

# THE COALBROOKDALE TRAIL

## 1. THE MUSEUM OF IRON

This is known as 'The Great Warehouse', built by the then world-famous Coalbrookdale Company in 1838. The clock tower was not built until later, in 1843.



*Look at the windows. The lintels, frames and sills are all made of cast-iron.*

## 2. THE LONG WAREHOUSE

Late Victorian - built to store grates & ranges which were assembled in the building behind. Now houses the Museum Library & Archives and The Furnace Kitchen.

## 3. THE UPPER WORKS (INCLUDING THE OLD FURNACE)

Turn over for more detailed guide to this historic collection of structures.

## 4. SENTINEL SHUNTING LOCOS

Used by the Coalbrookdale Company on their own internal railway system. Converted in the 1920s from a boiler and cylinder system to a boiler with chain drive to both axles, reducing running & material costs by about 50%.



*Look at the boiler. See how it is mounted vertically, not in the more conventional horizontal position.*

## 5. THE VIADUCT

Built in 1862-4, this section of railway was known as the 'Golden Mile' because it was so expensive to build - 2 road bridges, 1 viaduct and 1 cast iron bridge across the River Severn (the Albert Edward Bridge).

## 6. DALE HOUSE

Built by Abraham Darby I but not completed until after his death in 1717. Traditionally occupied by Company Managers.

## 7. ROSEHILL HOUSE

Built in 1738 and lived in by various members of the Darby family. Entrusted to the Museum in 1978.



*If you stand in the courtyard to the right of the house and look up, you can see the roofline of Tea Kettle Row, a very early terrace of six workers' cottages built c.1740. You can also visit the Quaker Burial Ground where many members of the Darby family were buried.*

## 8. UPPER FURNACE POOL

This provided water power to drive the furnace bellows and the turning and grinding machinery for the ironworks.

## 9. CARPENTERS ROW

A terrace of 8 workers' cottages with 2 wash, or brew houses, dating from 1783. Now private homes.

## 10. WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL

Built in 1885 commemorating the centenary of the death of John Fletcher, a famous evangelical vicar of Madeley.



