

DROSI BIKES

Cycle the scenic Dee valley circuit to the west

This challenging ride provides an exceptionally scenic and varied ride. Start with a long, steep climb out of Llangollen and turn westwards along the broad ridge between the Dee and Ceiriog valleys. At different stages you will get views in every direction. After a section on a rather rough gravel track, a long, sweeping descent leads to the village of Glyndyfrdwy, just above the River Dee. Cross the Llangollen to Corwen heritage railway and the river and then turn eastwards to return to Llangollen, winding along the minor road on the north side of the river. The ride ends along the canal towpath into Llangollen (cycling is allowed, but please respect other users).

Grade: challenging (long, steep climb and rough gravel section - not suitable for novice riders!)

Distance (miles/km): 17miles / 27.4k

Ascent (feet/metres): 1750ft / 535m

Typical cycling time (without stops): 2-2½hrs

Highlights: Scenery / views, Welsh hill farming, forestry and heather moorland, picturesque Dee valley, Llangollen canal.

Facilities en-route: Berwyn Arms in Glyndyfrdwy and Chain Bridge Hotel, on approach to Llangollen

Route description:

From Drosi Bikes, turn left along Parade Street then left again and immediately right between the war memorial and The Royal hotel. Continue to the No Entry signs where the road bends right along Chapel Street. This leads up to the main A5 road. Cross directly over this and bear left up Hill Street, rather narrow in places.

You pass on your left the well-known Plas Newydd house and soon leave the outskirts of Llangollen. About 100yds after the last houses, turn right up a narrow side road, signposted to Glyn Ceiriog. From this point there is a stiff climb up for just over a mile to a T-junction. Turn right and follow this road along the broad ridge between the Dee valley on your right and the Ceiriog valley to the left. You pass several junctions - just keep following the signs to Glyndyfrdwy until... after 2.2miles they don't sign it any more! At this point, you bear right at a fork (signed left to Ceiriog but nothing to the right!).

Along this increasingly worn-out tarmac road you skirt areas of forestry and after further 2 miles, at a T-junction, turn right. Here the last vestiges of tarmac quickly give way to a stony and quite rutted track.

At the far side of Ceiriog Forest, after 1½ miles, the route is tarmacked again and you emerge onto an area of heather moorland, and provided the weather is clear, great views over the Dee valley and to the hills beyond.

A long sweeping descent takes you down to Glyndyfrdwy but watch out for the extremely steep drops to your left on the way down! When you get to the busy main A5 road, you need to turn left and in 250yds, turn right signposted to Rhewl and Llantysilio. (But if you are looking for a refreshment stop, the Berwyn Arms is 400 yards further along the A5).

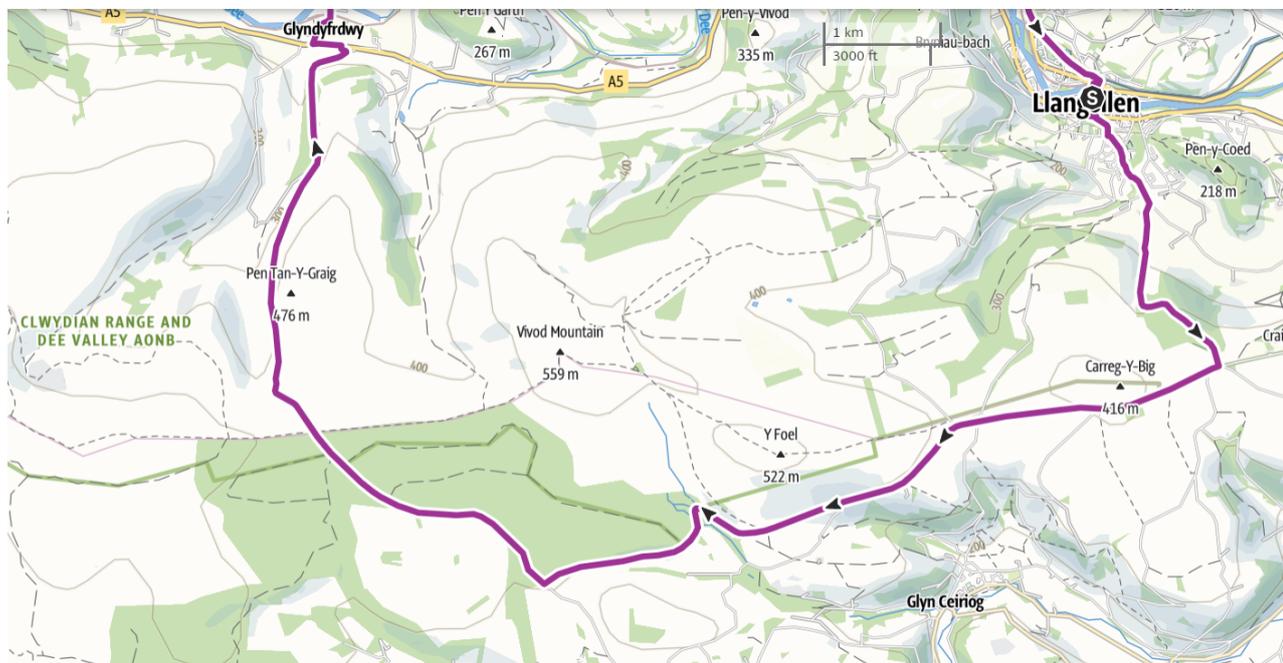
This much quieter side road drops down towards the river bridge, first crossing the restored Llangollen to Corwen railway. After the river bridge, turn right, to follow this minor road most of the way back to Llangollen, nearly 7 miles away.

