

Why did we need a Glow Ride in Stevenage?

Because even the best cycleway network is only as good as its weakest links - where things are not so great.

The route went under an underpass on a key link to Old Town that has been dark for 4 years. *The week after the Glow Ride, even the temporary solar powered motion sensitive light fittings were removed.*



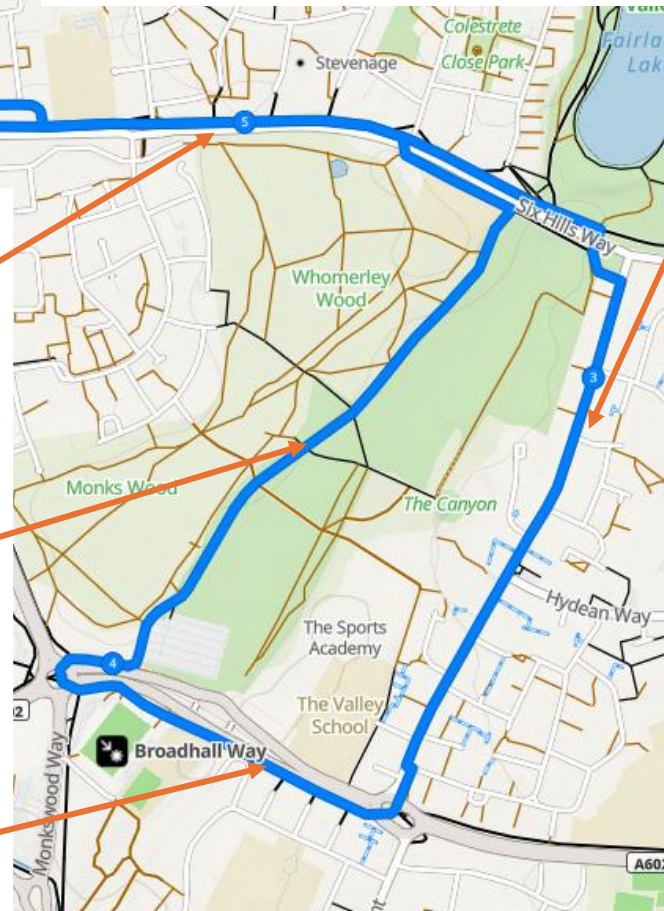
We were sharing the cycleways with other cyclists, walkers and runners. We looked out for them and kept to the left. *But often it was nearly impossible to see people walking as the cycleways were so dark and car headlights were so bright. "I never appreciated how hard it is to see at night on a bike" – Glow Ride participant after the ride.*

We used busy roads where there are no cycleways.

We went on main cycleways that have no lighting themselves, where streetlights shine towards the road and headlights shine in our eyes.

We crossed Fairlands Valley Park in darkness. *Just one month after the Glow Ride, sunset is at 4pm. The alternative route is Valley Way. Two years ago, over 1300 people signed a petition asking Stevenage Borough Council to install eco-friendly, wildlife-conscious lighting here. While we wait for news, another winter of darkness looms.*

We took care with the surface of the cycleways – there are leaves and acorns at the moment. *Often it was very difficult to see the edge of the cycleway.*



On the road, we were sharing with other road users, cyclists, drivers and looking out for pedestrians – and potholes. *Cycling on Valley Way involves advanced Bikeability Level 2 skills, add in darkness, and it becomes Level 3.. There, and on all other roads used, there were many parked cars and vehicles manoeuvring into and out of spaces.*