

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 and Ranges which were assembled in a building behind.

! It now houses the Ironbridge Institute, Ironbridge Archaeology and the Museum Library & Archives.

👁️ *Take a look at the huge cast iron columns which support the Warehouse. These allowed railway waggons to be shunted underneath and then loaded from above.*

3 THE UPPER WORKS (including THE OLD FURNACE)

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

4 SENTINEL SHUNTING LOCO'S

Used by the Coalbrookdale Company to move materials about the site on their own internal railway system.

! Converted in the 1920s from a traditional boiler and cylinder system to a boiler with chain drive to both axles, reducing running and material costs by about 50%

👁️ *Take a look at the boiler. See how it is mounted vertically - not in the more conventional horizontal position.*

5 THE VIADUCT

Built 1862-4 to carry trains from Wellington to Buildwas junction, Much Wenlock and Craven Arms. Still used today by coal trains serving the power station.

! 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.

👁️ *Take a look at the iron tie-bars. These were inserted later to hold the viaduct together as the trains got heavier.*

12 COALBROOKDALE COMPANY OFFICES

Built in the late 19th Century, these buildings now house the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust Offices.

👁️ *Take a look at the fine wrought and cast iron gates, made at the Works.*

11 COALBROOKDALE IRONWORKS

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

! This is now home to Enginuity - the interactive design & technology centre.

10 WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL

Built in 1885 to commemorate the centenary of the death of John Fletcher, a famous Evangelical vicar of Madeley.

👁️ *Look up towards the Holy Trinity Church further up the road. Financed by Abraham Darby IV in 1854.*

9 CARPENTERS ROW

A workers terrace of 8 cottages and 2 wash, or brew houses, dating from about 1783.

! Take a look at the windows. Many of them retain the original glazing and wooden shutters.

8 THE UPPER FURNACE POOL

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

! The pool was recently restored by Telford & Wrekin Council.

7 ROSEHILL HOUSE

Built in the 1720s and lived in by various members of the Darby family. Entrusted to the Museum in 1978.

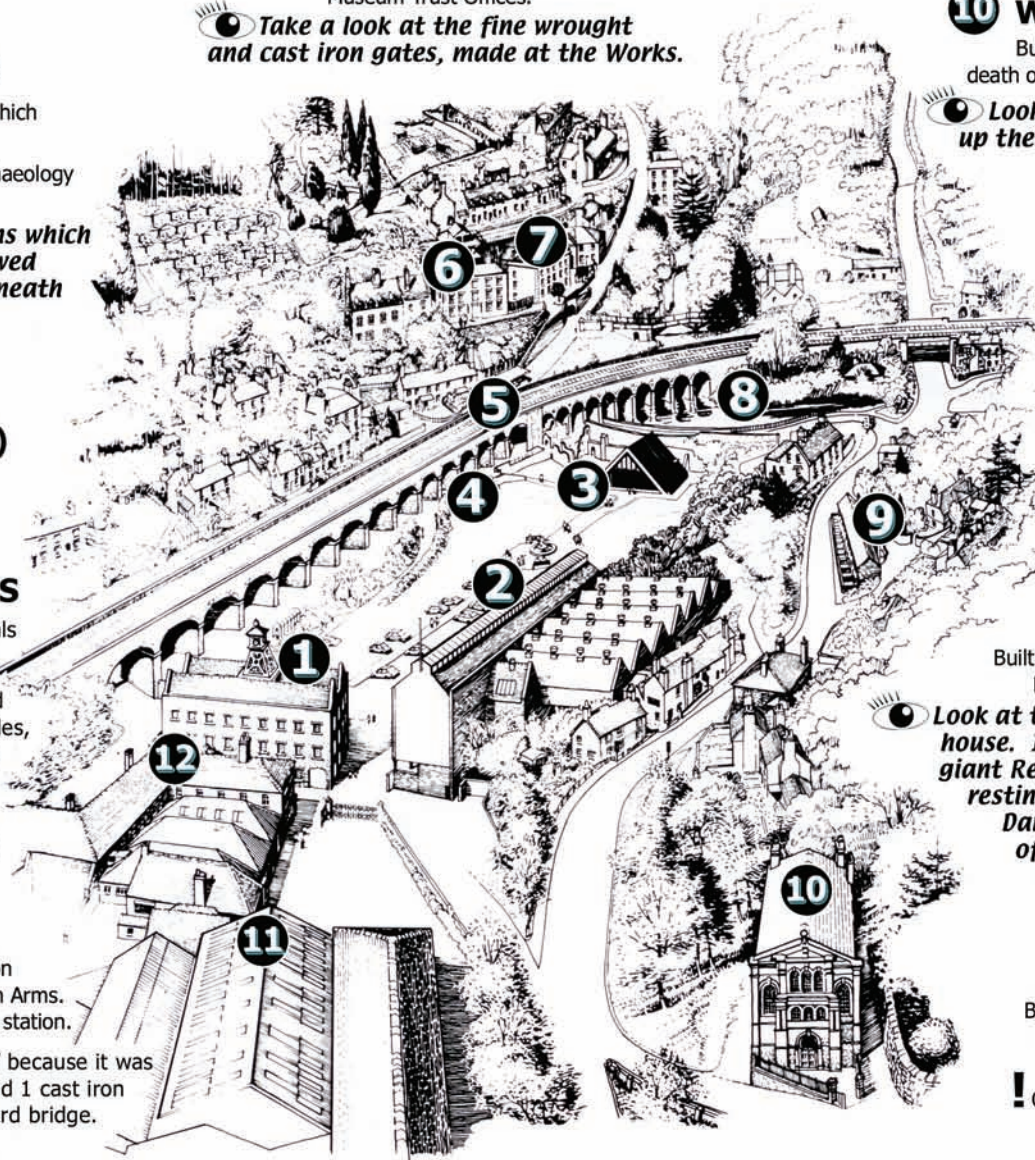
👁️ *Look at the courtyard and buildings to the right of the house. If you look up you can just see the tops of the giant Redwood trees in the Quaker Burial Ground - the resting place of many influential members of the Darby family. You can also see the roofline of Tea Kettle Row, a very early terrace of six workers cottages thought to have been built in the 1740s.*

6 DALE HOUSE

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

! Originally two storeys tall with an attic and extensive landscaped gardens.

👁️ *Take a look at the cast iron window sills and lintels*



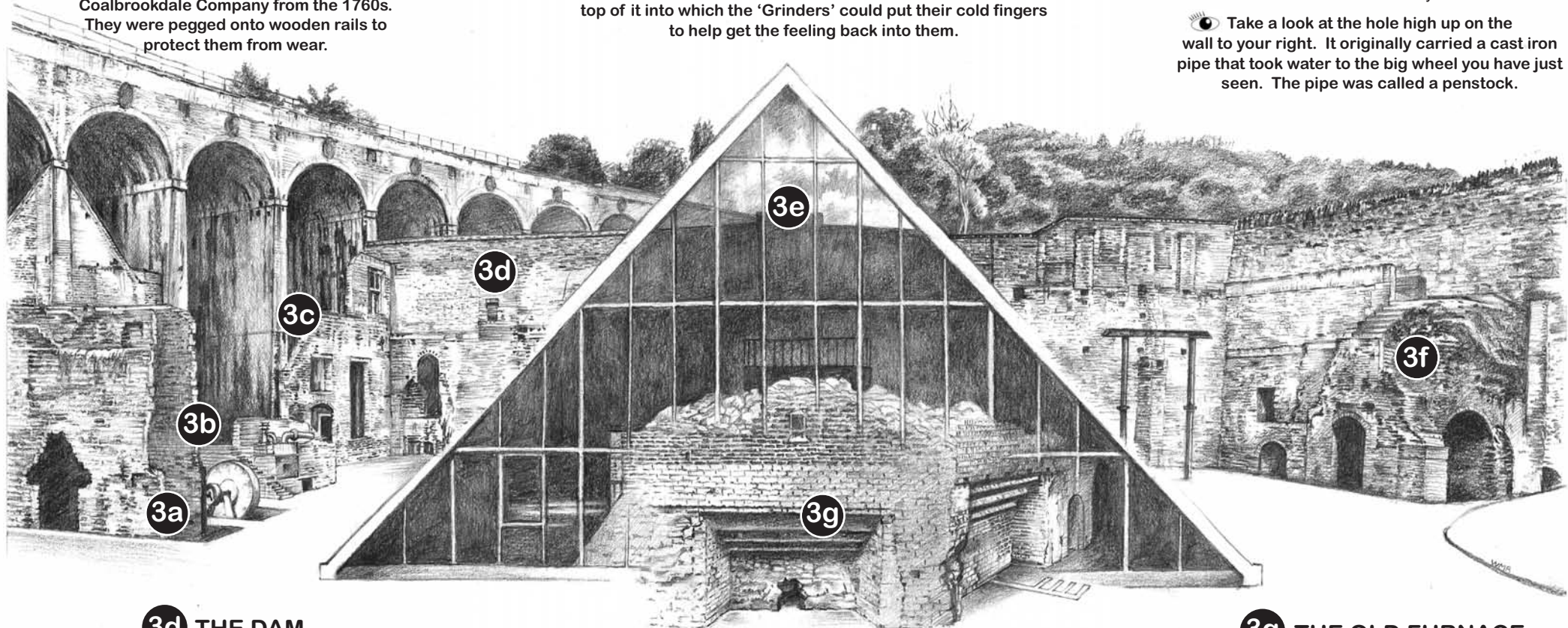
THE COALBROOKDALE TRAIL - Close up on No.3

3a THE WATER WHEEL PIT

An eighteenth 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 totally enclosed by a building.

- 👁️ Take a 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.



3b THE GRINDING WHEEL

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

! The wheels were sprayed with water to keep the dust down.

- 👁️ Look at the strange cast iron object on the right. It is a boiler that once helped heat the building. A pan of water was kept on top of it into which the 'Grinders' could put their cold fingers to help get the feeling back into them.

3c CULVERT

The water roaring down this culvert comes from the pool behind the dam to your right. It shows the power that was available in Coalbrookdale to drive machinery.

- 👁️ Take a 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.

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 was in 1801. Today it is carefully monitored.

- 👁️ Take a look at the fire grates high up on the dam wall. They show the different floor levels of workshops built over and around the furnace in later years.

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.

- 👁️ Inside you can climb up steps to look down into the mouth of the Furnace.

3f THE SNAPPER FURNACE

Built 1794 - 1801. It is a small blast furnace used to supplement output in times of high demand.

- ! Snapper Furnaces were common among Shropshire ironworks in the late eighteenth century, but are not known outside the area. They could produce 10-15 tons of iron in a week.

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.

- 👁️ Take a look at the dates on the cast iron lintels above the hearth. There is debate as to whether the date the furnace was built was 1638 or 1658.