

AAA rating but not too bulky

Full size boots slot underneath

Pockets for the daily essentials

1000 miles ON TEST

Roadskin Paranoid X jeans £199

‘Pricey but they are protective’



Tested by Dan Sutherland for two months

I may have only been testing these Roadskin Paranoid X jeans on casual rides since the arrival of the warmer spring temperatures, but early impressions are very good. At under 200 quid, with a AAA safety rating and CE Level 2 hip and knee armour, they instil confidence.

Despite having four pieces of hard armour and a 100% Black Kevlar lining, they don't feel bulky when worn off the bike – allowing me to keep a more casual look. They're comfortable on day-long rides and are thick enough to offer a layer of warmth when it's chilly. Whether this will be a negative in the summer months is yet to be tested.

Elsewhere, despite the fairly slim cut on the bottom of each leg, they will accommodate a sporty full length boot – meaning I'm not limited to casual shorter footwear offering less limb protection. They managed to keep my legs dry during a light rain shower, too. They're quite pricey, but look like they'll last and are holding up well so far.

Quality ★★★★★ **Value** ★★★★★
www.roadskin.co.uk

Armour meets CE Level 2

6500 miles ON TEST

Bull-It Covec Evo straight jeans £189.99

‘My default gear’



Tested by Saffron Wilson for 18 months

These AAA-rated Covec Evo jeans are one of the most comfortable, and protective, pairs of bike jeans I've ever worn (and I've worn a lot). My default 'it's not raining' leg wear, they come with CE Level 2 knee and hip armour as standard (I sometimes wear the knee armour, never the hip armour) and are constructed from Bull-It's Covec material, which offers an extraordinary amount of stretch, while also delivering the highest CE rating currently possible. They're soft to the touch, have a Covec 'Lite' liner with reinforcement in key impact zones, and that stretchiness contributes to their on-bike comfort. The downside is that their elasticity means they're clingy, don't hang nicely off the bike, and can ride up my boots. They're also overly large in sizing – I wish I'd ordered one size down, or the 'Slim' variant. Replaced in the 2024 range, the Guardian (£199.99) is their nearest AAA successor.

Quality ★★★★★ **Value** ★★★★★
www.bull-it.com

Zipper to slide fit over boots

Thigh pocket is super practical

1500 miles ON TEST

Bull-It Coyote Easy ladies' jeans £179.99

‘At last, jeans that are true to size’



Tested by Alison Silcox for two months

What a revelation, a pair of riding jeans that are true to size. They say size 12 on the label and they fit perfectly, which is almost unheard of for women's jeans. The option for various leg lengths is great and the long option fits my 33in inside leg. Made from black denim and with a combat style, they benefit from having patch pockets on the thigh, which is large enough to stow a smartphone, and there's a popper to secure things properly.

Zips at the ankles mean that boots sit

underneath, and the concertina style panels on the knees make them extra comfortable when you are seated on any style of bike.

They have a CE AA-rating and Level 1 hip, and knee armour is of the soft variety. One small criticism, the hip armour sometimes folds up and doesn't sit comfortably, without an element of adjustment, not a biggy but can be annoying. At £179.99 they are not a budget purchase by any means but do compare well with close rivals, offering similar levels of protection and spec.

Quality ★★★★★ **Value** ★★★★★
www.bull-it.com

Great both on and off the bike

5000 miles ON TEST

Oxford Original AA Dynamic £149.99

‘Quality and cool’



Tested by Ben Clarke for three years

This pair of riding jeans from Oxford manages to walk the line between comfort and protection perfectly – they don't look strange when you're off the bike, keep you cool in hot weather but still have an AA safety rating. Over thousands of miles on various test bikes, these have remained comfortable and in good condition, aside from a little discolouration on the knees from crawling around securing chains and padlocks. They have CE Level 2 armour at the knees and hips, although for most of the time I must confess I do without the slightly bulky hip armour. The knee armour is in a fixed position but it sits in the right place for me.

Quality ★★★★★ **Value** ★★★★★
oxfordproducts.com

Alpinestars Banshee Leggings £189.99

‘Great quality but they can get warm’



Tested by Saffron Wilson for 24 months

I love the quality of these leggings – they are thick, so are suitable if the weather takes a turn, but might leave you too warm on summer days.

With a CE rating of A and Level 1 knee protectors they are rated as protective for low-speed urban riding. There are pockets for hip armour, but the fabric itself is so thick, it can withstand exhaust scalding without too much bother.

Quality ★★★★★ **Value** ★★★★★
www.alpinestars.com

1825 miles ON TEST