

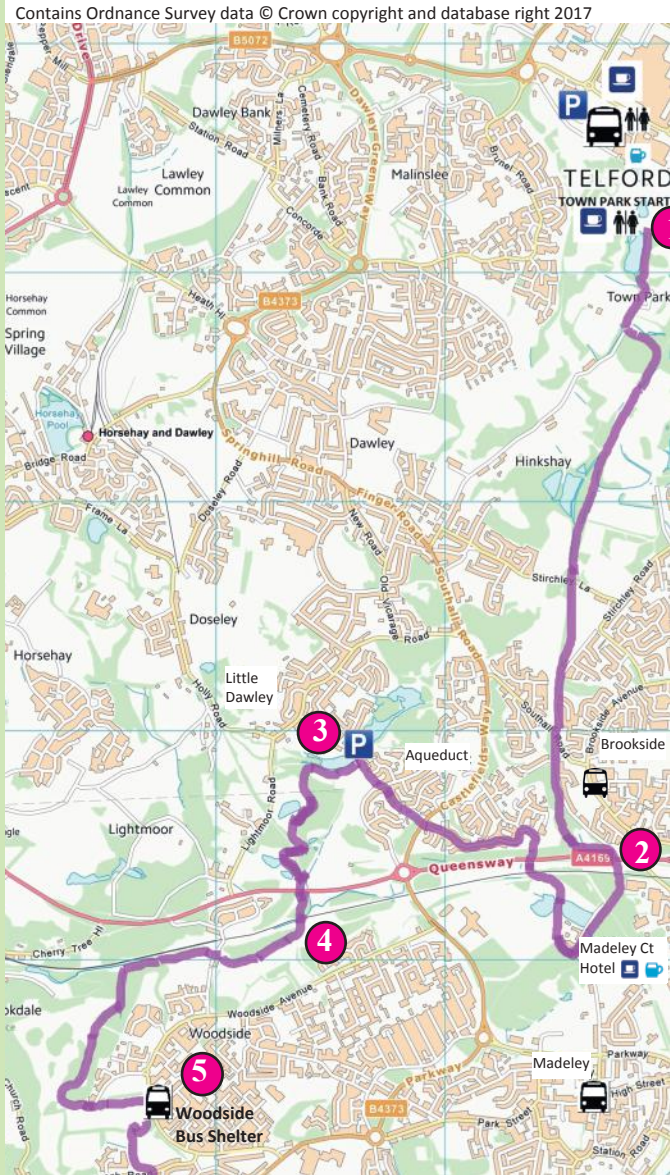
Stage 1: Town Park to Ironbridge 10 Miles. Part 1 Town Park to Woodside Avenue Bus Shelter

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 or leave the Trail at Madeley Court. You can also access the Trail easily and return to the Town Centre by buses from Brookside Avenue, walking via the junction of Southall Rd and the Silkin Way.

After leaving the Town Park the only facilities directly on this first part of the Trail are at Madeley Court Hotel. It is open to non residents and there is a pleasant lakeside bar where you can sit outside in the summer.

The Golden Ball PH at point 6 on Stage1 is open all day, there are many good pubs on the riverside section between Coalport and Ironbridge and cafes at the YHA in Coalport and at Maws Craft Centre, where there are also free public toilets and a seating area.



For downloadable map and gpx files in both clockwise and anticlockwise directions go to: www.telfordt5050miletrail.org.uk



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



1:1 Town Park to Woodside. Stage One is the longest on the Trail, 10 miles total. The route description is divided into two equal sections, each 5 miles.

This Stage starts at the Trail Information Board in Telford Town Centre, easily accessible by bus, train and car. It moves southwards through the Town Park using established paths such as the Silkin Way, the South Telford Way and the South Telford Heritage Trail. The Trail then passes through the edge of Madeley and into one of the new housing estates at Aqueduct to reach the picturesque Little Dawley pools and woods. It then crosses Rough Park with lovely views across Telford and ends at the bus shelter on Woodside Avenue, where there are frequent buses back to the Town Centre.

