

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT

★★★★★



They've passed all the relevant standards

Pretty stylish for all-weather kit

1750 miles ON TEST

TCX Airtech 3 Gore-Tex boots £249.99

'Giving wet feet the boot'



Tested by Richard Newland for five months

Traditional all-weather touring boots always feel like wellies, and from my first winter of discontent as a biker with a set that impressed less than wellies would have, I've always eschewed the style in favour of sports or adventure boots with Gore-Tex in the mix. But these TCX boots look pleasingly technical/modern and boast all the key safety attributes you'd hope for. So are they any good?

Well, yes – but they're not perfect. Built from a breathable microfibre with Gore-Tex between the outer and inner layers, they also come with the firm's Groundtrax rubber sole. The boots are slim and svelte, so don't feel bulky, and I've had no issues slipping them under various different trouser options.

What I have struggled with is remembering to wear decently thick and long socks for every ride. The Airmax is an inherently

comfortable boot let down by whoever thought leaving a big area of scratchy Velcro exposed to rub your leg raw was a good idea. If they'd put the hooks and the fluffy sections the other way round it wouldn't be a problem.

The boots meet EN 13634:2017 with the label revealing they satisfy '2122 WR WAD'. The numbers denote that they're a shin-high boot that meets the base standard and offer abrasion resistance and superior passes in impact cut resistance and transverse rigidity. The letters refer to their Water Resistant and Water Absorption/Desorption properties. I'm pleased to say that they really are waterproof, too. Many boots that claim this leak like sieves after 30mins of prolonged watery assault – these seemingly never give in.

They don't get too sweaty in hot weather (while they're not cool), and are warm enough to keep your toes happy on long rides down to about 8°C, but I'd wear heated or big thermal socks in winter for longer rides.

The fit is excellent, and there's plenty of room in the main fastening to accommodate my big calves. Velcro overlap errors aside, they're very comfortable, although I do find the OrthoLite/Groundtrax footbed surprisingly rigid to walk on initially. They open up wide to make getting them on and off easy, with one diagonal zip and the aforementioned flap taking care of keeping them in position. Unlike many motorcycle boots, they don't squeak when you walk in them, either.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.nevis.uk.com

PROS & CONS

- + Genuinely waterproof, stylish, comfy and not too bulky
- Scratchy Velcro overlap makes long socks a must

Gore-Tex and they are properly waterproof



Grippy but the sole is quite stiff for walking around