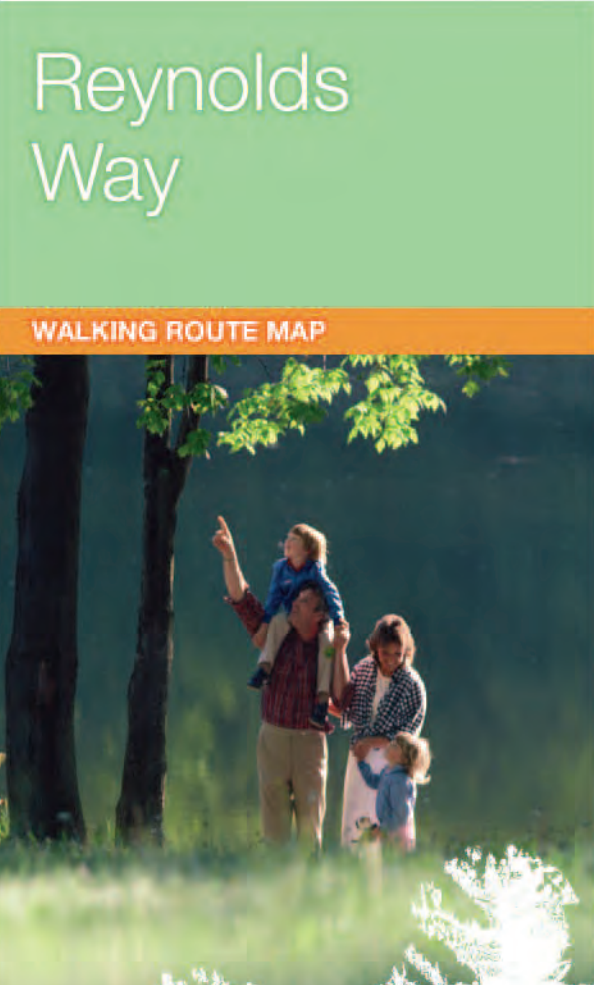


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1 Bank House



This is a typical Georgian house built in brick with stone dressings. It retains some of its tall sash windows with their fine glazing bars. The house, now divided into separate units, was a former residence of William Reynolds.

2 St Mary's Church



Although this church has medieval features, note the Norman style bell tower, it was built in 1838 and provides a fine example of Gothic revival in Victorian architecture.

3 Former Squatters Cottage



Squatters originally built cottages here at the end of the C18: only the better ones have survived.

4 Quarry Lane

Here limestone was quarried for use in the local foundries .

5 Paddock Mount



This mound was formed from the spoil of two pits. From the top there are fine views across 180° from the Wrekin in the west across north Telford to Lilleshall in the east. The path here is of a steep gradient and the steps down are also very steep. There is an alternative route that less able walkers may choose to take.



6 Ketley Hall

C18 brick house with late C18 early C19 wings. Joshua Reynolds, son of Richard, lived here probably after 1793.

7 Railway station site



The old railway is now part of the Ironbridge Way footpath, alongside the former site of the platform of Ketley station, there remains some trackway.



8 Roman Road - Watling Street



Halfway down, in the left bank is the blocked off entrance to a tunnel, once used to transport sand from Ketley sand quarries, beneath the road, to the Sinclair Ironworks (once part owned by Richard Reynolds). At the bottom of this road is Ketley Brook and Ketley Sands.

9 Parkers Pool



Water from here was once used in the iron making process and as a topping pool for Ketley canal.

10 Newdale tramway bridge



This is a grade II listed building and it carried a plate railway that was used for transporting materials to and from nearby foundries and mines. Here Reynolds built houses, a school and chapel for his employees in the village of Newdale. Nothing of the site now remains except the bridge and cast iron columns, which have been excavated and are stored at Blists Hill Victorian Town.

11 Methodist chapel



A chapel, dating from the late C19, that is still in full use.

12 Weigh Bridge

These are the remains of the weigh bridge office.

13 Squatters Cottages



These are good examples of squatter's cottages that date from the late C18.

William Reynolds (1758-1803)



William Reynolds was the most versatile and talented of all the Shropshire ironmasters. He was the son of Richard Reynolds and was a partner in the Coalbrookdale Company until 1796 when the Darby-Reynolds partnership was dissolved. As well as iron making, Reynolds' business interests included a china works at Coalport, an alkali works at Wombridge, the Wrockwardine Wood glassworks, and the development of Coalport New Town.

He surveyed the route and oversaw the construction of the Shropshire Canal. The most important innovation in its construction was the use of inclined planes to transport boats from one level of water to another. He also oversaw the manufacture of the world's first cast iron canal aqueduct at Longdon-on-Tern, designed by Thomas Telford.

