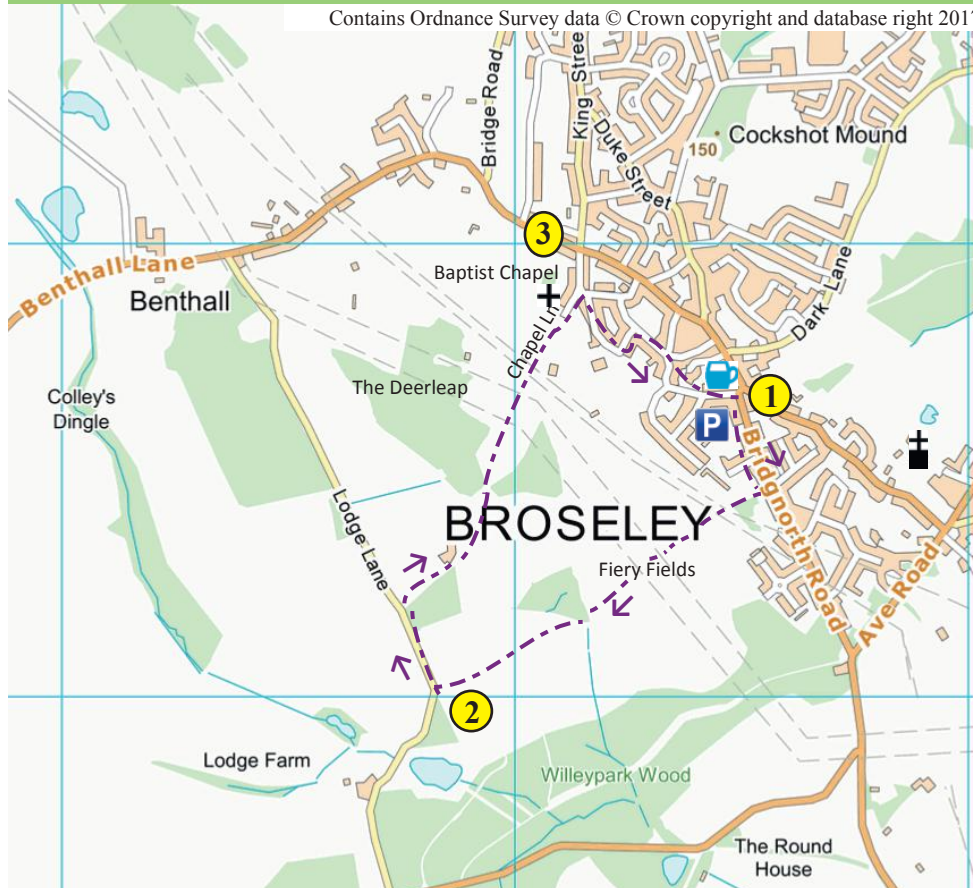


## MAP The Fiery Fields and Chapel Lane Walk

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### Fiery Fields and Chapel Lane Bridleway

A 1.9 miles / 3 km short walk, on foot paths, lane and bridleways, vertical gain 92 ft / 28m

*An easy walk, popular with families, over the mysteriously named Fiery Fields before returning along an old trackway (once it probably transported coal, now it's a quiet bridleway) past the town's old Baptist Chapel. A lovely scenic walk with woody paths and features of historic interest. One small section may be muddy after rain; not suitable for push chairs. There may be cattle in the fields during the summer months, so care must be taken if walking with dogs. Please follow NFU and Ramblers guidance about walking with dogs and the Countryside Code.*

#### 1 Town Centre to Lodge Lane via Fiery Fields 1 km / 0.6 miles

The closest car park and bus stop is at the library. With your back to the library turn right and walk along Bridgnorth Road, in about 100 metres take the track on your right opposite Foundry Lane. Go straight on along the track and then go through the gate in front of you into a field and continue straight on. The small heaps and mounds are the only evidence now of past coal mining here, probably from C17th onwards, certainly C18th. The coal measures were almost at the surface and it was possible for escaping methane gas to be set alight; fires were common as spontaneous combustion occurred from the waste tips and coal seams near and at ground level. This is why it gained the name 'the fiery fields'. On your left you can see a pile of white stones which forms a cap over old mine workings. Although deep mining here long since ended in this field, open cast mining continued in the lower fields and on either side of Lodge Lane into the present century. These fields have since been restored to pasture and the NW corner of Lodge Lane replanted with trees, all trace of the recent open cast mines are gone.



