



**Clockwise from top left:**  
The old CTC repairer sign in Corwen. Old railway trail into Berwyn. How low can you go? Llantsyllio Mountain

than going up but was still hard work. It took us nearly an hour to ride two kilometres – and 200 metres downhill – to the tarmac. Once there, the sun came out again. We swooped down the quiet roads beneath Eglwyseg Mountain.

A cliff face like giant dentures stretched in a southerly direction towards Llangollen, taking great chomps out of the countryside, leaving only farms and smallholdings in its shadow. The traffic was light, with only walkers and Sunday club runs zipping past with smiles and waves. With the gradient with us, we soon arrived in Berwyn.

**JOURNEY'S END**

Pausing briefly for a cuppa and to charge water bottles in the time capsule of Berwyn train

station's café, where Turkish Delight, Salt 'n' Shake crisps and other reminders of childhood were available, we then began the quiet road over the hill and down the steep descent to the village of Glyn Ceiriog.

The last miles to the West Arms rolled by. Here and there we passed more emblems of the past: post boxes commemorating the king – George, not Charles. More banks of daffodils filled the verges with colour.

Rounding a final bend in the road, we returned to Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog to complete a journey that had been short in distance but rich in experience. The off-season's end had been marked in a way that Wayfarer would have approved. ●

**Fact file**  
**Wayfarer's wheel tracks**

**Distance:** 67.1km  
(41.7 miles)  
**Climbing:** 1,644m  
(5,394 ft)

**Route:** Starting at the cycle-friendly West Arms in Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog, you head up an old drovers' way to the Wayfarer memorial at Nant Rhyd Wilym in the Berwyn Mountains. There's a steep descent to Corwen, then you go up and over more peaks before looping back via the World's End to Berwyn and a hilly return to Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog.

**Conditions:** Variable weather and trails, with everything apart from snow and hail. Trails were like small rivers, with thick mud, bog and good gravel.

**Bike used:** I was tempted to use my Pashley Guv'nor 3-speed but am glad I rode my Surly ECR with a Rohloff!

**I'm glad I had...** An overnight stay at the West Arms, Maxxis Minions tyres for the mud, and Welsh cakes for dessert.

**Next time I would...** Change absolutely nothing. It truly was a fantastic trip!

**Further info:** [cyclingnorthwales.co.uk/pages/wayfarer.htm](http://cyclingnorthwales.co.uk/pages/wayfarer.htm)