

DROSI BIKES

Cycle the Dee Valley east circuit

This circuit is one of two halves: the first is easy and almost all traffic free, along the Llangollen canal eastwards to the spectacular aqueduct designed and built by Thomas Telford (a World Heritage Site). Here you can walk across the very impressive aqueduct, completed in 1808, or if you don't have a head for heights, there is a road down through the valley, which provides a good view of this amazing structure.

The second half of the circuit climbs steeply up on narrow country lanes, into the hills to the south of the River Dee - with wonderful views - eventually with a long, steep descent back into Llangollen.

Cycling along the canal tow path is allowed, but please respect other users.

Grade: moderate (steep climb after Froncysyllte and steep descent to Llangollen)

Distance (miles/km): 11 miles / 17½km

Ascent (feet/metres): 1020ft / 310m

Typical cycling time (without stops): approx. 1¾hrs

Highlights: Llangollen canal and River Dee, World Heritage Site, Welsh sheep farming, views over Dee valley, Llangollen and beyond.

Facilities en-route: Sun Inn at Trevor; tea rooms, toilets, visitor centre/café and Telford Inn all close to the north end of aqueduct; Aqueduct Inn at Froncysyllte.

Route description:

From Drosi Bikes, turn left along Parade Street then left again, on Castle Street, to cross the river bridge. Go right on the main road and turn almost immediately left and steeply up to the canal. Just before the right bend, where the road crosses over the canal, turn left through the café seating area and double back right, under the bridge.

Follow the tow path for 4 miles, almost all the way to Trevor Basin at Froncysyllte. At bridge 32W, which marks the end of the towpath on this side, go up the ramp, over the footbridge and continue along the other side to a suburban road. Right would take you down to the river bridge, which avoids the airy walk across the aqueduct, but to visit the aqueduct go left for 150m then turn right as the road bends left, over a canal bridge and then right again, into the carpark for the aqueduct.

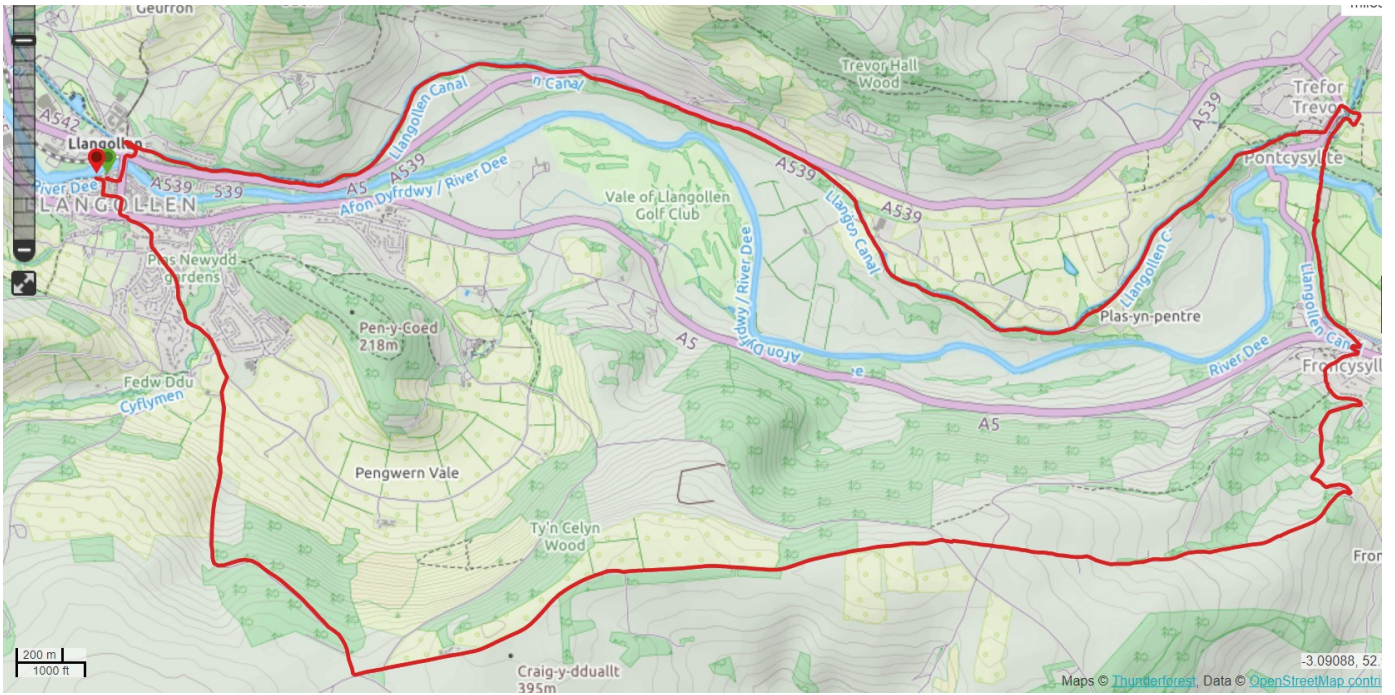
You can walk your bike across the aqueduct. Continue 600 yards to a lifting bridge, cross the canal, go up into the village of Froncysyllte and turn left on the main A5 road, then almost immediately right into a side road called Methodist Hill.

The route then winds steeply up this narrow lane through the village to a T-junction after 250m. Here turn left and continue, keeping right at a hairpin bend, then ½ mile after the T-junction turn sharp right. This junction is signed straight on to Chirk, right is signed as a cycle route.

Follow this narrow country road for 3 miles, passing a mast on your left after 1½ miles. You reach today's high point after 2½ miles, where there are masts to your right. Turn right 800 yds further on, just after another road comes in sharply from the left.

This road (which can be busy at certain times of the day) provides a long, sometimes steep, descent into Llangollen. When you get to the valley bottom, turn left at the T-junction and descend further into Llangollen. Arriving at the main A5 road in the town, turn left, then right at the traffic lights. First left and second right will get you back to Drosi Bikes.

Route map (available as GPX and KML file on our website):



Route profile:

