



Forestry Commission
Scotland

Mr Dave Lewis
Secretary Carron Valley Development Group

By Email

Ref: AR14/70
15 November 2005

**Scottish Lowlands
Forest District**

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Forest District Manager
Michael Wall

Dear Dave

GRADING OF MTB TRAILS AT CARRON VALLEY

Thanks to you, Jamie & Angela Wright, and Richard Barton for the useful and constructive meeting last week at Carron Valley office.

As agreed at the meeting, and discussed earlier on site with Angela and Jamie, the trails will be graded as Red. There will be additional information at the top of the Fun Park section, explaining that the features need at least blue-grade skills to 'roll over' them, and that going faster will significantly increase the risk.

We all recognise that FCS has no national agreed grading system as yet, and there are variations from site to site. It is not just a Scotland-wide issue but one for FC land across GB.

The draft report by the three FCS staff from south Scotland after their visit to Carron Valley illustrates the need to address the issue with definitive guidance. Mountainbiking is a rapidly growing sport with a wide range of opinions and a growing weight of experience among trail builders, trail designers, and landowners and managers. This all makes for healthy open debate, which will develop into a sound set of good practice guidelines to benefit us all.

For the trail itself, I am preparing a suggested agreement for waymarking, signing, and future management of the trail. Once both sides are happy with the wording, we can each keep a signed copy for reference.

Thank you very much for making this project such a success. I look forward to continuing the mutually beneficial relationship

Rena Tarwinska
District Forester Communities and Environment

