

# DROSI BIKES

## Cycle the Dinas Bran castle circuit

Towering above Llangollen to the north is a distinct, conical hill topped by the ruins of Castell Dinas Bran. The medieval castle was built on top of Iron Age earthworks. It was occupied, by the Princes of Powys, only for a few decades.

This relatively short but very scenic circuit starts along the Llangollen canal then turns and climbs up to the minor road that runs below the limestone escarpment known as Creigiau Eglwyseg. You pass behind Dinas Bran on a lovely road, before turning down towards Llangollen, ending the ride once more along the canal.

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

**Grade:** moderate

**Distance (miles/km):** 7 miles / 11 km

**Ascent (feet/metres):** 790 ft / 240 m

**Typical cycling time (without stops):** approx. 1 hr

**Highlights:** Llangollen canal and River Dee, Dinas Bran castle, views of the Dee valley and the surrounding hills.

**Facilities en-route:** the Sun Inn at Trevor (reached after 2 miles) and the café by the canal, near the end.

### 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.

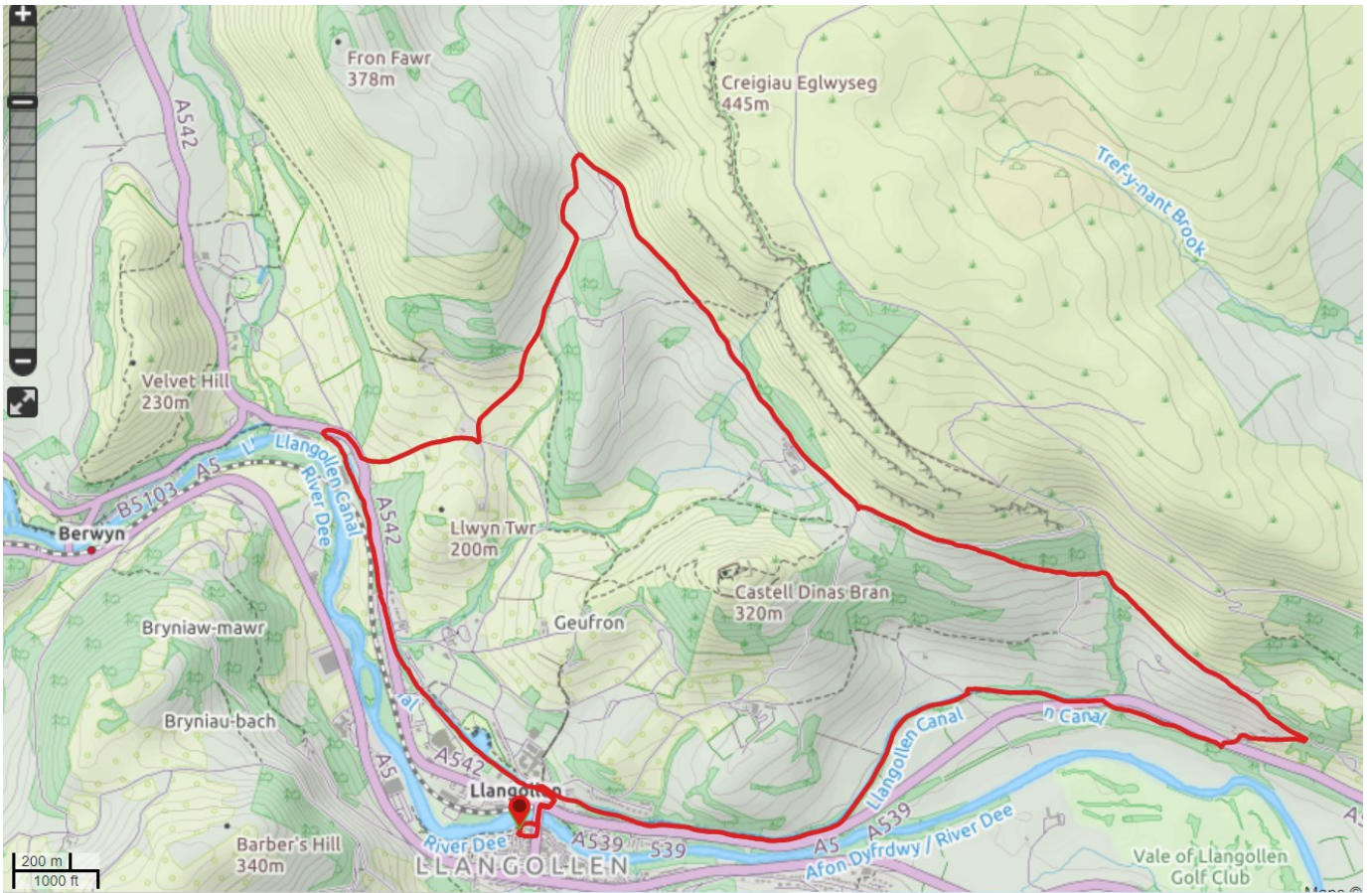
Follow the canal tow path for nearly 2 miles. Go under two more bridges (the second being the one under the main road) and leave the canal at the third one. Go up to the main road and cross this, going slightly right to turn up a side road which leads up the hill past the Sun Inn.

After a left hairpin bend continue up to a junction and keep left, to follow the undulating, narrow road that runs along below the escarpment. You will see Castell Dinas Bran up to your left and enjoy excellent views. Just over a mile beyond the castle, take the left turn that doubles back and starts the descent to Llangollen.

In  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile turn right at a T-junction and in a further  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile you will reach a busy main road at the bottom. Here you turn right and go along for 200 yards or so whereupon you turn off left at the sign for the Motor Museum. This takes you down to the canal where you turn left onto the tow path and return in 1 mile to Llangollen.

You will need to dismount to pass the stables for the barge-towing horses and to pass through the café area. From there you can return to Drosi Bikes the way you came up.

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



Route profile:

