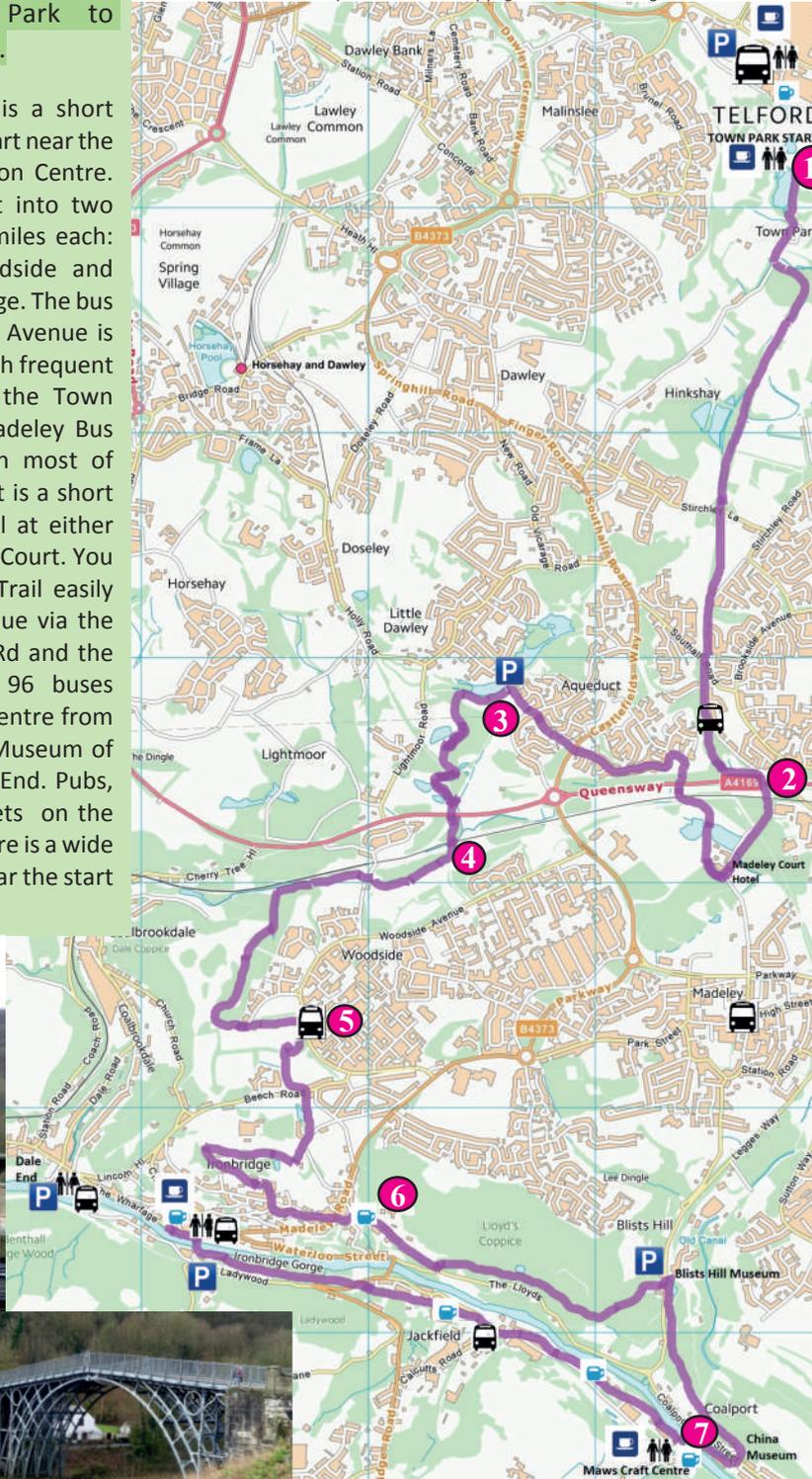


Stage 1: Town Park to Ironbridge 10 Miles.

Telford Bus Station is a short walk from The Trail start near the Town Park Information Centre. Stage 1 can be split into two equal sections of 5 miles each: Town Park to Woodside and Woodside to Ironbridge. The bus shelter on Woodside Avenue is the halfway point with frequent buses to and from the Town Centre. Buses via Madeley Bus Station connect with most of Telford. From there it is a short walk to join the Trail at either Blists Hill or Madeley Court. You can also access the Trail easily from Brookside Avenue via the junction of Southall Rd and the Silkin Way. No 9, 18, 96 buses return to the Town Centre from the car park by the Museum of the Gorge near Dale End. Pubs, cafes and public toilets on the route are shown. There is a wide choice of facilities near the start and in Ironbridge.

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TELFORD T 50 50 MILE TRAIL: Stage 1:Town Park to Ironbridge 10 miles

1:2

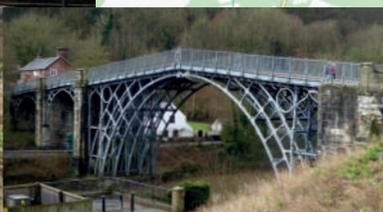
Woodside to Ironbridge Stage One is the longest on the Trail, 10 miles in total. The route description is divided into two equal parts, each a walk of 5 miles.

