

Grant Report: Tern Orox Electric Cargo Bike

Grant recipient: Markus Stitz

Grant received: £2,000 in July 2024

Purpose: Contribution towards the purchase of a Tern Orox S12 electric cargo bike

Reporting period: July 2024 – July 2026

Mileage cycled: 4,303 miles



Overview

The £2,000 grant enabled me to purchase a Tern Orox electric cargo bike for use in my work as a writer, filmmaker, photographer, cycling guide, route designer and event organiser.

Since July 2024, the bike has become an important working vehicle. It has been used to transport books, professional camera equipment, tools and event supplies throughout Scotland. Its large carrying capacity, electric assistance and extreme off-road capability allowed me to use it to replace a car or van on journeys that would be difficult to complete with a conventional bicycle, or a 4-wheeler for more difficult off-road terrain.

The bike has supported commercial work, community projects, cycling events, tourism development and local deliveries. It has also provided a highly visible example of how electric cargo bikes can be used for professional and practical purposes beyond urban deliveries.

Route research and tourism projects

The Tern Orox has been used extensively to research and check routes for books, tourism projects and community organisations.

This has included scouting routes in eastern Perthshire for the Cateran Ecomuseum and *Gravel Rides Cairngorms & Perthshire*, researching routes for *Gravel Rides Loch Lomond & The Trossachs*, as well as checking routes for *Gravel Rides Edinburgh, Fife and the Lothians*.

The bike is particularly useful for assessing whether routes are suitable for larger or more heavily loaded bicycles. It also enables me to carry cameras, a drone, spare clothing, food and repair equipment into remote areas.

For a commercial project with Brand New World and Hackett London, I used the Tern Orox to scout a location at Loch Callater and transport heavy camera equipment that would otherwise have required a vehicle or a lengthy hike by foot.

It has also supported guiding and filming connected with the Inner Forth Bike Bus, allowing me to carry additional equipment while guiding participants and documenting the experience.



Cycling event support and trail maintenance

The bike has provided practical support at several cycling events.

At the Dunoon Dirt Dash in 2024 and 2025, it was used as an event-support vehicle to carry equipment along the route. At the Cateran Dirt Dash 2025 and 2026 it was used as the sweeping bike, following the final participants and assisting riders. The bike was used to off-load the luggage from the last rider onto the cargo bike, enabling him to finish the event.

Using an electric cargo bike for these roles reduces the need for motorised event vehicles like 4-wheelers and helps the events reflect their wider aims of encouraging cycling and lower-impact travel.

I also worked with the Tayside Trails Association to repair and prepare mountain-bike trails for an enduro event. The Tern Orox transported tools and equipment directly to sections of trail that

would have been difficult to access by car. This reduced the distance that heavy tools needed to be carried by hand.

A film documenting this work is available here: https://youtu.be/2Yur_y38Ln4

Filmmaking and photography

The Tern Orox has regularly carried professional photography and filmmaking equipment, including cameras, lenses, tripods, drones, batteries and sound equipment.

It was used while filming Mark Beaumont for Move Pre-Workout advertising and while filming and guiding an Inner Forth Bike Bus tour. The bike was also used twice as a support vehicle for The Gralloch in Galloway, replacing an off-road motorbike. The bike allows me to move alongside cyclists and access off-road locations while carrying significantly more equipment than would be possible on a standard bicycle.

A project filmed in Norway with a similar Tern Orox, which was hired from Tern due to the difficulty of shipping e-bikes, demonstrates the most demanding type of work the bike can support. Although the bike used there was not my own, the experience helped confirm the suitability of the model for my work: <https://youtu.be/Dvpx6BZDaI8>

I also produced a promotional film featuring the bike for Moray Speyside before purchasing my own: <https://youtu.be/xiRw6olWxqw>



Book deliveries and public speaking events

The Tern Orox has significantly reduced my reliance on couriers for book deliveries and to support public speaking events.

In April 2026, I used it to deliver approximately 150 pre-ordered copies of *Gravel Rides Edinburgh, Fife & The Lothians* across Edinburgh in one weekend. I also used it to transport packaging materials from the book shipment from my office at Tribe Porty for reuse and disposal at home.

Other examples include:

- Carrying books to a talk at Muck n' Mac Fest in the Scottish Borders in 2026
- Cycling and transporting approximately 40 books to the Fort William Mountain Festival in 2025
- Combining route research with book deliveries

These journeys demonstrate that the bike can support both short urban deliveries and longer professional trips with substantial loads.

Impact of the grant

The grant has enabled a lasting change in how I work. Rather than supporting one short-term activity, it contributed towards an asset that continues to benefit a wide range of projects. The Tern Orox is not available at cargo bike libraries, so a purchase was essential.

The main outcomes have been:

- Reduced reliance on cars, vans and couriers.
- Lower-emission transport for deliveries, events and filming work.
- Improved access to rural and off-road locations.
- The ability to carry heavy professional equipment by bicycle.
- More sustainable support for cycling events and community projects.
- Greater visibility of cargo bikes as practical working vehicles.

The bike has supported projects involving the Catevan Ecomuseum, Tayside Trails Association, Dirt Dash events, the Inner Forth Bike Bus, Edinburgh Dawn Patrol, tourism organisations, local businesses and book customers.

Conclusion

The Tern Orox has become an essential and versatile part of my work. It functions as a delivery vehicle, equipment carrier, event support bike, guiding bike and route-research vehicle.

The £2,000 grant made the purchase possible and has had a direct, practical and continuing impact. It has enabled me to undertake more of my professional and community work by bicycle while demonstrating the potential of electric cargo bikes in urban, rural and off-road environments.

I am extremely grateful for the support from Spokes.

Markus Stitz
July 2026