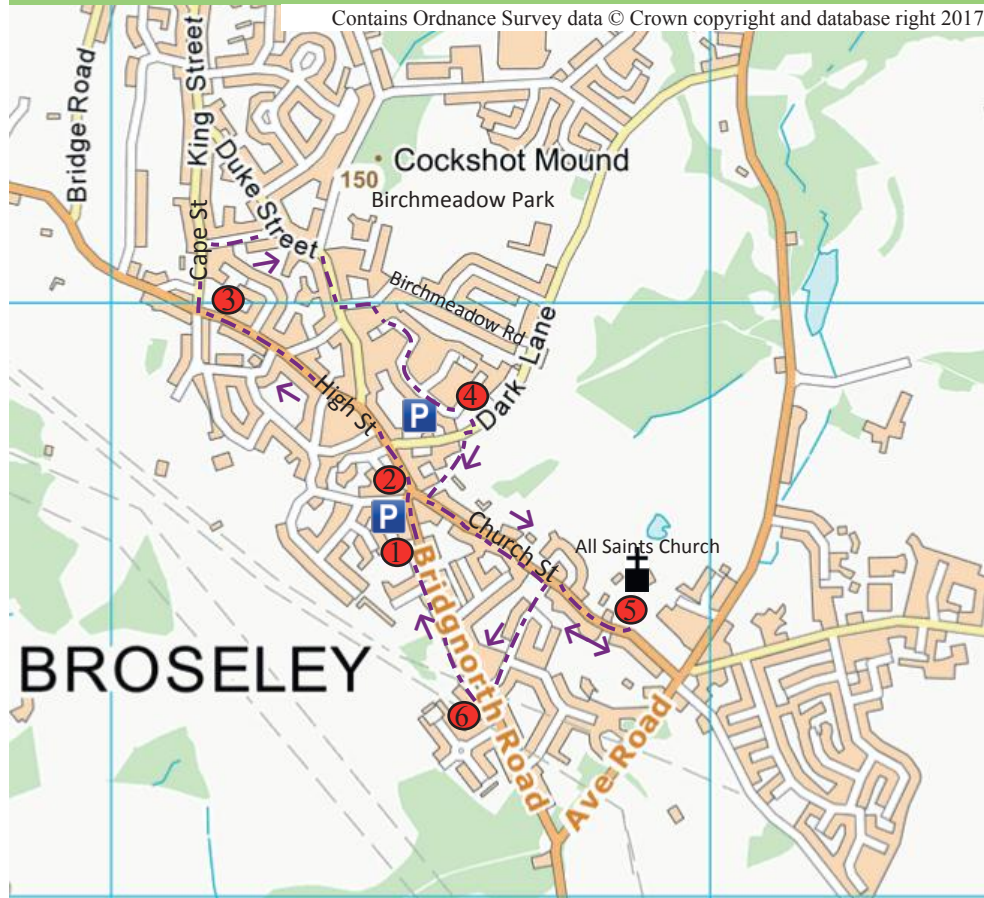


MAP Sculpture Trail: each sculpture's location is shown by a red dot



Broseley Sculpture Trail



2.7 km / 1.7 miles ramble around the town on pavements, with a few gentle slopes, suitable for all the family, including those in push chairs.

The walk features six sculptures made from scrap iron. They were salvaged from the decommissioned power station. Designed by Gerry Foxall in 1984, these sculptures reflect the rich mining and industrial heritage of Broseley, celebrating the town's part in the Industrial Revolution; an opportunity to appreciate and learn about the hard working lives of men and pit ponies underground.

Gerry Foxall, a well known sculptor from Madeley, Telford, renowned for being a master of 'scrap art', created these pieces using salvaged scrap iron including chains, horseshoes, tools and everyday household items. There is a large mining sculpture by him on the green off Prince St, near the Cuckoo Oak roundabout in Madeley. His best known work, a large miner's horse and cart, was used as a landmark sculpture on the Granville roundabout in north Telford, where there was a huge coal mine, the last deep mine to close in Shropshire, now Granville Country Park.

