



Walk No 2


Broseley Wood or The Mines to Spout Lane to Red Pool to Patten's Rock Quarry

Starting from the junction of Bridge Road and Spout Lane or the old industrial community of The Mines, this walk offers a mixture of the historically-worked woodland of Benthall Edge, and the contrasting landscape of open farmland with hedged tracks. It visits **Red Pool** or **Bloody Pool**, a rare wetland habitat in a woodland setting, full of life and with a mysterious tale to tell, before moving on to **Patten's Rock Quarry**, the largest of the 18C and 19C limestone quarries on Benthall Edge, with magnificent views across the Ironbridge Gorge. The walk concludes through the oak-dominated **Workhouse Coppice** back to Spout Lane.

 **Accessibility:** Boots are advisable all year round for frequently muddy sections in this largely woodland walk. The walk is almost entirely on the level, but there are two step-over stiles. One section of the walk is next to a pool - children will need to be supervised.

 **Key Features:** Industrial and cultural history, legends, archaeological, ecological and geological interest, viewpoints.

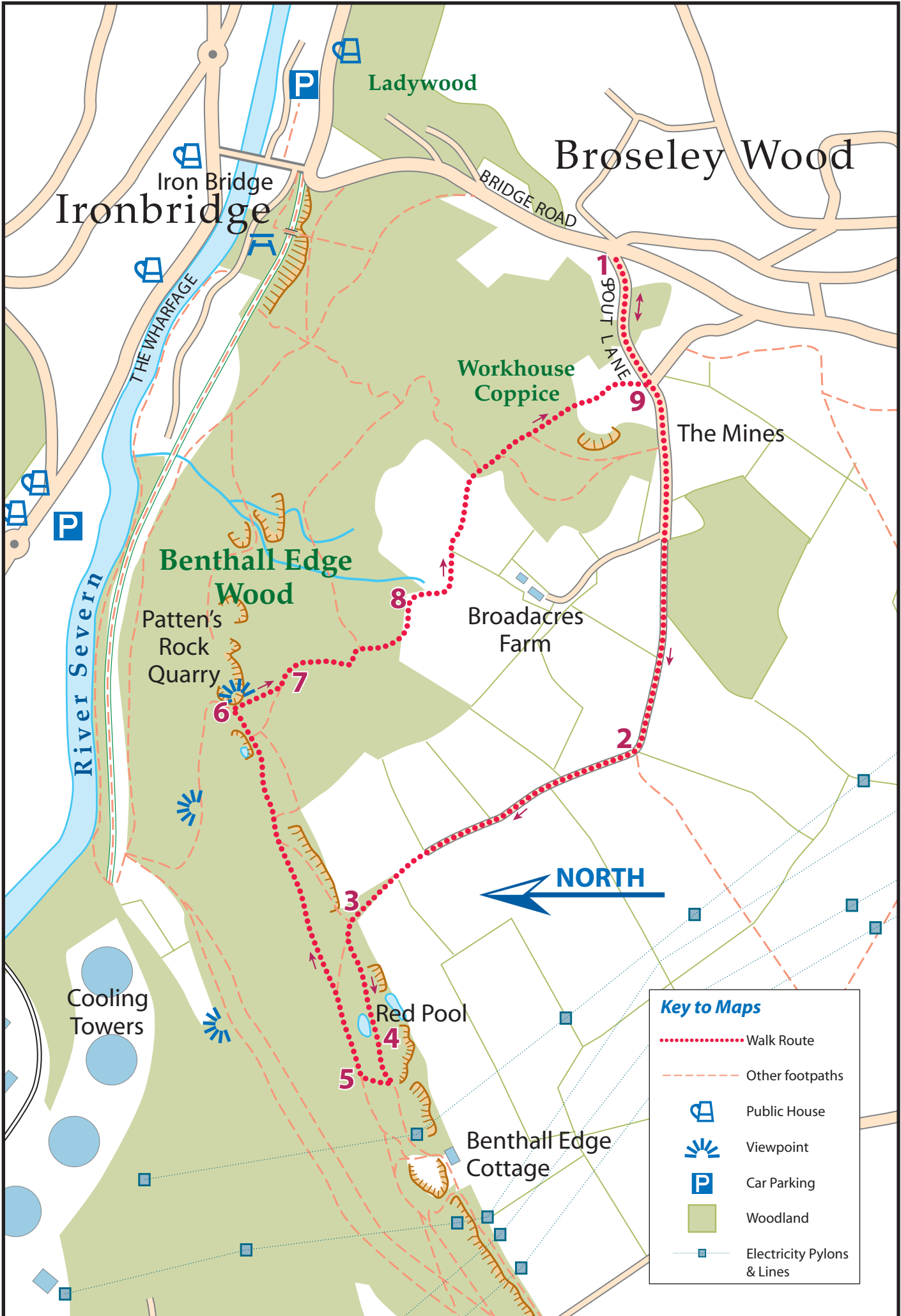
 **Length & Time:** About 3km, about 1½ hours

