

The **Bikers'**

Guide to Derbyshire



Essential rider information

DERBYSHIRE
ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

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The Bikers’ Guide to Derbyshire is published by the Derbyshire Road Safety Partnership, which exists to reduce deaths and injuries on the county’s roads through education, road improvements and policing. For more information telephone 01629 585072 or email drsp@derbyshire.gov.uk



Get ready for Derbyshire roads

Derbyshire is a bikers’ paradise. Winding roads and epic scenery make for an exhilarating ride. So far, so good – until you take into account all the hazards that are out there.

You need to be at the top of your game every time you pull down your visor and hit the starter button.



Protect yourself and your freedom to ride

Get your kit on

You need to be sporting the right gear before you get on your bike. Your jacket, trousers and boots should be able to protect you from the weather and from getting hurt if you come off.

Make sure you can be seen by using dipped headlights at all times and choosing gear that is fluorescent during the day and reflective at night.

Be in the right place at the right time

The middle of your lane is generally a good place to be when cruising – but do be guided by traffic conditions. Choose a position that maximises your view of the road and the amount of time that other road users can see you.

When turning, take up your road position in good time so motorists can see what you're trying to do.

Read the road

Become an expert at reading the road and spotting biker hazards. Manhole covers, worn and shiny tarmac, painted surfaces, loose chippings, mud, leaves, road kill and diesel spills are all things you need to avoid if you can.

Always scan as far ahead as you can. Look for clues in the distance that will tell you what the road is about to do. Signs, telegraph poles, lamp posts and hedges can help you read the direction of the road.

Ride at a speed that will allow you to slow down and stop within the distance you can see is clear. The right speed will depend on conditions. Keep a close eye on the speedometer when it's wet, foggy or icy.

Become a master of the manoeuvre

You need to be at the top of your game when negotiating bends, overtaking and travelling across junctions.

Take a 'lifesaver' glance over your shoulder before making a move. You need to know where other motorists are and what they are doing.

Always remember that the best way to negotiate a bend is 'slow in' and 'smooth out'.

When overtaking, stay well back from the driver in front to get a better view of the road ahead. Only go for it if the road is clear and you are confident that you can get past without losing control.

Smash hits – your guide to Derbyshire's biker hotspots

We keep a close eye on crash figures and we've discovered eight stretches of road in the Derbyshire countryside where bikers are regularly coming to grief.

So why is this happening? It's not down to dark and stormy nights – that's for sure. Most of these crashes happened on fine, dry days.

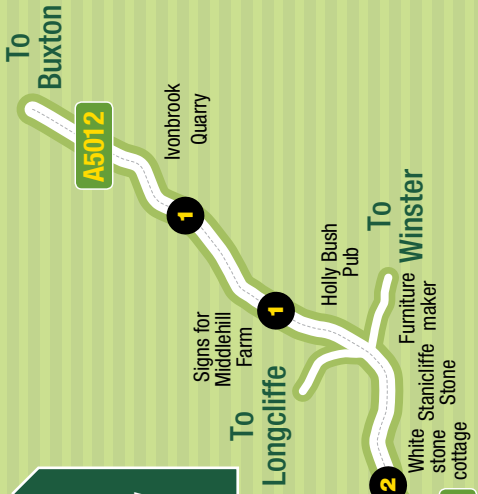
What did these crashes have in common? Well, many of them happened on bends and the most frequent contributing factors were loss of control, high speeds and bikes overtaking other vehicles.

The maps that follow pinpoint the 2002-2007* biker crash sites along these routes >

When riding, look out for the crash warning signs along each route.

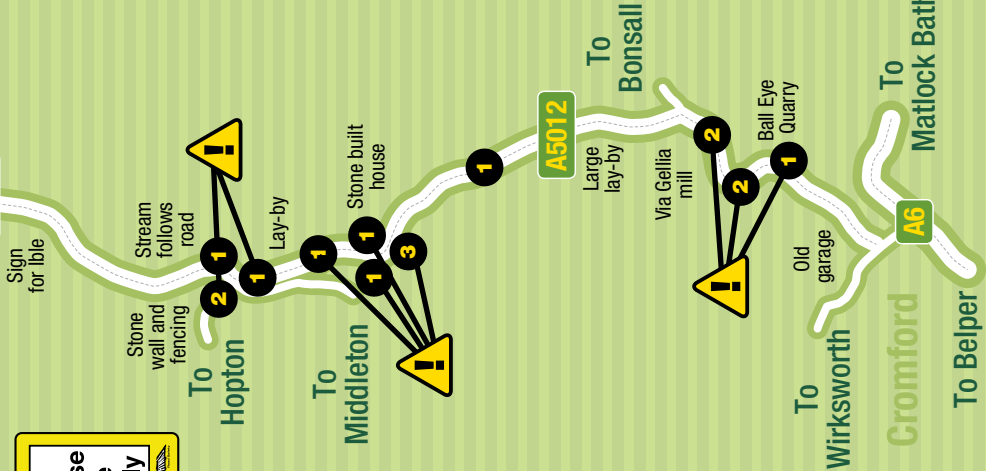
**September 2002 - August 2007*

A5012 Via Gellia
 Area covered:
 Cromford to Ivonbrook Quarry
 Distance:
 five miles



Key

- Crash Hotspot
- Number of incidents



Crash figures

Crashes involving bikes: **20**
 Bikers killed or injured: **21**

Crash report

How many of these crashes happened:

on bends?	75%
at night?	0%
in bad weather?	5%

Verdict

The most common factors linked to motorbike crashes on this route are:

- loss of control by biker
- excessive speed used by biker

Did you know?

More than half of the people killed or seriously injured on this stretch of road were bikers.



A621

Area covered:
Baslow to Owlbar

Distance:
Four and a half miles

Crash figures

Crashes involving bikes: **20**
Bikers killed or injured: **19**

Crash report

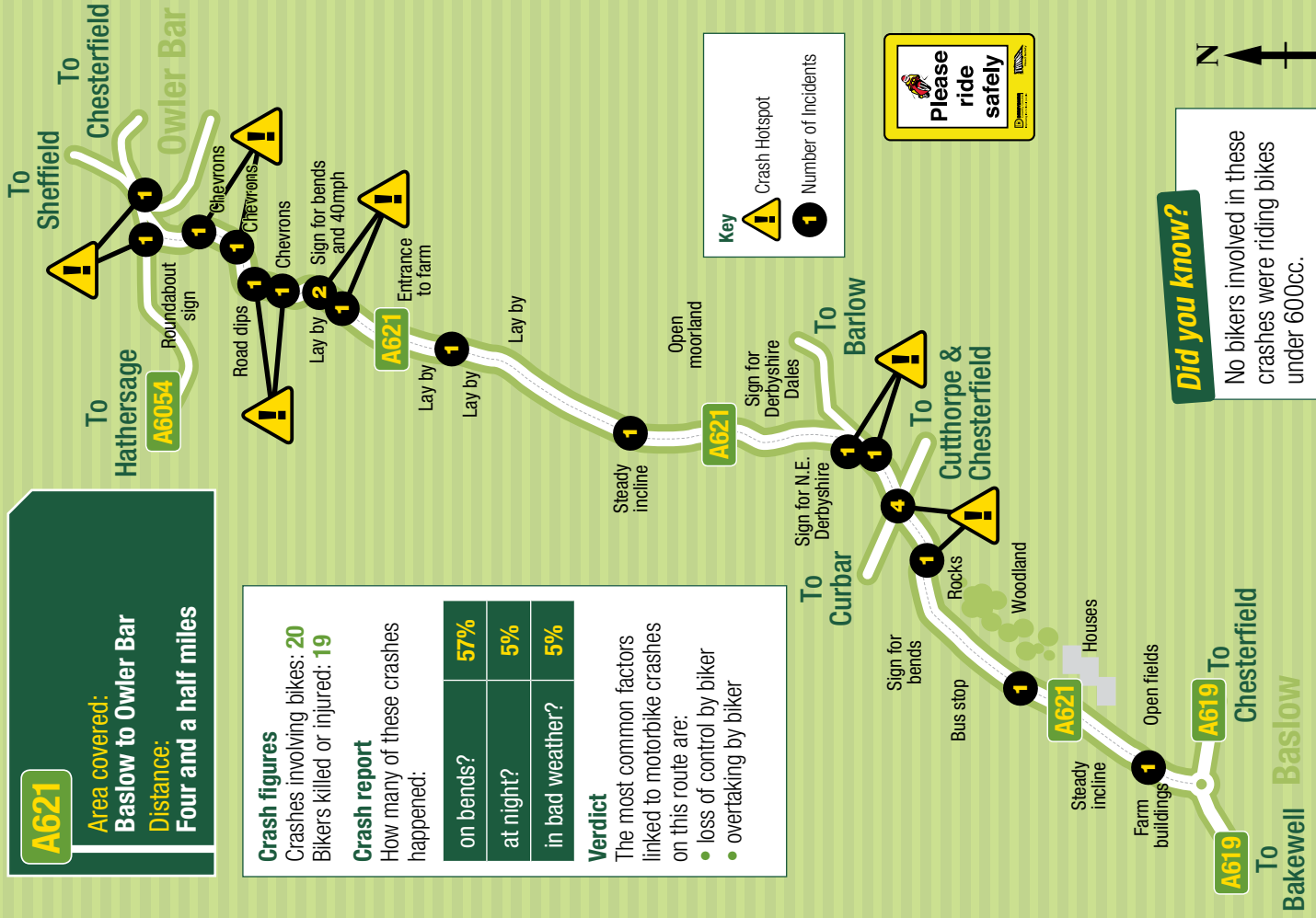
How many of these crashes happened:

