

A group of people, likely a team or crew, are gathered outdoors in a wooded area. They are wearing safety gear, including high-visibility yellow vests over dark clothing, and some are wearing hard hats. In the foreground, a large, weathered metal hatchet head is held up, partially obscuring the text. The hatchet head has the word "HATCH" visible on its upper part. The background shows dense green foliage.

Day 2 - Welcome!

Day 2

- Trail Maintenance Essentials
- Creating a dig plan
- Leading a Dig – Group Management
- Organising a dig
- Delivering a dig
- Next steps...

A photograph of four people in a forest, likely engaged in trail maintenance. They are wearing safety gear: orange high-visibility vests, a red cap, and a bright yellow-green shirt. The person in the foreground is wearing orange gloves and is working on a tree trunk. The background shows a dense forest with many thin trees and branches. The text "Trail Essentials" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

Trail Essentials

Trail Build Levels

Machine-built/Engineered trail (man made & significantly reinforced)

Hand built

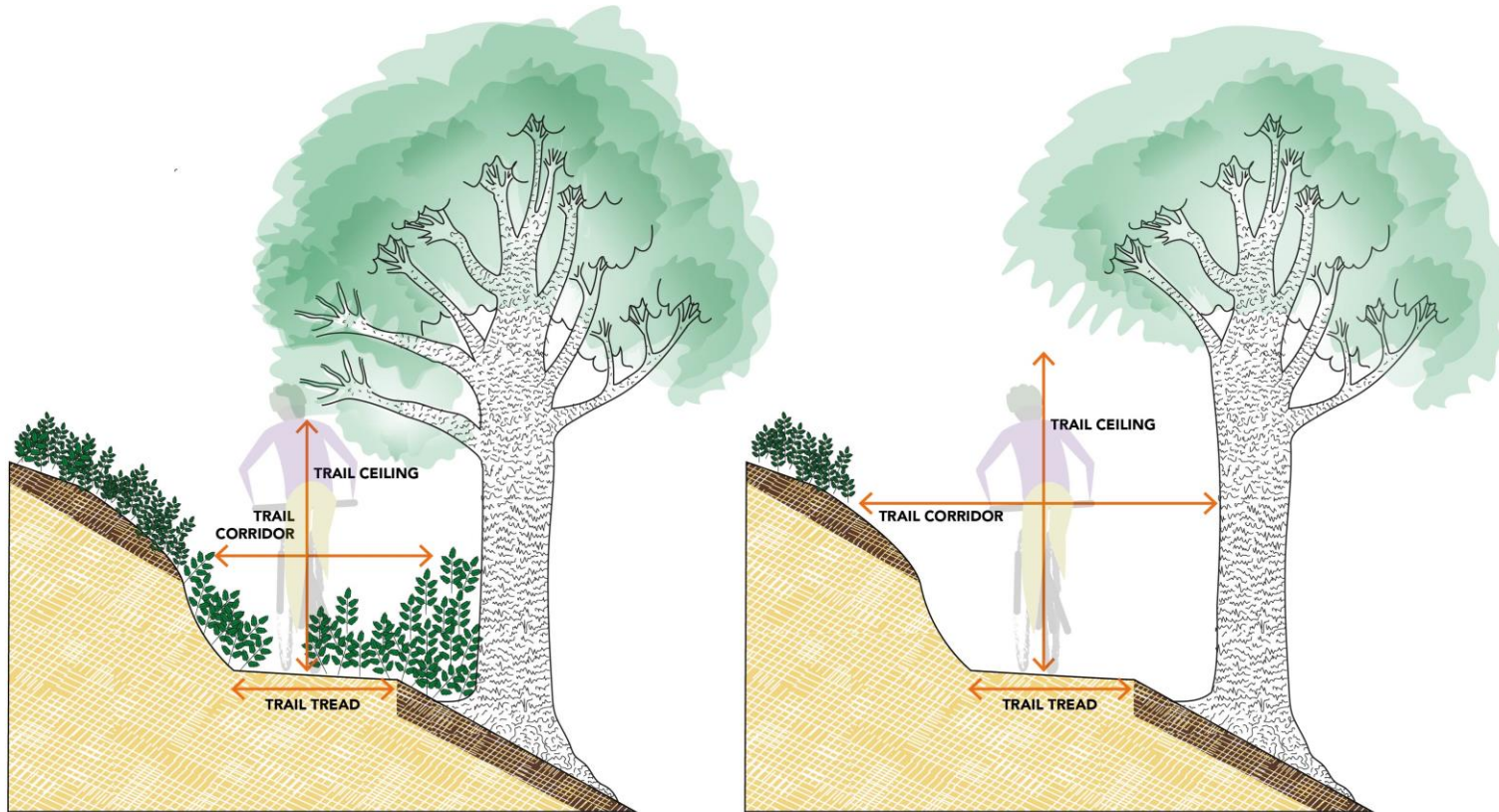
Rake & Ride

Adoption / adaption of existing trail (walker/hiker etc)

