

For Your Information

Places of interest:

Broseley Pipe Museum (01952 433424) – check for opening times. The Museum shows visitors the history of local tobacco pipe-making. It is one of the sites of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum (Museum car park in Duke Street). ironbridge.org.uk

Benthall Hall (National Trust) (01952 882159) – check for opening times. The Hall is a beautiful 16th Century stone house with a stunning interior. There is also a carefully restored plantsman's garden, old kitchen garden and a nearby church. nationaltrust.org.uk

Broseley Local History Society website: broseley.org.uk

Bus services:

The main bus stop is on Bridgnorth Road opposite the library. For current bus timetables and routes contact traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit traveline.org.uk

ATMs:

There are various ATMs located around the town including Co-op, Ironbridge Road and the Spar and the newsagents on the High Street.

Public Toilets: Public toilets are located at the Dark Lane car park just off the High Street.

Petrol Station: Co-op, Ironbridge Road

Half-day closing: Wednesday

Churches:

Church of England, All Saints Church, Church Street

Baptist Church, Chapel Lane

Methodist Church, Duke Street

Doctor:

Broseley Medical Practice, Bridgnorth Road (01952) 882854

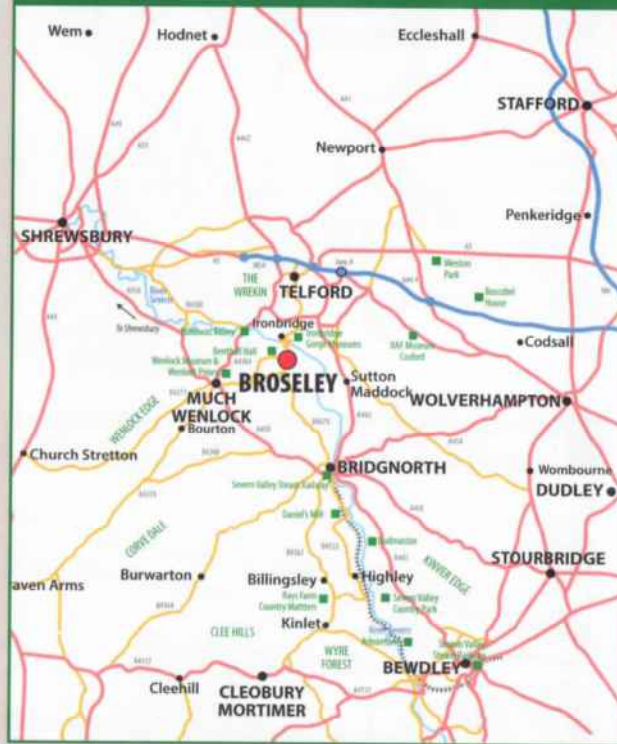
SELF GUIDED WALKS

Scan this QR code for information about walks in the Broseley area.

broseleywalkersarewelcome.org.uk



Broseley Location



Broseley Town Council and Library for local and community information and services, Bridgnorth Road, Broseley

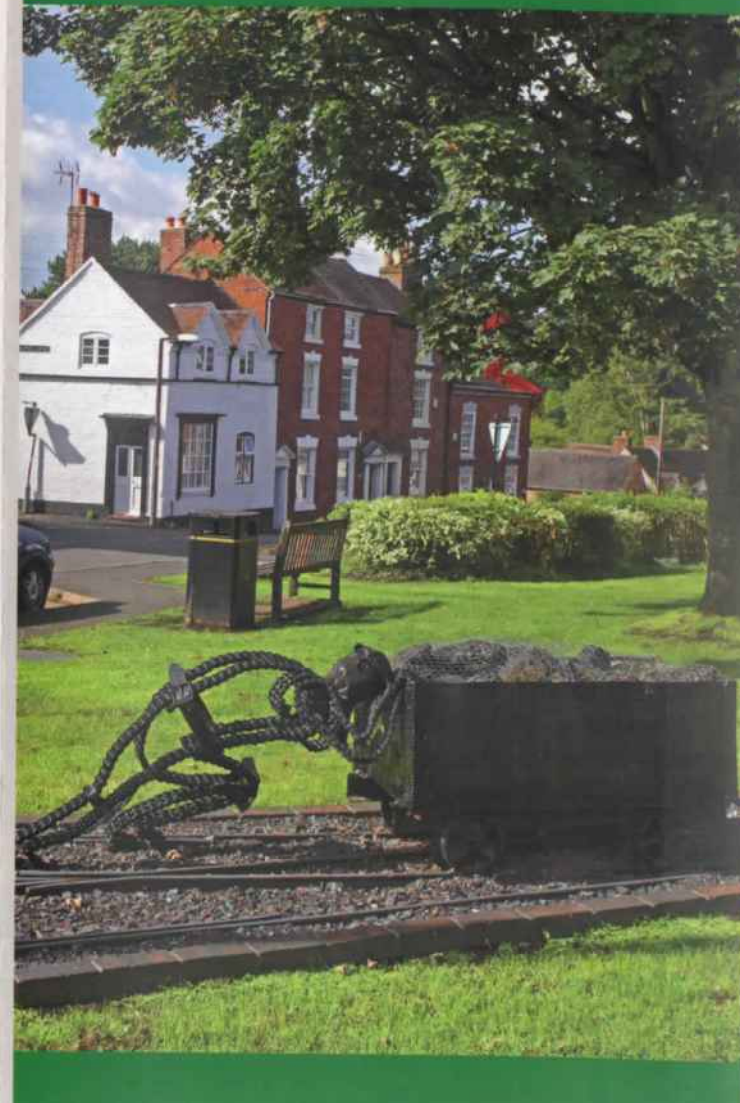
Town Council: 01952 882172 • Library: 01952 884119
broseleytowncouncil.co.uk

