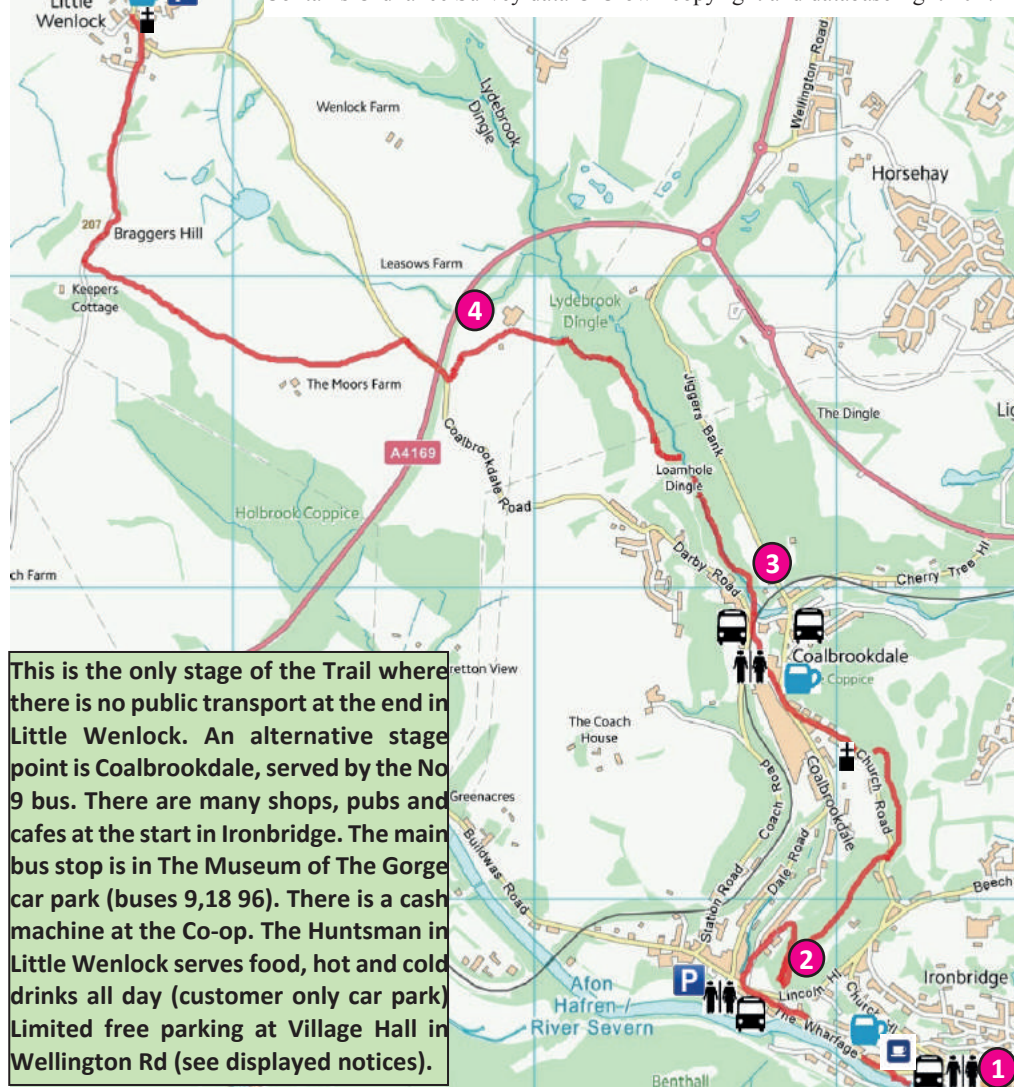


Public transport and facilities: T50 50 Mile Trail Stage 2 to Little Wenlock

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This is the only stage of the Trail where there is no public transport at the end in Little Wenlock. An alternative stage point is Coalbrookdale, served by the No 9 bus. There are many shops, pubs and cafes at the start in Ironbridge. The main bus stop is in The Museum of The Gorge car park (buses 9,18 96). There is a cash machine at the Co-op. The Huntsman in Little Wenlock serves food, hot and cold drinks all day (customer only car park). Limited free parking at Village Hall in Wellington Rd (see displayed notices).



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

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



TELFORD T50 50 MILE TRAIL Stage 2: Ironbridge to Little Wenlock

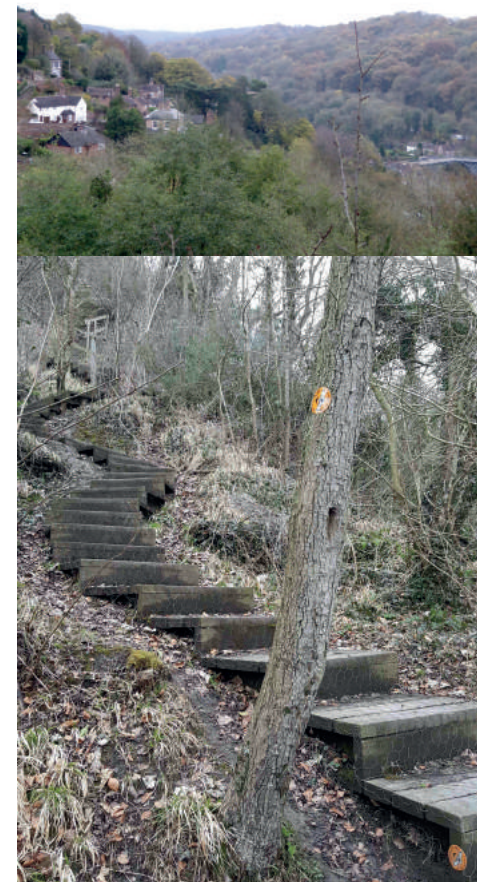


2 A lovely walk, 4 miles, through woodlands and open country with extensive views and lots of history. NB There are three series of steep steps in the woods.