His personal interest included; chemistry, botany, geology and mineralogy and he was associated with such men as Erasmus Darwin and Thomas Telford.

Mr John Slater



In 1999, the late Mr John Slater, a long time resident of Ketley created a circular walk around the parishes of Ketley and Lawley & Overdale. Mr Slater had a keen interest in local history and created the route on which historical points of interest relating to the Ironmasters, Richard and William Reynolds would be identified.

With his kind permission Telford & Wrekin Council have developed this route into The Reynolds Way.

Route description
(for descriptions of the sights on the route see over)

- Commence the walk in Mossey Green Lane at Bank House, limited road side parking is available (1)
- Proceed in a southerly direction turning right into Bank Way then, taking great care, cross Mossey Green Way to Shepherds Lane
- Proceed along Shepherds Lane keeping to the right past Woodside Road
- continue ahead passing St Mary's Church on your left (2)
- * if you are unable to take a route that has a gradient and steep steps take a left into Red Lees at the rear of the Squatters Cottage. (3) Rejoin at †
- *if you wish to take the steeper route, continue to Quarry Lane and take the footpath opposite, through a gate and up Paddock Mount (4 & 5)
- Keep right along a gravel path ascending (5) the mount. Then descend a flight of steep steps leading down to a footpath
- Turn left and continue past a pond on the left to a kissing gate which gives access on to Red Lees (here you will meet up with the less steep route)
- Turn right and † proceed along Red Lees passing, on your left, the gateway to Ketley Hall (6)
- At a junction with Waterloo Road, near traffic lights, cross carefully and continue along Station Road/Holyhead Road
- Proceed, passing the site of Ketley Railway station on the left (7) until you see The Horseshoes Inn on your right
- Cross the road (taking great care) and follow a narrow, descending road to the left . This is the line of the roman road Watling St (8)
- Return to The Horseshoes Inn and recross Holyhead Road to the entrance of Sinclair Works
- Enter the site, keeping to the left fork, and follow the path alongside the works sports and social club on the left side
- Turn left and follow the public right of way adjacent to Parker's Pool (9). Continue and cross the old railway line (which is now part of The Ironbridge Way walking route) into Sinclair Gardens
- Continue past a nursery and turn right onto Rock Road (in the trees on the left are the remains of a pool that was once a topping up pool for Ketley canal)
- Continue along Rock Road beneath the M54 motorway bridge, then turn immediately right through a gate and follow a bridleway between a wooded mound on the left and the motorway above on the right. At the end of this path ascend a slope to join the old railway line (The Ironbridge Way)
- Approximately 600 metres along on the right are steps down to the site of Newdale Tramway Bridge (10)
- Return to the walkway and continue for a further 100 metres to join a footway/cycleway above a pool. Bear right and follow the path with the pool on the left, turning left at the end of the pool towards a housing estate
- Take another left past a children's play area
- At the lych gate take a footpath that passes alongside a housing estate
- Through a second lych gate and then forward crossing an estate road towards a staggered barrier - straight ahead
- At another staggered barrier bear left along a track through trees and right, along a narrow footpath - this widens by houses
- Turn right again onto an unsurfaced road up an incline
- In approximately 50 metres take a short, narrow footpath on the left, which ascends to join The Rock. Passing the Primitive Methodist Chapel on your left you will arrive at Rock Road (11)
- Turn right to see the building that was once the office for a weigh bridge (on the left) (12)
- Go back to junction (Rock Road/The Rock) and turn right continuing down The Rock, taking care as there is no footway
- Keep going down hill and at the bottom, when you come into a housing estate, take a right and proceed along Mannerley Lane (13)
- Continue to the end of this lane and turn into Garfield road, which crosses over the M54 motorway and leads into Shepherds Lane
- At this point retrace the route to the starting place at Bank House

Key

Reynolds Way route

View

Steps

Call box

Toilets

Picnic area

Place of worship

Historic building

School

BMX or BSX tracks

Vehicle parking

An easy walk of 4.5 to 5 miles distance. The location of the walk within the borough is indicated below.

Richard Reynolds (1735-1816)

Born in Bristol and a member of its Quaker community, Richard Reynolds came to Coalbrookdale in 1756 to represent the interests of Thomas Goldney. He was appointed manager of the Horsehay Ironworks, and in 1757 he married Hannah Darby, daughter of Abraham Darby II.

When Abraham Darby II died in 1763, Richard took over the management of the company and moved into Dale House. During his time as manager he encouraged successful experiments with a method of making wrought iron using coal as fuel instead of charcoal. In 1768 he handed over the management of the works to Abraham Darby III.

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