



'The project is partly about striking a balance between modern thinking and old school craftsmanship while keeping costs down'

PROJECT LEADER JIM LINDSAY



EXPERT TIPS
ON HOW TO BE A BETTER RIDER

Simon Pavey's flash flood tips

With the country on flood alert, the Institute of Advanced Motorists issued advice on driving through deep water, including staying on the gas. We used it as an excuse to get tips for riding through a flood from Dakar legend and BMW Off-Road Skills chief instructor Simon Pavey.

1 Avoid deep water
If you can, don't go into deep water, especially if it's flowing. It's actually really dangerous. It's very easy to get washed off a motorbike. If the water is side-on to the bike, it will easily take the wheels out from under you. I know this because I have floated a GS1150 down a river.

2 Check the depth
Walk it first and see how deep it gets and how strong the current is. Because once you ride in, if it becomes too deep or too fast flowing, it's too late to do anything about it. Check what's under the water. Remember that still waters run deep.

3 No deeper than air intake
You need to know where your air intake is because that limits how deep you can go in water. Engines don't run under water. Sucking water into your engine is a guaranteed way to destroy it. The exhaust doesn't matter because while the engine is running, gas is escaping quicker than water can get in. But once the water gets up to your air intake it's game over and the price is high.

4 Cross at an angle to current
Keep the bike moving and the engine running as you cross the water. If there's a current, cross at an angle to it, even if it means going further. Water flowing side-on to the bike is really dangerous. If you have

to get off and walk the bike because it's getting too deep, get yourself upstream of it so that you don't get washed away underneath it. Humans perform even worse with no air in them than bikes.

5 Don't risk it
In Thailand last year I ignored my own advice by riding straight through loads of flood water and praying it didn't get too deep, and got away with it. But don't do that.

6 The wheelie option
If you're good at wheelies you could always go across on the back wheel. But if you can do that, you probably don't need advice.



Check the depth and how strong the current before venturing into water

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