

The Mounds : Walk S03

Wooded footpaths taking you past the unique Pennystone Iron mounds of Broseley, a reminder of the industrial heritage of this town.

Distance : 1.5 miles / 2.4 km

Grade : A short walk with a vertical gain of 92ft. The walk follows footpaths, lanes and pavements. A family friendly walk but not suitable for push chairs.

History and Heritage

This area contains three large mounds which are waste heaps from Pennystone ironstone mining, plus shafts from later clay mining. Pennystone ironstone is named after the small flat, round, ironstone nodules, found within grey clay. This clay was brought to the surface and spread around the mine shaft so that the ironstone nodules could be picked out of the clay by women who collected it in iron boxes which they carried on their head. As the clay spoil built up, the mound got higher and the shaft was accordingly raised, which accounts for the shaft being located at the top of a waste mound!

Barnett's Leasow and Stocking Mounds date from the first half of the 19th century and remain substantially as they were when they were abandoned. The Lower Stocking mound is a much lower ironstone waste mound dating from the mid 19th century. It was opened when the other two mines closed and was only partly developed; as such it represents a rare if not unique example of a Pennystone ironstone mine in the early stages of development; again the site remains largely untouched since closure.

Cockshot Mound was a Pennystone Ironstone mine probably worked later for coal. Given the size of the mound the pit would have originally been wound by a steam engine sited at the bottom of the mound. A weighing machine or weighing bridge was also sited at the bottom of the mound and, on closure, associated buildings were demolished but the mound was left untouched.

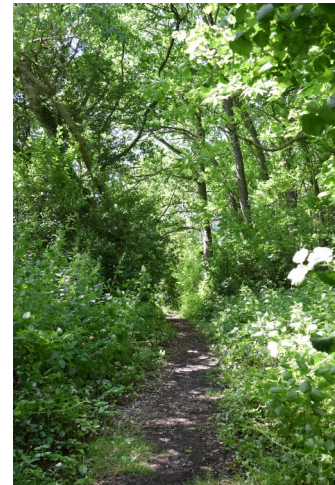
These mounds are rare and described by the English Heritage Monument Protection Programme for the Iron Industry as '*The best preserved example of a typical c18th – early c19th century iron mine*'.

Start.

The closest car park is at the Birchmeadow. Walk down to the lower car park then turn right on Cockshutt Lane and then cross over to take a track next to Syspal. At the end of this track take the footpath on the left and now follow the route marked on the map.

If wished this walk can be shortened (black dotted line); on reaching Balls Lane turn left and in about 200 m take the signposted footpath on the left that runs past the cricket field.

Once back to the Birchmeadow you can either walk back up the field to the car park, or walk over Cockshot Mound. For the latter, there is a path heading between trees and at the far end of the mound turn right (counter intuitively) to meet a path at the base of the mound, that takes you back to the Birchmeadow.



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.

A view along the way