on bends?	57%
at night?	5%
in bad weather?	5%

Verdict

The most common factors linked to motorbike crashes on this route are:

- loss of control by biker
- overtaking by biker



A515

Area covered:
Ashbourne to Alsop-en-le-Dale
Distance:
Five and a half miles

Crash figures

Crashes involving bikes: **17**
 Bikers killed or injured: **23**

Crash report

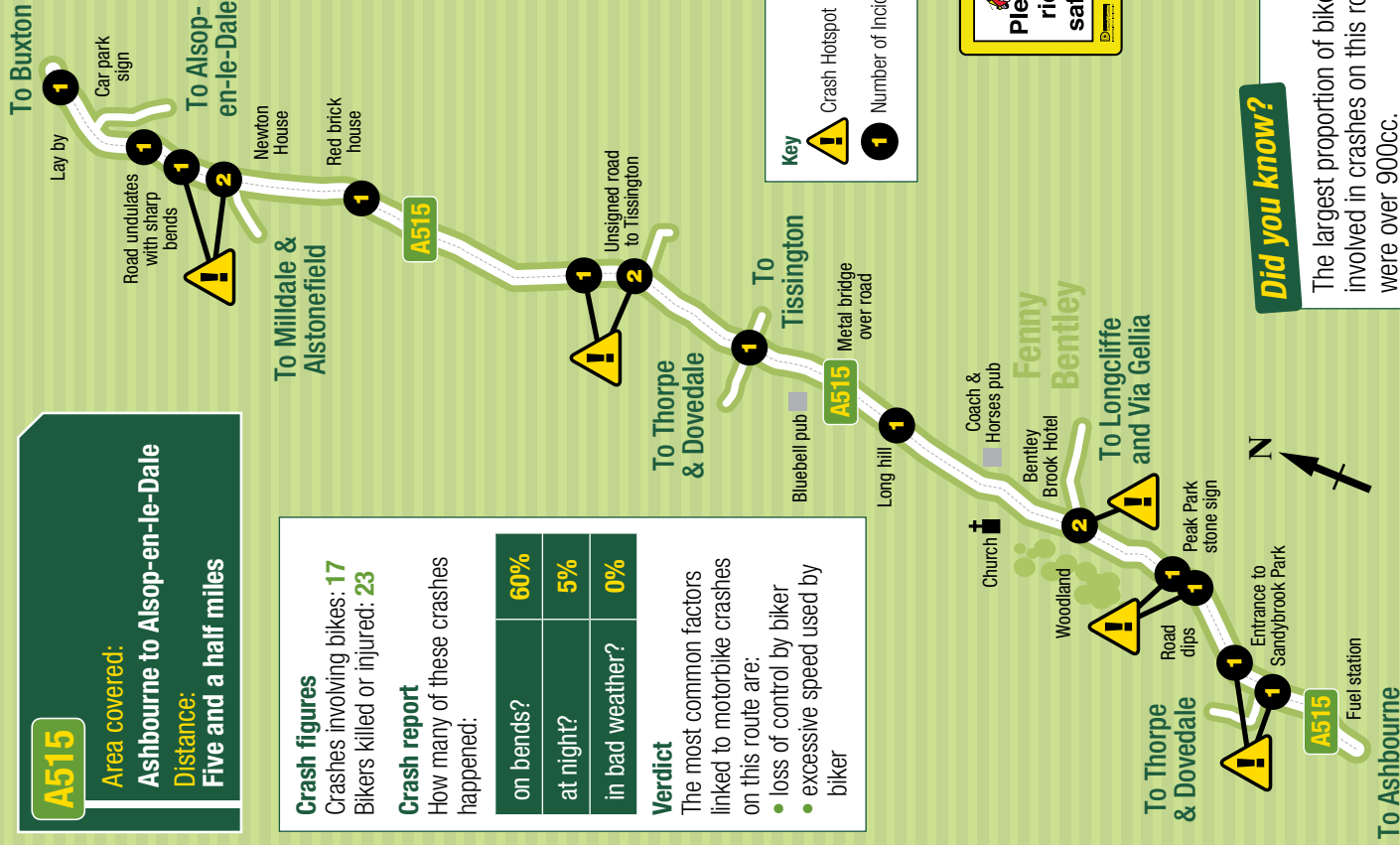
How many of these crashes happened:

