

Silkin Way

A green corridor route through Telford from Bratton in the north-west corner via the Town Centre to the spectacular Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site. The route boasts great contrasts with futuristic new developments, pockets of woodland and meadow and mature parkland. For almost its entire length the route follows dry canal beds and disused railway lines. The Silkin Way was opened in 1977, by Prime Minister James Callaghan, in the presence of the Silkin family.

Lewis Silkin - making the countryside more accessible to everyone

A one time Member of Parliament for Peckham and Deputy Leader of the House of Lords, Lewis Silkin was instrumental in the Labour Government's rebuilding policy after World War II. This included the 1949 Access to the Countryside Act and New Towns Act of 1963. As a New Town, Telford has honoured Lord Silkin by naming this long distance path after him.

Cycling the Silkin Way

The Silkin Way is an excellent cycle route due to the use of canal beds and extinct railway lines and for the most part the way is well surfaced. There are a few sets of steps but they are broad, shallow and easily negotiated. Please watch for walkers and use the recommended cycle route around Telford Town Centre as this can be a very busy section.

Walking or cycling

At a reasonable walking pace, with a few stops you can do the Silkin Way in less than a day. For both walkers and cyclists there are numerous places to stop for refreshments along the way. There are so many places of interest that it is recommended that you stop off to enjoy them rather than rushing to finish quickly. The Silkin Way is like a book - you can read it all at once or just dip into it from time to time, digesting at your leisure.

1 Silkin Way Wheel



2 Tee Lake



5 Hadley Park House



A traditional manor house which dates back to the 18th century

10 Town Park Arena



170 hectares of open space with a variety of areas to explore from play areas to landscaped gardens and grassy banks to pools and woodlands. The park is so valuable for wildlife that much of it has been designated a Local Nature Reserve

12 Wonderland



The BIG park for the little people

15 Stirchley Pool



16 Dawley & Stirchley Railway Station



Originally Stirchley Station, renamed Dawley & Stirchley from 9th July 1923. Passenger services withdrawn in May 1952

13 Withy Pool



Connected by a stream to Randlay Pool. It is the oldest pool in the Town Park and used for a feeder reservoir for the Shropshire Canal

17 Aqueduct



Built in 1792. Photo courtesy of Britannia Historical Society

3 Apley Castle Park



The word Apley is Anglo-Saxon for a clearing in a forest where the apples grow - or in other words an orchard. In the park you will find two small pools

6 Hadley Park Mill



Was powered by wind and water

11 Town Park Amphitheatre



7 Trench Pool

Originally used as a reservoir for the Shrewsbury Canal

4 Hadley Park Lock



Originally used as part of the Shrewsbury Canal. The canal was built for the use of tub-boats about 20 feet long and 6 feet wide, which were pulled along in trains. The lock was 81 feet long and 6 feet 7 inches wide, which meant that it would hold four tub-boats

8 Middle Pool

Originally a balancing pool for the Shrewsbury canal

9 Maxell Gardens



An ornamental Flowering Cheery collection donated by Maxell Europe in the early 1980's

14 Stirchley Chimney & Furnace



Chimney and Furnace - Built in 1873 by Wellington Iron and Coal Company. Due to bankruptcy in 1877 the furnace was never fired