One vision. A stronger future for mountain biking in Scotland.

STRATEGY FOR SCOTTISH MOUNTAIN BIKING 2026–2036

WORLD-CLASS RIDING | THRIVING COMMUNITIES | SUSTAINABLE PLACES | LEADING DESTINATIONS | INNOVATIVE INDUSTRY




GBR
7

THE AMBITION BY 2036

Trails and Supporting Infrastructure

Scotland offers the most diverse, high-quality, and sustainably managed mountain biking experiences in the world.

Tourism Destination and Events Development

Mountain biking is a key component of Scotland's visitor economy, delivering high-value, year-round tourism experiences that benefit communities, businesses, and destinations across the country.

Innovation, Enterprise and Research

Scotland is recognised globally as the leading location for cutting-edge mountain biking and cycling innovation, research, product development, and industry collaboration.

Education and Skills Development

Scotland is a leader in developing the people, knowledge, and skills that underpin world-class mountain biking and off-road cycling.

Health and Wellbeing

Mountain biking is recognised and evidenced as an effective way of improving physical health, mental wellbeing, and social connection for people and communities across Scotland.

Scots Athletes Achieving on the World Stage

Scottish riders are consistently visible, competitive, and successful at the highest levels of international mountain biking and off-road cycling.

MINISTERIAL FOREWORD

Scotland is recognised internationally as one of the world's leading mountain biking nations. Our spectacular landscapes, renowned trail network, talented athletes, innovative businesses and passionate riding communities have helped build a sector that contributes significantly to our economy, wellbeing, and international reputation.

The Scottish Government welcomes the publication of the Strategy for Scottish Mountain Biking 2026–2036. Building on more than two decades of progress, it sets out an ambitious vision for the future of mountain biking and off-road cycling in Scotland, providing a framework for partners across the country to maximise the opportunities offered over the next decade.

Mountain biking delivers benefits far beyond sport, supporting physical and mental wellbeing, strengthening communities, connecting people with nature, and contributing to skills development, sustainable tourism, rural economies, research and innovation.

Scotland's continued success in developing talented athletes, hosting major events and creating high-quality riding experiences further strengthens our reputation as a leading mountain biking destination, generating social, sporting and economic benefits across the country.

I am pleased to see this strategy's joined up approach, bringing together activity across trails and infrastructure, tourism, education, health and wellbeing, innovation, and sporting performance. Delivering this vision will require strong partnership and shared commitment.

I look forward to seeing partners across Scotland work together to deliver this vision and ensure that mountain biking continues to enrich our communities, support our economy and showcase Scotland's unique natural environment for years to come.

Maree Todd MSP
Minister for Mental Wellbeing, Public Health, Sport, Alcohol and Drugs



CONTENTS

06 Introduction
08 Our Values
12 A Changing World
16 Trails and Supporting Infrastructure
18 Tourism Destination and Events Development
20 Innovation, Enterprise and Research
22 Education and Skills Development
24 Health and Wellbeing
26 Scots Athletes Achieving on the World Stage



Innes Graham

INTRODUCTION

Mountain biking is one of Scotland's great success stories. Over the last three decades, Scotland has established a global reputation as a leading mountain biking nation, renowned for its world-class trails, infrastructure investment, iconic landscapes, innovative partnerships, major events, and passionate communities.

Whilst often associated with elite athletes, downhill racing, and spectacular mountain landscapes, mountain biking is far broader than many people realise. It encompasses everything from family rides on park trails and local green networks, to gravel adventures, community trail centres, bike parks, upland journeys, and World Cup competition. At its heart, mountain biking is about riding off-road and connecting with nature, whether that is on a local path, a forest trail, a gravel road, or a mountain descent.

This breadth is one of mountain biking's greatest strengths. It provides opportunities for recreation, adventure, sport, active travel, tourism, learning, volunteering, and community development. It can be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities, close to home or in some of Scotland's most iconic landscapes. As a result, mountain biking has become an important contributor to Scotland's economy, environment, health, and wellbeing, while helping more people develop a lifelong connection with cycling.

The 'Strategy for Scottish Mountain Biking 2026–2036' sets out a shared vision for the next ten years. It builds on the strong foundations established through previous strategies and partnerships while recognising the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. The strategy provides a framework for organisations, businesses, communities, land managers, education providers, event organisers, and riders to work together towards common goals.

At its heart, this strategy seeks to grow participation, strengthen communities, support sustainable trail development, develop skills and talent, enhance Scotland's tourism offer, encourage innovation, and ensure that mountain biking continues to make a positive contribution to Scottish society. It recognises that mountain biking is more than a sport. It is a driver of economic development, a tool for improving health and wellbeing, a catalyst for innovation and community action, and an activity that helps shape vibrant places where people want to visit, live, work, and invest.

A Partnership Approach

The development and delivery of mountain biking in Scotland has been shaped by collaboration. Since its establishment in 2009, Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland (DMBinS) has provided leadership, coordination, and advocacy for the sector, working with partners across government, agencies, local authorities, land managers, tourism organisations, businesses, education providers, community groups, and riders.

Central to this collaborative approach has been the Scottish Mountain Bike Consortium (the Consortium), which brings together Scottish Government, national agencies, cycling organisations, and other bodies who have an interest in the sector to identify shared priorities, coordinate activity, and support the sustainable growth of mountain biking. The Consortium reflects the diverse nature of mountain biking in Scotland and provides a mechanism through which expertise, resources, and opportunities can be aligned to achieve greater collective impact.

This strategy continues that partnership approach. No single organisation can deliver the ambitions set out within this document alone. Success will depend on collaboration, shared leadership, and a commitment to working together across traditional organisational boundaries.

Building on Strong Evidence

The Strategy for Scottish Mountain Biking 2026–2036 has been informed by a comprehensive programme of research, consultation, evaluation, and stakeholder engagement. This includes analysis of participation trends, economic impact data, industry intelligence, community feedback, and both formal and informal evidence gathered from riders, businesses, land managers, and partner organisations.

The strategy has also been shaped by the UK Trails Project report, The Trail – Its People, Place and Time. Its recommendations reinforce the need to build trust and effective communication between riders, land managers and other stakeholders; support volunteers and community trail associations; develop clear and consistent models for trail stewardship, adoption and management; and establish sustainable funding for trail development and maintenance. The report's Scotland-specific priorities, including expanding sustainable trail plans, creating more opportunities to ride close to home, integrating mountain bike trails with active travel networks, and supporting strategic and community-led facilities are reflected throughout this strategy.

A robust economic evaluation by respected consultants, EKOS, demonstrates the significant contribution mountain biking makes to Scotland's economy through visitor spending, employment, business growth, and wider social value.

Key Stats:

- £160-£182m net additional GVA per year
- 2,980-3,400 net additional FTE jobs supported
- 74% of net GVA generated by visitors, mainly overnight stays
- £132m-£146m social value per year from health and wellbeing

Data from the Market Research data tool from the Bicycle Association GB, which is collated using data from bike industry and shops, provides useful data into how Scotland is performing, particularly as a comparator for growth across the UK.

- Scotland outperformed the UK across every major category in 2025. Total value grew 9%, mechanical bike volume +10%, e-bike volume +14% and services volume +15% – all above the UK average of 5%.
- Off-road cycling is a particular strength. Scotland's off-road market grew 16.4% in 2025, outpacing the UK figure of 12.1% – a clear signal of where Scottish cycling demand is concentrated.

- Services growth (bike servicing) points to an active, engaged cycling population. Services volume growth in Scotland was among the highest of any UK region in 2025 – suggesting cyclists are riding more, maintaining more, and investing in their bikes.

An evaluation of 33 of the new, and open, facilities which have been supported by the Cycling Facilities Fund, an £8m fund which was administered by sportscotland, Scottish Cycling and Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland, has also highlighted the growing demand for accessible cycling infrastructure and the important role that facilities such as pump tracks, skills areas, and local trail networks play in encouraging participation and supporting healthier communities.

£4.1m CFF Investment
↓
£9.95m Total Investment
↓
33 Facilities
↓
1m + Visits
↓
60% of people ride more often
↓
£48.6m of Social Value

Together, this evidence provides a strong foundation for the priorities and actions outlined within this document.

Building on Success

The period covered by the previous strategy, 2019 to 2025, has seen significant progress across all of its themes and stated actions. An audit of actions published in the strategy, demonstrates that 69% of actions were completed, 17% ongoing but will be delivered, 5% partially delivered, and only 9% not going to be delivered/prioritised. This shows that when actions are included within the strategy they have a high percentage chance of being completed.

Scotland's trail network has continued to evolve, participation opportunities have expanded, communities have become increasingly involved in trail stewardship and destination development, and the sector has demonstrated its ability to deliver benefits far beyond cycling itself.

Completion of major investment projects including Tarland Trails, completing the long-stated aim of a trail centre being developed in the North-East of Scotland and the Glentress Masterplan, significantly enhancing one of Scotland's premier mountain biking destinations through new trails, visitor facilities, accommodation and inclusive recreation opportunities.

Successfully hosted the UCI Cycling World Championships 2023, showcasing Scotland's world-class venues, trails, athletes, volunteers and event delivery capability to a global audience.

Developed strategic recreation investment frameworks and destination plans through the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, helping position Newcastleton, Dalbeattie and the wider 7stanes network for future investment and sustainable growth.

