

The remains of Blists Hill Ironworks now form the centrepiece of a Victorian working museum containing many buildings of historical interest. These include the mid-late 19th century brickworks, canal wharf, the Blists Hill mine (which was worked on alternate weeks for clay and coal) and the world's last working wrought-iron works. The brickworks closed in 1933 and the neighbouring open-cast clay pit (partly infilled) is now the lower part of the museum car park.

The Madley Court Works, had been closed in 1902 and are now only remembered in the name of the nearby Madley Court Works, had been closed in 1902 and 1912. The three furnaces of Madley's other ironworks, to produce top quality pig iron until they were closed in Hill and local coal and iron ore these furnaces continued Shropshire Canal. Using limestone from Lincoln Ironbridge to Blists Hill. On the banks of the ironmaking operation from Bedlam Furnaces near In 1832 the Madley Wood Company moved its used to raise an empty one in the opposite direction.

counterbalance system, the weight of a loaded boat being. These inclines were mainly operated by gravity on a parish near present-day Brookside) and at Great Hay Shropshire Canal at Windmill Farm (on the edge of the this time carrying small tub boats, could be found on the lattice Lee Dingle Bridge. Two similar inclined planes, with Blists Hill Ironworks via the lofty wrought-iron tramway inclined plane connected the Meadow Colliery Nations pub, where Bagley's Wind a 19th century of this system can be seen at Blists Hill, near the All pits, lime workings and ironworks. A spectacular relic complex network of tramways connecting the various By the 18th century the area was crisscrossed by a churchyard.

topped communal grave can be seen in St. Michael's they were hurried to the bottom of the pit. Their iron- the winding rope as they were ascending the shaft and they were raised and lowered became unhooked from boy of 12) were killed when the loops of chain on which Men of Madley (the youngest, William Onions was a Madley's worst mining disaster in 1864 when the 'Nine

For what at first sight appears to be a heavily built up area, Madeley has a surprising amount of unspoilt open space which can be reached by the extensive network of footpaths shown on our map. We hope you will enjoy using the paths and visiting some of the places of interest mentioned.

Wherever relevant, waymark discs are used to signify direction – yellow arrows for footpaths, blue arrows for bridleways.

Please remember the following points when using public footpaths:

- Please leave gates as you found them
- A number of paths cross private land or are near to houses – keep dogs (and children!) under control and keep noise to a minimum
- Take your litter home with you
- Report any problems, obstructions or suggestions for improvement to STROWP (contact details on next page), or Madeley Town Council, Jubilee House, High Street, Madeley (tel. 01952 567280).

Details of more places of interest in the Madeley area can be found in booklets and leaflets including:

- Nature Walks in Madeley Parish
- The Madeley Tree Trail
- Madeley Town Trail
- Madeley's historic people, places and events (published by STROWP, Madeley Town Council, and Madeley Living History Project)

Please see also www.madeleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Local historical information is also available at: www.madeleylocalhistory.org

The earliest mines in the area were simply tunnels driven into the hillside following the seams of coal that outcropped along the sides of the Ironbridge Gorge. By the 18th century deep mines with vertical shafts were being sunk in the parish to follow the coal seams as they dipped away to the north and east, with the first steam pumping engine in 1719 allowing miners to work the deeper, wetter seams. One of these deep mines the Brick Kiln Leasow or 'Lane' Pit was the scene of

1930s while their oak and birch cover is the result of Scots Pines and sweet chestnut as part of a job creation scheme during the depression of the late 1920s and 1930s. The area was the result of a job creation scheme during the depression of the late 1920s and 1930s while their oak and birch cover is the result of Scots Pines and sweet chestnut as part of a job creation scheme during the depression of the late 1920s and 1930s while their oak and birch cover is the result of

known as 'Chartermasters' Row'. The appearance of modern Madley was, probably more than any other area of Telford, shaped by the Industrial Revolution. By the late 18th century Madley was a thriving centre of the coal, iron and clay industries within the Coalbrookdale Coalfield. The spoil heaps of former pits still dominate the landscape with the largest remaining, that of the former Meadow Colliery, visible for miles around. Many were planted with

of the Madley Wood Company. Between the 17th and 19th centuries much of the High Street and the present Station Road were developed and their timber-framed cottages replaced by the buff-coloured houses, terraces and shops which still remain. A market hall was built in 1870 at the top of the High Street and now serves as the offices of Madley Town Council. The upper ends of Park Street and Park Lane contain a number of fine houses which were the homes of the men who operated the local pits under 'charter' from the landowners and part of this area was once