1 Ironbridge to The Rotunda 0.76 miles

From The Iron Bridge (there's a bus stop next to the war memorial by the bridge) walk downhill alongside the river to the **Ironbridge Gorge Museum of the River**. Opposite the Teddy Bear Shop by the Co-op turn right into **Paradise**. The lane climbs quite steeply, you are heading for the best view in Ironbridge. After about 200 yards take the path to the right and carry on to a wooden gate, go through the gate and at the footpath junction turn right signposted '**Rotunda**', this path leads you to the bottom of the famous Rotunda steps. (However, if 173 steep steps are a challenge too far, go straight on at the finger post. At a gate turn left onto Church Rd to rejoin the route at the church later.)

Walk on for a few hundred yards, past steps on the right and then climb the long flight of steps on the left to enjoy the spectacular views of the whole of the Severn Gorge and Coalbrookdale from the top of the **Rotunda**, a trail highlight.



2 The Rotunda to Loamhole Dingle 1.13 miles

Get your breath back and continue along the summit path; don't be tempted to explore the gaps in the trees to your right, it's a sheer (and fast) drop down to Ironbridge. Walk through the woods, at the finger post bear left to Paradise, then slight right to Church Rd at the next sign post. Go through a gate and cross over **Church Rd**. Follow the path left through the gate signed to **Woodside**. These woods are rich in wildlife with 'seat sculptures' and good views. The woods are managed by the **Severn Gorge Conservation Trust**. The paths are **Sabbath Walks**, devised by C19th industrialists to keep the work force out of the pubs on Sundays!

Follow finger posts signs to **Church Road**. Go down the steps, steep left and left fork down to a gate to exit onto Church Rd opposite the church. There are good views from the church, and if open, interesting memorials to local heroes and the Darby family; so enter the graveyard, turn right then rejoin the road and continue downhill. At the end of **Church Rd**, cross the main road, turn right and immediately left down the slip road into **The Museum of Iron** complex past a 'no entry sign'. Go past the museum entrance. There are public toilets to your left. A restaurant is due to open here 2019. Cross the car park to a no exit sign, take the exit signed "**Darby Houses**." There are picnic tables on the right. As you walk under the **Coalbrookdale viaduct** turn right. The **Upper Furnace Pool** once provided back up for the ironwork's furnace pools; now it's a wildlife area. Cross the road ahead and take the path underneath the arch beneath the wooden bridge to enter woodland.

N.B The Museum car park closes an hour after the Museum closes; 4pm every day in the Summer, closed on Mondays in the Winter.

If closed cross the road at the end of Church Road and turn right along the main road past the Coalbrookdale Inn. After a couple of hundred yards take the road on the left and pass the Coalbrookdale Community Centre on your left, and join the route a few yards on by crossing the road and turning right to the arch beneath the wooden bridge



3 Loamhole Dingle to Leasowes Farm 0.9 miles

You are now in **Loamhole Dingle**. Cross the little bridge and follow a wooden walkway with the stream on your left. Keep to the path to the right, the one just by the stream can flood. Continue for about half a mile, over board walks, some steps up and down. Cross a bridge and continue with the stream now on your right. Climb the flight of steps until you reach the gateway at the top. Turn right. Follow the track through a gateway into **Lydebrook Dingle**. Climbing more steep steps, you will now follow the **Shropshire Way** (orange waymarks with a buzzard symbol) for a few miles. You will reach a path junction with waymarks, turn left before a final flight of steps. At the top cross the stile into a field, aim for a gate flanked by two white pillars to the left of a house, **Leasowes Farm**, and turn left onto a road.



4 Leasowes Farm to Little Wenlock 1.75 miles

You have now left the woods behind you and the nature of the walk changes to more open country. As you follow the road, there are good views of The Wrekin to the right. Turn right at the junction through a gate onto another road. Cross the bridge over the **Ironbridge Bypass**, there are good views of **Wenlock Edge** to the left. Continue to follow the quiet lane and after a few minutes take the left turn. Walk past **Moor Farm Cottage** and immediately after turn right through a metal gate (remove the bolt in the top mechanism to raise it and open the gate). Cross the field diagonally left, due West, aim for the last left in a line of four large oak trees half way along the field fence in the distance in front of you. **NB If using OS maps, please note there is a fence shown on the map at the oak tree point, this fence no longer exists.** At the oak tree turn right and follow the fence to the top of the field. **The path across the next field no longer follows the line on the OS map, take care here.** The new right of way is turn right and follow the field boundary fence/hedge keeping it on your right all the way. Cross a stile at the top of the field, turn right onto a track which eventually becomes **Buildwas Lane**. Enjoy glimpses of the **Breiddens, Welsh** and **Shropshire Hills** on the far horizon. After a few minutes you pass the sign to **Little Wenlock** to reach a wall with the church on your right. To continue to Wellington via the **Shropshire Way** turn left. To finish, go straight on, to the crossroads. The **Huntsman** 'hikers' bar' serves food all day and welcomes walkers.

