



ARE YOU UP FOR THE ADVENTURE?

Disclaimer: Whilst taking every care to ensure accuracy of this trail, the publishers cannot be held responsible for any problems arising from the use of such information.

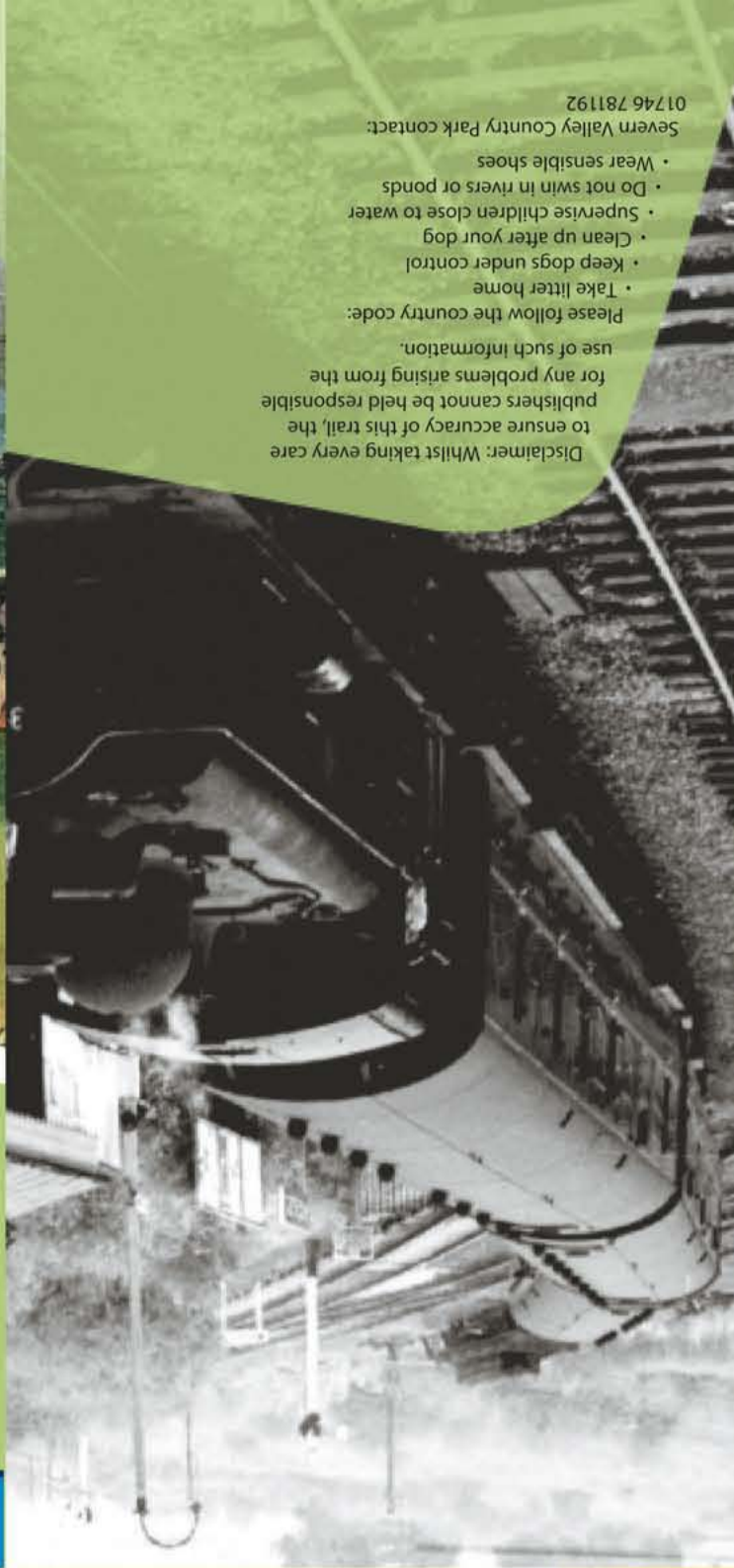
Please follow the country code:

- Take litter home
- Keep dogs under control
- Clean up after your dog
- Supervise children close to water
- Do not swim in rivers or ponds
- Wear sensible shoes