Among the most significant developments has been the establishment of Bike Innovation Scotland, a partnership between Edinburgh Napier University and South of Scotland Enterprise, and the creation of Caerlee Mill, the world's first dedicated Mountain Bike Innovation Centre. This pioneering initiative positions Scotland at the forefront of cycling research, product development, testing, and knowledge exchange, creating new opportunities for businesses, researchers, entrepreneurs, and athletes.

Investment through programmes such as the Scottish Cycling Facilities Fund (CFF) has supported the development of significant strategic and grassroots cycling infrastructure across the country, with over 30 mountain bike trails, skills areas, and pump tracks built across the country with more facilities still in the pipeline. The CFF is helping communities across Scotland create places where more people can experience the benefits of cycling and mountain biking close to home.

The sector has also continued to demonstrate its strength through successful events, destination development, community-led trail projects, education programmes, volunteer initiatives, and growing collaboration between public, private, and third-sector partners.

Looking Forward

The next ten years present both challenges and opportunities. Economic uncertainty, changing public sector funding, impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss, technological change, and evolving visitor expectations will all shape the future landscape for mountain biking.

At the same time, there is continued and growing recognition of the importance of active lifestyles, sustainable outdoor recreation and tourism, innovation, individual wellness and community wellbeing, and place-based development. Scotland is well positioned to respond to these opportunities.

This strategy sets out an ambitious but achievable vision for 2026–2036. It aims to build on the strengths developed over the last decade while creating the conditions for future success. By working together, Scotland can continue to strengthen its position as one of the world's leading mountain biking nations and ensure that mountain biking delivers lasting benefits for people, places, communities, businesses, and the environment.

Headline achievements from the 2019-2025 Strategy Evaluation

Scotland hosting the UCI Cycling World Championships in 2023 including the XCC, XCO and DH world championships.

Launch of strategic trail projects including Glentress and Tarland Trails.

Over 50 new facilities including mountain bike trails and pump tracks from Orkney to Annan.

International events including UCI DH World Cup in 2019, 2022 & 2024, Enduro World Series in 2021 &2022, and UCI Gravel World Series in 2023, 2024 & 2025.

Range of programmes and initiatives to break down barriers for under-represented groups including children and young people, women, ethnic minorities, and disabled riders.

Expansion and promotion of Trail Therapy and the potential for mountain biking to support and sustain recovery from mental ill-health.

Athletes succeeding on the world stage with a world champion or world series winner in every mountain bike discipline.

OUR VALUES



Community

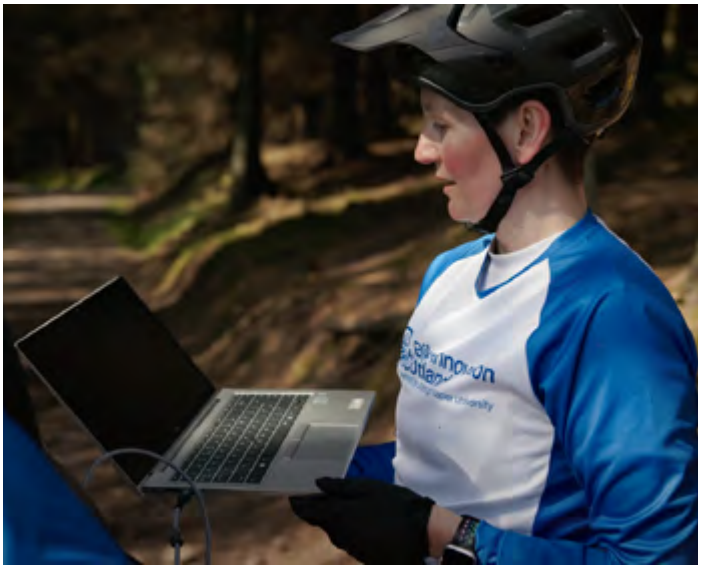
Mountain biking in Scotland will continue to be shaped by the people and communities who ride, build, maintain, support, and benefit from it. Communities should be at the heart of trail development, destination planning, events, volunteering, and decision-making. By strengthening partnerships between riders, clubs, trail associations, communities of place and interest, land managers, businesses, schools, public bodies, and local organisations, we can create places and opportunities that reflect local needs and aspirations. Successful, sustainable projects rely on collaboration and communication, with early and meaningful engagement built into planning and development to secure community support. Supporting community leadership, participation, and pride will ensure mountain biking delivers long-term, authentic benefits for people, places, and future generations across Scotland.

Inclusive

This strategy supports a future where mountain biking and off-road cycling in Scotland are welcoming, accessible, and inclusive for everyone. There is a need to reduce barriers to participation and create opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds, abilities, and experiences to get involved and progress within the sport and activity. This includes supporting the development and use of adapted bikes, improving accessible infrastructure and facilities, promoting inclusive behaviour and affordable programmes and events. This strategy encourages a culture where everyone feels welcome, safe, and valued. By listening to underrepresented groups and working collaboratively with partners across Scotland, mountain biking can provide wider benefits including improved health and wellbeing, confidence, skills development, social connection, increased active travel, and enjoyment and appreciation of the outdoors for more people and communities.



