**Tandem Trekkers Route Assessment**

**Ride route: Church Fenton from Birkin Fisheries**

Route Assessed: 4th March 2024 by Paul Stark. Ridden on 700x28c tyres. Weather sunny with some fog banks at the beginning. Weather 2-10 degs.

The route is entirely on road and is mainly on rural roads and country lanes. The section from Sherburn in Elmet to Monk Fryston is generally busier than the rest of the route and includes short sections on the A63 and B1222. It also crosses the A162 at two very busy roundabouts

The total distance is 26 miles and includes 400’ of ascent / descent. It is hence essentially a flat route.

There are a lot of junction turns on this route and it is important to stay close together, regrouping frequently when safe to do so. Ignore any SAT NAV verbal instructions to make a U-Turn when going through the new housing development in Sherburn-in Elmet. The roads are new. Follow the map.

The route passes through a number of small villages where the road narrows. Expect to encounter parked cars at the side of the road

Being in a rural setting it is reasonable to encounter larger than normal agricultural vehicles which can be slow moving. Some lanes are also used by horse riders which should be passed slowly and widely when safe to do so and after giving a verbal alert to the rider.

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| Nr | Approx distance from start  (miles) | Risk Description | Mitigation | Risk rating  Low / Med / High |
| START | 0.0 | Start point – Birkin Fisheries, Haddlesey Rd, Birkin, Knottingley WF11 9LT |  |  |
| 1 | 4.9 | Road becomes cycleway/footpath and crosses very busy A63 (Selby By-pass) | Compulsory dismount to cross road. Do not cycle across. | High |
| 2 | 5.8 | Right turn into Leeds Road A1238 | Extra care and vigilance. Mark Junction if practical and advise of left turn in short distance. Regroup in Dam Lane | Low |
| 3 | 6.1 | Single carriageway over narrow bridge | Give way to oncoming traffic as required. | Low |
| 4 | 11.3 | Cawood Traffic Lights – Short duration on Green. Be prepared to stop. Possible all tandems will not cross on single phase | Don’t try and beat the lights. Regroup on north side of lights but well away from crossroads | Low |
| 5 | 19.0 | Entering Sherburn-in-Elmet. Roundabout and B1222 very busy. | Regroup before roundabout. Extra care and vigilance | Med |
| 6 | 19.5 | Left turn into Residential area. Easily missed. Expect playing children | Mark Junction and regroup. | Low |
| 7 | 21.5 | Busy roundabout crossing A162 leaving South Milford | Extra care and vigilance | Med |
| 8 | 22.4 | Route joins busy A63 for 0.2 miles before right turn into Water Lane. Oncoming traffic is partially masked by slight bend. Consider pulling into the left hand side and crossing on foot. | Extra care and vigilance and regroup in Water Lane away from junction | Med |
| 9 | 23.2 | Entering Hillam the main route bears right. Do not follow main route but continue straight ahead on minor route. | Mark junction and regroup | Low |
| 10 | END | End point – Birkin Fisheries, Haddlesey Rd, Birkin, Knottingley WF11 9LT |  |  |

**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.