on bends?	60%
at night?	5%
in bad weather?	0%

Verdict

The most common factors linked to motorbike crashes on this route are:

- loss of control by biker
- excessive speed used by biker



Key

- Crash Hotspot
- Number of incidents

Did you know?
 The largest proportion of bikes involved in crashes on this route were over 900cc.

A6 Matlock Bath
 Area covered: High Peak junction to Artist's Corner
 Distance: Three and a half miles

Key

- Crash Hotspot
- Number of incidents



Crash figures
 Crashes involving bikes: **19**
 Bikers killed or injured: **23**

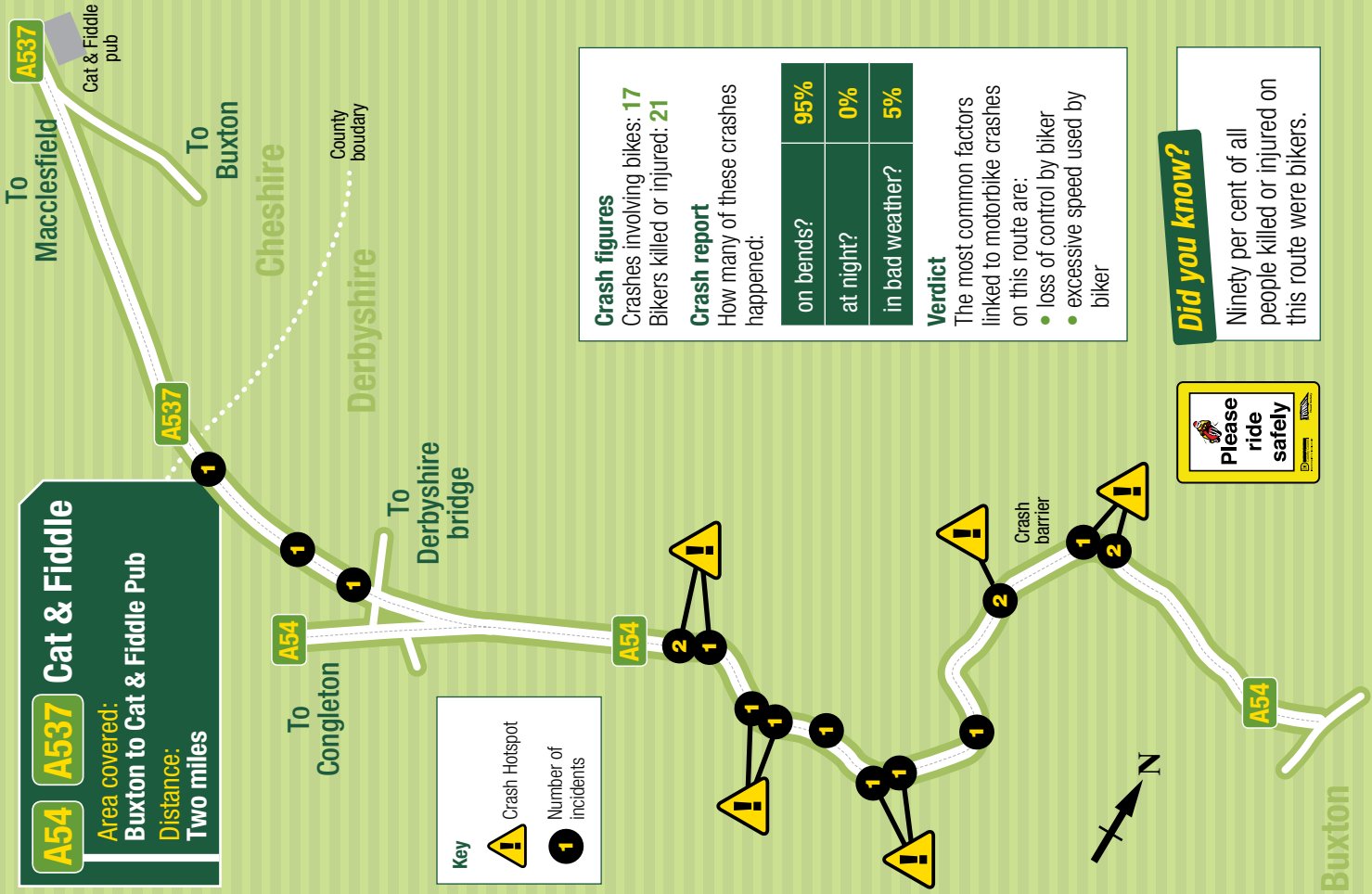
Crash report
 How many of these crashes happened:

