5 Oxford Cypher 1.0 Short £89.99

'Seriously protective short glove'

www.oxfordproducts.com

The Oxford is a serious – and short-cuff version – of part of a recently introduced sports range – and there is a lot going on here.

They are very sporty, with a carcass formed in leather with a second layer across the palm and up the thumb for grip on the bike's controls. There is flexible hard TPU knuckle armour with padding behind and there are TPU nibs on three of the four fingers. The little finger is bridged to the fourth with an extra layer of leather, and there is padding on the outside and the base of the thumb with more TPU on the heel of the palm.

In use, the fit is not as good as some here; the overall feeling is not disastrous, although the right-hand glove does feel slightly more snug than the left, and on both the thumb is far too long, as is the forefinger – the other fingers are fine.

They feel quite stiff and bulky in use, although feel is quite nice once you get used to it – a function of the leather used on the fingers. Comfort is reasonable despite the baggy thumbs and long fingers with external seams, yet confidence is huge – they are the only 2 KP-rated gloves here and they feel very protective.

Venting, however, is not as good as others with almost no appreciable airflow.

▲ Lots of hard knuckle armour

'Huge confidence – they feel very protective'

VERDICT

Serious protection but hampered by an odd fit, initial stiffness, and could do with better ventilation.

THE SCORES

Fit

Comfort

Feel

Confidence

Venting

Total 37/50

THE FACTS

Materials	Leather, aramid fibre
Knuckle armour	Hard TPU
Protection	Hard armour palm heel, TPU nibs on fingers (x3), soft padding on thumb and base of thumb
Ventilation	Perforations, vents
Cuff	Short
CE rating	2 KP
Weight (pair)	257g
Touchscreen compatible?	✔
Sizes	S-3XL