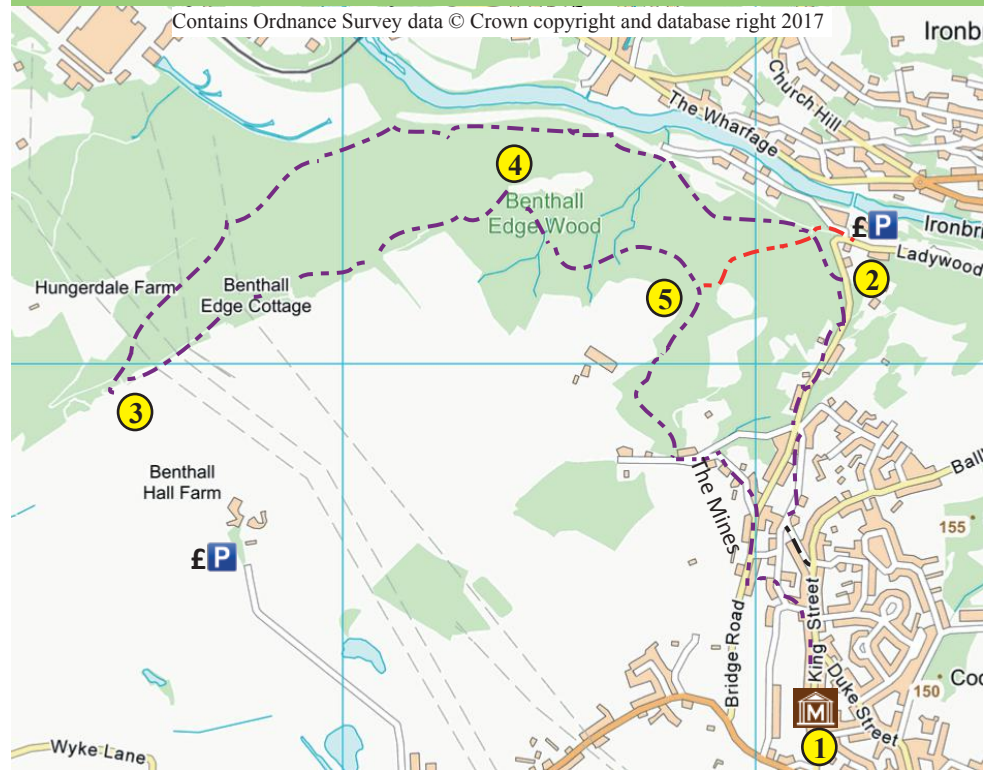


MAP: Benthall Edge Woods, Quarries and Viewpoints



5 Boardwalk Steps to Pipe Museum 0.8 miles / 1.3km

To return to Broseley turn right where the boardwalk divides, climb the steps to the signpost and take the path signed to Broseley. You can either continue to the top of a series of steep steps, or take the track (easier), both ways meet near a bench to your left. Continue and you come to another signpost, take the right hand direction to Broseley (not Bayliffe's House) and stay right. It will bring you out at Spout Lane, turn left and then take the right fork (The Mines). At Bridge Road turn right and walk up the hill and then turn left along the Ding Dong Steps Jitty. Turn right and in about 50m turn left up Legges Hill past the old school. Turn right to return to the Pipe Museum and continue straight on for Broseley High St (a further 550m).

Pic: The steps at the end of the Ding Dong Steps Jitty



Benthall Edge Woods, Quarries and Viewpoints

4 miles / 6.3 km : woodland paths with some steep boardwalk steps (including one long downhill section), some roads and firm tracks, vertical gain 600 ft / 180m

A scenic walk to the top of Benthall Edge woods on part of The Shropshire Way: with views of The Wrekin, Ironbridge, Coalbrookdale and the River Sever through trees. This walk showcases old industries based on limestone, with many quarries and a ruined lime kiln. You walk on early tramways, now beautiful woodland paths. Benthall Edge is an SSSI with woodland wildflowers and birds. Uphill for a long stretch, but your reward is one of the best views in this part of Shropshire from the top of Patten's Rock!

You could use the Ironbridge pay and display car park as an alternative start point, and do this circular walk from there (you will miss out Broseley Wood and shorten the walk to 3 miles / 5km). Cross the road at the car park entrance near the bridge, climb some steps onto a footway and walk uphill, where the footway joins the road take the path into the wood. Its on the opposite (right hand) side of the road, the entrance is set back from the road.

1 Broseley to Bridge Bank path off Bridge Road 0.6 miles/ 1km

Start Broseley Pipe Museum in Duke St (the car park is for museum visitors and some residents only but limited street parking is available.) With your back to the museum entrance turn left and walk straight on bearing right into King St. Take the second road left, Quarry Road, walk down hill to Bridge Road where you turn right and continue down towards Ironbridge. You will see the Bridge Bank footpath into Benthall Edge woods on the left, opposite where the footway bends away from the road.