Severn Valley Country Park contact: 01746 781192



THE HIGHLEY TRAIL



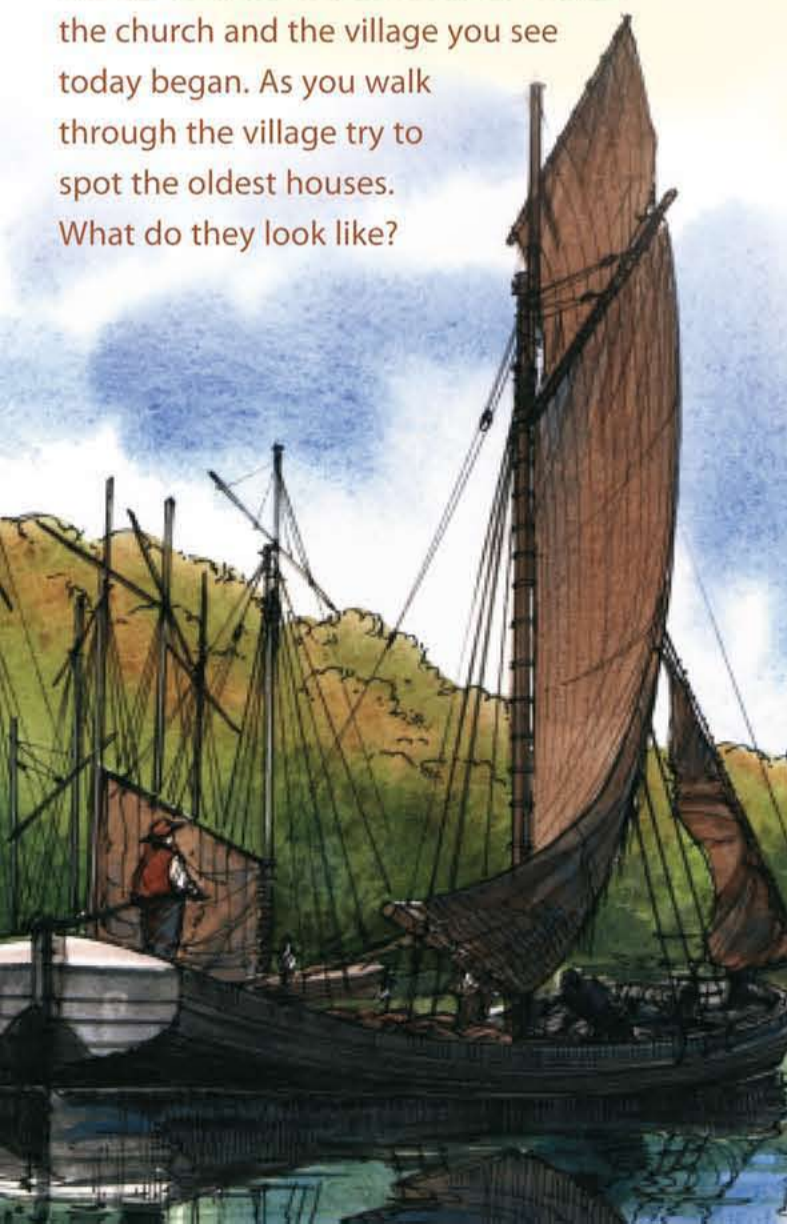
The Severn Valley

ARE YOU UP FOR THE ADVENTURE?

Follow The Highley Trail and you will discover a world of wild rivers, big views, fantastic wildlife and giant industry. The walk will take you up and down hills, over the River Severn, through woodlands and into historic villages. You can start the trail from the Severn Valley Country Park, Highley Railway Station or in Highley village itself. As you follow the trail you can learn even more from the Discovery Trail's works of art and plaques set in the ground. A leaflet is available locally that describes the Discovery Trail.

OLD AS THE HILLS!

Highley is a very old place that started as a clearing in the Wyre Forest over 1000 years ago. Anglo Saxon farmers cleared the trees and built their houses around the church and the village you see today began. As you walk through the village try to spot the oldest houses. What do they look like?



WATERY HIGHWAY

The nearby River Severn was important for travelling and trading long before roads or railways were used and it helped the local people to earn a living. But life was tough and dirty. Since medieval times (about 500 years ago) there has been lots of farming and rock was dug, or quarried, by hand and used to make big buildings like Worcester Cathedral.

BOOM TIME

About 200 years ago companies started to dig (or mine) for coal. These pits soon closed but the mines that started about 1880 were much more successful and Highley hit the big time! When it was at its busiest 000 men worked here. They needed food and places to live so shops, terraced houses and a Methodist chapel were built and Highley became a typical busy mining village.

In 1862 the railway and station were opened and they were used to take the coal away to factories and homes. The last mine closed in 1969.

The River Severn was once busy with trows (a local design of boat) carrying materials



Anglo Saxon farmers worked with plough and oxen to turn the woodland clearings into fields

SAFE SANCTUARY

The area is now a quiet haven for wildlife and nature has reclaimed the old mine workings and waste heaps. As you follow the trail look out for signs of the old coal industry and for amazing plants and wildlife.



Cottages, Highley

The Highley Colliery



Approximate walking times between points and suitability for wheelchairs and pushchairs:

- 1 → 2 10 mins - suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs
- 2 → 4 40 mins - can be muddy
- 4 → 5 15 mins - steep ascent
- 5 → 6 15 mins via Smoke Alley - suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs
- 6 → 7 10 mins Via Bird Cage Walk - suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs
- 7 → 8 10 mins - suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs
- 8 → 9 10 mins - steep descent
- 9 → 2 10 mins - suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs

KEY

The Highley Trail



THE HIGHLEY TRAIL

1 Severn Valley Country Park
The grassy slopes round here were once huge piles of waste coal that were dumped when the mine was at full production.