1 Town Park to the Ruined Windmill along The Silkin Way 2 miles.

From the Information Centre walk a few yards to the picnic tables behind the old chapel. Take the path just to the left of the lake parallel to the tarmac road, you should see a large Information Board about the Trail marking the start of the Trail here.



Waiting for the ghost train: Dawley and Stirchley Station

At the end of the path turn right onto the tarmac road, continue with Dark Lane car park on your left and rugby club on your right. Just past the rugby club turn left, go down the path and after about 100 yards turn right to follow **The Silkin Way**. After about 500 yards turn right and continue on the Silkin Way, a disused railway line

Pass the old **Dawley and Stirchley station platform** and you soon leave the town park by an archway, turn around and look diagonally half left to see **The Aqueduct**. After another 6 to 8 minutes pass through a short tunnel to reach a junction with a path by a **ruined windmill**.

At the windmill take the right branch to leave the Silkin Way which you will rejoin in 6 miles.

2 Windmill to Little Dawley Pools 1.1 miles.

Go down a short slope past a lake on your right with a view of an imposing old building on the poolside edge, the historic C16th Madeley Court Manor House, now a hotel. Go past the lake on your right and immediately after the **Madeley Court Hotel** buildings turn right through a gate, walk along a dirt track till you come to the **Madeley Court Hotel access road**, cross over and go straight on. (If you have time to look at the Manor House, which is on your right before you cross the access road, there's an explanatory blue plaque on the Gate House Wall.) Walk straight on over some unmade ground for about 80 yards and turn right at a metal barrier and small metal bridge, cross the bridge and follow a path which goes between two balancing pools. Pass through a gate onto a broad track and turn left. After a minute or so turn right under an arch and below a road bridge. Walk past a row of houses and turn left into a housing estate.

Follow the road round to the left, don't turn right into Willow Bank but follow the road **Gittens Drive** round to the end, 4 minutes or so and reach a main road (40mph sign). Cross the road (island in centre of the road) and take the path immediately opposite.

Walk to the end of the footpath and reach another road. Cross this road onto a footpath signed **Castle Pools**. The path shortly reaches a junction of paths, take the second on the left (not the Ironbridge Way) and follow the track closest to the lake with a number of fishing platforms, on your right. This pool, one of a series of **Little Dawley Pools**, is called **Wide Waters Pool**. There is a large free public car park here for visitors.



3 Little Dawley to Rough Park Way 0.8 miles

At the end of the lake carry straight on into woods. You soon reach a path junction, take the slight left fork. Turn left at the next path junction, follow this path which passes under electricity wires. Walk past another pool on the right. Carry straight on at the next junction. Just after the pool turn left.

Go right at the next junction and after about 20 yards turn left with another pool on the right, walking past the boardwalk to the right to go straight on passing two benches commemorating two local councillors.

At the next junction turn left and after about 70 yards turn right, following the **South Telford Heritage Trail**.

Follow the path through a bridge under a road and go straight on leaving the woods to reach a disused railway line. Cross the line over a stiles either side. About 100 yards or so after the railway tracks you reach a path crossroads with a bench, (unfortunately this area is used illegally by trail bike riders and this short section of path can be very muddy). The bench is a good place for a water stop; turn right to join Rough Park Way.

4 Rough Park Way to Woodside Avenue bus stop 1.2 miles

This section of the Trail can be a good spot to look for meadow and woodland flowers, fungi, insects and birds. Walk along Rough Park Way track with the Woodside estate up to your left, just visible across the fields. The wide path here has been newly surfaced.

After about a quarter of a mile the path goes through a gate by two houses on your left and does a little twist to the left by crossing a road and then turns right along a track. After the twist carry straight on ignoring paths to the left and right. There is a small stream down to the right and the railway line beyond that. About half a mile after the footpath junction turn left into **Oilhouse Coppice**, follow the path up hill for several minutes, going up steps and then continuing ahead, (ignore the path and steps to the right and later a track to the left). Carry straight on until you reach a picnic table at the top of the path.

Turn left at the picnic table and follow the path through a gate shortly reaching some houses on the left. The path which is now tarmac swings round to the left, cross the road and take the footpath opposite, follow the path until you reach the **Woodside ring road (bus stops here)**.