ARC



Innovation

Scotland will embrace innovation across every aspect of mountain biking and off-road cycling. This includes business growth, product development, trail design, events, digital technology, inclusion, participation, health programmes, and environmental management. This means encouraging new ideas, creative partnerships and research-led approaches that help Scotland remain at the forefront of the global mountain bike sector. By supporting innovation through industry, education, communities, and public sector collaboration, we can develop smarter, more effective ways to grow participation, strengthen destinations, and deliver wider economic and social impact, and improved public, rider, and visitor services.

Sustainability

Sustainability must underpin the future development of mountain biking in Scotland, by balancing environmental responsibility, social value, economic growth, and the wellbeing of people and communities. This means supporting responsible access, protecting and restoring natural environments, promoting sustainable trail development and maintenance, and encouraging positive behaviours from riders and visitors. This strategy recognises the importance of developing resilient communities, supporting fair employment and volunteering opportunities, and ensuring long-term investment creates lasting benefits. By taking a research backed sustainable approach, mountain biking can continue to contribute positively to Scotland's economy, environment, and society for years to come.



Finlay Anderson



Culture

This strategy aims to help create a strong, positive, respectful and responsible culture around off-road cycling and mountain biking in Scotland. From early experiences on balance bikes and pump tracks to world-class trails, destinations, and events, the opportunity exists to make cycling fun, accessible, social, and inspiring for people of all ages and backgrounds. Play, adventure, creativity, and progression can encourage more people to ride throughout their lives while supporting healthier and more active communities. By celebrating Scotland's riding culture, supporting local champions and community-led activity, and creating welcoming places to ride, mountain biking can inspire more people to enjoy the outdoors and develop a lifelong connection with cycling.


Brodie Hood





Scotty Laughland

A CHANGING WORLD

Scotland's mountain biking and off-road cycling sector enters the next 10-year strategic cycle at a time of significant change. Economic pressures, global uncertainty, technological change, and increasing demands on public services are shaping the environment in which communities, businesses, land managers, and organisations operate. Rising living costs continue to affect participation, volunteering, travel, and access to equipment, while reductions in public sector funding are increasing pressure on organisations to deliver more with fewer resources.

Scotland's mountain biking infrastructure has matured significantly over the past three decades and now represents a substantial national asset. As trail networks, visitor facilities and supporting infrastructure age, increasing attention will be required on stewardship, maintenance, renewal and long-term sustainability. Future success will depend not only on developing new facilities, but also on implementing sustainable asset management approaches that consider lifecycle costs, governance arrangements, environmental and social impacts, visitor demand and available resources. This may include partnership working, community-led management, charitable ownership, private sector operation, or, where appropriate, the adaptation or decommissioning of assets that are no longer sustainable to maintain. Resources should be prioritised towards facilities and experiences that deliver the greatest environmental, social, community, and economic benefit.

At the same time, many community groups and volunteers are carrying growing responsibilities for maintaining trails, organising activity, and supporting local development. This strategy recognises both the enormous value of community-led action and the need to ensure that the sector develops in a way that is sustainable, supported, and resilient over the long term.

The climate and biodiversity emergency also presents challenges and responsibilities. Scotland's landscapes and outdoor spaces are central to the mountain biking experience, and future development must support environmental protection, perhaps even restoration, climate resilience, and responsible access. Trail design, maintenance, travel choices, and visitor management will all play an increasingly important role over the next decade.

Alongside these challenges, there are significant opportunities. Awareness of the benefits of being active outdoors continues to grow, with increasing recognition of the positive impact cycling can have on physical health, mental wellbeing, social connection, and community pride. Advances in technology, including artificial intelligence and digital innovation, also have the potential to improve how the sector plans, promotes, manages, and delivers activity. Similarly, strengthening international collaborations through industry memberships and thematic networks can support access to funding opportunities and create opportunities for knowledge exchange.

This strategy positions mountain biking and off-road cycling as part of Scotland's future as a positive, active, healthy, and welcoming nation to visit, live, work, and invest in.



Brodie Hood



Andrew Leinster





TRAILS AND SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE



Brodie Hood

10-YEAR AMBITION

Scotland offers the most diverse, high-quality, and sustainably managed mountain biking experiences in the world.

Key Strategic Directions

Public Sector → Community & Private Sector

Support a more connected and resilient model where public bodies, communities, charities, and private operators work together to collaborate, develop, manage, maintain and invest in trails and riding infrastructure. This should include exploring alternative ownership, operating and management models that improve long-term sustainability, build local capacity, attract investment and reduce reliance on public funding alone.

