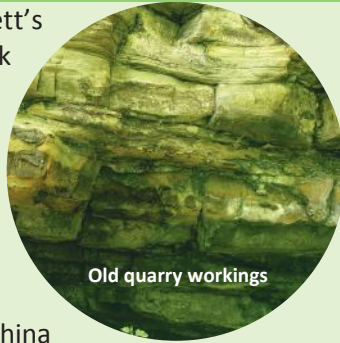


Corbett's Dingle, Evidence of Mining History

The Carboniferous sandstone rocks exposed in Corbett's Dingle are part of the coal measures series. You can look at the former ebbs and flows of ancient shallow waters in its bedding if you look closely. Some of the stone for All Saints was quarried in the dingle. Corbett's Dingle is now a well loved beauty spot where all that can be heard is the tinkling of a stream and bird song. It was less highly regarded formerly. There were many working pits here.

This path was the workers' route down to the Coalport China works, and Maws and Craven factories, since many employees lived in Broseley. You can see the remains of Maw's tile works waste which was used in the early 1980s to level the dingle path, now eroded and deposited at the bottom of the stream bed. The spoil heaps and mounds at the start, to your right near Coneybury Farm, are the visible remains of an old coal mine and have been colonised by birch, ash and hawthorn. Digging by foxes and badgers and erosion by heavy rains sometimes brings pieces of coal, slack and slag to the surface and they can be spotted from the path. Mining in the dingle goes back a long way, two shafts are shown on the 1728 Broseley Estate map with a tramway to the Severn at the Werps by Coalport. There was a Victorian clay mine at the bottom of the dingle. The old shafts and pit mounds are still visible off the path, though sealed off by fences for safety. Mining had mostly ended by mid Victorian times, the old clay mine at the bottom of the dingle was re-opened for a short time in the early years of the C20th, probably to supply clay to the Maws tile works. You pass Tuckies Engine House after going under the disused rail bridge, a 34 horse power Newcomen atmospheric engine was



Old quarry workings



Tile debris in stream



Exposed coal remains



Clay mine shaft



Tuckies Engine House: tall building in the centre with modern extensions

housed here to pump water from the Tuckies mines. It dates from the C18th and worked until the early-mid C19th. The shaft was filled in 1861. It became disused and was converted into a house in the 1990s.

Stabilising the Gorge in Jackfield

The geologically 'young' Ironbridge Gorge is unstable, river erosion and old flooded mines compound the problems. A massive landslide here in 1952 swept 27 houses away. A large part of Jackfield was destroyed and 17 families were re-housed in council housing in Broseley. The Gorge continued moving at a rate of a metre a year so people had to contend with a road built on wooden tracks that could cope with the periodic heaving of the ground underneath, with other undulations in the road like a mini roller coaster. Another landslide could have blocked the Severn, holding back water



which would then overflow and breach the temporary dam, threatening Bridgnorth downstream with a river tsunami. A £19 million stabilisation project was started in 2013 and completed in 2016. Around 2,000 10m deep piles were driven in 9 rows across the hillside, filled with concrete and sensors attached to detect future movement. The whole area was then planted with trees and new footpaths, walkways and a new road created. You can see a short section of the original wooden track way, with an information board, as you walk between Maws and the Craven Dunhill works. Just before the board, on the left hand grass verge, you can peer over the edge of a very deep hole! At the picnic area, you can see the remains of a former Victorian stabilisation project below you, copper boilers filled with concrete, (they lasted for 100 years and were retrieved from the river later, post landslide!)

St Mary the Virgin Church Jackfield : a showcase of local producer's skills

This local gem was built by public subscription in 1862-63 as a memorial to a local benefactor George Pritchard, associated with bringing clean water to the district after the cholera epidemics of the 1830s. Built on land offered free by Francis and Harriet Harries of Broseley Estate, it is an early work by Arthur William Blomfield, one of Britain's most accomplished Victorian architects, later knighted. A range of Maw's coloured bricks, floor and roof tiles creates decorative effects, inside and out; there's a famous reredos crucifixion scene made from hand painted Craven Dunhill tiles. You'll find a light switch to the right of the door and information booklets.



Tiles were donated by Maw's