When Telford new town was created a number of artists were commissioned to design works of art celebrating the history and heritage of this part of Shropshire. These mining sculptures were designed to mark the tradition of making power in the Ironbridge Gorge based on coal, and to celebrate local pride in the coal mining industry. Designed to be displayed in the huge hall of the coal fired power station or placed in a large open space, they formed a massive single art work. The individual sculptures you see on the trail were originally a homogeneous group. As a complete representation of a complex mining scene they must have been an impressive sight but only people working there could appreciate and enjoy them, now you can too.



This is a fascinating circular walk on which you will pass many interesting historic buildings (see town trail history walk) as well as the six sculptures. Photos don't really do justice to the dynamic nature of these art works which really convey movement and hard work and empathy for the miners and pit ponies; do take the opportunity to look closely, walk around them and peer from odd angles to appreciate them fully and admire their imaginative use of scrap iron.



Start at the Library car park where **sculpture 1, miners pushing coal tubs onto a cage lift**, is displayed at the exit. Turn left, then right into Broseley High Street. In a small square next to the Memorial gardens, is **sculpture 2, a miner leading a pit pony**. Go straight on up the hill, at the mini roundabout past the Spar take the left fork. Cross the road and continue for about 250m past Fox Lane and Jackson Avenue. **Sculpture 3, a miner pushing a loaded tub along underground rails**, is just before Cape St on a green to your right. Turn right down Cape St, then right down Queen St, at the end of Queen St turn right into Duke St. Walk straight on past Broseley Methodist Church and turn left down Birchmeadow Rd (take care, narrow road, no pavements). Take a footpath on your right between the new houses which will lead you down on to the main road through a new estate called Haycop Rise. Follow the winding road downhill and you will come to a large green where you will see **sculpture 4, a horse drawn coal wagon** (a miner is just about to climb on it!) There is a lovely view from here across the fields in front towards the Haycop and All Saints Church. Turn right onto Dark Lane. At the bottom of the dip after about 50m you should spot a narrow tarmac footpath on your left going uphill between walls and houses, walk up the footpath and you will emerge onto Church St where you turn left and continue straight on. At the entrance to the church just inside the grounds by the wall is **sculpture 5, miners working at the coal face** deep underground, hewing coal onto tubs and repairing the timber pit props holding up the rock roof. Retrace your steps along Church St, cross the road, take the first footpath cutting on the left between houses which will bring you out into Wilkinson Avenue (bear right) and you come to Bridgnorth Rd. Opposite on a small green is **sculpture 6, pit ponies in their underground stable**, small stalls where they lived, only surfacing when too old to work. Turn right and cross the road to admire the sculpture, then walk back down Bridgnorth Rd to the library car park.



How the Ironbridge Power Station Heritage Items Came to Broseley

When the power station closed down in 2015 a number of artefacts and historic items that had been collected over the plant's 46 years of service, were carefully removed from the site. They included a visitors book dating back to the 1930s, a contract from 1929 outlining building and civil engineering works, a roll of honour plaque remembering Ironbridge power station colleagues that died on active service between 1939-1945 and the biggest items were the ironwork sculptures by Gerry Foxall. A number of local groups made applications to take them, with Broseley Town Council eventually chosen, and they were donated to the town. It was decided that the Gerry Foxall sculptures, which depict scenes from the mining industries that were once common in and around the town of Broseley, should be openly displayed in a sculpture trail for all to see and appreciate.



You can see the power station war memorial plaque on the wall of Davis hardware shop, by the front door, directly opposite the memorial gardens in the High Street.

The other artefacts were intended for the new Broseley Heritage centre, based in All Saints Church, as part of a display celebrating the important relationship local industries have always had with the people of Broseley, in terms of housing, employment and prosperity, from their foundation to closure.

Ian Lacey, Ironbridge closure manager for Uniper, when explaining the decision to donate the Foxall sculptures to Broseley, said the following in an interview with the Shropshire Star. "Ironbridge Power Station played an important role in the local community for almost half a century, so we wanted to ensure that careful consideration was given to the future of the artwork and artefacts that we've acquired over the years as they hold a great deal of historical significance. A large number of colleagues that worked at the plant over its history lived in Broseley, or in close proximity, therefore it seemed fitting that a number of these items were allocated to Broseley Town Council. We hope they will be enjoyed by visitors and residents, as well as serving as an important reminder of the industrial heritage of the area, including Ironbridge Power Station and all the people that contributed to the successful running of this iconic plant for so many years."

