

# Cycling Mountain Biking

## RULES OF THE TRAILS

1. Don't drop litter.
2. Our trails are hand-built, **DON'T SKID** away what's there.
3. Be polite to other forest users.
4. Never scare animals, they live here.
5. Plan ahead, take tools and proper clothing.
6. Remember other vehicles use forest roads.
7. This is a working estate, take note of all safety signage.

**T**HESE easy cycle trails are suitable for families and novice cyclists. There are no special skills required and most bikes and hybrids can be used.

The trails are mostly on quiet roads but have some uneven surfaces through the forests. Gradients are flat and wide, climbs are shallow, with a few exceptions.

**Cycle Gradings**  
**GREENS:** Easy

## 1. The Riverside 3km



A short ride on quiet public roads. Take in the fantastic views of the majestic River Nith and the tranquil open pasture with its mature trees surrounding you. After a gentle climb, cycle back towards the Castle via the stunning vista of the Lime Avenue.

## 2. Alton Rigg 13km



The route commences with an easy woodland ride, passing both Druids Loch and the Marr Burn. Following a gentle climb through mixed woodland, open pasture and arable fields, you will arrive in the hamlet of Burnsands. A short and steep climb will reward you with spectacular views of the Nith Valley and the Lowther Hills. Then it's downhill all the way back to the Castle.

## 3. The Three Lochs 5km



Following a short climb past the old laundry, take time to enjoy the wonderful views before continuing your leisurely ride into the woodland with its lochs and varied wildlife.

## 4. The Castle Round 8.5km



Circling around the Castle, this route passes spectacular scenery including Druids Loch, areas of mixed and native oak woodland and Drumlanrig's Heather Houses. As you return to the Castle, cycle part of the route on which Kirkpatrick Macmillan rode the world's first pedal bicycle to Glasgow.



### Key

- 1. The Riverside
- 2. Alton Rigg
- 3. The Three Lochs
- 4. The Castle Round

## 6. Copy Cat 9km



The **blue** route shadows the second half of the red route, on forestry roads, and shares some easier single track sections. This means you can pick and choose a bit more red when you're ready, or ride as a mixed ability group. Be ready - the first third is mostly uphill giving plenty of time to enjoy the stunning views. Suitable for intermediate cyclists / mountain bikers, with basic off road riding skills and reasonable fitness. Trail on forest track maybe loose, uneven and muddy at times, narrowing to a one metre wide constructed bike trail.

## 7. The Old School 15km



This trail has been nicknamed "*The Old School*" as it has been built using traditional methods of trail design and construction; stone pitching, hand digging and natural material. This means roots and lots of them. The trail is tight and twisty, and uses natural features to keep you on your toes. Suitable for proficient riders on off-road mountain bikes, with good skill level and high level of fitness and stamina.

