



FAO John Saunders
Eastleigh Borough Council

3rd August 2026

To Whom It May Concern

Shamblewoods Trials Park

It has been brought to our attention that the trials activities taking place at Shamblewoods are at odds with the planning authorised use for the location and are currently an issue for Eastleigh Borough Council. As the governing body in the UK for bike trials we would be grateful if the resolution to current situation could result in the activities being permissible going forward.

Government policy for England's primary framework for sport and physical activity is guided by the national strategy "Get Active". At grassroots investment level the focus is on local multi-sports facilities, parks and community hubs as opposed to elite performance pathways. In addition, at the centre of the participation goals is the aim to lift activity across underrepresented groups including lower income demographic and inactive women. The facilities in question have been developed by the community for the community, without government funding, and as such a way forward will hopefully be established.

Biketrial Federation UK does have an eye on the elite pathways; this weekend two British athletes took gold and silver at UCI Trials World Cup in Poland. Our primary driver though is to increase participation at grassroots level, and it is this that is central to our collaboration with British Cycling (BC). There are very limited facilities for dedicated bike trial parks in the UK.

The facility at Shamblewoods is one of only five in England used to host rounds of the British Trials Cup Championship series. It is one of only three that regularly host organised intro-to-trials sessions for youth riders, coaching for improving riders and a regular host for competitive events both at club and national level.

For some context, both athletes mentioned are current or former UCI World Champions and both have ridden at Shamblewoods, inspiring the next generation.

The following are pertinent to Biketrial Federation UK as we endeavor to increase participation in cycling activity through bike trials.

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- Limited dedicated facilities as referenced above.
- Trials is a great intro to cycling. The focus is on skills, and it does not require travel to mountain bike centres, or indeed the additional risk of riding amongst motorised traffic on our roads.
- It is an urban discipline making it accessible across a wide range of social demographics and in areas that would not otherwise have cycling activity.
- Dedicated trials parks take the activity away from unsupervised public locations.
- Younger riders love the “tricks” side of the discipline but from there can fall in love with cycling in general and transfer those skills to other disciplines and active travel.

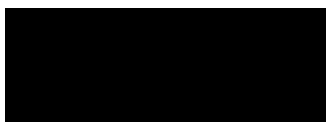
By way of further background, under BC the discipline of trials falls under the suite of cycling activities classified as offroad. Until recently BC has not included trials within its coaching activities. Through collaboration with Biketrial Federation UK and with input from the MTB community that is changing. Shamblewoods is at the leading edge of providing a suitable environment for the coaching of trials.

Whilst trials parks like Shamblewoods are a regular feature in towns and villages across mainland Europe they are an emerging facility in the UK. As part of the legacy of the UCI Mega World Championships in Glasgow in 2023, Scotland has seen trials feature in several publicly funded cycling facilities. These include the North Lanarkshire Council’s trials park at Bellshill and as part of the developments at Clyde Cycle Park in Cambuslang, which has recently received over £1,000,000 in Sports Scotland funding. It is great to see the availability of suitable facilities grow in Scotland; it would be devastating to see a contraction of facilities in England.

Cycling in is at the centre of a movement to encourage active travel. It is a great way of getting physically active and that physical activity can bring significant mental health benefits. Getting kids off screens and outdoors is to be encouraged and trials can be a great starting point.

My mobile number is 07887 796989 and I would be happy to discuss any element of this if it were to help.

Yours faithfully



David Johnstone
Chair

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