**Introductions**: Leader – Martin; Guides – Euan and Chris

**Ride Etiquette** – Check bikes roadworthy; follow the leader; obey the rules of the road, keep close together, , show consideration to other road and path users, tell the Guides if you need to leave

**Start: Haymarket.** Note the Bike Hire scheme, bike parking, soon to be Spokes info board, cycle lane improvements, National Route 1 & 76, Narrow lane by tram tracks ahead (walk?), wiggly route to Roseburn, stop at bottom of zig-zags (**care**)

**Roseburn zig-zags**● Access to the North Edinburgh Path Network (now fully signed as QuietRoute 11-15) and north west towards Queensferry via recently upgraded NCR1
● Access to the west of the city on QuietRoute 8/9 via Roseburn Park
● Roseburn to Leith route proposal (nicer route along Wester Coates instead of the route we just rode) – next step is report to councillors in August but substantial opposition in Roseburn
● Roseburn to Union Canal route proposal (two bridges likely, one unlikely) – next step is further consultation on stretch from WAR to the canal (recent consultation was postponed until September

● Next stop at Dalry Park before subway

**Dalry Park / Telfer Subway**● Upgrade to park and proposed path alongside West Approach Road to link to Haymarket (part of Roseburn to Union Canal)
● Proposed new Toucan crossing to either replace or augment subway
● Next stop at cycle counter on Union Canal

**Union Canal**● NCR75 to Balerno and beyond, NCR754 along canal to the west
● Leamington Terrace to be signed as QuietRoute 7 to Bruntsfield, Morningside and south
● New India Quay development expected to maintain/enhance cycle link to Haymarket
● Consultation completed on Union Canal to Meadows link – next steps pushed back to 2017
● Next stop at Middle Meadow Walk in the Meadows; take care when crossing at Kings Theatre

**The Meadows**● Middle Meadow Walk was an early Spokes success – cycling was banned until Spokes campaigned in the 80s to make it a cycle route (look at it now!)
● North Meadow Walk resurfaced thanks to sudden extra cash in Scottish CWSS budget a couple of years ago – this pot of cash is important and government need to maintain it
● Middle Meadow Walk now signed as QuietRoute 6 to Kings Buildings
● Next stop at Buccleuch Street at the east end of Meadows

**Buccleuch Street**● Meadows to Innocent link completed last year, connects to Innocent Railway which is entirely off-road until Brunstane and follows-on to Musselburgh
● Buccleuch Street also part of the “Quality Bike Corridor” cycle lanes to Kings Buildings – better than nothing but short of the segregated lanes being considered elsewhere
● Next stop on Royal Mile

**Royal Mile**● George IV Bridge isn’t great for cycling at the moment (especially when there are parked cars) but it is one of the next projects the council hope to consult on
● Next stop before Bread Street

**Bread Street**● Plan is to remove contraflow bus lane (no buses use it anymore) and hopefully cycle access will be maintained
● There is talk of also continuing the westbound cycle route along to Morrison Street (currently all traffic is one way eastbound)
● Along with a short route from the West Port this would greatly improve east to west journeys in this area (saving going round the one-way system with fast cars) – write to councillors if you think this would help
● Next stop outside Akva

**Akva / Exchange District**● There is a little known path through the Exchange District which was meant to link the canal to the west end and avoid any need to cycle on Lothian Road, but it’s very disjointed
● The path is to be signed as part of QuietRoute 7 but it’s unclear if there will be improvements like rounded out corners, better lighting, and better surfacing – again contacting councillors may help
● Next stop in Rutland Square after the bridge across the West Approach Road

**Rutland Square / West End**● Roseburn to Leith route is supposed to include link from here to the West End and George Street, but details are not decided
● Roseburn to Leith also meant to allow cycling into Rutland Square from Coates Crescent (currently it’s a no entry)
● Next stop back at Haymarket; note that we will go around Torphichen Place as Torphichen Street is (by the book anyway) buses and trams only

**Haymarket**● This just covered part of the city but there’s quite a lot going on just now: Leith Walk improvements (first section of segregated lanes under construction later this year with more to follow), more improvements to the Leith to Portobello route (QuietRoute 10), Gilmerton to Roslin (QuietRoute 61), and various smaller schemes taking place
● Writing into councillors is important in showing that this stuff actually matters to people especially with elections taking place – Edinburgh the only city with a dedicated cycling budget (now 9% of transport budget) and important this is maintained
● Edinburgh gets a lot of match funding from Scottish Government so writing to MSPs can also be helpful

**Thanks for joining us – hope that you enjoyed the ride and that we see you again. Please support Spokes and join up if you are not already a member.**