## 8. Magic Eight Ball 8km



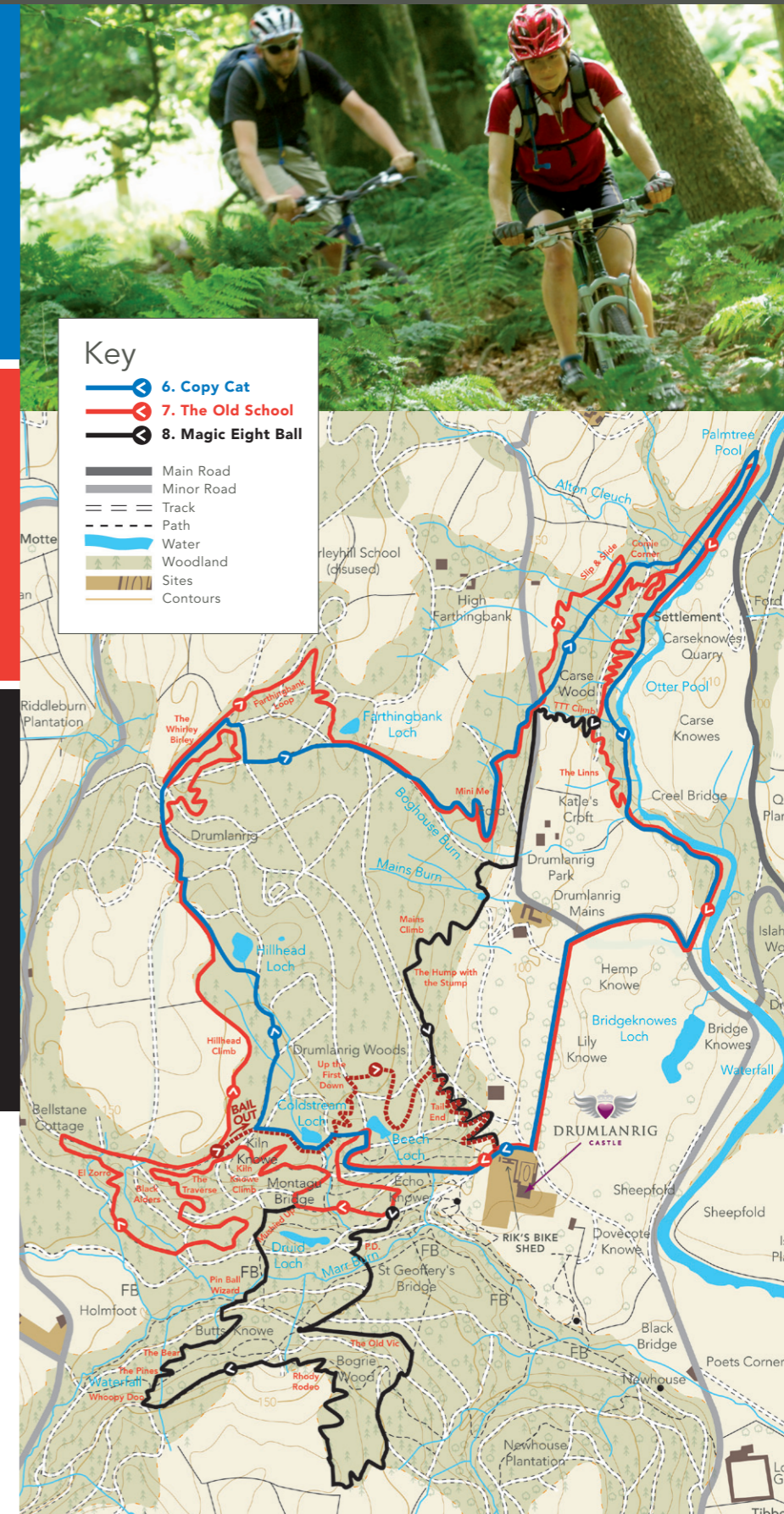
The optional Magic Eight trail upgrades the red to **black**. There are a number of shorter and longer options which add either a higher technical difficulty or more physicality, and usually both. The first longer section is steep and technical; with some very, very skinny trail drops, and plenty of big scary roots. You'll find a few shorter 'optional features' off the side of the red route to spice up your ride. The last black section gives you a singletrack all the way to the Castle. With some very tight turns, steep climbs and the famous car park drop off. This trail is only suitable for an expert rider used to technically demanding routes, with a good mountain bike.

**B**E aware of forest users at all times and of road/ track crossings. Red and Black routes are less than 40cm wide in places with steep technical climbs on loose ground.

Care should be taken over roots and watch out for unavoidable berms, tight switchbacks, board walks, drop offs and water crossings.

### MTB Gradings

**BLUE:** Moderate  
**RED:** Hard  
**BLACK:** Severe



### Key

- 6. Copy Cat
- 7. The Old School
- 8. Magic Eight Ball
- Main Road
- Minor Road
- Track
- Path
- Water
- Woodland
- Sites
- Contours



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### RIK'S BIKE SHED

- Spares, repairs & hire
- Showers
- Bike wash