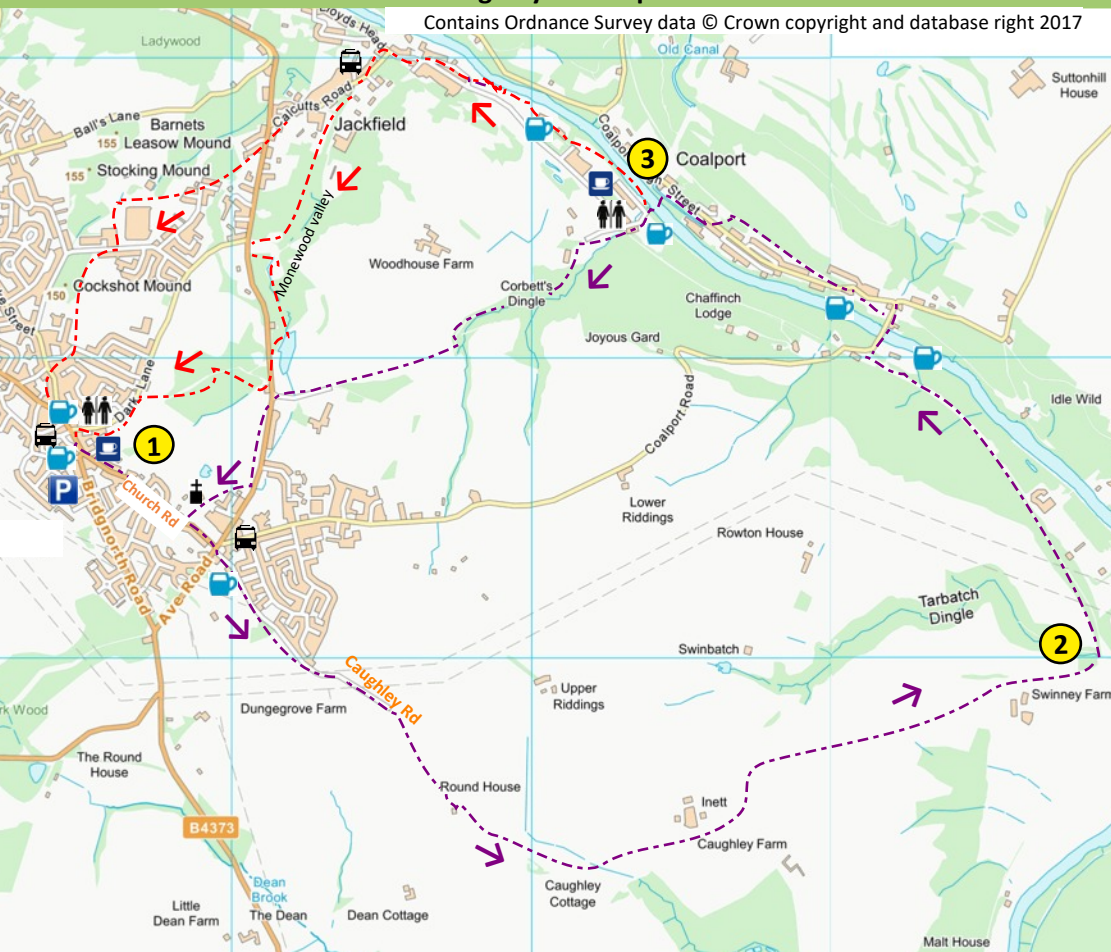


MAP Caughley to Coalport Walk

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③ Jackfield to Broseley via Corbett's 1.6 miles/2.6km via Calcutts Rd 2m /3.3km

You have a choice of three routes back to Broseley. The most scenic, shortest but steepest and muddiest route, is turn left at The Boat Inn, follow the road and bear left under the disused the rail bridge. Carry straight on, through the spectacular mini gorge of Corbett's Dingle, eventually you come to the B road between Broseley and Ironbridge. Turn left, cross the road, and take the path on the right through a small metal gate just past the cemetery to emerge at All Saints Church. To return on easier surfaces and see more of the river and historic places, turn right at the Boat and follow the riverside path past Maws, The Half Moon PH, St Mary The Virgin Church, Tile Museum and turn left up Calcotts Road. The least steep route back from here is via the Monewood Valley, described in the Dingles and Valleys walk. An option if you live near Birchmeadow or Broseley Wood is to continue up Calcotts Road and use the route described in the Red Church and Fish House walk.



