**Tandem Trekkers Route Assessment**

**Ride route: TransPennine Trail (Penistone to Wharncliffe Woods)**

Route Assessed: Paul Stark and Martin Eatherley rode a 25mm Road Tandem on 23/07/19. Weather: Hot and Sunny

This section of the Trans Pennine Trial (TPT) rums for 6.5 miles from Julie’s Café at Penistone (S36 6BA) to a turning circle in Wharncliffe Woods, 6.48 miles from the start.

The first 3.5 miles is on smooth tarmac. The remaining 3 miles is on a mixture of compacted clay/aggregate mix. Some pockets can become muddy even during reasonably dry weather and there is a risk of slipping/skidding. Extra care needs to be taken. The wooded section after 5.0 miles is undulating including an initial gradient of approx.10% and 200 m in length with a gravelly surface. Less fit riders should walk up this incline. On the return journey (descent) drag brakes (if fitted) are recommended. Loose gravel can also build and extra care needs to be taken, especially when braking.

The route is completely traffic-free – though encountering the occasional stationary/slow-moving maintenance vehicle is to be anticipated. That said, the trail is very popular with horse riders, families with young children and dog walkers so expect to meet people / animals and other cyclists riding a variety of equipment. Indeed, at points the track can become slightly congested and narrow. Loud and clear verbal instructions/bell ringing when approaching and passing other trail users need to be used. Dogs and young children can be unpredictable!

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| Nr | Approx distance from start  (miles) | Risk Description | Mitigation | Risk rating  Low / Med / High |
| START | 0.0 | Start point – Julie’s Café – S36 6BA |  |  |
| 1 | 2.4 | Trail crosses small lane with “Pinch Points” approx. 50m apart on either side of the lane. | Riders should dismount and walk across the lane rather than attempt to ride through the pinch points | Low |
| 2 | 3.0 | Oxspring Tunnel is approximately 300 metres in length. It is illuminated. Sound carries and the tunnel amplifies echoes which can startle any horses, which may not be in view. | Pilots should remove sunglasses to aid visibility. All riders should be asked not to scream or make other noises which may cause alarm to horses. | Low |
| 3 | 3.5 | Trail surface switches from smooth tarmac to off-road surface. It is perfectly rideable, even on 25mm road tyres, but can be muddy in short stretches. If heavy rain has preceded the ride and the surface appears particularly muddy the ride leader should consider turning around at this point. The ride can always be extended by returning and travelling past the Start Point towards Dunford Bridge (see separate route assessment). | Ride Leader should be satisfied surface is suitable to continue. | Low |
| 4 | 4.8 | Track enters wood by negotiating a Pinch Point set at 90 degrees to trail. | Riders MUST demount and walk through this point | Low |
| 5 | 4.85 | Steep gradient approx. 10% x 200metres and gravel surface | Outbound: Riders may find the gradient/track surface requires too much physical exertion and should dismount and walk to the crest. Pilots to explain to stokers that a stop with very little notice may be required if an initial decision to attempt the climb has been made.  Inbound: Descent is steep and surface loose. Exercise extreme caution. Use drag brake (if fitted) and brake continually down the descent. Slow speed only and leave a reasonable gap between bikes. | Outbound: Low-Medium  Inbound: Medium |
| 6 | 5.0 – 6.5 | Trail undulates through wood. | Extra care and caution – particularly on down slopes |  |
| END |  | End point : Turning Circle Wharncliffe Woods |  |  |

**General risk assessment notes applicable to all rides**

All riders should be encouraged to take part in activities that are within their capabilities.

All riders must wear a helmet.

High vis clothing to be considered for road riding.

The session leader should have checked the leader pack as per insert and have leader pack with them at all times. This must include first aid.

Sun protection and water advisable to be carried.

For exposed routes or winter rides suitable clothing is essential along with spare water or windproof items.

All ride leaders should familiarise themselves with the contents of the ride leader pack specifically tools, spares, first aid and survival equip.

Ride leader should carry suitable navigation aids and check route assessment before commencing ride.