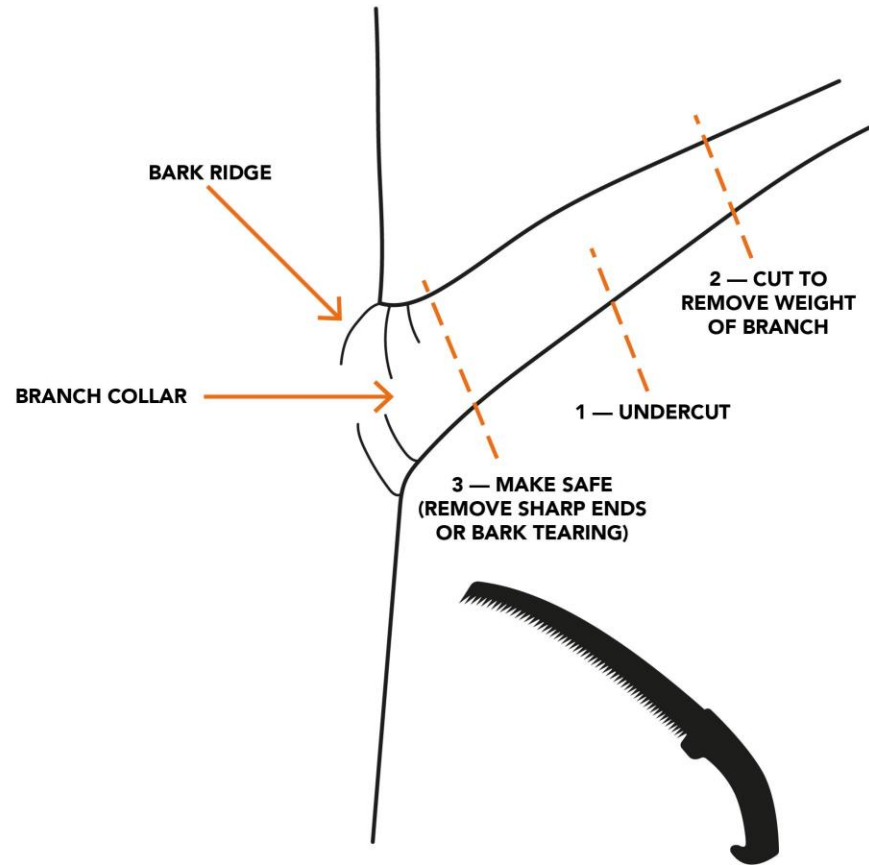
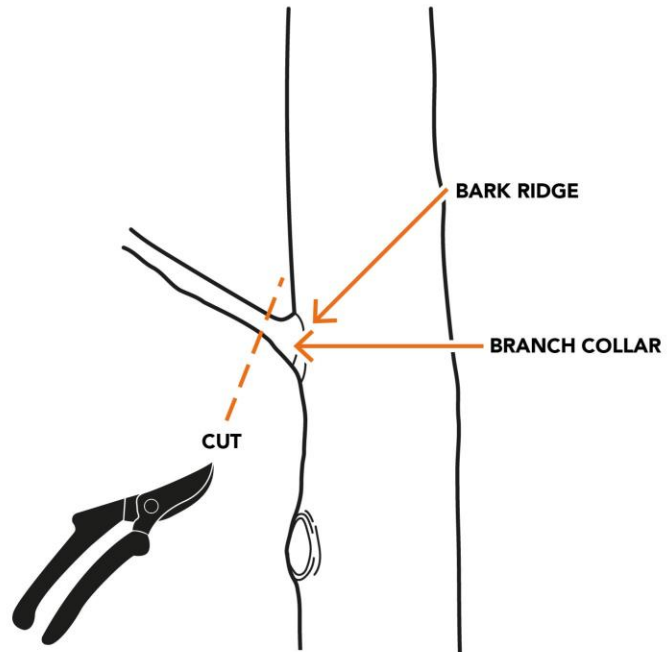
Trail maintenance essentials

