

# No. 10 THE GREEN DESERT

*This ride begins in the centre of Rhayader, by the clock tower. This is a relatively short ride, though the initial hill is quite a climb. But there is an 'extended' version if you're fit and looking for a real adventure. Instead of turning left at 8.6km point, go straight on, all the way down to Pont-rhyd-y-groes, where you turn left for Ffair-Rhos and then back east, first on lanes and then on the mountain track to the Claerwen Reservoir (there's a bothy here, too, if you need it, marked Claerddu on the map). It's a reasonably good track, fine on an MTB, touring bike or a cross bike, a bit dicey on a road bike. Follow the track all the way to the Claerwen dam and then rejoin the road to the Elan Valley Visitor centre.*

| KM   | Miles | Direction                                                                                                                                    |
|------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0    | 0.0   | From the clock tower, head down West Street                                                                                                  |
| 0.6  | 0.4   | Turn right<br>(👉 Aberystwyth Mountain Road)                                                                                                  |
| 8.4  | 5.3   | Turn left (👉 Cwm Elan / Elan Valley)                                                                                                         |
| 13.5 | 8.4   | Turn left and cross the dam                                                                                                                  |
| 13.7 | 8.6   | At the end of the dam turn right onto the cycle path (👉 NCR 81)                                                                              |
|      |       | Follow the Elan Valley Trail (👉 NCR 81)                                                                                                      |
|      |       | For much of its length, the Elan Valley Trail runs parallel to a road, which is rarely busy. If you prefer, take the road                    |
| 23.2 | 14.5  | Turn right (👉 Elan Village / Visitor Centre)                                                                                                 |
| 23.6 | 14.8  | Turn left across the rickety iron bridge, and left again at the end of the bridge                                                            |
| 24.5 | 15.3  | Follow the road around to the right (👉 Llanwrthwl)                                                                                           |
| 32.6 | 20.4  | Easy to miss! As the river comes into view, there's a bridleway off to the right, just as the road heads steeply uphill. Take the bridleway. |
|      |       | Follow the bridleway, cross the rope bridge and then cross the field                                                                         |
| 33   | 20.6  | Rejoin the road and follow it back into <b>Rhayader</b>                                                                                      |
| 35.2 | 22.0  | Turn right onto West Street                                                                                                                  |