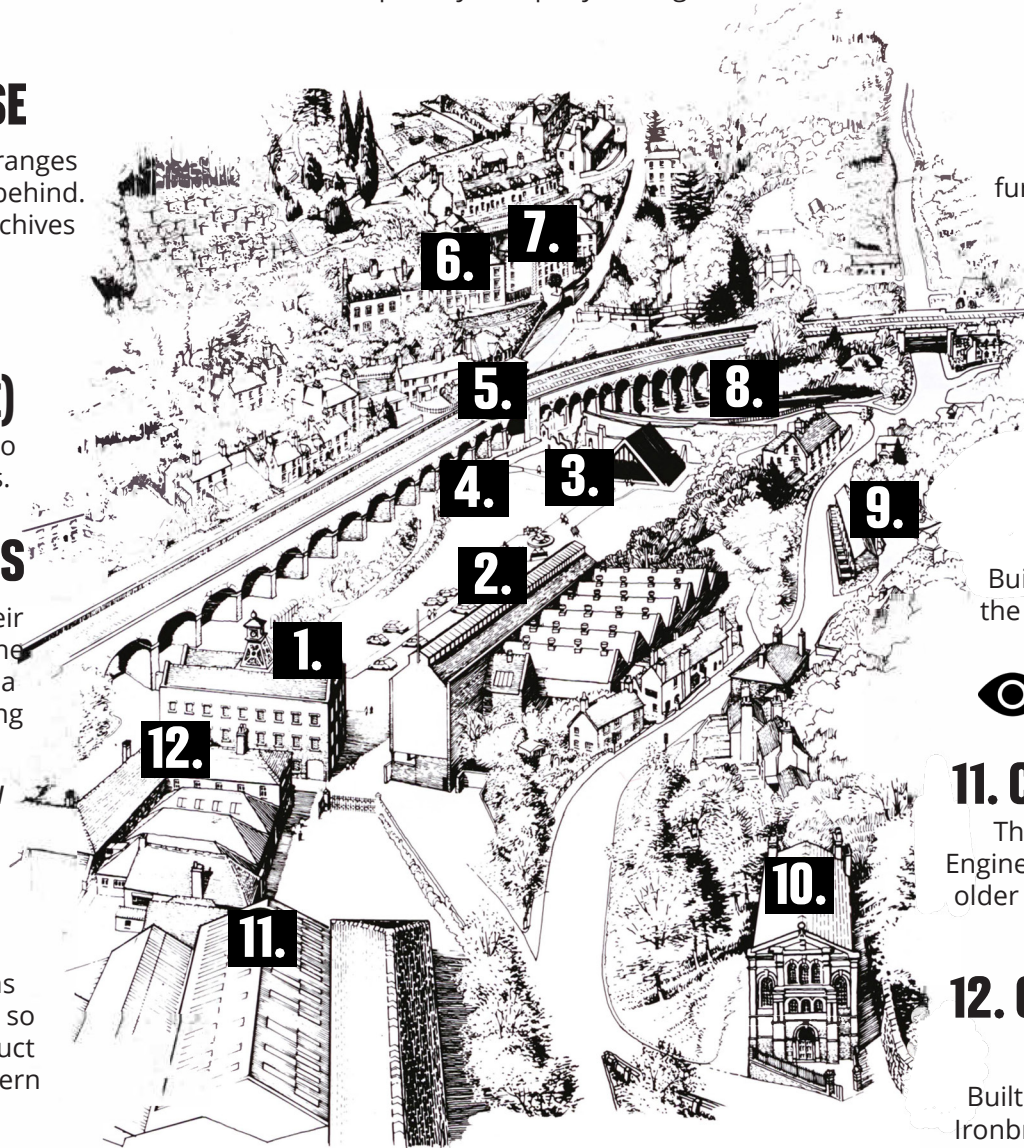
*Look up to Holy Trinity Church, financed by Abraham Darby IV in 1854.*

## 11. COALBROOKDALE IRONWORKS

The long brick building to the left is the old Engineering Shop - erected in 1879. It replaced the older workshops of the Upper Works. Now home to Enginuity.

## 12. COALBROOKDALE COMPANY OFFICES

Built in the late 19th century. Now houses the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust offices and the Coalbrookdale Gallery, a temporary exhibition space.



### 3A - THE WATER WHEEL PIT

An 18th century pit for a large water wheel which once supplied power for grinding wheels to clean up castings. The wheel was last used in the 1920s. The pit was originally enclosed by a building.



*Look at the cast iron bars low down at the back of the pit. These were the first type of iron rails for waggon ways made and used by the Coalbrookdale Company from the 1760s. They were pegged onto wooden rails to protect them from wear.*

## THE COALBROOKDALE TRAIL: CLOSE UP ON 3

### 3B - THE GRINDING WHEEL

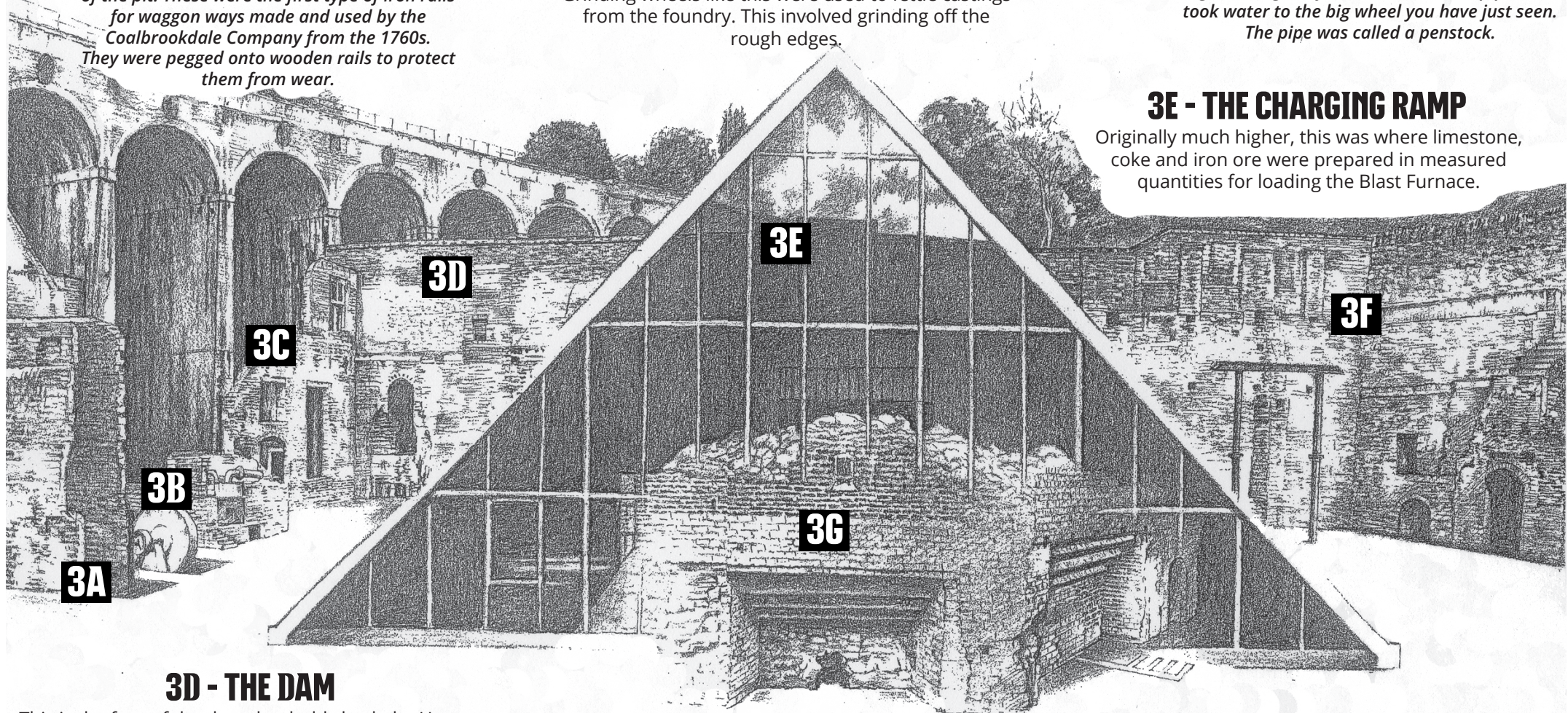
Grinding wheels like this were used to fettle castings from the foundry. This involved grinding off the rough edges.



*Look at the hole high up on the wall to your right. It originally carried a cast iron pipe that took water to the big wheel you have just seen. The pipe was called a penstock.*

### 3E - THE CHARGING RAMP

Originally much higher, this was where limestone, coke and iron ore were prepared in measured quantities for loading the Blast Furnace.



### 3D - THE DAM

This is the face of the dam that holds back the Upper Furnace Pool. The actual dam is built up from earth, rubble and timber. It has burst twice in its history, the last time in 1801. It's carefully monitored today.



*Look at the fire grates up high on the dam wall. They show the different floor levels of workshops built over and around the furnace in later years.*

### 3G - THE OLD FURNACE

This is where, in 1709, Abraham Darby first smelted iron using coke instead of charcoal. It is known as the Old Furnace as it was already over 50 years old when it was taken over by Abraham Darby I.



*Look at the date on the lintel. There is debate as to whether the Furnace was built in 1638 or 1658!*

### 3F - THE SNAPPER FURNACE

Built 1794-1801, this small blast furnace used to supplement output in times of high demand.



*Snapper Furnaces were common in 18th century Shropshire ironworks but are not known outside the area.*