

Lawley Walk

DURATION: 40 MINUTES AT A STEADY PACE.

TERRAIN: MAJORITY FLAT.

PATH TYPES: FOOTPATHS (TARMAC/FLAG STONES). CYCLEPATHS.

DISABILITY ACCESS: FOR SCHOOL, VILLAGE GREEN, VIEWPOINT, LAWLEY HOUSE AND ST JOHN'S CHURCH FROM LAWLEY SQUARE USE ROUTE BETWEEN MARKER SIGNS (1- 8). ALTERNATIVELY US PARKING AT ST JOHN'S (OFF DAWLEY ROAD) FOR CHURCH GROUNDS.

PUSHCHAIRS/CYCLISTS: SUITABLE. CAUTION FOR ONCOMING TRAFFIC.

FOOD/DRINK STOP: LAWLEY SQUARE AND LAWLEY SHOP.

01 LAWLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

To start trail, begin outside the Lawley and Overdale Parish Office on BirchField Drive (facing the office).

- Turn left and walk along the West Centre Way to **marker 1** at Newdale Cross.
- Cross over Lawley Drive at the traffic lights and again over Arlestone Lane.
- Proceed up Arlestone Lane, over Bartholomew Road and at **marker sign 2** take the foot path straight up until you reach the Primary School at **marker 3**.
- Re-trace your route back along the footpath. Where you walk towards the school fields gate, take the path on your right and back onto the cycle path.
- At **marker sign 4**, follow the path to the right around the perimeter of the Village Green.



Above - Lawley School (Circa 1977)

02 LAWLEY FURNACE COLLERY

- At **marker sign 5** use the traffic light crossing over Glendale and proceed up Village Drive.
- Take first right into Long Row Drive and follow the road (veers to the left) until you come across **marker sign 6**.
- At this viewpoint, look across the field towards the woodland in the distance.
- Proceed up the hill till the next turning on the left (Long Row Drive) and you will re-join Village Drive.
- On Village Drive turn right and follow the road until you see **marker sign 7**.

Mining on the site began in the 1700's with shafts sunk into the Little Flint, Randles and Two Feet seams extracting ironstone, coal and later fireclay. The blast furnace was built in 1822 under the purview of the Ketley Company before partners Henry Williams and William Hambersley formed the Lawley Company in 1829.

Men complained of the hardship of the work involved, not even allowed rest on the Sabbath. In 1847 the Coalbrookdale Company acquired the lease from the Lawley Company.

Output of coal mined and processed in 1856 was approximately 10,000 tons with 5,000 tons of ironstone. The furnace ceased operations by 1870. Lawley Colliery continued well into the 20th century. the former furnace buildings still in-situ until around 1902.

03 LAWLEY HOUSE

- On your right you will see the newly renovated Lawley House.
- Continue ahead, passing through Church View until you reach Dawley Road.

At **marker sign 8** cross over the road at the zebra crossing and turn right till you reach the entrance of St Johns Church.



Above - Lawley House taken in 1985.
Courtesy of T.Proctor

04 ST JOHN'S CHURCH AND GROUNDS

- Proceed up the main drive to the Church.
- Take the first path to your right and walk counter-clockwise around the church to the rear.
- Continue to the front entrance of the Church, opposite is the vicarage built in 1865.
- Exit the cemetery.
- Turn right and cross back over the zebra crossing.
- Turn right and left down the Meadows into Lawley.



Above - St John's Lawley Church & Graveyard
Courtesy of Shropshire Archives

- Continue along Glendale until you reach the little shop.
- Turn right in front of the shop and follow the road to the end and where the play park/field is.
- Walk diagonally across the field to down the side of the muga (basket ball court).
- Go through the gate and follow the path straight ahead, which brings you out onto Barthollomew Road. Follow road until you reach the crossroads.
- Cross straight over (Tom Morgan Road) and through the arched gate and into the Community Gardens
- Veer right and into the next field, passed the Kings Coronation Willow Crown.
- Follow the road down to the bottom and back onto Lawley Drive.
- Turn left and cross back over Arleston Lane and Lawley Drive using the traffic lights .
- You will then be back at the Lawley and Overdale Parish Council **marker 10**.



Above - Close up of the Foundry building

- Turn left to go down Birchfield Way and into Lawley Square.
- Walk directly in front of the supermarket up to the exit of the carpark.
- Cross over the road where you will see the war memorial in front of you **marker 10a**.



Above - Lawley, War Memorial
Designed by Art Fabrications and installed in 2019

- Retrace your steps back to the main road, cross over and turn right to pass the front of the nursery.
- Veer to the left and walk the grass path to the bottom where you will find **marker 11** on Gresham Drive.

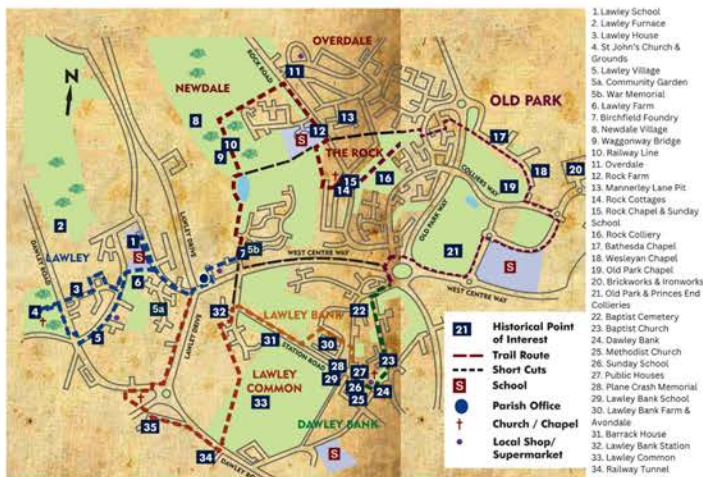


Above - Lawley Farm painted by Jack Woolley 2004
Courtesy of Mrs Ann Rhodes

- Cross the road **marker 12** and follow the path passing through a play area to Newdale Pool. Follow the track around the left hand side of the pool until you reach a cycle path at marker sign 13.



Above - Close up of the Foundry building



For all the History Trail Routes

