

Lawley Common Walk



DURATION: UNDER 1 HOUR AT A STEADY PACE.
TERRAIN: PARTIAL INCLINE UP EMBANKMENT. REMAINDER FLAT.
PATH TYPES: FOOTPATHS (TARMAC). PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY (GRAVEL/WHICH CAN BE OCCASIONALLY MUDDY).
CYCLEPATHS FOR RETURN TO LAWLEY SQUARE.
DISABILITY ACCESS: NOT RECOMMENDED FOR WHEELCHAIRS.
SUITABLE: CAUTION FOR PUSHCHAIRS. SURFACE CONDITIONS ALONG EMBANKMENT FROM MARKER SIGNS (49-51).
ONE GATE ONTO BUSY MAIN ROAD (51). CYCLISTS SUITABLE.
FOOD/DRINK STOP: NONE.

32 LAWLEY BANK STATION

- Go right along Martingale Way and follow the road curving right towards the medical centre.
- At **marker sign 49** you'll see a cycle path, part of the Ironbridge Way.
- Take the short cycle path, which becomes a gravel track up the embankment to a viewpoint by **marker sign 50**.



Above - Lawley Bank Station
 Courtesy of Toby Neil and Shropshire Star

33 LAWLEY COMMON

Higgs Hole was a small community of cottages linked by tracks to Ladygrove and Station Road that resided on the Common.

Several small mines operated on the Common extracting coal and ironstone which lay close to the surface.



Above - Open cast mining on Lawley Common with Avondale in the background taken in 1975
 Courtesy of Homes and Communities Agency

34 RAILWAY TUNNEL

- When you reach the end of the path, at **marker sign 51** go through the gate and cross over Dawley Road.
- To the left of the public right of way which leads to Spring Village is an embankment obscured by trees below which is the railway line from Horsehay.

35 TURNPIKE ROADS

- Proceed right along Dawley Road towards Lawley.
- The footpath veers away from the main road as you walk through Lawley Gate by **marker sign 52**.
- Use the footbridge over Lawley Drive.
- At **marker sign 53** go right and follow the cycle path down until you reach a crossing point **marker sign 54** adjacent to the Latter Day Saints Church.
- Cross over and continue on the cycle path up Lawley Drive back to Lawley Square to complete the trail.

RAILWAY TUNNELCONTINUED....

13,000 Cubic feet of shale and sandstone was excavated to create the tunnel some 59 yards in length. The arches are made from blue engineering bricks with stone dressings,

For several years the tunnel was blocked by spoil from open cast mining which took place on Lawley Common. Volunteers from Horsehay Steam Trust cleared and restored the tunnel which has a Grade II listing.



Above - Railway tunnel entrance from the Lawley Common side

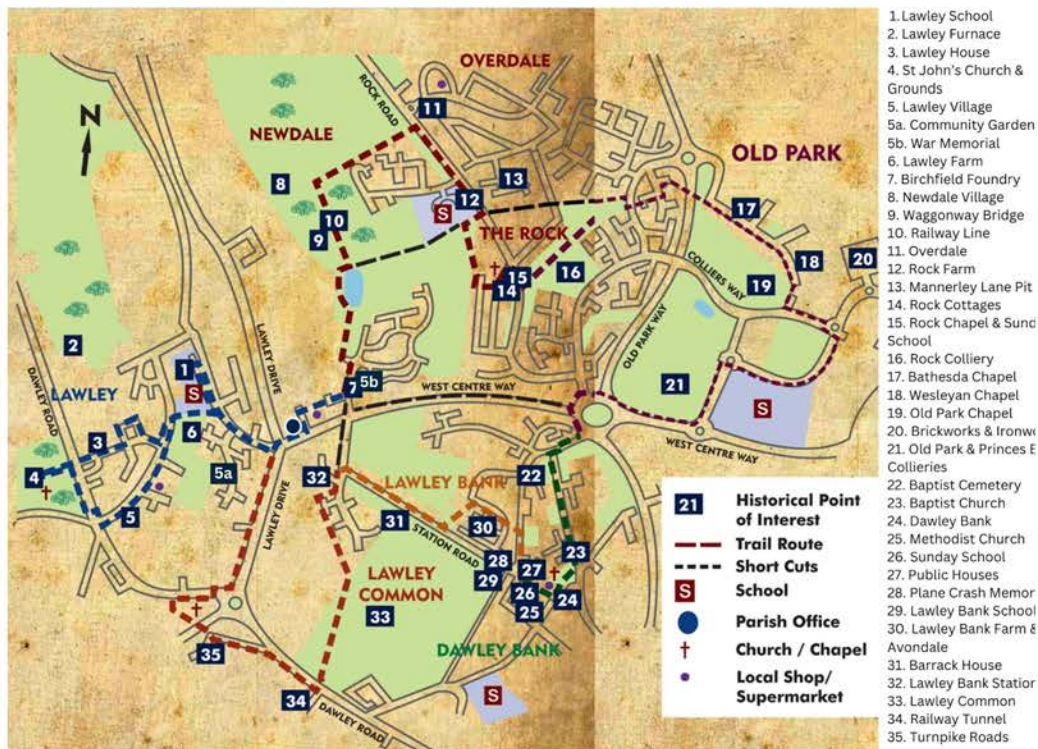
TURNPIKE ROADS....CONTINUED....

Prior to the Highways Act (1555) - Manors appointed tax collectors under Pavage to tax individuals using roads and tracks to pay for repairs. By the 17th century over 1000 turnpike trusts collected tolls across the country at over 8,000 toll houses. "Turnpike" referred to the military act of using a pikestaff to control passage.

There was a toll house at Lawley Gate with a second at Newdale. Individual trusts imposed tolls often unpopular with travellers. With the advancement of railways and county councils given power to maintain roads, turnpikes and toll houses were phased out, many still surviving by becoming private dwellings



Above - Lawley Gate



For all the History
Trail Routes



SCAN ME



LAWLEY AND OVERDALE
PARISH COUNCIL



Lawley Partnership Board