Sustainability

Embed environmental, social, economic and people-focused sustainability into trail planning, development, maintenance, events, visitor management and long-term destination growth across Scotland.

Permissions → Not Forgiveness

Promote positive and collaborative relationships between riders, communities, land managers and public bodies by encouraging responsible development, clear permissions, and collaborative planning approaches for trails and infrastructure.

Living Trail Lab

Through the world's first-ever mountain bike living trail lab, hosted at the Caerlee Mill MTB Innovation Centre and powered by Bike Innovation Scotland, there is a fantastic opportunity to develop a stronger evidence base to improve trail quality, sustainability, athletic performance, accessibility, and visitor experiences through data, research, innovation, monitoring and shared learning across Scotland's trail networks.

Key Topic & Action Areas

Access Rights & Responsibilities

Support and promote responsible access in line with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code while encouraging positive relationships between riders, land managers, local communities and other outdoor users. Clear guidance, education, and shared understanding will help support safe, sustainable and enjoyable experiences across Scotland's diverse landscapes.

A Network of Trails Associations

Strengthen and support a connected network of local trails associations and community groups across Scotland. These organisations play a vital role in trail maintenance, volunteer development, event planning and delivery, advocacy, rider engagement, and partnership working with land managers and public bodies.

Sustainable Trail Management

Develop long-term sustainable trail plans for major trail networks and destinations across Scotland. These plans should consider maintenance requirements, asset condition, visitor demand, environmental impacts, available resources, governance arrangements, renewal priorities, and end-of-life management. They should support informed decisions about investment, adaptation, management responsibilities, and where necessary, trail decommissioning, ensuring resources are focused where they deliver the greatest public benefit.

Urban Trail / Pump Track Network & Informal Trails

Support the development of accessible urban riding facilities, pump tracks, skills areas, and informal trail networks that encourage participation, progression, social connection, and everyday cycling. These facilities can provide vital local opportunities, particularly for young people and communities with limited access to the outdoors and are the ideal locations to create and deliver mountain bike education programmes.

Promoted Gravel & Long-Distance Routes

Develop and promote Scotland's gravel riding and long-distance off-road routes as part of a wider tourism and participation offer. These experiences can encourage adventure, sustainable travel, rural economic development, and stronger connections between communities, landscapes, and destinations.

Playful Trails Around Towns & Cities

Create a connected network of fun, playful, inspiring, and sustainable trails around Scotland's towns and cities that make cycling an enjoyable part of everyday life. By linking pump tracks, skills areas, informal trails, active travel routes, greenspaces, schools, workplaces, shops, and leisure destinations, these networks can provide reasons for people to choose a bike more often. Encouraging play, adventure, progression, and exploration close to home will help inspire a new generation of riders while supporting healthier communities, sustainable travel, and a stronger cycling culture across Scotland.

Mountain Biking on Upland Paths

It is anticipated that there will be an increase in mountain bikers accessing upland paths over the duration of this strategy. It will be important to work collaboratively with other bodies involved in path management including Mountaineering Scotland, NatureScot, and Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland, along with land managers, to improve understanding, guidance, sustainable approach to management and funding relating to mountain biking on upland paths. This includes balancing responsible access, environmental protection, path design and sustainability, and positive experiences for all users.

An E-Bike Friendly and Sustainable Network

Support the continued growth of e-biking through infrastructure, charging opportunities, guidance, route development, and improved accessibility. E-bikes have the potential to broaden participation, support inclusive access, extend visitor experiences, and connect more communities and destinations. As the use of e-bikes grows, it is also vital that riders understand their responsibilities and we better understand the impact on trails through an increase in evidence gathering.

World-Class Bike Parks & Uplifted Trail Experiences

Encourage the development and long-term sustainability of bike parks, uplift facilities, and gravity-focused destinations that attract riders, events, tourism, investment, and international recognition while supporting local economic and community benefits. This strategy recognises that these experiences will require robust business planning, sustainable trail management, asset lifecycle planning and diversified funding models.

Living Trail Lab

Translate research, data and evidence base into real-world impact across the whole topic of trails and supporting infrastructure.

TOURISM DESTINATION AND EVENTS DEVELOPMENT



Andy McCandlish

10-YEAR AMBITION

Mountain biking is a key component of Scotland's visitor economy, delivering high-value, year-round tourism experiences that benefit communities, businesses, and destinations across the country.

Key Strategic Directions

Place-Based Approaches

Support sustainable destination development that reflects the unique landscapes, communities, riding cultures, and tourism opportunities within different regions of Scotland.

A Collaborative Approach

Strengthen collaboration between tourism organisations, businesses, communities, land managers, public agencies, and the cycling sector to support sustainable destination growth and visitor experiences.

Expanding Knowledge Sharing

Improve connections between academia, industry, communities, and tourism businesses to encourage innovation, research, skills development, and evidence-led destination planning.

