

Walk L01 : Honeypot

A very varied walk through some beautiful countryside. The walk passes close to the deserted village of Darley and takes the walker past the impressive Willey Estate buildings and historic Willey village.

Distance : 5.2 miles / 8.4 km

Grade : Long Walk with a vertical gain of 430 ft. The walk follows footpaths, tracks, fields, lanes and a short stretch of road (with no pavement); there are patches of rough ground and the walk is not suitable for push chairs.



Willey village

History and Heritage

The walk starts over the 'Fiery Fields'. These fields show clear evidence of their mining legacy with spoil heaps and a collapsed mine shaft (now fenced off and covered with stones); in the 19th century these coal mines caught fire and burned for some time, hence the name Fiery Fields!

Willey village is on the site of one of John (Iron Mad) Wilkinson's ironworks in the 18th century, and the world's first iron boat, a barge, was built there in 1787. first working blast furnqce

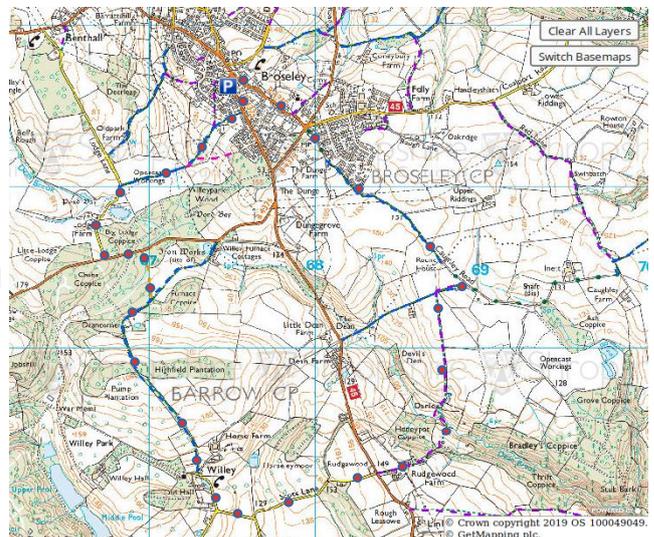
The deserted village of Darley is first mentioned in 1342; by 1609 there were several cottages possibly on the site of the 13th century hamlet. From the 1780s there were changes when the local saggar works closed and riverside areas lost their importance when the railway arrived in 1862. By 1911 Darley was comprised of just 2 residences and it was no longer recognisable as a hamlet by the 1980s.

From around 1775 to 1799 Caughley produced some of the finest soft-paste porcelain made in England. The porcelain was decorated largely in underglaze blue, although enamel colours and gilding were also used. Today, Caughley porcelain is highly collectable and much sought after.

Start.

The closest car park is at the library. From there walk along Bridgnorth Road away from town, and in about 100 metres take the track on your right opposite Foundary Lane. From here follow the path marked on the map.

On reaching the B4376 take care walking down the road to the gate into Willey Estate; traffic on this road can be fast and there is a grass verge that can be used by pedestrians for some of the distance.



Important Information. This leaflet shows a route using public rights of way. Please follow the countryside code. In particular keep to paths, leave gates as found, take litter home and keep dogs under control. If you are new to exercise or have any existing medical conditions or concerns check with your GP before undertaking any new physical activity. Check that the route is suitable for your level of fitness and that you have adequate resources for your planned activity. Wear clothing and footwear appropriate to the conditions and time of year.