From Caughley to Coalport

A 6 miles/ 9.5 km or 6.4 miles/10.2 km walk: mostly gently downhill, some short uphill parts returning from the River Sever to Broseley, vertical gain 430ft / m.

This is an easy to follow walk, past farmland and woods with beautiful views across the Shropshire Plain towards Staffordshire. It includes a section along the magnificent River Sever with two bridges to cross on the way. There is historic interest too, as the route echoes the move of the Caughley China Works to the world famous site at Coalport. The walk is mostly on firm good surfaces. There are steps to negotiate over the bridge at Jackfield. You have a choice of three return routes to Broseley.

① Via Caughley Rd to disused Severn Valley Railway track 2.7 miles /4.4 km

From Broseley High Street walk downhill into Church St past All Saints Church. Cross Church St then cross the B4373, go straight on down Pound Lane next to the Foresters Arms pub. Pound Lane becomes the Caughley Road, though road is a bit of a misnomer as long stretches are rough track, with gravel, stones and a few muddy puddles. It's popular with walkers, horse riders and cyclists as there are no stiles or gates and the surface is mostly firm. Keep straight on, follow the main track.



Looking right from near the start of Caughley Road

Ignore roads and tracks right or left to farm houses along the route, with one exception (pictured right), they are not rights of way. There are glorious wide views of Brown Clee and The Wrekin in the distance to spot through hedgerow gaps. About 100m past Caughley Cottage there is a small monument on the site of the C18th Caughley China Works. You will notice traces of old mine workings in the fields. As you start to descend from the highest point you might see as far as Cannock Chase and the Staffordshire moorlands on a clear day. Eventually you go down a steeper rocky, eroded path between trees. Walk under the disused railway bridge, turn left and walk 50 metres uphill onto a disused railway line and turn right: you are now on part of National Cycleway No 45 between Chester and Salisbury. Continue along the disused railway track past rock exposures in old railway cuttings and woods to your left. To your right is a major sewage works. The Severn is barely visible through the trees though the author once saw an otter here.



The weigh bridge and site entrance office to the open cast quarries closed in 2016.

This 800m long lane was heavily used to take lorry loads of coal from the weigh bridge to the B4373 Broseley to Bridgnorth Road till mining ended in 2016. A private road now, for farm and access vehicles only, it is a public right of way for walkers, equestrians and cyclists. As there is no footway along the B4373 road to walk safely into Broseley it's best to use the lane 'as a there and back again walk'. It is worth doing for the views, peace and quiet and, as it is tarmac all the way, it's usable by all including wheelchairs, babies in buggies and kids on scooters and bikes, a safe family walk.



old mine workings



Views across the Shropshire Plain and into Staffordshire

② Disused railway to Memorial Bridge Jackfield 1.5miles /2.5km

After about 20 minutes of walking you'll see the old Coalport station building and an old vintage railway carriage, now converted for holiday lets. Turn right at the road and cross the Coalport Bridge (look out for the Anglo Saxon Mercian warrior). This was the second iron bridge to be built in the Ironbridge Gorge, to replace an old wood bridge. The riverside



Looking towards Maw's Works from Memorial Bridge

pub is still called the Woodbridge. Immediately after crossing the river turn left along a track, the Silkin Way. Cross the Brewery Inn car park to go through a gate and turn left onto another disused rail line. After 300m you will spot a sign pointing to a cycleway to Jackfield, turn left and walk down through a small car park, a gap in the hedge on the left will bring you out at the Coalport YHA and the China Museum. To your left is an information board and there's a free exhibition in the Coalport Museum shop, so worth a pause to find out more, and to admire the two huge kilns. Many Broseley folk used to work at Coalport. To return to Broseley turn right, walk along the canal (don't miss spotting the Hay Incline at the end on the right). Cross the river at the Memorial Bridge to the Boat Inn at Jackfield.



Mercian Way marker



The Woodbridge overlooks the Severn