



▲ The Freelands scored very well for walking comfort

BREATHABILITY

Perforations in the upper allow air to enter for coolness while the Gore-Tex membrane makes sure the water stays out.



▼ A pleasingly flexible boot, and plush inside



2 Dainese Freeland 2 £259.99
 'Lightweight, comfortable and breathable'
www.nevis.uk.com

This is an understated boot, with a very thin sole and a narrow, long foot design. However, from the box, fit is lovely – as good as any here – and the plush lining is excellent. There are no pressure points or tight sections, but there's a slight sensation of narrowness across the little toes.

They feel lighter than they are. The thin sole and flexible construction makes them very comfortable for walking, and the heel stays in place, although the feeling of narrowness remains.

On the bike, they also work very well. They remain comfortable and, with some additional use, the narrowness becomes snugness with a great fit. They flex well, particularly when using the gear pedal, with movement in the boots rather than flexing at the top where they meet the leg.

Thanks to the thin soles, feel is excellent for both the gear lever and brakes, where you can really apply finesse to the rear. Confidence is good, despite their CE rating being lower than some of the

others, with only impact cut resistance gaining a 2 (the first 2 indicates it's a full-height boot) and 1s for impact abrasion resistance and transverse rigidity. But there is armour in the ankle areas as well as on the shin.

In the water test, the Daineses completely resisted water ingress in the spray element but in the immersion test, a very small amount entered through the back of one boot, leading to a small damp spot on one heel that was unnoticeable until the boot was removed.

'Feel is excellent, thanks to the thin soles'

VERDICT
 A lovely, comfortable and well-fitting boot that feels light and unobtrusive, both on and off the bike.

LEAK TEST
 Time to leak **5 mins**

THE SCORES

Fit
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Comfort
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Feel
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Confidence
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Waterproofing
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Total 44/50

THE FACTS

Weight (pair) 1499g

Height (external) 307mm

Height (internal) 284mm

CE rating 2-1-2-1

Material Microfibre

Membrane Gore-Tex

Zips 1

Zip position Inside