



The Honeypot

A 5.2 miles / 8.4 km walk, mostly gently undulating, some short uphill sections, vertical gain 430ft / m.

This is a varied walk in beautiful countryside, full of historic and wildlife interest. The route follows footpaths through meadows and woods, along tracks and quiet lanes past farmland with outstanding views throughout, with glimpses of distant hills. There are many different species of wildflowers, birds and butterflies to spot along the way. The walk passes close to the remains of the abandoned village of Darley and takes the walker past the impressive Willey Estate buildings and historic Willey village. There is a short stretch of B road (with no pavement). There are three stiles, some patches of rough ground which might be muddy and you may cross fields with sheep and cattle.

1 Town Centre to Lodge Lane via Fiery Fields 1.1 km 0.7m

This walk starts from Broseley Library and Health Centre where there is a car park and a bus stop. Leave the car park by the Gerry Foxhall sculpture which shows a scene from former mining industry, there is also a large illustrated information board about historic Broseley here. Turn right at the car park exit and walk down Bridgnorth Road away from the town for about 100 metres and then take the track (a bridleway) on your right opposite Foundry Lane. Continue straight on for 100 metres and you will see a gate into some fields in front of you. Go through the gate and continue straight on following the bridleway path by the hedge and then over open fields. These fields are known locally as the 'Fiery Fields'. The fields show clear evidence of their mining legacy with spoil heaps and a collapsed mine shaft (now fenced off and covered with stones). In the 19th century escaping gases from these coal mines sometimes caught fire and burned for some time, hence the name Fiery Fields!

There may be animals grazing in the fields, so please follow NFU and Ramblers guidance on walking near livestock, especially with dogs near cows with calves and stay on rights of way paths. Go straight on through the gate at the end of the fields, follow a wide path and in 400m you will come to Lodge Lane, where you turn left.



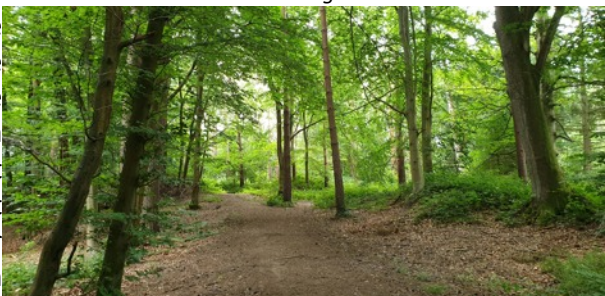
Bridleway through Fiery Fields

② Lodge Lane to Willey Village 2.4km / 1.5m

Follow Lodge Lane until you come to the B4376 where you cross the road and turn left. There is no pavement, only a narrow verge, take care here. Descend the road for about 350 metres, (there's a glimpse of the private road to Willey Park over the bridge parapet on the right). Near the bottom of the dip turn right onto a permissive path through the woods, it forks twice shortly after, take the right fork. After about 250 metres look for a small gate to your left, go through the gate and follow the path up through the meadow keeping the woods on your right. This meadow is a butterfly heaven in summer before the hay is cut. You come to a track, turn right and follow the path past the farm buildings on your right, then straight on through woodland and field edges till you meet the road to Willey Park. This is section is excellent for spotting birds, butterflies and wild flowers, especially during April and May in the woodlands.



View to west near Lodge Lane Farm



Permissive bridleway in Willey Park woods



View to the east where you leave the bridleway near Willey Park Take advantage of gaps in the trees to glimpse extensive views and to watch for buzzards soaring on section 2 of the walk.

3 Willey to B4373 Broseley to Bridgnorth Road 1.3km / 0.8m

Go straight on, passing the imposing entrance to Willey Hall and the Willey Park Estate offices on your right. Most land you see and walk through on this walk is owned and leased by the Forester family. The Georgian stately home of Lord Forester is not visible from here. It can only be glimpsed in the far distance from a public path near Barrow. Sometimes the grounds are open to local people for a day in summer, under the National Gardens Scheme. Many local charities bear the names of their Forester benefactors; many pubs are named after their arms! Continue past cottages, then the village hall and at the crossroads take the lane on the left signed to Broseley. At the next junction keep left, go up hill on Scots Lane till you come to the B4373 Broseley to Bridgnorth road after about 1km. Enjoy lovely extensive views from gaps in the hedges, wildflowers are abundant on wayside banks and verges.



4 The Honeypot and Darley 0.7km / 0.4m

Cross the B road, go straight on down the lane. Climb the stile at the end of the Honeypot cottages, continue for about 50 m and take a narrow path on the left leading steeply down through woods for 100 m and turn left at the gate. Cross the field in front of you, keep the ruins of a small square building to your left (there are abandoned cottages in each adjacent field on the right.) At the bottom bear left and cross a stream, (at times the flat wood bridge is under water, but fordable), bear right and walk steeply uphill across some rough hummocky ground, aim for the gate and stile in the top right corner of the field, **keep the hedge to your right do not follow the track leading to the abandoned building, there is no right of way to them.** You have just crossed the site of the abandoned village of Darley, first mentioned in 1342; by 1609 there were several cottages on the site of possibly a C13th hamlet. In the 1780s the nearby saggar works using local clay closed then riverside areas lost their importance when the railway arrived in 1862 and people moved away. By 1911 Darley was just two residences and it was no longer recognisable as a hamlet by the 1980s.



Two derelict cottages are all that is left of Darley

5 Darley to Broseley via Caughley Road 2.9km / 1.8m

Climb the stile and go up the hill keeping close to the fence, there may be cattle in fields here. In about 600m you will find a stile in the field corner where you emerge on to a tarmac track. Turn right, go



past an old weigh bridge and then turn left onto a wide track(Caughley Road) which becomes Pound Lane, continue for 1km into Broseley. At the T junction, cross over straight ahead into Church Road, continue straight on and you will come back to the junction with Bridgnorth Road where you started your walk.

