

Walk No 1

Jackfield Tile Museum to Salthouses to The Werps to Severn Valley Way to The Tuckies

Starting from Jackfield Tile Museum (car park nearby), this walk takes in a good slice of Jackfield's remarkable history, including **an early lodging house, a distinctive church, former tile works, and a 19C pub next to the old ferry crossing**. From here the walk continues along the riverside, offering fine views of **Coalport and its bridge**, before returning along the line of the former **Severn Valley Railway**. The walk concludes by exploring a fascinating stretch of the old **Tuckies** community with the oldest house of any size within the Gorge.



Accessibility: Boots are essential all year round for frequent muddy sections on this walk, particularly in winter. The walk is mostly on the level and involves negotiating a number of stiles and/or gates. Two sections run alongside the river - children will need to be supervised.



Key Features: Industrial, social and cultural history, archaeology, viewpoints.



Length & Time: About 3.5km, about 2 hours (2.5km, 1¼ hours for shorter option)



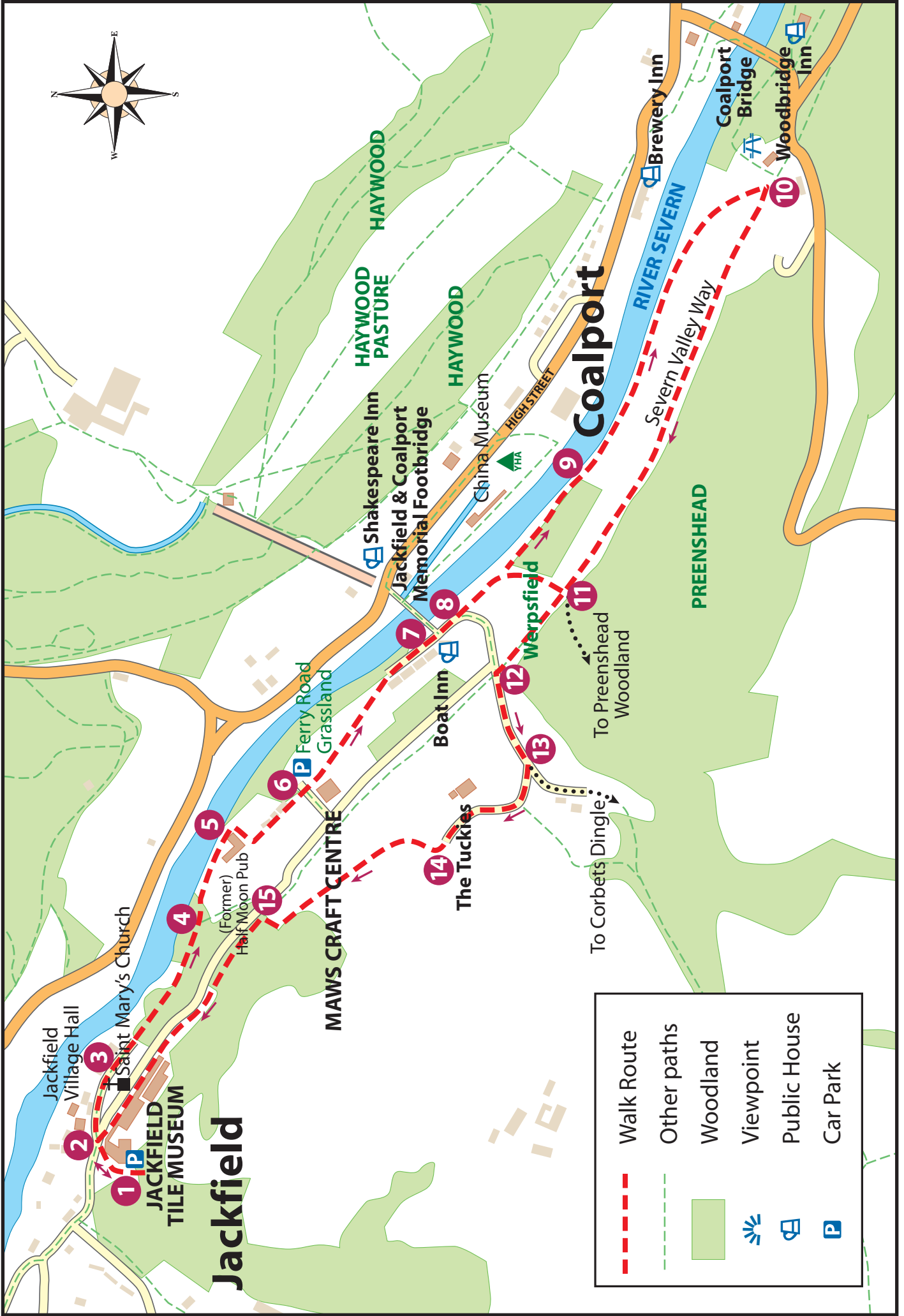
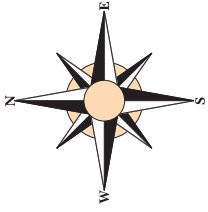
Public Transport: Buses to Jackfield (Calcutts Road) and nearby Ironbridge & Coalport



Refreshments: Black Swan and Boat Inn, cafés at Jackfield Tile Museum and Maw's Craft Centre



Toilets: At pubs in Jackfield, Jackfield Tile Museum, Maw's Craft Centre, also in Ironbridge.