Key Topic & Action Areas

Tourism Destination Development

Support the continued development and evolution of Scotland's more established mountain bike destinations including Fort William & Lochaber; the Tweed Valley; Cairngorms National Park; and Aberdeenshire. At the same time, targeted support and investment will help unlock the undoubted potential of destinations which have several strong mountain biking and off-road riding opportunities that offer additional growth prospects including Dumfries & Galloway; Perthshire; Inverness & Loch Ness; Ross-shire, Caithness and Sutherland; South Lanarkshire; Glasgow; and Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park.

Events

Support the delivery of international, national, and regional mountain bike and off-road events and conferences that are closely connected to strong destinations, local partnerships, business and industry engagement, research and innovation, and sustainable trail management. Events help raise Scotland's global profile, encourage participation - leading to improved health and wellbeing, support local economies, and strengthen long-term investment in facilities and communities.

Marketing & Promotion

Promote Scotland as a world-class mountain biking and off-road cycling destination through coordinated marketing, storytelling, digital platforms, media partnerships, and destination campaigns that showcase riding experiences, landscapes, communities, and culture.

Tourism Business Support

Provide support for tourism and cycling-related businesses to strengthen quality, sustainability, visitor experiences, collaboration, and resilience. This includes supporting accommodation providers, guides, event organisers, bike shops, hospitality businesses, and visitor attractions.

Improved Transport Provision

Encourage more bike-friendly public transport and rural travel connections to improve accessibility for riders and visitors. Better integration between cycling, buses, trains, and active travel networks can support more sustainable tourism and reduce barriers to accessing destinations.

Tourism Product Development

Support the creation and enhancement of tourism products and experiences including guided rides, bikepacking, gravel routes, skills experiences, family-friendly offers, events, wellness tourism, and multi-activity packages to encourage longer stays and repeat visits.

Entrepreneur Support Programmes

Develop and promote programmes that support entrepreneurs and new businesses to create innovative tourism products, services, and experiences connected to mountain biking and off-road cycling.

Cross-Sector Partnerships & Packaging

Encourage greater collaboration between tourism, hospitality, transport, outdoor recreation, culture, food and drink, and cycling businesses to create joined-up visitor experiences and strengthen Scotland's overall tourism offer.

INNOVATION, ENTERPRISE AND RESEARCH



SOSE

10-YEAR AMBITION

Scotland is recognised globally as the leading location for cutting-edge mountain biking and cycling innovation, research, product development, and industry collaboration.

Key Strategic Directions

Caerlee Mill (MTB Innovation Centre)

Establish Scotland as the home of world-leading cycling innovation through the development and growth of the Caerlee Mill (Mountain Bike Innovation Centre) and associated research and testing facilities through Bike Innovation Scotland, a partnership between Edinburgh Napier University and South of Scotland Enterprise.

Connections Between Industry & Academia

Strengthen partnerships between businesses, universities, public agencies, and entrepreneurs to support research, product development, skills, and commercial growth.

Global Leadership in Innovation

Position Bike Innovation Scotland as a globally recognised leader in cycling innovation, research, knowledge exchange, and industry collaboration.

Supporting Scottish Entrepreneurs

Create opportunities for Scottish businesses and entrepreneurs to develop innovative products, services, technologies, and experiences connected to cycling and mountain biking.

Attracting International Cycling Industry to Scotland

Promote Scotland as an attractive location for cycling businesses, manufacturers, and international brands seeking investment, collaboration, testing environments, and market growth opportunities.

Key Topic & Action Areas

Launch of Caerlee Mill - the World's First MTB Innovation Centre

Support the successful launch and long-term development of Caerlee Mill, the world's first dedicated Mountain Bike Innovation Centre. The centre will provide cutting-edge testing facilities, research capability, innovation support, and access to expertise across Scotland's academic and cycling sectors.

Bike Innovation Scotland

Support Bike Innovation Scotland, a partnership between Edinburgh Napier University and South of Scotland Enterprise, as a world centre of excellence for delivering research, innovation, and knowledge exchange for the cycling industry in Scotland and globally through the MTB Innovation Centre. Strengthen links between academia, industry, governing bodies, and the public sector to develop world-leading research, innovation, and advanced learning opportunities that support the growth of mountain biking and off-road cycling.

Attract International Investment & Brands

Promote Scotland as a destination for international investment, collaboration, testing, and business development within the cycling and outdoor sectors. Scotland's right of responsible access to outstanding landscapes, riding environments, research strengths, and global reputation provide strong opportunities for attracting international brands and partners.

Scotland's Unique Selling Proposition

Clearly articulate Scotland's strengths as a location for cycling innovation, including access to diverse trail environments, the World's first Living Trail Lab and new human performance labs, strong academic partnerships, an active cycling culture, supportive public agencies, and internationally recognised destinations and events.

