

Walk No 3

Maw's Craft Centre to The Severn Valley Way to Coalport Bridge to Silkin Way to the Memorial Bridge

Starting from Maw's Craft Centre which occupies some of the surviving buildings of the **Maw's Tile Works**, this historic walk begins by travelling down the line of the **former Severn Valley Railway**, from where there is a view of **The Tuckies**, the oldest house of any size in the Gorge, with lovely views also across the river to Coalport. The walk crosses the **Coalport Bridge**, a late 18C/early 19C cast iron bridge still carrying vehicles, thence drops down to river level, before gently inclining along the **Silkin Way**, established on the bed of the other railway that Coalport once boasted, the **London & North Western Railway (LNWR)**. The walk continues down a short section of the High Street, passes the impressive Hay Inclined Plane and the nearby Tar Tunnel, and then crosses the **Jackfield & Coalport Memorial Footbridge**.



Accessibility: There can be some muddy sections along this walk and boots or stout footwear are recommended. The walk is largely on the level, without stiles, but with steps up and down the Memorial Bridge, and around the picnic area of Preenseddy. Care is needed along the short section of Coalport High Street – children will need to be supervised.



Key Features: Industrial and social history, archeology, views, nature



Length & Time: 3½ km about 1½–1¾ hours



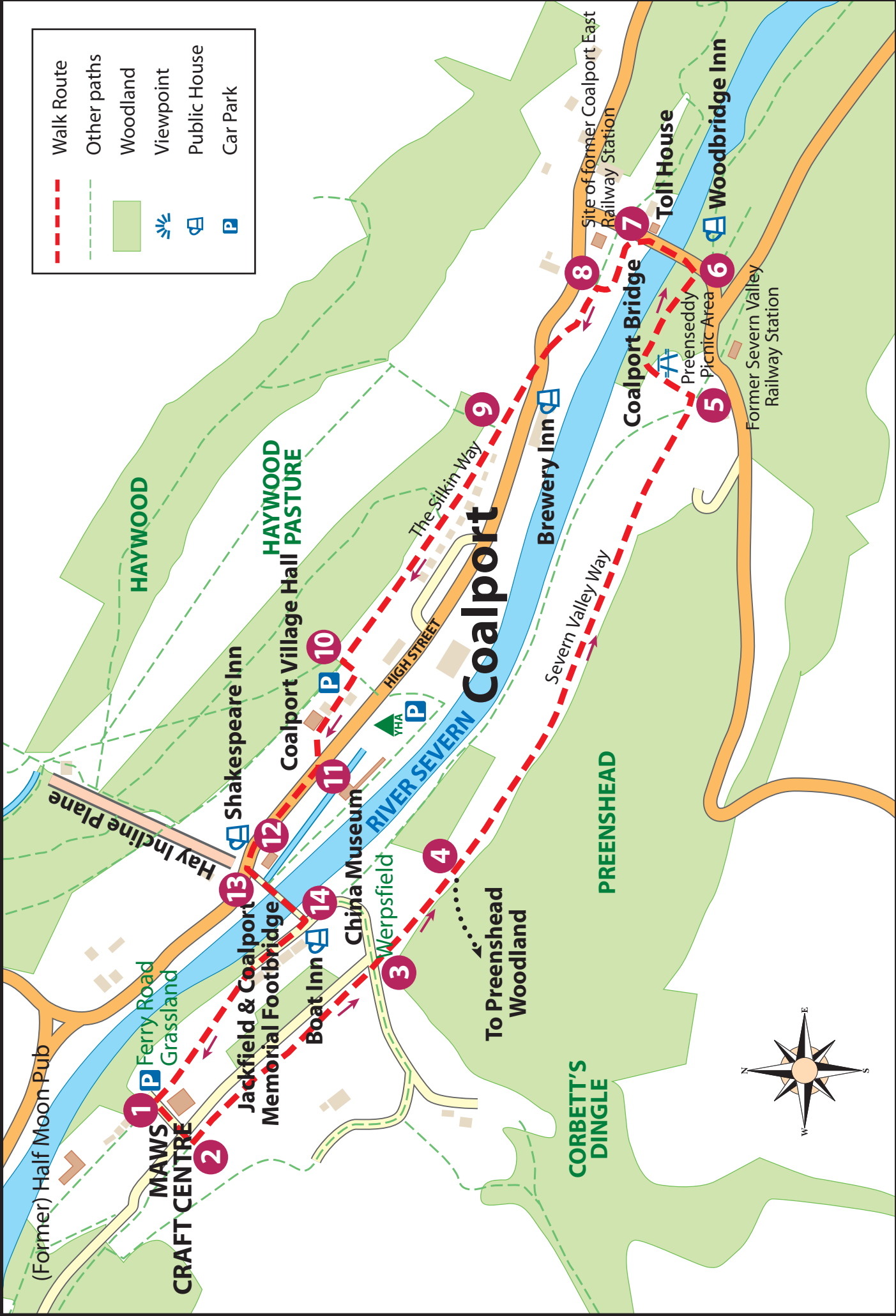
Public Transport: Buses to Jackfield and Coalport



