points and at the end of the event when you return, 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 must hand in your timing card by 6pm, or we'll be sending out people to look for you! The course sweeper will inform you if you're running late.

RETIRING EARLY?

If you retire for any reason please inform Event HQ on 07496 871220 – please program this number into your phone prior to the event as this will ensure that it is easily available to you.

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.



Helping you be at your best, every ride.

www.highfive.co.uk



HIGH5, your on-course nutrition partner, are committed to creating nutritious products with amazing natural flavours and are passionate about helping you achieve your goals.

HIGH5 are delighted to support you at Glentress 7 2019 and will provide you all with great tasting Energy Gels, Energy Drinks and Energy Bars on the day.

Use coupon code **OUTSIDE** to get 50% off the HIGH5 Cycle Pack (excludes P&P) to help you be at your best, every ride. Shop now!

FOOD AND WATER ON COURSE

The location of the feed station is highlighted on the route map. All riders may use the feed station. All riders should also ensure that they have enough provisions for the event – which is a big journey into remote terrain.

Feed station will have:

Water
High 5 energy products
Cake
Bananas

FOOD AND WATER 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.

TOILETS

Are available at the event village and there are public toilets at Victoria Park, Innerleithen.

FIRST AID

There will be first aid in the Event Village, and also out on course. We have an excellent medic team standing by in case of any mishaps.

Nearest hospital clinic:

Borders General Hospital

Melrose
Roxburghshire
TD6 9BS
01896 826000

RULES AND IMPORTANT INFO

- You must provide an emergency contact number for each rider.
- Number boards should be attached to your bars at all times during the event. We'll supply zipties.
- 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.
- Most of the route is open to the public, so be aware of other trail and track users.
- Road sections are on open roads – the Highway Code applies at all times.
- Attending/listening to event safety briefings is mandatory.
- Anyone caught course cutting will be disqualified and banned from future events.

BIKES, SAFETY, COURTESY, COMMON SENSE

- Helmets are compulsory and must be fastened at all times when cycling. They must be in good condition.
- Signage will be in place along the entire course warning traffic of the event, but riders are always responsible for their own safety.
- 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.
- 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.
- All equipment used at an event must be fit for purpose and ridden / used at riders own risk.
- Bar end plugs must be fitted.
- Please don't drop any litter

OTHER RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT:

- Mobile phone (charged!) Please carry this with you.
- Full body cover and waterproof jacket if conditions cold/wet
- Suitable backpack
- 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.

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!

Have a great day and enjoy the ride!