- Corridor Clearing
- Water Management
- Trail Tread
- Junction Management

Trail corridor



Trail Corridor – Tree Brashing



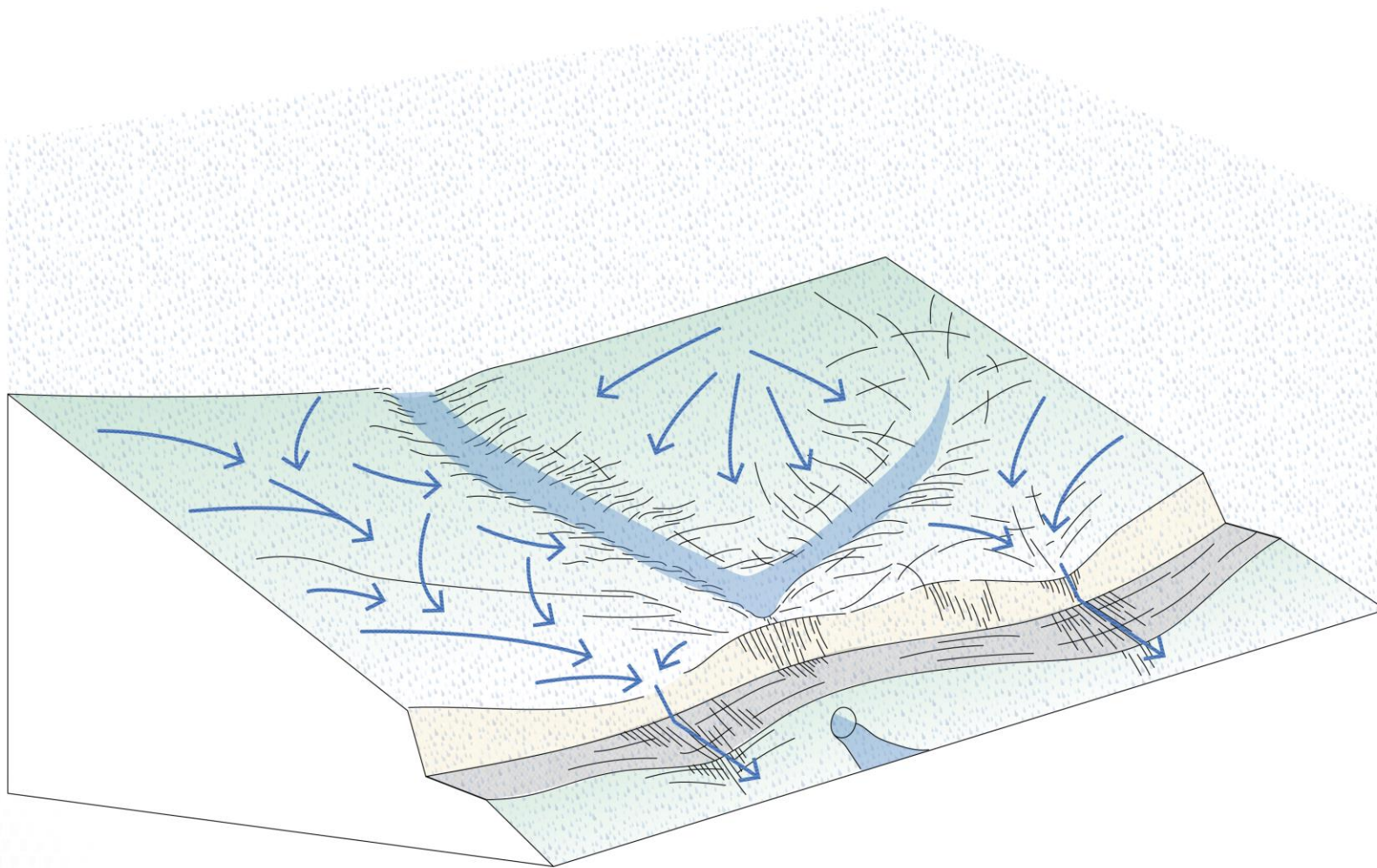
Water Management

- The purpose of water management is to protect the trail and the surrounding land from damage caused by the interaction between the trail, riders and water on the land.
- Effective water management will significantly reduce the amount of maintenance required and prevent the trail from changing from its initial character and build specification.
- Poorly implemented water management can negatively impact the surrounding land and environment through erosion and contamination of water courses.

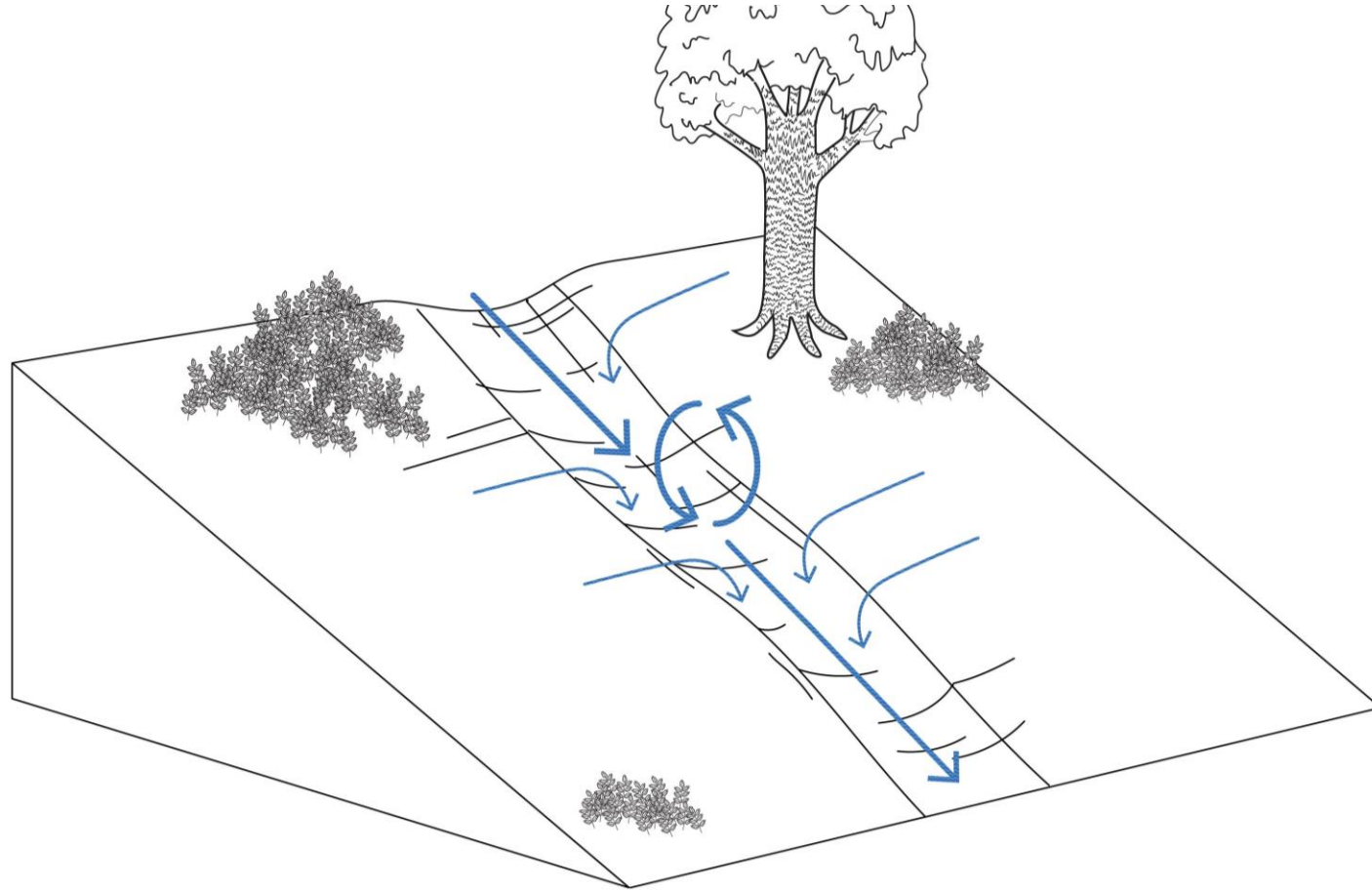
Water Management

- Sheet Flow is water running down the slope of the hill. When you create a bench cut, the water flow will then enter your trail tread.
- Trail Flow is water landing and running down the trail tread causing damage as it follows the line of the trail down the hill.
- Ground water – moisture seeping up from the ground.