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1 With the front of the Tile Museum on your right, cross directly over the road into Church Road.

2 As you take a few steps down Church Road towards the church, cast your eyes to the left, below road level, to a white-rendered house named the 'Severn Trow'.

Continue walking down Church Road towards St. Mary's Church.

3 Continue down Church Road. The metalled road ends rather abruptly after a few more metres with some bollards. However, it is possible to continue down a track, slightly off to the left. As you walk along, the path at one point approaches the riverbank from where a sense of some of Jackfield's famous 'rapids' can be appreciated. You may also notice on the path, small sections of tarmac, or concrete, or brickwork, especially off to the right, and a general awareness of severely disturbed ground.

4 You will soon exit from the scrub woodland into a large cleared area. Ahead of you is a half-timbered building, the former Half Moon pub, with a road off to the right. This road was built as a service road - used publicly nonetheless - to the major tile manufacturer, Maw & Co. It was noted for its straightness and acquired the local name of 'The Mekest' (see page 20) with an interesting derivation. However, we shall continue instead on the track round to the left, in front of the former Half Moon pub.

5 Continue past the former pub for a few metres and take the first narrow path off to the right and subsequently left into a narrow lane which is Salthouse Road.

6 The narrow lane you have just walked up soon exits into the open. There is a car park off to the left, and to the right the surviving buildings of Maw & Co's huge decorative tile works. These have been converted into an enterprising Craft Centre and are well worth a visit either now or at the end of your walk.

Continue on to the path at the side of Maw's Craft Centre, with the car park on your left, and a pleasant landscaped green area. As you walk down, the great brick factory wall of Maw's is on your right..

7 The road exits into an open area in front of *The Boat Inn*, one of only three surviving pubs from the twenty three that Jackfield once boasted! It seems likely that it acquired so many because the village grew up in the 18C and the work of bargees and bow haulers, not to mention that of colliers and ironworkers, was thirsty work indeed!

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Continue on the road with the pub garden on your right, until after a few metres to come to where the road swings round to the right. Do NOT go on the road but continue straight on until you come to a (somewhat muddy) path with a wooden kissing gate on your right leading into a field.

8 There is the option now of going through the kissing gate and taking a short-cut via a newly created path within the field on the right, known as Werps Field. This short-cut will bring you out to Step **11** on the route. If not taking the short-cut, continue straight on along the riverside path, passing another tall hummock on the left made by the dumping of yet more tile waste from Maw's. Continue on this riverside path until you come to a gate and stile.

Some 80 metres downriver, you may notice that the path is 'brick-lined' in places. Shortly, on the right, there is a gap leading into a cleared area with a low brick retaining wall within the scrub woodland.

9 Continue on the riverside path until you come to a gate. Pass through the kissing gate into the meadow. The path more or less follows the river for about 350 metres.

Continue along the rough, unmarked and somewhat muddy path which heads up across the field towards a power line. Just before this crosses the hedge on the hillside, you will find a kissing gate. Pause for a moment to turn round and look upstream. You will find a marvellous view of Ironbridge with the Wrekin behind.

10 Pass through the kissing gate onto the Severn Valley Way, where you should turn right.

Continue on the walk until you arrive at an interpretive board on the right (in front of the Werps Field which you passed earlier, lower down) and with a stile on your left.

11 The stile on the left leads into the woodland known as Preenshead, also managed by Severn Gorge Countryside Trust

12 The Severn Valley Way soon passes over a bridge which allows a road below to pass under the old railway line. There are steps down here which you should take, bringing you to what is called The Tuckies Road, serving the old community of The Tuckies.

Walk up the Tuckies Road for about 80 metres.

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13 A private track off to the right serves The Tuckies house, the oldest and possibly most interesting house of any size within the Gorge:

Continue on for another 20 metres where the road comes to a Y-junction. Our walk takes us off to the right.

14 Walk up the right hand fork of the Y. You will come to the Tuckies Farm buildings, now a private dwelling. The track you are on passes between the farmhouse and old byres and stables and thence to the back of The Tuckies house where a very good view of the restored half-timbered dwelling is to be had. The track then goes past a modern dwelling and ends in a field gate with a kissing gate to the side leading to fields beyond.

15 Pass through the kissing gate and continue along the unmarked path through the fields ahead at approximately 45 degrees to the hedge on your right. The path is apt to get very muddy, especially in winter and you may wish to retrace your steps to the Severn Valley Way and continue your walk back to Jackfield Tile Museum that way.

Continue following the track through the fields, bearing right to the bottom far end corner, where there is a gate and kissing gate, and a dozen steps leading down onto the Severn Valley Way.

16 Turn left after the steps back along the Severn Valley Way.

You will soon come to the section of Jackfield's famous 'temporary' wooden road laid over the bed of the former railway.

Continue on down the road to Jackfield Tile Museum and your starting point. Alternatively, you may wish to retrace your steps a little to explore Maw's Craft Centre where there is also a café.