

This long distance path winds its way from Leegomery Community Centre in the north down the western edge of Telford to Ironbridge in the south. Over 10 miles the route uses various paths from newly created surfaced paths through housing and informal areas to a disused railway line, old lanes and country footpaths with stiles.

The route links together many interesting historical and natural features. This leaflet tells you about some of them to give you a feel for the things to look out for.

There are habitats along the way that are home to a variety of birds and animals that are not always easily seen but can sometimes be heard. If you look closely you may find clues telling you that they are about. If you move quietly you may be rewarded by a glimpse of a creature going about its daily life.

A wide variety of trees and flowers can also be seen along the way. These will change with the seasons offering you something new to discover.

A diversion along some of the other paths shown will take you to more countryside areas waiting for you to discover and explore them.



Leegomery Community Centre



Leegomery End

**LEEGOMERY**

In the Domesday Book Leegomery is called Lega. It was held both before and after the conquest by Thored, though under the Normans, the overlordship passed to Reginald the Sheriff. The name Leegomery is derived from the old English Leah 'a clearing in the forest'

**HADLEY**

Hadley is one of the oldest settlements of Telford New Town. During the Industrial Revolution it was one of the few social and shopping centres in the area. It was surrounded by coal mines, brick works and iron foundries. The modern sculpture in the shopping centre is known as the Chassis Plant created by David Moloney in 1981.



Paths muddy in places, route to Ketley



Junction with path that leads to The Wrekin

**KETLEY**

Ketley's name comes from the Anglo-Saxon word meaning 'wood of the wild cat'. It was once an old rural village drawn into the Industrial Revolution when Abraham Darby and Richard Reynolds decided to build ironworks on the land which is now the site of the main Glynwed factory. Aya Rayburn is the most famous product.

**KETLEY LIGHTMOOR RAILWAY**

This once ran from Ketley Junction to Lightmoor linking the industrial areas to places further afield. It was built by the Wellington and Severn Junction Railway Company and opened on May 1st 1857. It was extended to Lightmoor in 1859, and a junction was made there. It later became part of the Great Western Railway, with halts at Newdale, Lawley, Ketley Town and Ketley Station. The Station house and platforms can still be seen as you cross Station Road. This road is part of Watling Street - an old Roman road.



Pool at Newdale



IBW signposts along the way (Newdale Pool)



Old Railway Line - Newdale

**NEWDALE - THE LOST VILLAGE**

In 1987, prior to open casting of the area, an archaeological dig found the remains of a unique settlement and iron works of the 1750's. The layout suggested that a large industrial community had been planned by Coalbrookdale Company as a scheme to move their Ironworks out of the Gorge. Why they wanted to move remains a mystery and by 1768 the works had been converted in a Quaker meeting house. This was one of the first planned industrial towns in Britain.

**NEWDALE BRIDGE**

Just off the path is an impressive 2 arch brick and stone bridge built in 1759 by the Coalbrookdale Company to carry a mineral line over Ketley Brook and link their works to the Ketley Lightmoor railway line along which you are walking. The bridge is now a Grade 2 Listed building as it is one of the last remnants of the Industrial Revolution left in the area.



Overlooking Newdale



Lawley



Stiles on old railway line (between Newdale and Ketley)

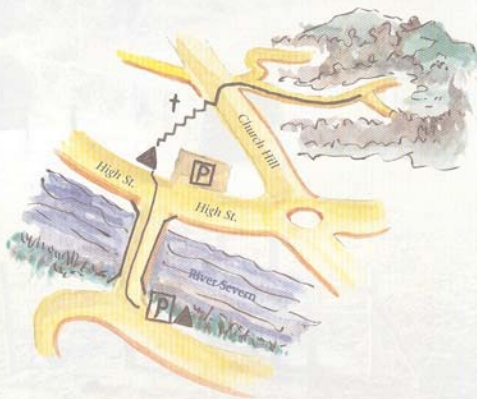


Near M54 - another footpath - not IBW

KEY	
The Ironbridge Way	—
Circular Walks	.....
Public Houses	▲
Underpass	—/—
Playing Fields	PF
Open green spaces	—
Parking	P
Stiles	—/—
Bridges	—/—
Woodland	—
Pools	—

# THE IRONBRIDGE WAY

A walk along many of these footpaths will take you past pools and pitmounds, through woodlands and along old lanes. Many of these have their origins in a much noisier, industrial past. They now provide homes for a variety of plants and animals.



