

## Discovering the Jitties : Walk S01

*A walk through the wonderfully haphazard maze of cottages connected by narrow path called Jitties. This walk features some of the most interesting architecture Broseley has to offer!*

**Distance** : Approximately 2 miles / 3.2 km but you can vary this according to your needs.

**Grade** : A walk on pavements and narrow alleys; slopes and some steps. Not suitable for push chairs.

### History and Heritage

The Jitties date back to the 1590s when they were the focus for a squatter community of immigrant miners. At that time the miners were encouraged to construct cottages on common land on the edge of Broseley according to the tradition that allowed a man the right to build a cottage on common land as long as he was able to erect a chimney and hearth in a day. However these new workers weren't popular with the locals, they were social outcasts and many described them as the 'dregs of many counties', and their arrival prompted rioting by the townspeople.



In 1600 there were just 27 houses in Broseley but as the Industrial Revolution took hold and industry expanded in all directions, Broseley's population boomed which meant that the Jitties took on a new role for the industrial workers. Broseley became a boom town and a major centre for coal mining, iron manufacturing and earthenware. The low paid workers gravitated to the Jitties to live with their families and at its peak, this Jitty community in Broseley was self-contained, a kind of shanty town built from bricks and stone.

The Jitties are the tiny lanes that zig-zag around the backs of old cottages and once linked the mining community together. The names of the Jitties reflect the names of the people who lived there.

Cooper's Jitty comes from Mrs Cooper who lived in one of the cottages; Jews' Jitty was also known as Quinns' Bank, the Quinns lived in a house halfway down until they moved and a Jewish family, the Wolfsons, took up residence in the 1930s. Not all The Jitties are named according to their residents; Mission Jitty was christened after the nearby Mission Church whilst Maypole Jitty was the site of a maypole which dated back centuries. The Ding-Dong Steps are said to be named from the sound made by studs in workers' hobnail boots, returning home after a heavy day of labouring. However others think that the name originates from this being a place of fights or ding-dongs where disputes could be settled between its inhabitants. On Simmonds Jitty there is a wall built from ceramic 'Saggers' which were containers used for making clay pipes before they were placed in the furnace. Where ever you walk you are sure to pass hidden alleys and fascinating architecture.

### Start

Park in either the library or Dark Lane car park and start the walk from the Memorial gardens.

Walk up the High street passing the Victoria Hall and then bear right along Barber Street and Duke Street before reaching King Street. From here make your own way through the maze of paths and alleys and enjoy the experience!

It is highly recommended to obtain a copy of the leaflet 'Explore The Broseley Jitties' available at the library or download a copy from [www.visitbroseley.co.uk](http://www.visitbroseley.co.uk). The leaflet includes a map to allow you to explore the Jitties in your own way. There are also finger posts at intervals in the Jitties to help you find your way around.

**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.

