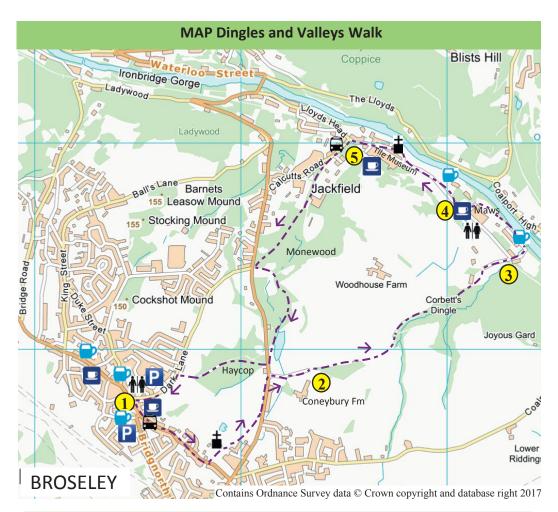


Our dingles and valleys walk, shown in purple on the map above, would have looked and sounded very different over a century ago. You can see many workers routes on foot to their workplaces from Broseley. One route goes down a track between two hedges to the huge tile works along the Severn following the line of an old tramway down Corbett's Dingle. You can see an old coal mine near Coneybury Farm, the clay mine at the bottom of the dingle and the railway through Jackfield. The Boat Inn is marked as a PH. The ferry that predated the bridge is shown. Also clearly marked are Tileries, and Tile and Brick Works along the Severn and the Monewood valleys. The present day footpath along the north of the Monewood valley follows the line of an tram railway line and the path at the southern end follows an old footpath between collieries that were already disused by the end of the C19th. The Haycop is an old colliery and pit mound. Old maps also show that some of the woodland is ancient and survived from a pre industrial age, though many trees you can see today re colonised the valley after industry ended.



For two hundred years, throughout the C19 and C20th, Broseley was famous for roof tiles because of the high quality of the deep clay found around the area, especially in Jackfield. By 1840 a number of large works were sending tiles all over the country downstream on the Severn. The first decorative 'encaustic' tiles were made by the by Exleys in the 1830s. In 1852 Maw and Co. moved to Benthall to save the cost of shipping clay downstream to their works at Worcester. They opened a works at Jackfield in 1883, where Craven Dunnill (now a museum), had already started making decorative tiles in 1870s. At the turn of the century there were at least ten other firms making bricks and roofing tiles in the area, Broseley Tileries being on the outskirts of the town. 'Broseley Tiles' became a term associated with the highest quality tiles exported all over the world. St. Mary's Church, Jackfield is a showpiece of local decorative brick and tiles work, both inside and in its exterior fabric and roof and is well worth a visit.