



Risk Assessment

Course/Road(s) Assessed: 1Z/25

Course: Local to Bedfordshire Road Cycling Club

Date of Assessment/Review: 13/05/21

Name of Assessor: Matt Donovan

Course Description: A Sporting Course utilising country roads around Central Bedfordshire starting and finishing in the vicinity of the BRCC clubhouse.

This is updated from the original risk assessment confirmed for 2021 with a slight change to the starting point which will be 0.5 miles further down the road from the club house to allow for the short distance of the overall course.

Traffic Flows: Majority of the course uses rural roads which receive light, local traffic. The B658 is the only significant stretch of road that carries moderate to higher risk with traffic travelling at national speed limits.

Course/Event History: The first 5 miles and final 4 miles are used on regular evening league races for decades. The middle 15 miles form part of multiple local courses which are familiar to most riders. This risk assessment represents the new course in its entirety.

Key Identified Risks

| Distance | Location | Identified Significant Risk/Hazards | Level of Risk Low/Med/High | Measures to reduce Risk (if applicable) |
|-----------|--|---|---|--|
| 0 miles | Start line, 30 mph sign on Cople Road (outside the farm entrance) on left hand side. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic Congestion. Parked vehicles. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low. Medium. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors form orderly queue. Cycle Event sign to warn traffic. No parking signs deployed. |
| 0.6 miles | Left bend. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncoming traffic, possibly overtaking returning competitors. Possible worn road surface. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors to exercise caution. Competitors to exercise caution. |
| 1.0 miles | Sharp bends and blind rise over bridge. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncoming traffic, possibly overtaking returning competitors. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cycle Event sign to warn traffic and competitors to exercise caution. |

| | | | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|---|
| 1.4 miles | S bends with limited visibility due to trees. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncoming traffic, possibly overtaking returning competitors. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors to exercise caution. |
| 3.1 miles | Blind rise at the crest of 'Hillfoot' | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncoming traffic, possibly overtaking returning competitors. Slower riders to pass. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low. Low. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors to exercise caution. Competitors to exercise caution when passing. |
| 3.7 miles | Sharp blind bends and road junction to the right. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncoming vehicles using all of the road width. Traffic joining the course. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors to exercise caution. |
| 3.8 miles | Series of lowered manhole covers in road. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slippery when wet and may upset stability if ridden over. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors to exercise caution. |
| 4.5 miles | T-junction, turn right. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic approaching from both sides. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right turn sign for competitors and Cycle Event sign to warn traffic. |
| 5.3 miles | Sharp left bend followed by sharp right bend under narrow width bridge passing junction on left. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncoming traffic. Worn road surface (often loose gravel in road). Traffic joining from left. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low. Low. Medium. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors to exercise caution. Competitors to exercise caution. Cycle Event sign to warn traffic. |
| 6.0 miles | Left turn at triangle | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic coming from the right Often loose gravel on road | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Left turn sign for competitors and cycle event sign. Competitors to exercise caution |
| 6.6 miles | Right hand bend | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncoming traffic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors to exercise caution |
| 7.0 miles | Right hand turn (x2 at triangle) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncoming traffic and traffic from the right | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right hand sign for competitors and cycle event sign |
| 7.9 miles | T junction – turn left | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic from the right | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Left hand sign for competitors and cycle event sign |
| 8.3 miles | Parked Cars on the Left | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncoming traffic Residents 20 mph zone for 0.4miles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low Low Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors to exercise caution |
| 8.5 miles | Mini Roundabout – turn left | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic coming from ahead Traffic Turning right Pedestrian crossing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium Medium Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Left hand sign for competitors Competitors to exercise caution |
| 8.6 miles | Roundabout – Straight onto B658 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic turning right and others using roundabout | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cycle event sign Competitors to exercise caution |