Water Management – Sheet Flow

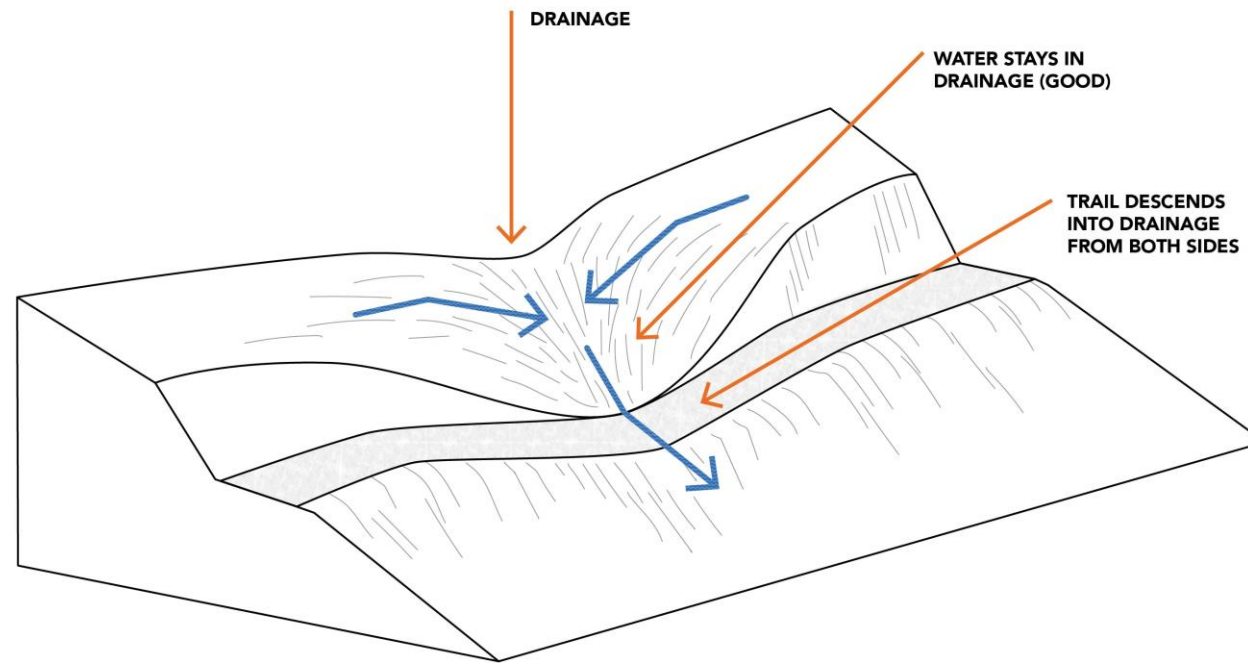


Water Management – Trail Flow



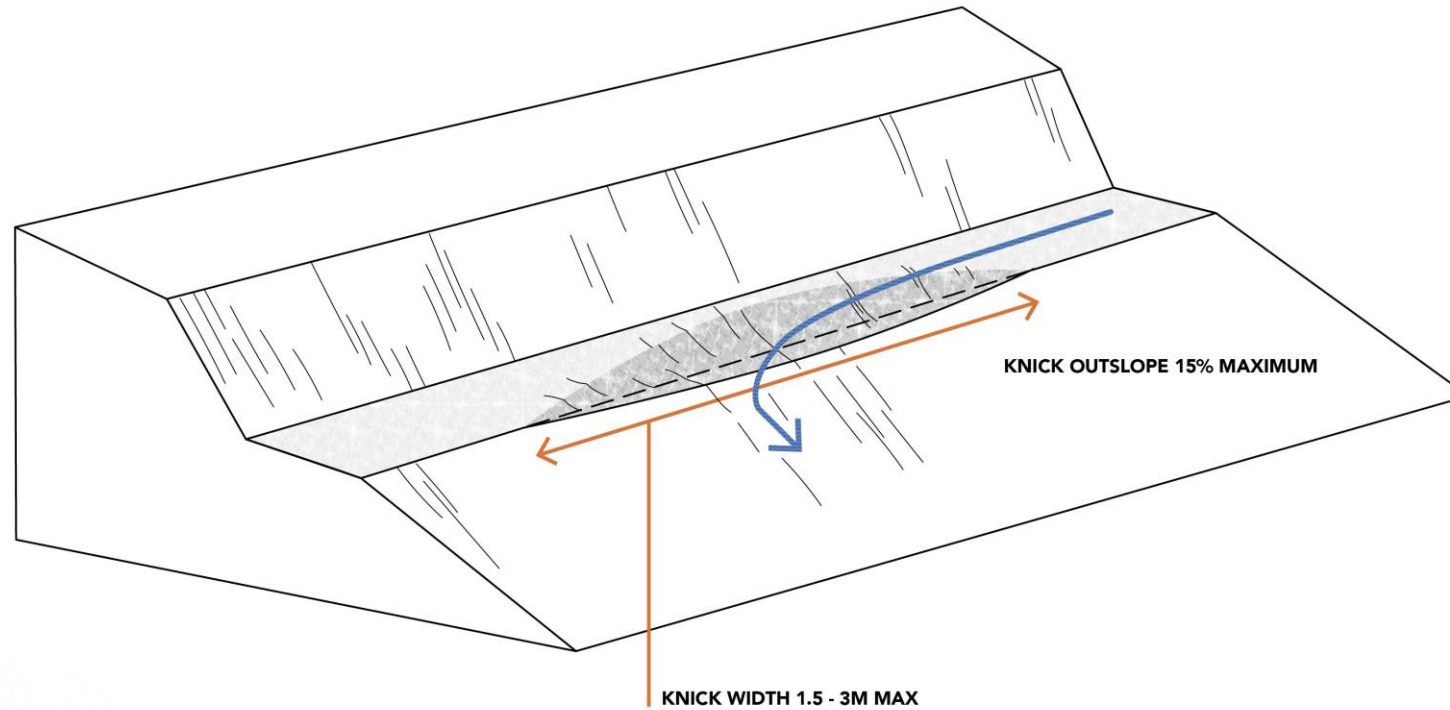
Water Management – Drainage Crossing

PROPER DRAINAGE CROSSING



Water Management – Knick

KNICK

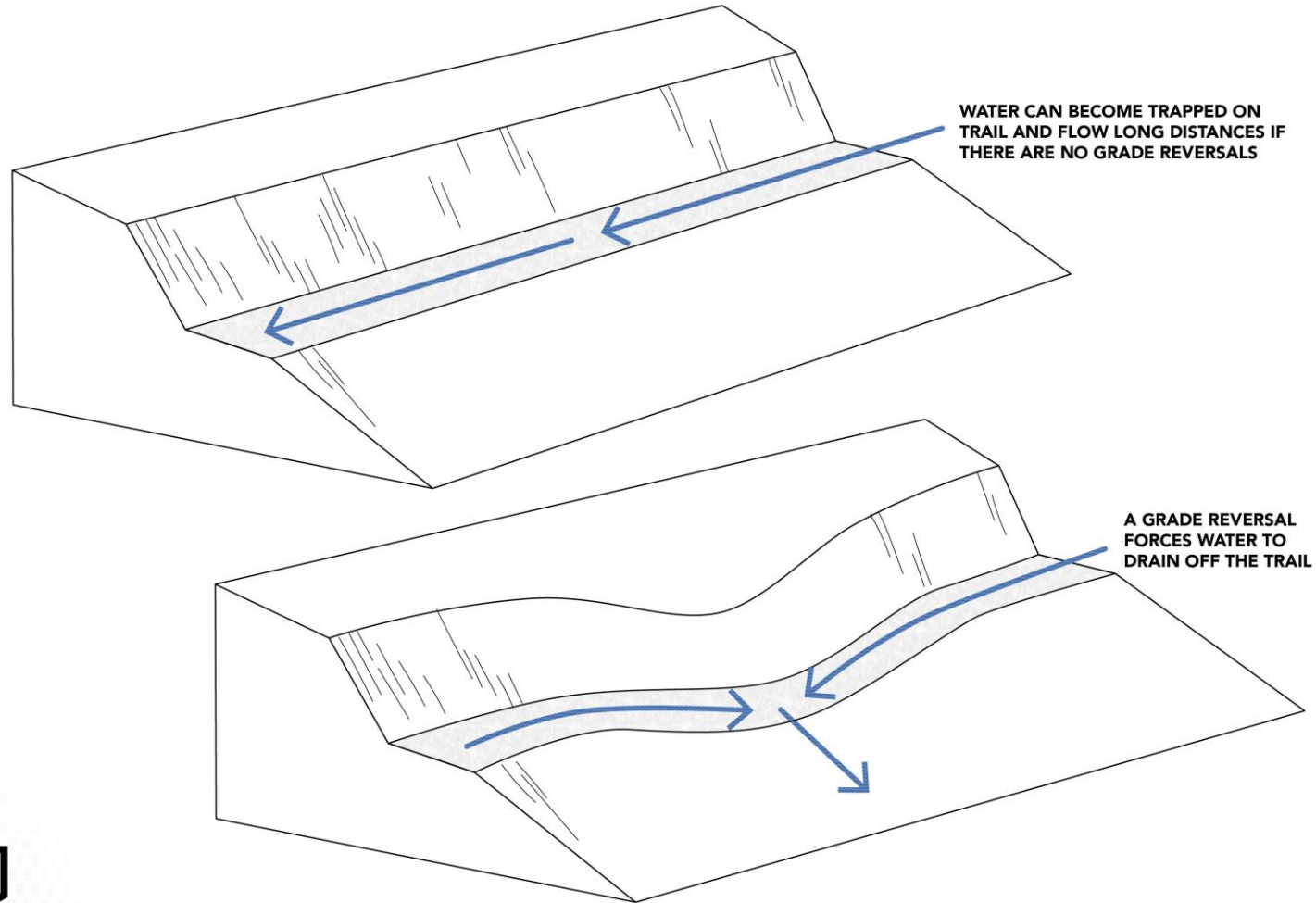


Water Management