2 Colliery Bridge
The first bridge was built here in 1937 to take coal across the river. Then a huge aerial ropeway was built and big buckets of coal swung in the air over 100 feet in the air!



3 Riverside woodland
In spring the woodland floor is covered with a carpet of beautiful bluebells. It takes seven years for a bluebell plant to grow from seed!

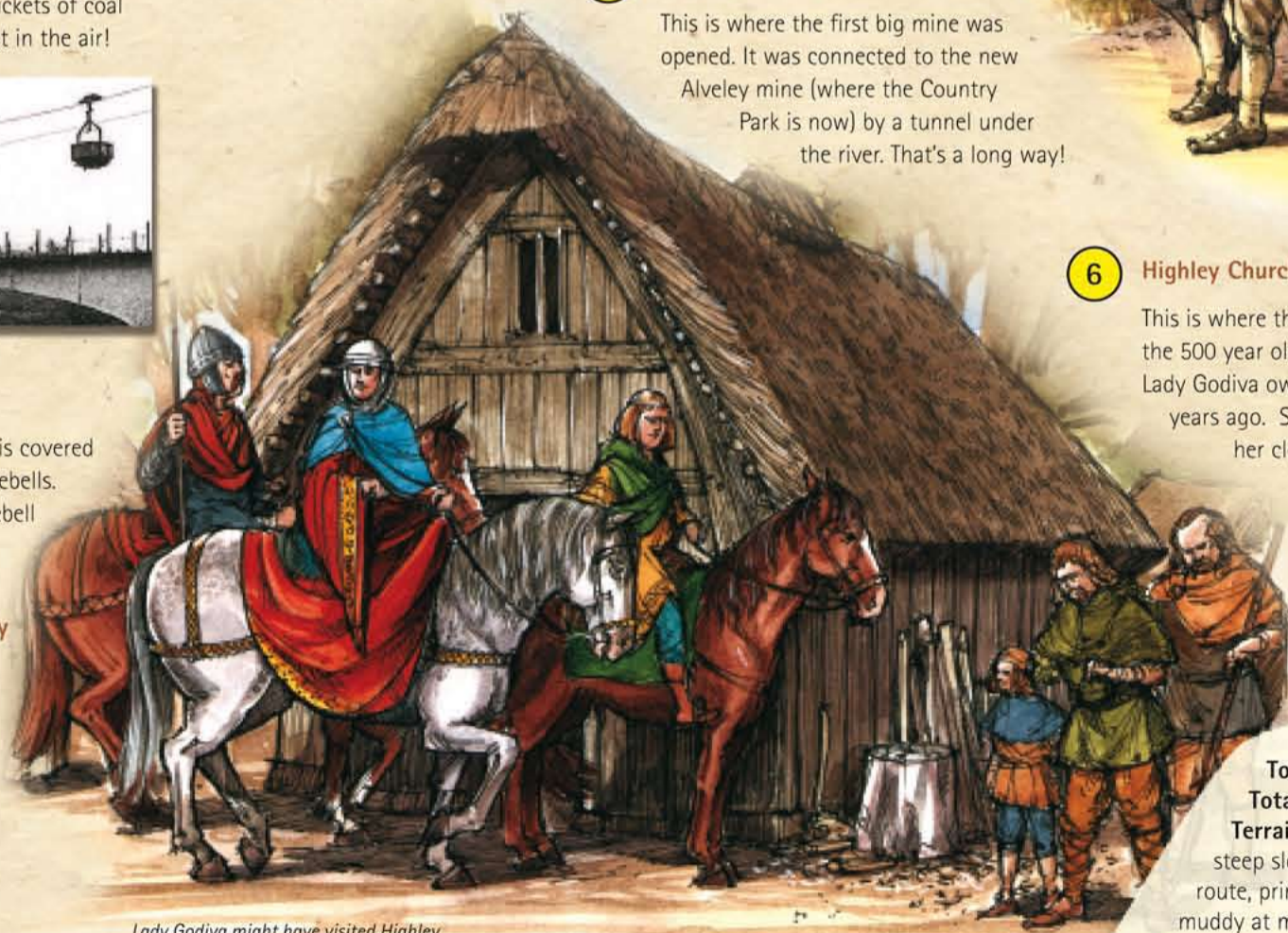
4 Highley Station and Stanley
Local stone was dug, or quarried, from round here and The Ship Inn was opened to help quench the workers thirst.



5 Highley Colliery
This is where the first big mine was opened. It was connected to the new Alveley mine (where the Country Park is now) by a tunnel under the river. That's a long way!



6 Highley Church
This is where the village began. Take a look at the 500 year old manor house across the road. Lady Godiva owned the manor almost 1000 years ago. She is famous in legend for taking her clothes off, but what was she really like?



7 Village Centre
The terraced houses, shops and chapel were built for the miners.

Total distance: approx 3.5 miles.
Total time: approx 2 hours.
Terrain: includes some steps and areas of steep slopes on tarmac or gravel. Parts of the route, primarily along the path by the river, are muddy at most times of the year. The most suitable parts of the route for pushchairs and wheelchairs are shown on the map above.