Grow Revenue from Domestic Sales and Exports

Support Scottish cycling and outdoor businesses to increase revenue through domestic sales and international exports. This includes encouraging product development, market expansion, collaboration, and support programmes that help businesses scale and reach new audiences.

Develop & Internationalise Scottish Brands

Encourage the growth and international promotion of Scottish cycling, tourism, technology, and outdoor brands. Supporting innovation, storytelling, product quality, and collaboration can help strengthen Scotland's reputation as a global leader in mountain biking and cycling culture.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



Pete Scullion

10-YEAR AMBITION

Scotland is a leader in developing the people, knowledge, and skills that underpin world-class mountain biking and off-road cycling.

Key Strategic Directions

Integration into Mainstream Education

Support greater integration of mountain biking and cycling-related learning within schools, colleges, universities, and wider education pathways across Scotland.

Governing Body Awards

Enhance the quality, visibility, and impact of coaching, leadership, officiating, bike maintenance, trail development and management, and skills qualifications/award schemes to support participation, progression, employability, and professional development.

Internationalisation & Coordination

Strengthen collaboration and alignment across education, training, and certification programmes to support international recognition, consistency, and shared learning opportunities.

Mountain Biking Within Wider Academic Learning

Encourage mountain biking and cycling-related themes to contribute to broader academic, research, and vocational subject areas beyond sport and exercise science and physiology, including tourism, business, engineering, sustainability, marketing, creative (eg photography and film), technology, health, and artificial intelligence.

Key Topic & Action Areas

Mountain Biking in Schools

Support the development and delivery of school qualifications and Developing Young Workforce programmes in mountain biking, and cycling, that combine riding skills, leadership, trail awareness, sustainability, responsible outdoor access learning, and personal development while creating new pathways for young people within education and outdoor learning.

Outdoor Education Experiences → Sustained Participation

As young people across Scotland will have the opportunity through outdoor centres and outdoor learning, it is important that there is a strengthening of the connection between outdoor education experiences and long-term participation in mountain biking and cycling. Schools, youth organisations, outdoor learning providers, and community programmes can play an important role in introducing young people to riding, developing confidence and skills, building understanding of access rights and responsibilities, and fostering a lifelong connection with being active outdoors. By creating clear, affordable, welcoming, and accessible pathways from first experiences into clubs, community riding opportunities, volunteering, leadership, and competition, more people can be supported to continue riding throughout their lives.

College & University Courses

Encourage the alignment and development of college and university courses connected to mountain biking, cycling, tourism, events, outdoor education, business, engineering, and innovation to strengthen skills pathways and industry opportunities.

Facilitate new PhD studentships and collaborative research programmes focused on mountain biking and off-road cycling through partnerships between universities, industry, governing bodies, and public agencies.

Support the creation of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) and innovation placements that connect businesses with academic expertise to drive product development, sustainability, digital technology, data analytics, trail management, and market growth.

Promote Scotland as a leading location for cycling-related research, testing, innovation, and knowledge exchange, attracting national and international academic and industry partnerships.

DIRTT Trail Education & Certification

Support the continued development of DIRTT and associated trail education and certification programmes to help professionalise trail planning, construction, maintenance, and management across Scotland and internationally.

MTB Officials, Coaches & Leadership

Strengthen the recruitment, training, development, and retention of coaches, leaders, officials, and volunteers who support participation, events, rider development, and community activity throughout Scotland.

Bike Maintenance Skills

Increase opportunities for people of all ages to develop bike maintenance and mechanical skills through schools, community programmes, qualifications, workshops, and industry partnerships that support participation, employment, and confidence.

Continuous Professional Development & Lifelong Learning

Promote continuous professional development and lifelong learning opportunities across the mountain bike, tourism, outdoor recreation, education, and cycling sectors to help individuals adapt, progress, and share knowledge throughout their careers.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING



Andy McCandlish

10-YEAR AMBITION

Mountain biking is recognised and evidenced as an effective way of improving physical health, mental wellbeing, and social connection for people and communities across Scotland.

Key Strategic Directions

Trail Therapy Hubs

Support the long-term development of a national network of Trail Therapy Hubs that provide sustainable opportunities for people to improve their health and wellbeing and accelerate and sustain recovery from mental ill-health through mountain biking.

Activating Pump Tracks & Local Trails

Maximise the use of local riding facilities through community programmes, coaching, education, volunteering, and partnerships that encourage more people to ride regularly.

Expanding Access to Bikes & Equipment

Reduce barriers to participation by improving access to bikes, adapted cycles, equipment, and opportunities to ride for people from all backgrounds and communities.

Knowledge Creation & Sharing

Develop and share evidence demonstrating the health and wellbeing benefits of mountain biking to inform policy, investment, programme design, and clinical and community practice.