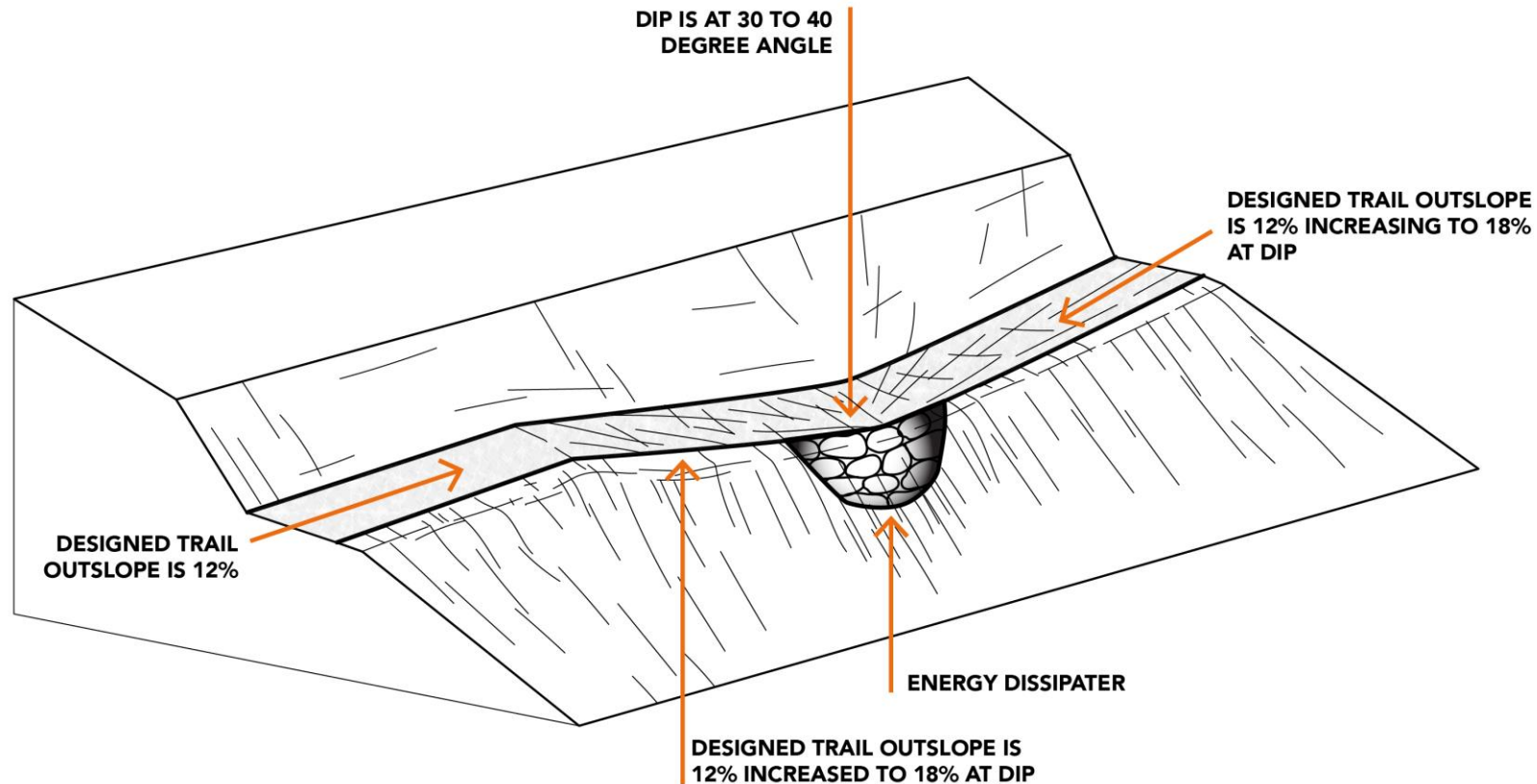


Water Management – Grade Reversal

GRADE REVERSAL



Water Management – Grade Reversal



Water Management



Water Management



Water Management - Discuss



Water Management - Discuss



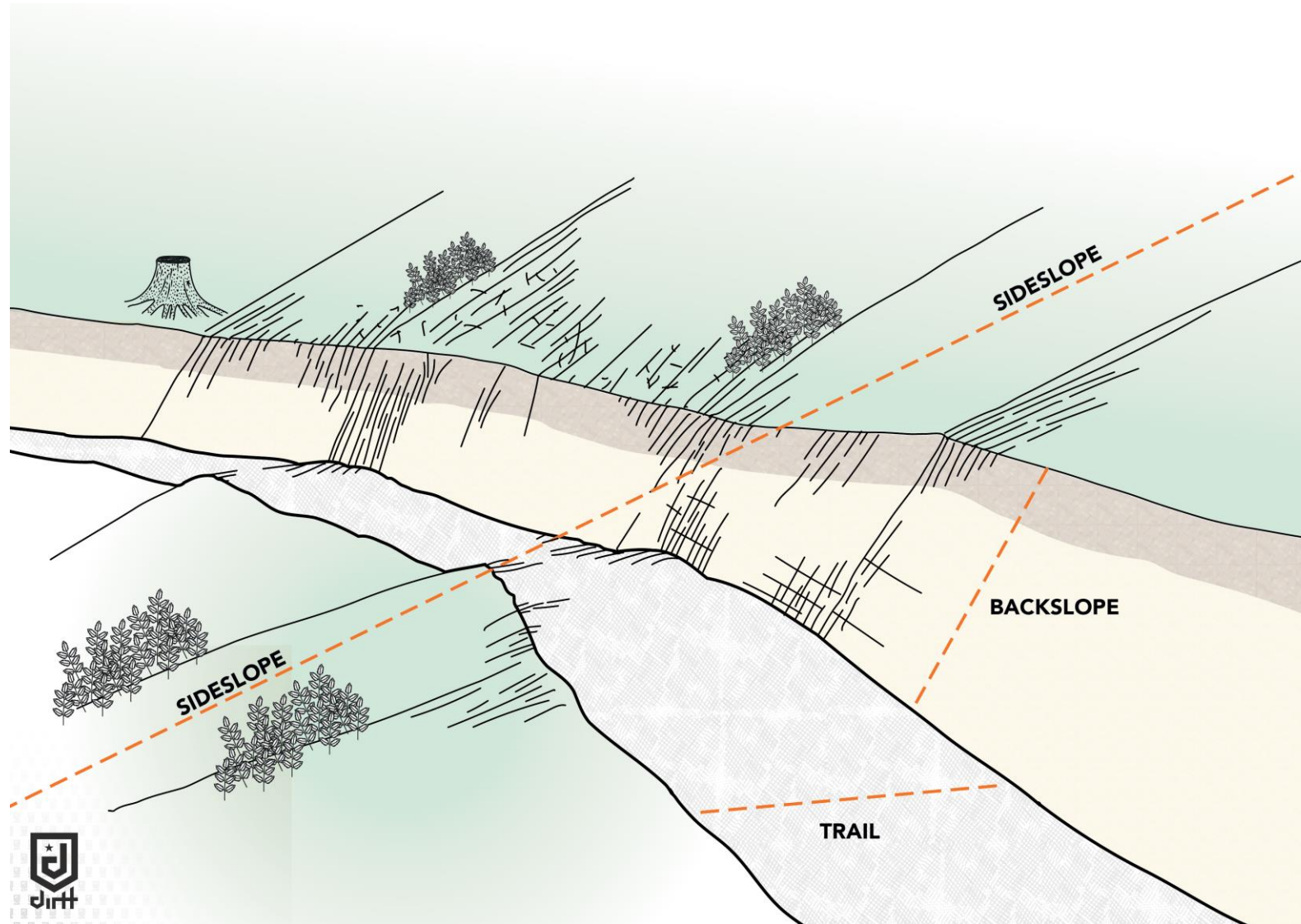
Trail Tread

The trail tread is the surface of the trail we ride on.

