

## **Flinten cycle route (41,5 km)**

Starting point: Hunebed Centre, Borger



Get to know the high spots of Drenthe! Climb the look-out tower on the man-made hill at Poolshoogte in the woods near Odoorn. Or go on an expedition in the UNESCO Geopark de Hondsrug. And did you now that there are as many as 52 Stone Age burial monuments (hunebeds) in Drenthe? You will find the most impressive examples along the Hondsrug and in the Hunze Valley and you can learn all about their history at the Hunebed Centre in Borger.

**This route follows the Dutch Cycle Node Network – cycling by numbers! The route starts close to the largest hunebed in the Netherlands. From the car park on the Hunebedstraat turn left towards Cycle Node 43. We wish you a safe and pleasant journey!**

Vanuit Borger fiets je From Borger, cycle towards Drouwen. The landscape alternates between wide-open views and woodland. On the way you pass the small hamlet of Bronneger where there are five hunebeds close together. The most western of the five is perhaps the most photographed of all, because an oak tree has seeded itself in the middle and grown up through the stones.

The village of Drouwen has many splendid and charming old farmhouses. To the north lies the rugged nature area known as the Drouwenezand. 150 years ago this was a wilderness of blown sand which threatened to overwhelm the village. To prevent

this happening, pine trees were planted here at the beginning of the 20th century. (One small area of open sand can still be seen and makes a dramatic sight).

Many reminders of the history of Drenthe can be seen along the Flinten route. In the modern centre of Borger a number of old farmhouses still retain the atmosphere of the agricultural past. On the main square the striking medieval church tower still stands its ground among the newer buildings.

The extensive woods around Exloo and Odoorn have their own history. At the beginning of the 20th century unemployed peat workers and poor farmers were set to work to clear the old heathland and plant the reclaimed area with trees. Deep in the woods around Odoorn you will come to a park area with hundreds of grazing sheep, whose job is to keep the remaining heather short and under

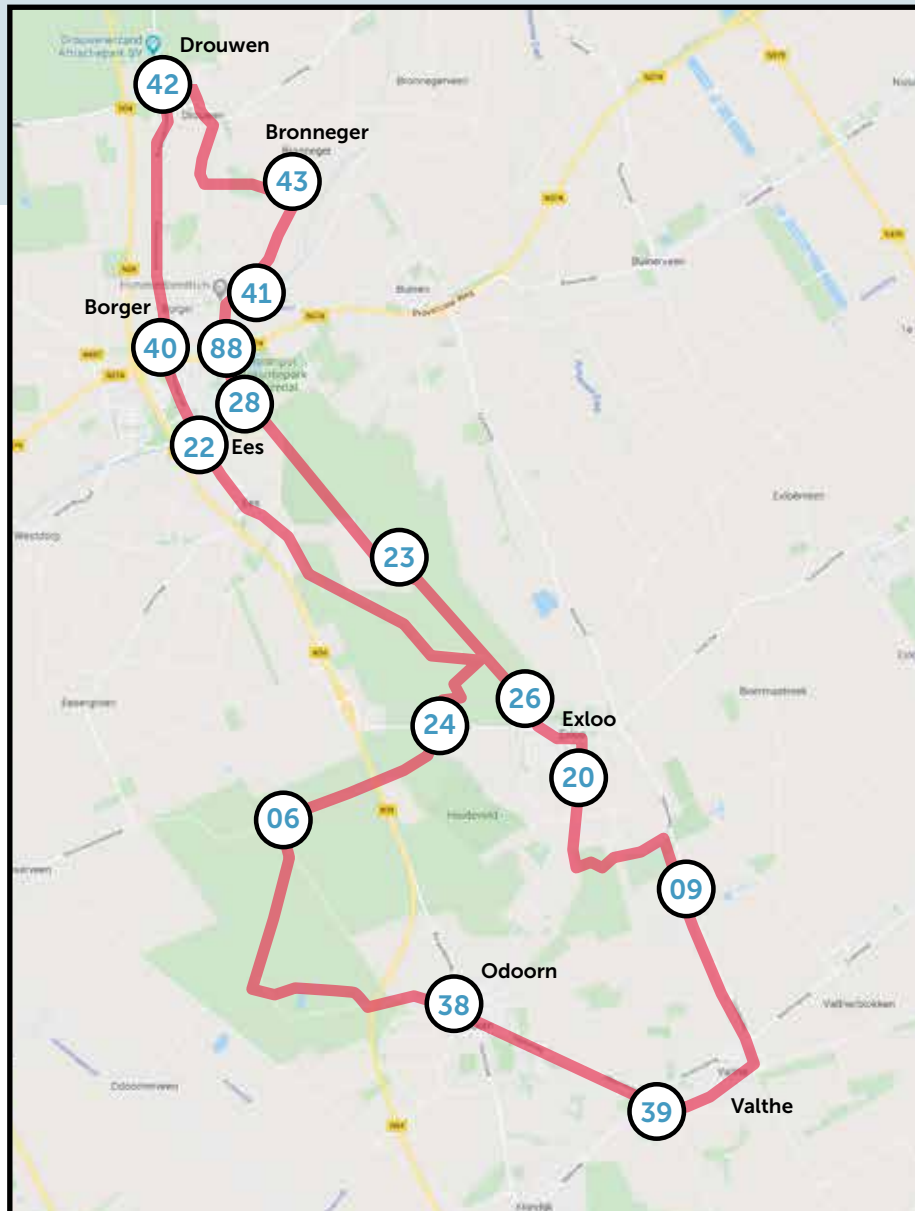
control. Don't forget to make a stop by the look-out tower on top of the hill at Poolshoogte.

An interesting place to take a break is the 'Eppiesbergje'. This Stone Age burial mound stands beside the road from Odoorn to Valthe and an information panel explains its history. Standing here you have an extensive view over the surrounding landscape.

On the main street in Exloo there is a lovely sheepfold, and every day the shepherd takes the flock out onto the nearby heathland of the Molenveld.

From Exloo the cycle route takes you back to Borger. High ridges of sand, small farming villages, woodland and open stretches of the old peat colonies: the Flinten route offers a splendid and varied cycle ride through the Hondsrug and the Hunze Valley!





### Locations on this route:

Hunebedcentrum *Hunebedstraat 27, Borger*

Hunebed D27 *Borger*

Mammoetpad (Mammoth path) *Hunebedstraat, Borger*

Tourist Info Exloo *Hoofdstraat 55 A, Exloo*

Keuterboerderij Exloo (18th century farmhouse), *Schoolstraat 1, Exloo*

Dwarshuisboerderij Exloo (c. 1860 farmhouse), *Hoofdstraat 29, Exloo*

Schaapskooi Exloo (sheepfold), *Hoofdstraat 57, Exloo*

Woodland at Exloo

Hunebed D31 Exloo

Hunebed D36 and D37 Valthe

Hallenhuisboerderij Valthe 1780 (1780 farmhouse) *Schaapskuilweg 2, Valthe*

### Cycle network numbers:

