

TRIED & TESTED

Things we've worn ♦ Kit we like ♦ Things we put on our bike

Richa Apache trousers

Tested by: Bob Pickett | £200 | www.nevis.uk.com

It's fair to say one of the biggest game changers in biker kit has been the development of protective denim jeans. They're the most comfortable things to ride in, bar none. I know the bulk of my riding happens in a pair.

But what about when denim isn't okay? Not all offices or other places of work are fine with denim. And there are still bars and restaurants where denim isn't acceptable wear.

Thankfully, Richa has the solution in its Apache trousers. Certified EN-17092-4-2020 'A', meaning they are rated for Urban use, the Apache trousers are made from a 98% cotton/Dupont Kevlar, 2% Elastane fabric, with abrasion resistance of 2.4 seconds. They also feature adjustable D30 Ghost knee armour (though you'd not know it, it's totally unobtrusive and you'd not know from looking at them).

Available in four colourways (black, grey, Army camo and khaki), I went for the Khaki as it is a close match for my waxed biker jacket (I'm wearing both for an event where matching clothing is required). They are also available in a choice of regular and short length.

They're SO comfortable! They're

serious all-day kit. I rode in them, went for a walk and did everything I'd do on a normal day. And they stayed comfortable all-day long. Back on riding, the legs are elasticated at the ends (no wind up your trousers when riding!).

Putting on low-cut boots/trainer style boots, I pulled them up my leg a little then slipped them over the boot. But for shin-high boots, it's best to put the boot on first then slide the trousers over.

There are SEVEN pockets: two rear, two 'conventional' open ones, two thigh ones that fasten with two studs apiece, and a zippable thigh pocket. The 'conventional' pockets are really deep and should hold anything you forgot was slipped in them while riding. The studded pockets are great for things like your bike keys/a card holder (they're big enough to take my mobile, but I prefer to keep that in the zipped pocket. It's slightly larger and I like the idea of that being a little more secure).

Okay, I wouldn't be looking to wear the Apache trousers to take Afternoon Tea at The Ritz, but they're smart-looking kit that I'd say would be fine for most 'smart casual' situations when denim isn't acceptable.