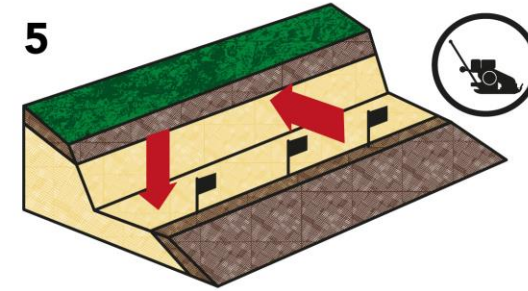
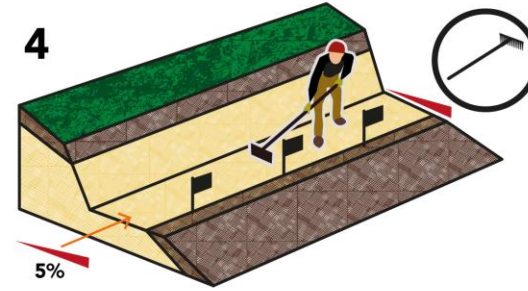
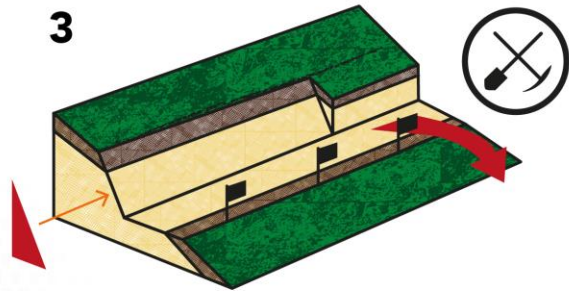
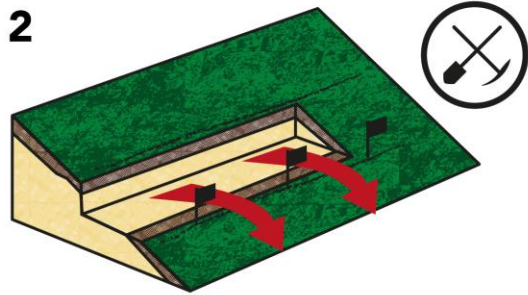
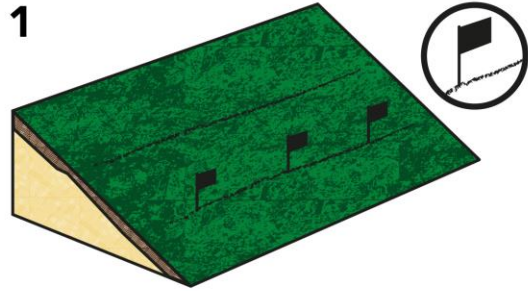
As trail builders we can make decisions on what the trail tread is and how we manage it to improve the trail riding experience and sustainability of the trail.

Work with the gradient, ground conditions, character of the land, not against it.

Bench Cut



Bench Cut – Steps



Bench Cut – Steps



Junction Management

Consideration to Trail Entries, Merges and Crossings and the Trail Finish with regard to the interaction with other forest users.

Ensure:

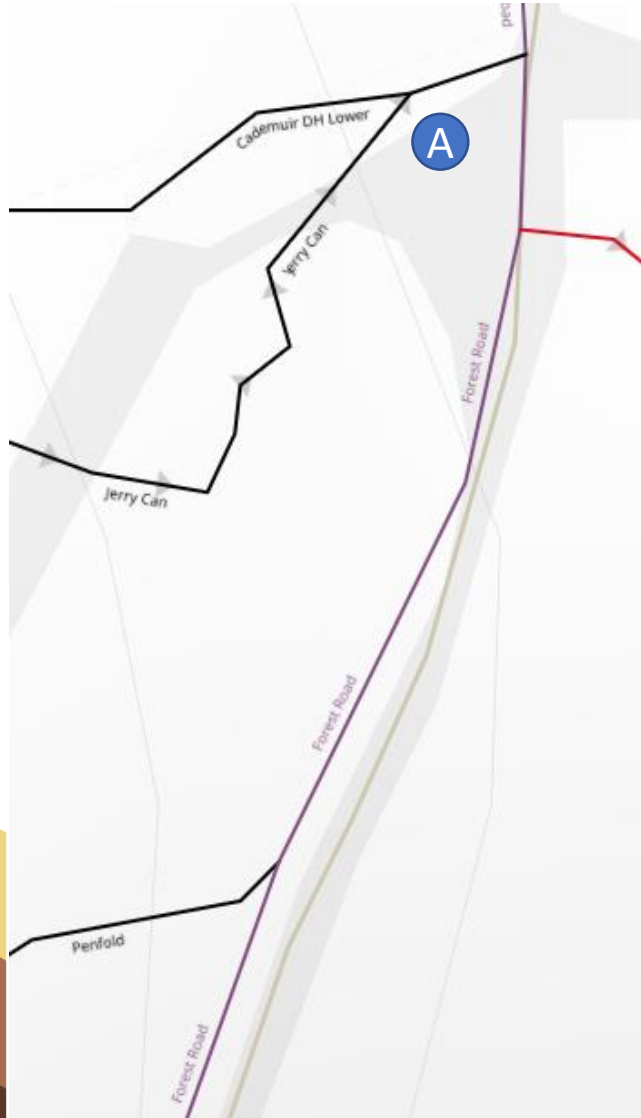
- Clear Sightlines
- Trails Merge “with negotiation” between users
- Riders’ Speed is managed

Avoid:

- Crossing Trails/Paths/Roads
- Steep/high commitment exits



Junction Management – Merge

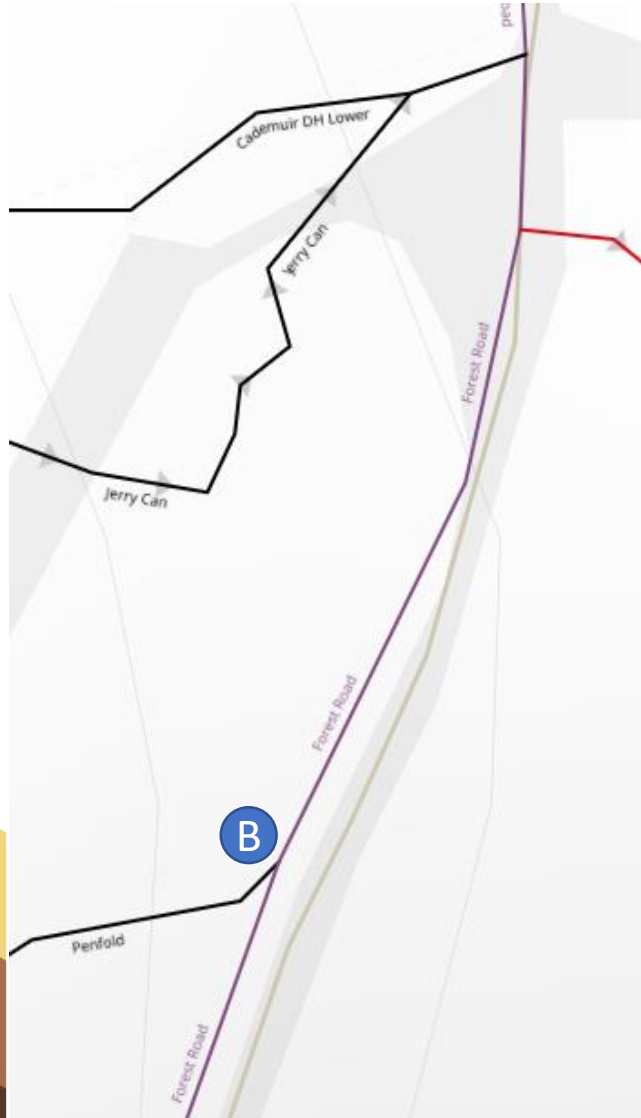


Before



After

Junction Management – Sight Lines



Trail Character

‘Sanitising the trails?’

The aim is to improve the sustainability and ride of the trails, but maintain the characteristics that make the trails specific to their location and experience.

Trail character



Trail character



Trail character



Trail character



A photograph of five people in a forest, all wearing high-visibility yellow-green safety vests. One person in the background is climbing a tree. The scene is set on a dirt path surrounded by trees. The text 'Leading and managing groups' is overlaid in large white font. The image is framed by a decorative border with diagonal stripes in shades of brown and yellow.

Leading and managing groups

Leading - Soft Skills

By thinking ahead on behalf of your group you can help ensure their safety and enjoyment of the session:

- Vision – Inspire the group
- Motivating Group (the whys)
- Regular breaks (to eat and drink, chat, review quality of work)
- Swap jobs (prevent boredom, reduce risk of injury, Hand-Arm Vibration)
- Monitor volunteers (for fatigue, boredom, appropriate tool use, quality of work)

Leading – Group Management

I	Inspire your diggers
N	Nurture the team
S	Show, Tell, Do, Review
P	Praise and positively feedback
I	Individual high standards
R	Recognise, Respond to individuals
E	Encourage thinking, Empower own solutions

Practical Dig Session



Dig Plan Checklist

- Volunteer Administration – [User Facing](#)/[Admin](#)
- Supervision Ratios
- Objectives for the day
- Group Tailgate Risk Assessment, Toolbox & PPE talk
- Allocate roles dependent on experience and competency
- Supervise Activities & Group ahead of digging yourself
- Time Management
- Late Back Procedures

Day 2- Summary



Day 2

- Trail Constructon Methods
- Leading Groups
- Organising a dig
- Leading a dig
- Next steps....



Next Steps

- Post course examples to cement learning along with online quiz
- Links to resources and powerpoints
- Go out with a Trails Association/Group to build experience
- Take your learning from the course and make it work for your group
- Develop your land manager relationship, build competence and trust

Next Steps

Improve trails through
enjoyable dig sessions!