After 5 miles or so you pass the popular Horseshoe Falls, down on your right. Continue until 400m after the Horseshoe Falls carpark you can turn right where there is an entrance sign for the Chain Bridge Hotel. Turn down here and immediately left onto the canal tow path and follow this until you reach the café and wharf where the horse-drawn barges are based. Walk through the outdoor café area to the

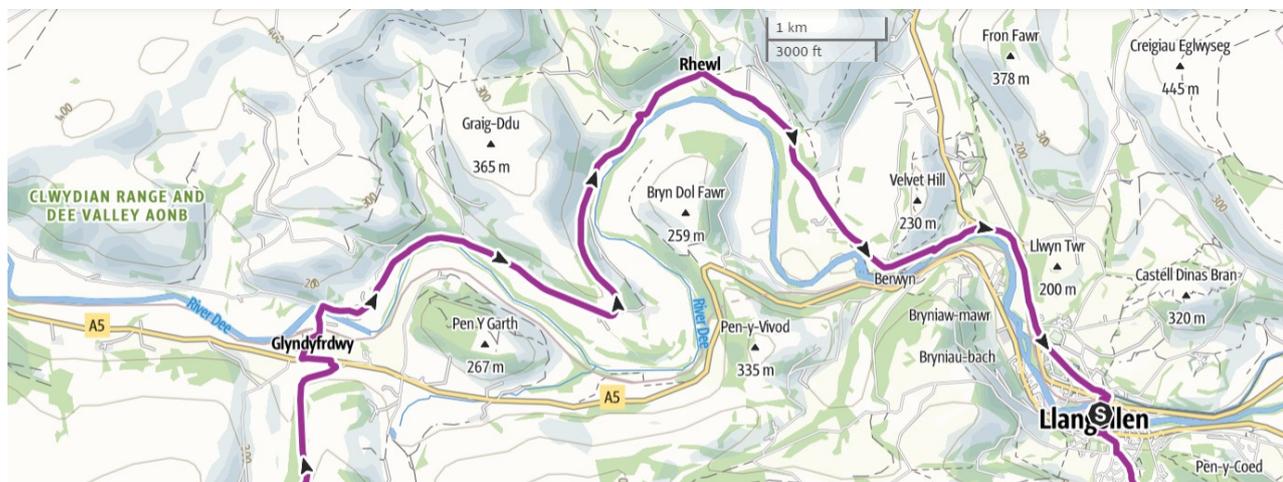
road which has just crossed over the canal. Going right there is a short, steep drop down to a main road in Llangollen. Turn right, then left over the river bridge. Immediately after that you can turn right along a narrow lane and then opposite the Corn Mill pub, turn up left and Drosi Bikes are at the top, on the right.

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

First part (Llangollen to Glyndyfrdwy):



Second part (Glyndyfrdwy to Llangollen):



Route profile:

