

## Telford T50 50 Mile Trail Circular Walks- Sutton Hill

**Blists Hill circular** – 2 miles or with the longer extension just under 4 miles (height gained and lost 295 feet, 312 feet on the longer route). There is a map for an extension to the extension at about 4.5 miles.

A gentle walk which includes the Sutton Hill Village Green. Suitable for families although if you have a pushchair it will need a bit of a push for two or three minutes uphill when you leave Blists Hill Museum, the longer route is suitable for a pushchair with the exception of the Jackfield Memorial Bridge where a pushchair would need to be carried up and down the steps. If refreshment is needed the Coalport YHA is only a couple of minutes off the route with coffee, ice creams and snacks, accessed by crossing Silkin Way at the South Telford Way bench and following the 50 Mile Trail sign to the road past Coalport Village Hall next to the China Museum. At this point you can also extend the route by walking down to the river and back again or you could visit the interesting China Museum. Note the opportunity for using the bus as set out in Number 4. The walk is suitable in all weather. See <https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/route/5033778/Blists-Hill-circular>

1. Park in the Blists Hill Museum overflow car park. This is situated in Legges Way (TF7 5UD) about 300 yards past (going towards the river) the main Blists Hill Museum entrance. There is no charge at this car park.
2. From the car park cross the road and turn left along the Silkin Way for about 300 yards.
3. When you reach the main entrance to the museum turn right, walk past the entrance to the car park and up the broad path directly in front of you, to the right of a flight of wooden steps at the end of the access road.
4. Walk up the path which bring you into Sutton Hill Village Green. Follow the path crossing the road (Reynards Coppice) into the coppice itself. The Sutton Hill ring road is to your left. As this is a circular walk If you prefer to travel by bus the numbers 1 and 2 stop here (No 1, this side of the ring road from the Town Centre and No 2, on the other side of the ring road returning to the Town Centre). Carry on along the clear path ignoring smaller paths off to the side until the footpath breaks onto a road which is the access road to the Great Hay Hotel and Golf Club.
5. Turn right and keep on the pavement walking towards the hotel. You soon pass two entrances into the car parks on the left with an 8 foot high wall on your right. At the end of the wall and opposite the second car park entrance turn right into a smaller car park. Pass the water tap (not for consumption) and turn left along the tiled area immediately in front of the hotel dining room. NB – there is no sign here but this is a public right of way. One of our committee was directed wrongly at this point, presumably by a member of the hotel staff, who said the only right of way was immediately right, this is incorrect. We have requested that the footpath sign which mysteriously disappeared some while ago be replaced. We have also asked the hotel to ensure staff are aware of this.
6. Having walked past the hotel building you follow a footpath downwards for about three minutes. You come to a fork in the footpath, take the left, and steeper, path. Follow this for a couple of minutes past a wooden bench (STROWP on the back – South Telford Rights of Way Project, now defunct) opposite the top of the Museum Hay Inclined Plane, and reach a gate in a fence.
7. Go through the gate and follow the path running diagonally downwards across the meadow (Hay Meadow), although there is a lot of growth in early Summer the path is very clear. After three or four minutes you reach another gate. Go through the gate and continue along the

clear path through the woods (managed by Severn Gorge Countryside Trust) for another five minutes.

8. At the bottom of the path you reach another gate. Go through the gate and onto the clear footpath, turn right, there is another wooden bench at this point with South Telford Way marking. This is the Silkin Way again, you are now on the Telford T50 50 Mile Trail with magenta coloured waymarks. For the longer walk follow the directions at the end which turn in to opposite direction on the Silkin Way.
9. Follow the Silkin Way under the Hay Inclined Plane and walk for about fifteen minutes. Having walked through a long tunnel, ignore the Trail signs which turn right and three minutes further on you will see the car park where you started. If you have used this as an early evening ramble, why not walk up from the car park to the All Nation for some liquid refreshment.

### **Longer route via the Severn Valley Way and the T50 50 Mile Trail (total 4 miles)**

See <https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/route/5033886/-Blists-Hill-circular-longer-version>

1. From the point where you joined the Silkin Way (end of Number 8), turn left onto Silkin Way. Follow the footpath for about five minutes when you reach the car park opposite The Brewery, one of the several places you can stop for a drink but if you are hungry you are advised to return at the end of the walk as the helpings are substantial.
2. Continue straight ahead, under a bridge, the clear path goes diagonally right until in a couple of minutes you reach Coalport Road at the north end of the Coalport Bridge (no longer made of wood as the original was). Turn right and cross the bridge, on your left is another watering hole, the Woodbridge (booking recommended if meals required). Opposite the car park entrance to the Woodbridge turn right onto Severn Valley Way, through a gate.
3. Follow the clear path which passes a picnic area then climbs gently to the left and then turns right. Follow this for about fifteen minutes or a little more (ignore the right turn signed Silkin Way via Jackfield Bridge) until you reach the Maws centre complex. The Jackfield church is clearly in view ahead at this point, take the path right down four steps, cross the road and walk past the entrance to the Maws Centre (a café is inside the Centre which serves excellent coffee, tea and lunches, there are also some interesting craft shops). Immediately after the Maws Centre entrance turn right onto the path, you have now joined the Telford T50 50 Mile Trail (magenta waymarks) which you will follow virtually to the end of the walk. (For a map which gives a further extension here to the church see <https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/route/5269834/Blists-Hill-circular-longest-version>)
4. Continue on the path which is running alongside the River Severn to reach the Memorial footbridge (The Boat public house is on your right, yet another refreshment opportunity). Cross the bridge and turn immediately right alongside the canal basin, a good place to feed ducks if you have some duck food (not bread).
5. At the end of the short stretch of canal, turn left across the little bridge and follow the path diagonally up to the road by a bus stop (bank holidays and summer week-ends services only – also the Shakespeare Inn is a hundred yards to your left). At this point you could pop into the YHA which serves drinks and snacks, or the fascinating China Museum, both being just behind you). Cross the road and take the track ahead which passes Coalport Village Hall, past Hayes House and crosses a car park and on up to join Silkin Way at the point you started the longer route. Turn left onto Silkin Way and follow the route from point 9 of the main walk.