View of The Deerleap and old mine mounds from the Baptist chapel

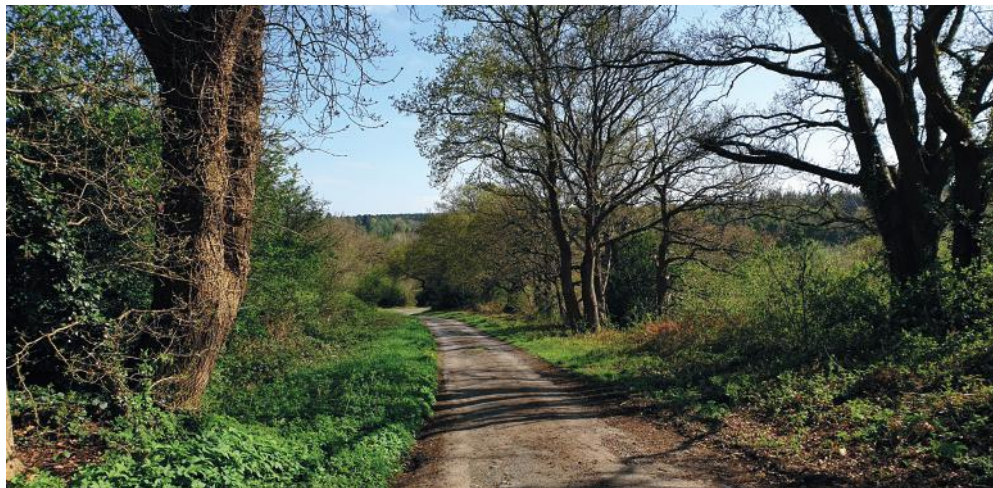
Continue down the well trodden path through the open fields, go straight on through a second gate and walk along a wide bridleway path between hedges either side. After about 400m you come to Lodge lane where you turn right.

## 2 Lodge lane to the Baptist Chapel 1.5km/ 0.9miles

The lane is very quiet and tranquil now but not long ago it was noisy and busy with lorries carrying coal. As you walk along the lane take the opportunity to look across the fields to your left, and sometimes back down behind you, to fully enjoy the views. After about 200m turn right following a bridleway sign and go through a metal gate. The bridleway goes between fences and hedges either side, following the line of a former trackway used to transport materials to and from the mines.



*The views along Lodge Lane are beautiful in all directions, especially to the south.*



The bridleway passes the edge of a woodland area known as The Deerleap; the origins of this name may come from hunting activities associated with an old hunting lodge situated between Barrow and Broseley. The 'deer leap' referred to a form of pit-fall from trapping game, so either the deer leapt into this pit or maybe sometimes managed to leap over it! As you might guess from the heaps and dips in the ground the area around the Deerleap has been mined, the site of very old bell pits probably from the C17th or earlier, reworked at the end of the C19th. You may glimpse remains of old paths, gates and stiles as you walk by but these are now closed to the public. The path eventually becomes a tarmac lane, stay left as you go up hill, ignore the Tynning footpath on the right.



Chapel Lane bridleway

## 3 Baptist Chapel to Town Centre via Mill lane 0.5km /0.3miles

As was common in many other mining areas in England and Wales, non conformist religious groups had many adherents in Broseley. The path ends at an old Baptist Chapel, built in 1742 and still open for worship. From here there are a number of ways back to the library passing buildings showcasing the architectural heritage of Broseley, nestled amid more modern houses. One route is to turn right after the



Old Baptist Chapel

church and right again along Mill Lane, it may look like a dead end, but there is a footpath, almost hidden, at the end which goes down to Woodhouse Rd (formerly Workhouse Rd.) From here go right, then left down Hockley Rd, past the Duke of York pub, at the end of the road the library is clearly seen to the right. Mill Lane refers to two windmills, the stump of one can still just be seen when looking towards the Deerleap. These are shown on the tithe map but by 1882 only one was left standing.

*Cattle graze some Broseley fields in summer, there may be horses, sheep, cows with calves and even a bull in some fields. Cattle are generally placid, curious animals and may follow you. Accidents in the UK are very rare, but any animal can take fright and behave unpredictably, if threatened; in particular, dogs running free can spook them. Keep dogs on a short lead when walking across fields with livestock, however, if threatened by a cow the advice of the NFU is to let go of your dog and get yourself to safety as the cow will chase the dog not you. Your dog is likely to outrun a cow so don't try to pick up your dog and carry it away. Please report any serious incident with livestock to the farmer and the local council.*