 **Car Parking:** At Bridge Road in Broseley Wood, or at The Mines (restricted parking)

 **Public Transport:** Buses from Bridgnorth/Broseley and various points in Telford to Ironbridge

 **Refreshments:** Pubs, cafes, restaurants in Ironbridge

 **WCs:** Market Square in Ironbridge



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- 1** Starting from Bridge Road/Spout Lane junction in Broseley Wood, walk up Spout Lane. After about 200m you will come to a pipe set in some brickwork on the right.

Continue on up the hedged lane. After a short while the tarmac ends at a small cross-roads. Continue straight over on a rough track. Broadacres Farm becomes visible on the right surrounded by fields. In summer this initial stretch of the walk can be glorious with the banks of wild flowers and a great deal of bird life, dunnock and yellowhammers particularly in evidence.

- 2** Approximately a quarter of a mile further on, the track you are on makes a bend to the right. Follow it round. After another quarter of a mile, the track enters the woodland and you will soon come across, on your left, a small brick bridge spanning a section of another track, like a ditch, running parallel to the path you are on.

- 3** You will come to a 5-barred gate and stile. Pass over the stile, entering Benthall Edge Wood. The main path continues straight on, but after about 30 metres or so, you should take a narrow left fork. The sheer worked limestone face of Benthall Edge is particularly dramatic on your left. After a while you will come to a small pool on your right, known locally as Red Pool, Rock Pool or Bloody Pool.

- 4** Continue on the narrow path beyond the pool for about 200 metres. The path winds somewhat and goes up and down. Ignore any of the old industrial runnels off on either side, but continue on, keeping the sheer worked face of the quarry visible on your left. You will pass a number of yew trees and an electricity pylon. 30m beyond this, you will come to a T-junction. Take the right hand path.

- 5** The path winds a little for a while but soon joins another broader path. Turn right here at the marker post and continue along the ridge walk. The Power Station and cooling towers are glimpsed through the trees and there is a steep fall to the left, some of it due to the face having been quarried for limestone. Indeed, a band of limestone quarries, access tracks and spoil heaps run in the direction you are walking along the whole of the top of Benthall Edge, culminating in the largest of the 18C and 19C quarries, known as Patten's Rock Quarry.

To get to this continue on the path you are on, ignoring ALL turns off to the right. The path negotiates one deep depression before eventually coming to the wooden safety fence at Patten's Rock Quarry from where there are magnificent views across the Ironbridge Gorge and beyond to newer parts of Telford.

- 6** Once you have taken in as many of the views and sounds as you wish, turn to the right, with the quarry on your left, and descend half a dozen steps, following the path down. After about 70 metres there is a marker post and it is interesting to reflect on the geography and ecology of the woodland at this point.

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7 Continue on down the slope, turning right at the bottom along a small ridge which in autumn is covered with bright orange beech leaves. To your left is a cutting caused by a tiny unnamed stream passing through the outcrop of sandstone.

8 Cross over the little bridge and continue on the path, up a few steps and over those made naturally by gnarled tree roots. At the marker post, turn right. The path winds up and subsequently reaches one of the fields of Broadacres Farm visible ahead of you. Pass over the stile. The path has been marked out around the perimeter of the field to the left. Continue round until you pass over another stile, and yet a third leading back into woodland. This is known as Workhouse Coppice.

Having stepped over the final stile, the path is round to the right and continues on into the woodland.

9 Keep straight ahead through the woodland, ignoring turns off to the right. The path comes to a 5-barred gate with a kissing gate, and subsequently runs in front of an interesting 17C private dwelling, before exiting at the conclusion of the walk in Spout Lane. Turn left and return to your starting point.