

SHAMBLEWOOD BIKE PARK

Noise and Operational Management Statement

Land off Shamblehurst Lane North, Hedge End, Southampton SO32 2BY
Continued Use of Site as a Bike Park
August 2026

1. Purpose

This statement sets out the operational measures used at Shamblewood Bike Park to manage activity within the woodland and minimise the potential for unreasonable noise or disturbance to surrounding land uses. It is intended to demonstrate how the site can continue to operate as a controlled, low-intensity, non-motorised recreational facility.

2. Nature of the Use

Shamblewood is used for non-motorised bike trials and mountain-bike skills activity. The cycling activity does not involve motorcycles, powered off-road vehicles or other engine-driven riding activities.

Noise generated by the principal recreational use is therefore associated with bicycles passing over natural ground and constructed features, together with normal voices associated with riders, coaching and spectators.

3. Managed Operation

The site is operated as a managed facility rather than unrestricted public open space. Access and activity can therefore be directed and controlled by the site operator.

Riding is principally associated with organised, supervised or guided activity, coaching sessions, small groups, youth and community sessions and occasional organised events. This enables activity to be concentrated within appropriate parts of the site and allows the operator to intervene if behaviour is causing unnecessary disturbance.

4. Defined Activity Areas

The principal riding activities take place within identifiable areas of the site, including the bike trials area, mountain-bike/Northshore skills areas and dirt-based riding areas. Concentrating activity within defined areas prevents unrestricted riding throughout the woodland and provides greater control over both environmental and amenity impacts.

5. Relationship with Surrounding Uses

The site is contained within established woodland. Existing trees, understorey vegetation, scrub and retained boundary vegetation provide substantial physical and visual separation between the principal riding areas and surrounding land.

Railway infrastructure lies between the site and nearby residential areas. This forms an important part of the existing context within which activity at Shamblewood takes place.

6. Woodland and Dead-Hedge Screening

Woodland management is undertaken with the intention of retaining vegetation around the site boundaries and between principal activity areas where it contributes to screening and habitat.

Coppiced stems, brash and other suitable woody material generated through woodland management are retained on site and incorporated into substantial dead hedging. In addition to its ecological and visual-screening functions, this dense natural structure provides additional physical separation between activity areas and the surrounding environment.

The management approach is therefore to retain and strengthen natural screening rather than unnecessarily opening sight or sound corridors towards neighbouring properties.

7. Operational Noise Controls

The following measures form part of the ongoing management of the site:

- motorised riding is not permitted as part of the bike park use;
- activity is concentrated within established riding areas;
- organised and supervised use allows unnecessary shouting or unreasonable behaviour to be controlled;
- amplified music or public-address equipment is not required for normal day-to-day riding;
- boundary vegetation and woodland screening are retained wherever reasonably practicable;
- coppiced material is reused to maintain substantial dead-hedge screening;
- activities can be relocated or adjusted where a particular feature is found to create unnecessary disturbance; and
- any substantiated complaint concerning noise or disturbance will be investigated by the site operator and reasonable corrective action taken where appropriate.

8. Events

Occasional organised events form part of the recreational use of the site. These are distinct from normal day-to-day riding and are managed by the operator. Event activity is temporary in nature and does not represent the continuous operating condition of the site.

Where reasonably practicable, event layout and activity will make use of the established screening provided by the woodland, and unnecessary noise will be avoided.

9. Parking and Arrival

Vehicle parking is concentrated within the established parking area rather than dispersed throughout the woodland. Riders are encouraged to use the designated access and activity areas, enabling arrivals, departures and on-site movement to be managed in an orderly manner.

10. Lighting and Evening Use

The wider woodland is not intended to be unnecessarily illuminated. Any lighting associated with facilities or occasional activity will be limited to where it is reasonably required and should be directed and managed so as to minimise unnecessary effects outside the operational area.

11. Review and Responsive Management

The operational arrangements at Shamblewood are capable of being adapted in response to experience. If a particular riding feature, activity or operational arrangement is demonstrated to be causing unreasonable disturbance, the site operator can review its location, manner of use or management.

This responsive approach is considered preferable to unnecessarily restrictive controls where no adverse effect has been demonstrated.

12. Conclusion

Shamblewood is a managed, non-motorised woodland recreation facility. Its principal activities do not involve engine noise and take place within a substantial woodland setting with retained vegetation and dead-hedge screening.

The ability to control access, concentrate riding within defined areas, supervise organised activity, retain natural screening and respond to any substantiated complaint provides a practical framework for protecting the amenity of surrounding occupiers while allowing the continued recreational use of the site.

The appellant considers that these measures provide a proportionate operational approach and demonstrate that the continued use of the site can be managed without causing unreasonable noise or disturbance.

Prepared for: Shamblewood Bike Park

Site Manager: Shaun Goddard

Date: August 2026