View of Benthall Edge Woods from Quarry Rd

2 Bridge Bank to exit from Shropshire Way 1.3 miles / 2.1km

The entrance to the path from Bridge Road is hard to spot as it is a set back a few metres from the road. Enter the woods and continue straight on, at the second path junction, take the way signed to Bower Yard. After 100m there is a short way



mark post in front of you, **About 50m past the second signpost watch out for a dragon!**

(to see a well preserved lime kiln only a few metres away, take a quick deviation left here and return to this point afterwards,) carry straight on down the steps to enter Bower Yard (information board here). Go through a gate on the left, you want the path that goes slightly above the disused railway line, not along it. Pass a disused railway bridge, go straight on slightly uphill, you are now on the Shropshire Way.

You pass disused quarry workings and kilns as the path climbs, on old tramway with a steady gradient, through beautiful woodlands. You get glimpses of Ironbridge, the Severn, Steethill and The Wrekin to your right between trees. Eventually you come a metal kissing gate and a large finger signpost. Take the path signed to Benthall Hall. *(If you are a masochist or want a workout you can take the stepped route direct to Patten's Rock, beware, over 400 steps and counting and it's pretty steep! There is a bench here if you need to take a rest and a few deep breaths before you attempt it.)* Continue straight on, go through another small metal kissing gate and walk uphill following the Shropshire Way. After about 800m just after where the path dips between two old quarries, you exit through a small gate, turn left and go through a second gate and then take the next path on the left, a broad track.



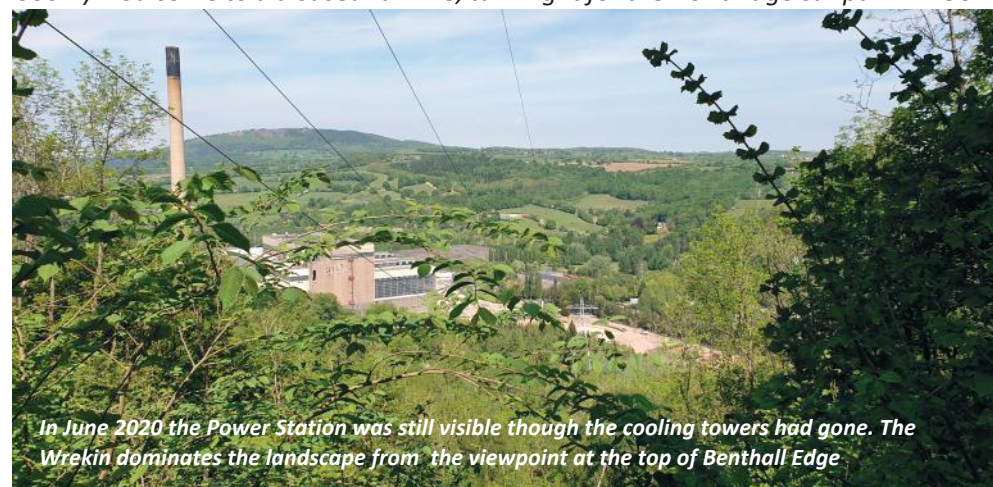
The path descending from Patten's Rock Quarry has many stepped sections over pretty dingles.

3 Via Benthall Edge Cottage to Patten's Rock Viewpoint 0.75 miles / 1.2km

Follow the broad track straight on past Benthall Edge Cottage. The path swings to the left and then curves right and narrows (aim for the pylon). In a few metres you get outstanding views of the The Wrekin behind the old power station to the left and across to the Cleve Hills on your right. Go straight on, the path becomes a bit of a mini roller coaster over mounds and hollows left by old charcoal pits, kilns and quarries, there's an impressive line of old quarry workings with limestone exposures on the right. You pass the mysteriously named red pool (take care, the steep dip can be slippery). At the path junction in front of a wooden gate, go left signed Ironbridge and Broseley. (The wide paths you can see are also former tramways). After about 300m are some spectacular old limestone quarries, the path goes uphill and curves right, go straight on here down a dip (not the main path fork which goes right). You pass more old quarry workings on either side of you to arrive at the Patten's Quarry Rocks viewpoint. There is a bench to sit on and admire the spectacular view of Ironbridge, you may even see Cannock Chase in the far distance.

4 Patten's Rock Quarry to Boardwalk Steps Junction 0.5 miles / 700m

Facing the quarry turn right downhill. You soon come to a wooden bridge over a pretty dingle, dry in summer but with small waterfalls after heavy rains. Climb the boardwalk steps and at the finger sign post, take the path left to Ironbridge and Broseley, not Broseley via Fields. In about 250 m you pass another fingerpost, carry straight on signed Ironbridge and Broseley. In another 100m the paths divides at a short section of boardwalk steps. 5 (You'll see a signpost up the steps on the right.) If you want to return to Broseley turn right. *If you want to return to Ironbridge take the left fork path which soon curves left and descend down a series of boardwalks and steps downhill following direction signs back to Ironbridge (about 600m). You come to a disused rail line, turn right for the Ironbridge car park in 250m.*



In June 2020 the Power Station was still visible though the cooling towers had gone. The Wrekin dominates the landscape from the viewpoint at the top of Benthall Edge