# THE IRONBRIDGE WAY

## LAWLEY

This is a small industrial village with a shop, a school, a Victorian parish church of 1865 and a large common on high ground. There was formerly much mining of coal here and recently great open cast pits have ravaged the land. The name Lawley is from the old English Lafa's - Leah. Lafa was a personal name. The last Anglo-Saxon to hold the manor was Erngeat.



Just after Horseshay



Doseley / Little Dawley



Castle pools



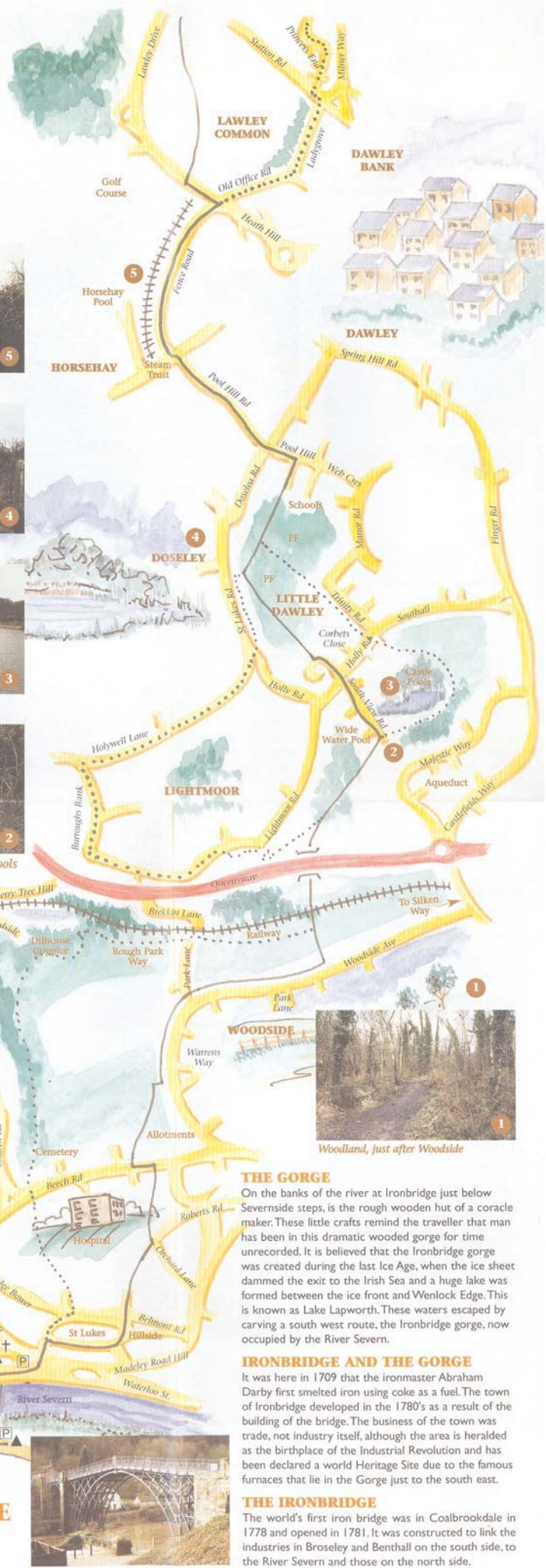
Woodland approaching Castle Pools

## ROUGH PARK

From the 1750's to 1970, coal was mined here and later clay was dug out to supply local brick works. Reclamation of the dereliction left behind and newly planted woodlands have created an informal park. Rough Park Way, a footpath and bridle way, links Coalbrookdale to Madeley Court, where it meets the Silkin Way



THE IRONBRIDGE WAY



Woodland, just after Woodside

## THE GORGE

On the banks of the river at Ironbridge just below Severnside steps, is the rough wooden hut of a coracle maker. These little crafts remind the traveller that man has been in this dramatic wooded gorge for time unrecorded. It is believed that the Ironbridge gorge was created during the last Ice Age, when the ice sheet dammed the exit to the Irish Sea and a huge lake was formed between the ice front and Wenlock Edge. This is known as Lake Lapworth. These waters escaped by carving a south west route, the Ironbridge gorge, now occupied by the River Severn.

## IRONBRIDGE AND THE GORGE

It was here in 1709 that the ironmaster Abraham Darby first smelted iron using coke as a fuel. The town of Ironbridge developed in the 1780's as a result of the building of the bridge. The business of the town was trade, not industry itself, although the area is heralded as the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution and has been declared a world Heritage Site due to the famous furnaces that lie in the Gorge just to the south east.

## THE IRONBRIDGE

The world's first iron bridge was in Coalbrookdale in 1778 and opened in 1781. It was constructed to link the industries in Broseley and Benthall on the south side, to the River Severn and those on the north side.

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