**Tandem Trekkers Route Assessment**

**Ride route: Spen Valley Ringway (Optional return from Sunflower Café on SVGW route)**

Route Assessed: Paul Stark rode on 700x28c tyres on 11th November 2024. Weather: 10c and slightly overcast.

This route represents a partial alternative return from the Sunflower Café on the traditional Spen Valley Greenway route. The additional distance is just under 2 miles and passes through Heckmondwike Cutting – a short but relatively dramatic setting. The route also involves a short section on busier roads through Heckmondwike before rejoining the SVGW.

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| Nr | Approx distance from start(miles) | Risk Description | Mitigation | Risk ratingLow / Med / High |
| START  | 0.0 | Start point – Sunflower Café on SVGW – Head North |  |  |
| 1 | 0.5  | Trail leaves SVGW and involves two tight turns before passing under the Greenway. There is a central wide water channel when passing under the bridge which is safe to ride. | Extra care and possible dismount to negotiate the two dogleg turns | Low |
| 2 | 1.0 | Cross main road taking advantage of wide central reservation if required before joining cycle lane heading south for short distance and then turning left up short but steep gradient | Take advantage of central reservation if required and use cycle lane. Be prepared to walk incline if necessary. | Low |
| 3 | 1.2 | Low offset barriers. | Dismount and walk to negotiate | Low |
| 4 | 2.3 | Enter Heckmondike by firstly crossing main road on slight diagonal followed by a left turn and then a right turn. Expect roads to be busy and be prepared to stop and start several times | Extra care and vigilance. Ride Leader to attempt to mark first two road crossings where appropriate and safe. | Medium |
| 5 | 2.7 | Route rejoins SVGW after passing through small housing development. |  |  |

**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.