Methodist movement flourished in this area. Fletcher's wife, Mary, a prominent lay preacher, is buried with

Upper House in Church Street was built c.1621 by Francis Wolfe. Its barn was used as a hiding place by the future King Charles II during his flight after defeat at the Battle of Worcester in 1651. Also in Church Street is The Little Haye – a two-day medieval hall which is one of the oldest buildings in Madley – as well as a number of fine 17th and 18th century buildings including Madley Hall with its coach house, barn and stables; Hall Cottages; The Old Vicarage and St. Michael's church.

St. Michael's was rebuilt in its present, octagonal, form in 1796 to replace an earlier church on the same site which had become unstable. The 'new' church is one of only two buildings in Telford actually designed by Telford himself. A series of memorials to the Brooke family can be seen on the upper exterior of the church. In the churchyard are several cast-iron tombs including those of the ironmasters William Baldwin (1822) and R.R. Anstce (1853) as well as the cast-iron chest tomb of John Fletcher. Fletcher, who was Swiss-born, was vicar of Madley in the late 18th century. He was one of the principal theologians of the 18th century Evangelical Revival and was a close friend of John Wesley one of the founders of Methodism as a result of which the

Madley has a number of listed buildings and sites which reflect its prosperity and historical significance. Madley Court dates mainly from the late 16th – early 17th centuries with traces of 13th century fabric. It was built as a grange of Wenlock Priory. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries it was bought in 1553 by Robert Brooke, sometime Speaker of the House of Commons, and stayed in his family until the 18th century. Robert's grandson, Sir Basil Brooke (1576-1646), was a founding father of the Industrial Revolution. Madley Court was also tenanted by Abraham Darby I from 1709 until his death.

The first recorded historical reference to Madley dates from 727 when it was purchased by Millburga, Abbess of Wenlock Priory. The Saxon name means 'Mad(d)'s clearing – Madda being an Anglo-Saxon personal name. By the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 Madley was valued at 50 shillings – the manor of Birmingham was valued at 20 shillings! In 1269 Madley achieved town status with the granting of a charter for a weekly market and an annual fair.

South Telford Rights Of Way Project

STROWP is a project set up to define, improve and publicise access to the Rights of Way network throughout South Telford.

For further information please contact:
Alec Connah, STROWP Project Officer
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Stirchley, Telford TF3 1FL
Tel: 01952 567149



ROUTES AROUND Madeley



Lee Dingle Bridge

Key to Places of Interest

1. The Brick Kiln Leasowes or "Lane" Colliery
2. The Meadow Colliery (the path leading to "3" follows the route of an old tramway)
3. Lee Dingle Bridge & Baguley's Wind
4. Blists Hill Furnaces
5. Great Hay Inclined Plane
6. Blists Hill & Shawfield Colliery Waste Heaps, and part of the Shropshire Canal
7. St. Michael's Church
8. Upper House & Barn
9. The Anstice Memorial Working Men's Institute
10. Madeley Market Station
11. Hills Lane Colliery
12. The Madeley Court Collieries
13. Madeley Court Hotel
14. The Windmill
15. Halesfield Colliery
16. Kemberton Colliery (the offices, pithead baths and canteen can still be seen)

KEY TO SYMBOLS

-  Footpath
-  Bridle way
-  Other major or linking paths
-  Silkkin Way
-  Ironbridge Way
-  Madeley Parish area
-  Pit Mounds



Kemberton Colliery, early 1960s (16)

Madeley Court (13)

Upper House Barn (8)

The grave of "The Nine Men of Madeley" in Madeley Churchyard (7)