For events, shops, accommodation, attractions and more...
visitbroseley.co.uk



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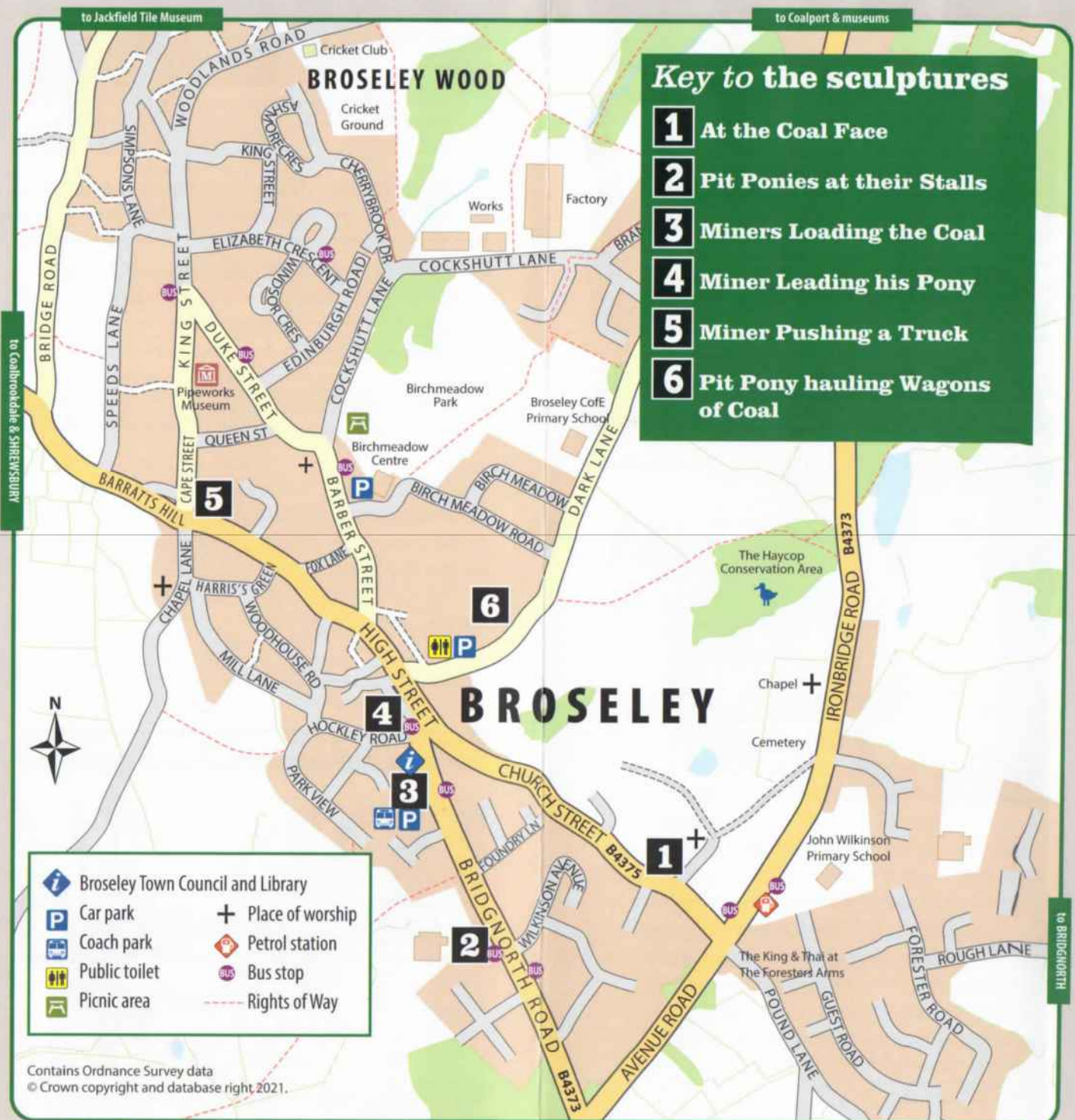
Broseley Sculpture Trail



Broseley's Industrial Heritage

The town of Broseley was a thriving industrial settlement at the beginning of the 17th century. Over the next hundred years the town developed as a major coal mining and iron manufacturing centre. Remains of old workings can still be traced in Broseley and its immediate surroundings. The area has been strongly associated with the Industrial Revolution of the 18th century. It developed into a major centre for coal and clay mining, as well as iron, brick, tile and earthenware manufacture. The town had one of the first railways with wooden rails and inclined planes to take coal down to the River Severn, a major trading route with the outside world.