Refreshments: Maw's Craft Centre, The Woodbridge Inn, The Brewery Inn, The Shakespeare Inn, The Boat Inn.



Toilets: The China Museum, Coalport Youth Hostel, Maw's Craft Centre



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1 Maw's Craft Centre (car park nearby) is the starting point for this walk and is well worth a visit either now or at the end of the walk. The Centre utilises a number of the surviving buildings of what was once the largest decorative tile manufacturer in the world.

With Maw's frontage on your left, cross the road ahead and walk up the slope towards the Severn Valley Way.

2 Turn left onto the Severn Valley Way and continue straight on.

After about 200 metres a large house (3 dwellings nowadays) called 'The Tuckies' comes into view on the right hand side across a field which usually has horses and ponies grazing.

A further 100 metres on and you come to a bridge, allowing The Tuckies Road to pass beneath the railway.

3 Pause for a moment here.

Carry on for another 150 metres until you come to a field on your left with an interpretive board and a stile opposite leading into woodland on your right.

4 Pause for a moment, perhaps taking the opportunity to read the interpretive board.

The remainder of this section of the walk down the Severn Valley Way is a pleasant stroll of about half a mile, with woodland to the right, and scrub to the left but occasionally allowing splendid glimpses across the river to the village of Coalport.

There are distinctive remains of its china industry, now a major museum site. At the end of the former line, the path turns sharp left.

5 A few metres after the sharp left turn, you may notice a gate, and, tucked back, a black and white, half-timbered cottage and garden with the unusual name of Ward's Tyning. It is notable as possibly one of the oldest cottages in the Gorge. The path continues down for a while, then curves round to the right, through Preenseddy picnic area, former meadow land, and thence up some steps to the road. Coalport Bridge is on your left and the Woodbridge Inn more or less straight over the road.

6 Before you turn left over the bridge, look to the right.

Walk over the Coalport Bridge with the former toll house on the right hand side.

7 On the other side of the bridge, look out for a wooden 5-barred gate on your left and a sign marked to the 'Silkin Way'. Follow the sign, walking down the gently sloping path ahead of you.

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- 8** Turn left at the T-junction, and after another 100 metres or so, take the right fork which winds behind the LNWR railway cottages, under the road bridge, before emerging to run parallel to Coalport High Street. When you come to a car park on your left, pause for a moment.
- 9** If you look left, on the other side of the road is a pub with an interesting history.
- 10** Take the left turn which passes behind, then through the car park of Coalport Village Hall, before exiting into the High Street.
- 11** Turn right down Coalport High Street. Further down on the right you will come to *The Shakespeare Inn* and car park also on the right.
- 12** Continue on past the pub, over the road bridge, to a turning off to the left and a few steps down. From there, you can view the restored section of the Coalport canal and, looking back, get a good view of the Hay Inclined Plane as it passes under the road.
- 13** Now walk over the Jackfield & Coalport Memorial footbridge to the other side of the river.

On the other side of the bridge you are met by a pleasant riverside area fronting a 19C pub, *The Boat Inn*.

- 14** From the bridge turn right up Ferry Road, past a solidly-built terrace of company houses on the left. Actually, just past the pub, the first house on the corner of the terrace used to be a shop with a flight of steps up by the side leading to Jackfield's Railway 'Halt' on the Severn Valley Railway. Past the housing, the road gives way to a path in the lee of the former tile factory of Maw & Co. On the right is a pleasant area of amenity grassland. You will soon notice ahead a rather strange chute emerging from the brick wall on your left.

Continue up the path, past the grassland until you come back to your starting point at Maw's Craft Centre.