Key Topic & Action Areas

Mountain Biking & Mental Health

Support the development of programmes that use mountain biking to improve mental health, resilience, confidence, and social connection. Working with health services, charities, communities, and academic partners will help strengthen the evidence base and increase opportunities for people to benefit from riding outdoors.

Reducing Gender Inequalities

Create more opportunities for women and girls to participate in mountain biking by addressing barriers to access, improving representation, supporting female leadership, and developing welcoming environments that encourage lifelong participation.

Diversifying Participation

Work with communities and partner organisations to increase participation amongst people from ethnically diverse backgrounds by creating inclusive programmes, improving representation, and reducing practical, cultural, and social barriers to participation.

Children & Young People

Support children and young people, particularly those living in urban communities and areas of socioeconomic deprivation, to access pump tracks, local trails, bikes, coaching, and outdoor learning experiences. Early positive experiences can help establish lifelong cycling habits while improving confidence, health, and wellbeing.

Adapted Mountain Bike Programmes

Expand opportunities for people with disabilities and long-term health conditions to experience mountain biking through adapted bikes, accessible facilities, specialist coaching, and inclusive programmes that enable more people to enjoy Scotland's trails and outdoor environments.

Urban Trails Driving Participation

Develop and activate networks of urban trails, pump tracks, and accessible riding facilities that encourage regular participation close to home, particularly linking with schools and local park facilities. By providing fun, welcoming, and easily accessible places to ride, these facilities can improve physical activity levels, strengthen communities, inspire active travel, and create lifelong connections with cycling.

SCOTS ATHLETES ACHIEVING ON THE WORLD STAGE


Grega Stopar

10-YEAR AMBITION

Scottish riders are consistently visible, competitive, and successful at the highest levels of international mountain biking and off-road cycling.

Key Strategic Directions

Pathways into British Cycling & International Teams

Strengthen performance pathways, Olympic and non-Olympic, that support Scottish riders to progress into British Cycling programmes, professional teams, and international competitions.

Stronger Youth Clubs

Support the growth and sustainability of youth clubs and grassroots programmes that provide welcoming, accessible, and high-quality environments for rider development.

Talent Identification & Development

Enhance systems, partnerships, and programmes that identify, support, and develop talented riders across all MTB disciplines and backgrounds.

Integration Across Disciplines

Encourage stronger collaboration and shared learning between mountain biking, BMX, cyclocross, gravel, road, and other cycling disciplines to support athlete progression and participation.

Sustainable Domestic Event Series

Develop sustainable and accessible domestic race series that provide clear progression opportunities for riders, clubs, coaches, officials, and organisers throughout Scotland.

Key Topic & Action Areas

A World-Class Sporting Pathway

Support the development of a world-class sporting pathway for Scottish mountain bikers that provides clear progression from grassroots participation and clubs through to elite competition and international representation.

Increasing MTB Leaders & Coaches

Encourage and support more people to become mountain bike coaches, leaders, and volunteers to improve access to clubs, training opportunities, youth development, and local participation across Scotland.

Talent Identification & Support

Strengthen talent identification systems and provide targeted support for emerging riders through coaching, competition opportunities, mentoring, skills development, and partnership working with clubs and performance programmes.

Data-Driven Human Performance Development

Effectively utilise sportscotland Institute of Sport, British Cycling athlete development, along with the Caerlee Mill Mountain Bike Innovation Centre Human Performance Laboratory and Trail Labs, delivered through Bike Innovation Scotland, to support rider development, testing, performance analysis, recovery, and innovation within high-performance sport.

Accessible Competition Pathways

Work alongside British Cycling and event organisers to strengthen local, regional, and national competition pathways that are accessible, affordable, inclusive, and appropriate for riders at different stages of development.

Connected Performance Partnerships

Develop stronger links between Scottish Cycling, British Cycling, colleges, universities, the sportscotland Institute of Sport, Bike Innovation Scotland, clubs, and professional teams to provide the best possible support for riders across all mountain bike disciplines.

Strategy for Scottish Mountain Biking, 2026-2036 has been developed on behalf of the MTB Consortium by Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland.

Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland

Members of the MTB Consortium (October 2026) are as follows:

BICYCLE ASSOCIATION

Bike Innovation Scotland

Cycling Scotland

CyclingUK

Edinburgh Napier UNIVERSITY

Forestry and Land Scotland
Coilltearachd agus Fearann Alba

sportscotland glenmorelodge
national outdoor training centre

HIE
Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean

NatureScot NàdarAlba
Scotland's Nature Agency
Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

SAPOE

SCOTTISH CYCLING

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Scottish Land&Estates

SOUTH of SCOTLAND ENTERPRISE

sportscotland
the national agency for sport

spòrsalba
am prìomh bhuidheann nàiseanta airson spòrs

Visit Scotland | Alba™

