

Ride Grading

We plan to use a new ride-grading system from 1st January 2026 onwards.

Things have changed because many members have been confused by the meaning of the + sign on previous rides. Does C+ mean faster, hillier or longer than a normal C ride? Or all three? Different ride leaders often meant different things with the + sign, so some people have ended up on rides that were too slow/fast, short/long, flat/hilly for them.

The solution we believe is to have four grades and remove the need for using +'s (and -'s).

Grade D will stay the same:

9 to 10 mph average, easy pace overall, fairly flat (approximately 20 to 35 miles)

And we will use C, B & A grades to cover the rest of our rides. Most of the Fast Friday rides and anything previously graded as B+ would become A; then the new B and C grades are there to cover the rides in between the existing D and the new A grade:

Grade C *10 to 12 mph, relatively flat, but with the odd climb (approximately 35 to 45 miles)*

Grade B *12 to 14 mph faster, often further and quite hilly (approximately 40 to 55 miles)*

Grade A *13 to 15 mph or more, hilly and longer distances (approximately 50 to 100 miles)*

Of course there will still be exceptions that don't fit the definitions exactly: for example slow long rides, or short hilly rides. But if you plan to lead such a ride, select the closest grade based on average speed, then let riders know about the exceptions in the ride description.