Broseley's early industrial significance cannot be overstated. For example, the reason for the construction of The Iron Bridge was to link the rapidly growing Broseley with Coalbrookdale. What's more, Broseley attracted many engineering pioneers and entrepreneurs: men such as "Iron Mad" John Wilkinson. He built the first cast-iron boat and further developed a method of driving a forge-hammer with a rotative steam engine at Willey.



Broseley Sculpture Trail

The walk features six sculptures made from scrap iron that were salvaged from the decommissioned power station in 2015. Designed by Gerry Foxall, these sculptures reflect the rich mining and industrial heritage of Broseley, celebrating the town's part in the Industrial Revolution providing an opportunity to appreciate and learn about the hard working lives of men and pit ponies underground. These mining sculptures were designed to mark the tradition of making power in the Ironbridge Gorge based on coal, and to celebrate local pride in the coal mining industry.

Gerry, a well known sculptor from nearby Madeley, renowned for being a master of 'scrap art', created these pieces using salvaged material including chains, horseshoes, tools and everyday household items. There is a large mining sculpture by him on the green off Prince Street in Madeley. His best known work, a large miner's horse and cart, was used as a landmark sculpture on the Granville roundabout in north Telford, where there was a huge coal mine, the last deep mine to close in Shropshire.

1. At the coal face



This sculpture depicts three miners working a coal face. Can you spot the caged canary? The canary gave miners a timely warning to exit the tunnels. If dangerous gases such as carbon monoxide collected in the mine then the gas would kill the canary, allowing miners time to escape the mine before they too were poisoned by noxious gases.

The lumps of 'coal' in the trucks are solidified bottom ash, or klinker, from the power station furnace.

2. Pit ponies at their stalls



Horses working in shaft mines stayed underground for most of their lives. Stables were built at the pit's bottom and were wide enough to accommodate up to 50 horses. The ponies were normally fed on a diet of chopped hay and maize and they only came to the surface during the colliery's annual holiday. It is thought that by the late 19th century there were more than 200,000 horses working in British mines.

5. Miner pushing truck



3. Miners loading the coal



The job of a miner was a dangerous one and the mines of Broseley were frequently featured in the Annual Reports of the Inspector of Mines. Although most accidents occurred during the working day, such as collapsing tunnels and accidental explosions; there are also accounts of misadventure at the entrance to mineshafts. In 1889 two men were suffocated in a mine when they climbed down to retrieve a hat lost down a shaft during a Sunday Walk.

The miners were a hardy bunch and in the early days many of them had travelled from outside of the area in search of work. Evidence of this can be found in The Jitties – narrow lanes of squatter's cottages built by the immigrant mining community.

Find out more and follow the *Jitties Trail*.

4. Miner leading his pony



Located off the High Street; once known as Cole Pit Hill, this sculpture is sited on remnants of the Pritchard Memorial Fountain. George Pritchard was the local solicitor and banker, who later became the High Sheriff of Shropshire.

Other noted residents of Broseley include John Randall, the celebrated china painter, geologist and author, and the iron masters John Guest and John "Iron Mad" Wilkinson. You can find out more about them and see the houses they lived in by following the *Broseley Town Trail*. In more recent times, Broseley was the birthplace of the actress Hermione Baddeley.

5. Miner pushing truck

Mining was hard physical work and until the 1844 Mines Act, both boys and girls pulled wooden sleds or 'mobbies' loaded with mined material to the main underground 'roadways'. Here it was transferred to wagons known as 'dans' that were pulled out of the mine by horses.

In 1891 there were 18 active mines in the Broseley Mining Field, producing coal and clay. The two deepest coal mines, Deep Pit and Coneybury Pit, had shafts descending 420 feet.

6. Pit Pony hauling wagons of coal

Mining ponies were low set, heavy bodied and heavy limbed with plenty of bone and substance, low-headed and sure-footed.

Under the British Coal Mines Act of 1911, ponies had to be four years old and work ready (shod and vet checked) before going underground. Typically, they would work an eight-hour shift each day, during which they might haul 30 tons of coal in tubs on the underground mine railway. One 1911 writer estimated that the average working life of coal mining mules was only 3½ years, where 20-year working lives were common on the surface.

