

From Ironbridge
10.8 miles
1548ft of ascent

Walkers

Me
Christine
Dave
Steve
Sarah
Bruce
Lynn
Lesley
Heather
Cleo the dog

Seven of us gathered at the pavilion for 8:45, Bruce, Lynn & Cleo meeting us there. The journey was uneventfully and we were all booted ready for 10am.

First stop was the famous Iron Bridge for a photo opportunity. The world's first iron bridge was erected over the River Severn at Coalbrookdale in 1779. This now world-famous industrial monument gave its name to the Town that grew around it and to the spectacular wooded gorge that was the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution.

Turning right after the bridge we followed the path to join the Shropshire Way and made our ascent eventually levelling out near Benthall Hall where we made use of picnic benches for coffee. The wind whipped up and we were startled and nearly knocked out by falling pine cones but luckily no one was hit phew that's all I needed on my first lead walk!!!

We then set off again and admired the National Trust property Benthall Hall in the distance, Cleo decided to pose in the long grass and Christine managed to get some good shots, so sweet.

Entering Benthall Edge Woods we took a short detour to admire the view across the valley towards Ironbridge town

Leaving the woods we dropped down back into Ironbridge and joined the Severn way which was an old railway track to our lunch stop at Maws Craft Centre where we made use of picnic tables.

Setting off again we crossed over the river where we came across a short canal with family's of ducks and ducklings where we cooed and awed. Carrying on and passing the China Works we took another detour to Coalport Bridge (there's a theme going



on here) for another photo opportunity.

Here we started our way back taking a right turn up a short incline to join Monarchs Way, then a short walk on the main road and entering Lloyd's Coppice. After a meandering walk we rejoined the Severn Way, crossed over Iron Bridge back to the cars just in time before a heavy rain shower.

There was a problem on the A41 on the way back so the journey took longer but we were all safely back in the Dysart for rehydration in the garden by 4:45 where other BUMS joined us in warm sunshine.

Thanks for your support

Janet