| | | | | |
|------------|--|---|--|---|
| 10.0 miles | Left turn to Stanford Road | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncoming fast traffic Traffic crossing B658 from right cross-road | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Left hand sign for competitors Competitors to exercise caution |
| 10.3 miles | Left turn to Ireland | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncoming traffic Some loose gravel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Left hand sign for competitors Competitors to exercise caution |
| 11.1 miles | Right Turn to Southill | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncoming Traffic Traffic turning right Gravel in road | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium Medium Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right hand sign for competitors Cycle Event sign Competitors to exercise caution |
| 11.4 miles | Right hand blind bend | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncoming traffic on narrow road Entrance on left to private estate Gravel on road | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium Low Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors to exercise caution |
| 11.9 miles | Parked cars on left and right in village | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncoming traffic in middle of road Pedestrians from cars | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors to exercise caution |
| 12.6 miles | Left turn onto fast B658 at cross roads | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fast traffic from the right Cars turning right and left from opposite road Gravel on road | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Medium Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Left hand sign for competitors Cycle Event sign Competitors to exercise caution |
| 13.0 miles | Fast B658 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fast traffic at national speed limits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors to exercise caution and stay tight to the left |
| 14.2 miles | Roundabout – straight on | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic using roundabout from all directions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cycle event sign (x2) Exit/straight on sign for competitors Competitors to exercise caution |
| 14.6 miles | Parked cars on left outside shop | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncoming traffic Pedestrians | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors to exercise caution |
| 16.2 miles | Right hand blind bend on fast road | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fast incoming traffic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors to exercise caution |
| 16.8 miles | Left hand turn on right hand bend | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncoming traffic Traffic turning right Gravel on road | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium Medium Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Left hand sign for competitors Competitors to exercise caution |
| 17.6 miles | Blind S bends and right hand junction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncoming traffic Traffic joining main road from the right | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors to exercise caution |
| 18.2 miles | Left hand turn onto St Johns Road at cross roads | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncoming traffic Traffic coming from right | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Left hand sign for competitors Cycle Event sign Competitors to exercise caution |
| 18.3 miles | Driveways on left and parked cars on right | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pedestrians and cars from right and left Poor road surface | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors to exercise caution |

| | | | | |
|------------|--|--|--|--|
| 19.0 miles | Left hand turn onto Budna Road at triangle | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncoming traffic and those turning right Gravel on road | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors to exercise caution |
| 19.2 miles | Right hand blind bend at bottom of hill on narrow road | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncoming traffic on narrow road Gravel and poor road surface | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors to exercise caution |
| 19.3 miles | Crest of hill | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncoming traffic on narrow road | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors to exercise caution |
| 19.5 miles | Left hand blind bend on narrow road | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncoming traffic in middle of narrow road Private driveway on right | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors to exercise caution |
| 20.0 miles | T junction – turn right onto Thorncote Road to Northill | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic from right and left Gravel on road | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right hand sign for competitors and cycle event sign Competitors to exercise caution |
| 20.6 miles | Private driveways on left and right through village | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local residents and cars | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors to exercise caution |
| 20.7 miles | Right hand turn onto Bedford Road to Cople | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncoming traffic and traffic turning right Gravel on road | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right hand sign for competitors Competitors to exercise caution |
| 22.0 miles | Sharp left bend leading to steep descent. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors can reach speeds in excess of 35mph. Exposed to crosswinds at hedge gaps. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low. Low. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors to exercise caution. Competitors to exercise caution. |
| 22.5 miles | S bends | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncoming traffic. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors to exercise caution. |
| 23.8 miles | Left turn in Cople towards Cardington. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other traffic using junction. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Left turn sign and competitors to exercise caution. |
| 25.0 miles | Finish line. 30 mph sign, Southill Road just past BRCC Clubhouse | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncoming traffic. Vehicles overtaking slowing down riders who have finished | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cycle Event sign to warn traffic. Competitors to exercise caution and Cycle Event Sign. |

NOTES:

- The use of a vehicle for the timekeeper(s) at start and finish is where appropriate and is only identified as an example for the action to be taken
- The small junctions or entrances to farms/ facilities (garage, eatery, etc) that are not identified in this risk assessment have been considered, however are not considered significant to pose a risk and therefore have not been noted.

Date of original Assessment: 30th December 2020