at junctions?	50%
at night?	0%
in bad weather?	0%

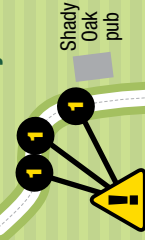
Verdict
 The most common factors linked to motorbike crashes on this route are:

- biker's failure to judge another vehicle's speed
- loss of control by biker
- careless behaviour by biker

Did you know?
 Most bikes involved in crashes on this route were over 600cc.



To Whaley Bridge



A5004 Long Hill

Area covered:
Buxton to Fernilee
Distance:
Five miles

Crash figures

Crashes involving bikes: **17**
Bikers killed or injured: **19**

Crash report

How many of these crashes happened:

on bends?	80%
at night?	5%
in bad weather?	0%

Verdict

The most common factors linked to motorbike crashes on this route are:

- loss of control by biker
- lack of judgement by biker



Fernilee Village

Viewing Point

A5004

Fernilee Reservoir

Trees

Did you know?

Sixty per cent of the crashes on this route involved a single bike and no other vehicles.



Key



Crash Hotspot



Number of incidents

To Errwood Reservoir

Midshires Way

A5004

Buxton





Become a King of the Road with **BikePlus!**

BikePlus is a one day course that allows qualified riders to further develop their skills.

The normal cost of the training is £180 – but bikers living in Derbyshire can enrol for **as little as £50** thanks to a discount* scheme managed by the county council. If you live outside the county you could still be eligible for a £90 discount meaning you could pay just £90.

Instructors approved by the Driving Standards Agency teach bikers to spot hazards and tackle challenges such as cornering and overtaking with greater confidence.

**For more details
Call Derbyshire on 08456 058 058**

**All discounts are subject to availability of funding and may not always be available.*

BikePlus application form



Please do not send payment with this application

Name:

Address:

Post Code:

Telephone number:

Date of birth:

Driving licence number:

Date that you passed your bike test:

Make and model of your bike:

How often do you ride?

Do you ride in Derbyshire?

Continued overleaf

DETACH HERE



What situations – if any – have caused you difficulty while riding?

Signed

Date

Please complete and return this application in an envelope to:

**The Road Safety Team, Derbyshire County Council,
County Hall, Matlock DE4 3AG.**