This part of Stage 1 starts at the bus shelter on Woodside Avenue, where there are frequent buses from the Town Centre. From there it goes through The Beeches and Lodge Fields Nature Reserves from where you will enjoy extensive views of the Severn Gorge. The route continues through the upper parts of Ironbridge, then down to The River Severn via Lloyds Coppice Woods, The Silkin Way disused railway line, Coalport and Jackfield passing major historical sites on the way to finish in the World Heritage Site of Ironbridge by crossing the famous iron bridge.

5 Woodside Bus Shelter to the Golden Ball Pub 1.5 Miles

You are now facing the **Woodside Estate**, turn right at the bus shelter and quickly take a path to the right away from the road, which becomes a narrow way between woodland and fields. Turn left onto a tarmac road, (**Beech Road**). After 100 yds or so you reach a house, take the narrow fenced path on the right, pass through a gate and continue straight on with a field on your left. At the end and turn right onto a lane, an old finger post is marked "To Ironbridge". Walk about 300 yards and take a track that branches to the right away from **Orchard Lane**, after a few yards go through the entrance gate to the **Beeches Field Local Nature Reserve** on the right.

Look up to see buzzards soaring, a common sight here. Follow the path through the reserve, passing a pool on the left. There is a bench at the top, a lovely spot for a brief rest; admire the views of the Black Country in the far distance.



Continue up and leave the Beeches LNR at a gate and turn right, there is a house on the left. After about 150 yards you can see the **White Horse** pub ahead of you, there is a finger post pointing left into **Lodge Field Nature Reserve**, take the signed path towards and into Lodge Field. Enjoy the views of the wooded **Severn Gorge**, meadow flowers and bird life. Follow the clear track on the left to the bottom, through a gate and turn right. Leave Lodge Field.



There is a fingerpost here. Walk straight down. When you reach a road turn left and after about 40 yards turn right into **Belle Vue**. The road becomes an alley, then a narrow lane called **Hillside**; continue ignoring roads off to the right and left. You are now in **Ironbridge**. The road is gently undulating with lovely views to the right – the **River Severn** can be seen below as it moves into Ironbridge. You soon reach a road by a house with a lovely name, **The Wedge of Cheese**, bear slightly right and look for a house on the left with a plaque indicating the birthplace of a famous local hero. Carry on to the main **Madeley Rd**. Cross over carefully as there is a sharp blind bend to the right. The house at this junction used to be a public house where the bodies of the Madeley Nine miners were put after the accident. **The Nine Men of Madeley Trail** tells their story. Walk to the **Golden Ball pub** directly ahead.



6 The Golden Ball PH to Coalport & Jackfield Memorial Bridge 2 miles

Keep the pub on the right and walk down **Wesley Road** to its end, after about 500 yards, just before a junction, go left through a gate with a finger post signed to Blist's Hill and enter **Lloyds Coppice** woods. Continue on the clear woodland path, past a path junction from your right and shortly after you come to a finger post signed to Blist's Hill, turn sharp left and go up a long flight of steps which bears right and becomes quite steep; at the top is a path junction, follow the finger post directions pointing down to Blist's Hill to the left. Go down past a garden fence on your right, through a narrow gate to emerge past two houses onto a main road, **Legges Way**. Cross into the car park opposite at the back of the **Blist's Hill Museum** (workers entrance). Turn left following the finger post sign, then left again after a few yards to go through a long tunnel.

Follow the **Silkin Way** to Coalport along the disused **London & North Western Railway line**. Beneath you lies the main Telford sewer. You pass underneath the **Hay Inclined Plane**, ignore the first path down to the right and turn right opposite a bench and gate, go past the **Coalport Village Hall** to join a road, opposite a bus stop and **Coalport China Museum**. Cross the road, go over a bridge and turn right to follow a canal side path. At the end, go left over the **Jackfield & Coalport Memorial Bridge**, a unique First World War Memorial. Before you cross look back to view the full length of the **Hay Inclined Plane**, used to bring loaded tugboats down to the canal/river wharf for eventual onward transport to Bristol. The **Tar Tunnel** entrance is across the canal to the right.



7 The Memorial Bridge to The Ironbridge 1.5 miles

Cross the bridge, turn right along the river but pause to look at the door of **The Boat** public house showing record floodwater levels. After 50 yards bear left and follow the massive old wall of the old **Maws Works**. At the end of the wall carry straight across into an alleyway which ends behind the **Half Moon** public house. Go past the Half Moon and take the footpath right, closest to the river. You will see Jackfield church in front of you. There is lovely tile artwork by local children by the picnic area up the steps on the left near the end of the path. Walk up and bear slight right onto the road, keep the church on your left (wonderful craft work by local people inside) to reach the **Ironbridge Gorge Tile Museum**. Turn right walk along the road to a level crossing gate (the Great Western Railway ran to Paddington from here). Go straight on to the left of the level crossing, through a gate and along the path, a disused railway line with ruined station platforms. After half a mile you enter a large car park with The Ironbridge clearly in view ahead right. Turn right to cross The Ironbridge into Ironbridge.



Grants from Telford T50 Legacy Fund and Envirogrant Veolia in partnership with Telford & Wrekin Council's Pride in the Community Programme, enabled the T50 50 Mile Trail to be waymarked and supported.

For downloadable map and gpx files go to: www.telfordt5050miletrail.org.uk