



## Walk No 5

# *Maw's Craft Centre to The Boat Inn to the Memorial Bridge to Coalport China Museum to The Werps*

**This short 'clean-shoe' walk** offers an insight into some of the 18C/19C history of both Jackfield and Coalport. Starting at **Maw's Craft Centre** (car park nearby), home of the former Tile Works, the path moves on to **The Boat Inn** and thence over the **Jackfield & Coalport Memorial footbridge** offering views of the remarkable **Hay Inclined Plane**. The walk travels along a section of the **old Coalport canal** to the China Museum and Youth Hostel, both housed in former buildings of the **China Works**, before concluding by passing back over the footbridge, through part of the **Werps district** of Jackfield back to the Craft Centre.

 **Accessibility:** Shoes are perfectly adequate for this short walk, which apart from the steps on either side of the Memorial Bridge, is largely on the level. There are no stiles but there are river and canal stretches – children will need to be supervised.

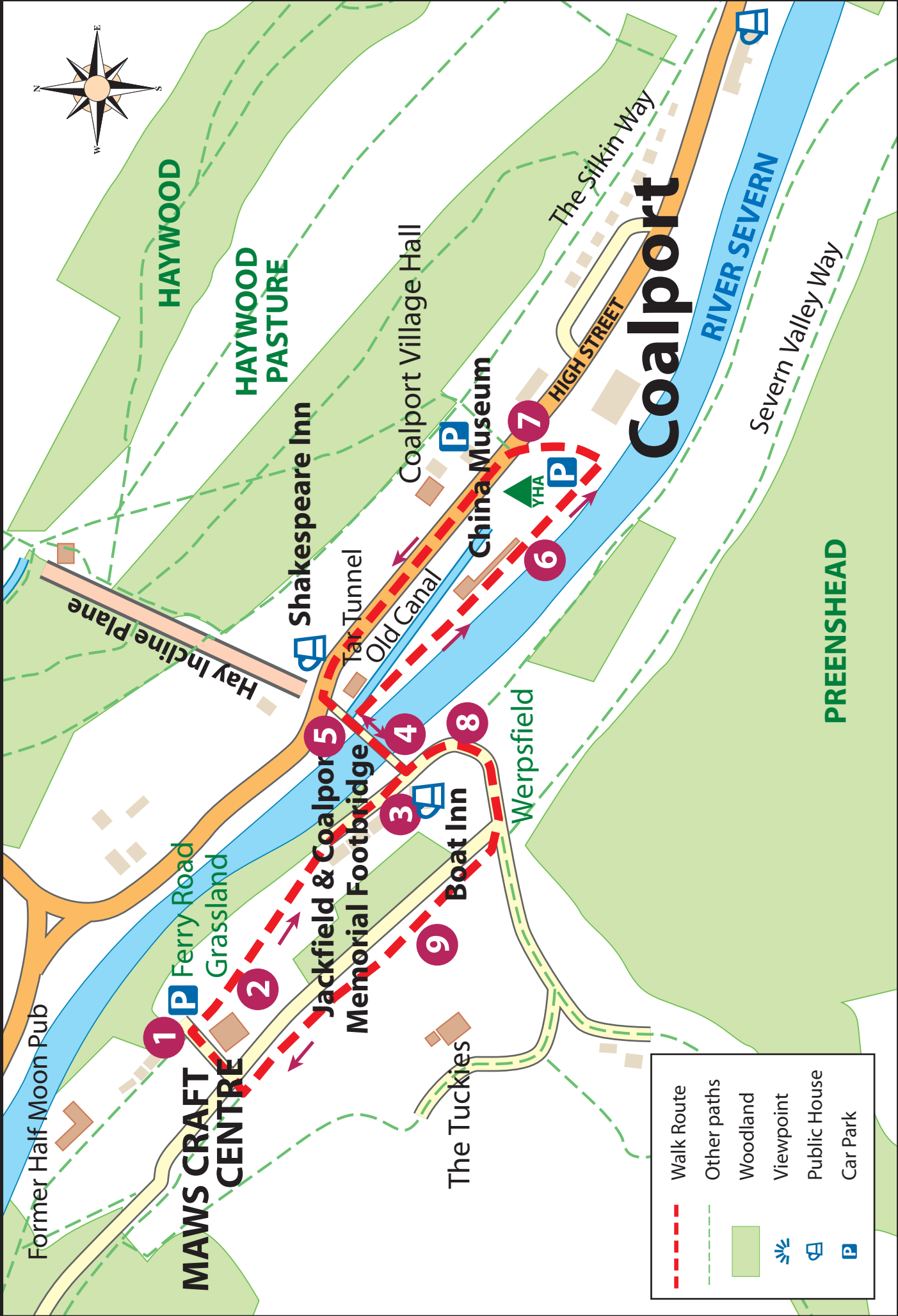
 **Key Features:** Industrial and social history, archaeology.

 **Length & Time:** 1½ km – about ¾ hour

 **Public Transport:** Buses to Jackfield and Coalport.

 **Refreshments:** Maw's Craft Centre café, the Boat Inn, The Shakespeare Inn

 **Toilets:** Maw's Craft Centre, Youth Hostel, China Museum.



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- 1** Maw's Craft Centre is the starting point for this walk and is well worth a visit, either now or at the end of the walk. The Centre utilises a number of the surviving buildings of the former Maw & Co., tile manufacturers.
- 2** With the car park on your left, continue on the footpath which runs down the left hand side of the Maw's building. There is a pleasant area of amenity grassland on your left. The footpath soon becomes Ferry Road.
- 3** Ferry Road opens out in front of *The Boat Inn* on the right and the Jackfield & Coalport Memorial Bridge on the left.
- 4** Now pass over the recently renovated Jackfield & Coalport Memorial Bridge.
- 5** On the other side of the footbridge, you come to a pleasant Canal Basin, a restored section of the Coalport canal built by William Reynolds in the late 18C. Looking straight ahead, you will also see the road bridge and how a remarkable construction called the Hay Inclined Plane passes under the bridge. Walk on the path to the right of the canal which eventually brings you close to the buildings of the former China Works and one of the elegant bottle kilns used in pottery manufacture.
- 6** A small footbridge crosses the canal which you should take. Turn right and walk through to the car park with the main museum on the right and the John Rose Building, now a Youth Hostel, on the left.
- 7** Exit from the car park, past the Youth Hostel on your left, into Coalport High Street. As you walk on for a few metres, notice just how many cast iron windows there are in the John Rose Building, designed to let in the maximum amount of light for the often delicate and meticulous work involved in decorating the china. After a few metres you will come to the end of the building and a turning off to the left. The path ahead leads back to the canal over the little footbridge. Take this and retrace your steps back to the Jackfield & Coalport Memorial Bridge. Pass over this, back to the *Boat Inn* on the south side of the river.
- 8** At *The Boat Inn* turn left, past the beer garden, following the road round to the right. Continue on up the road, turning right before the railway bridge.
- 9** Continue on the road ahead of you, being careful of the occasional car which will pass this way. The road is now running parallel to the former railway line on your left. Indeed the road you are on also served as the railway sidings for the Maw's Tile Manufactory a little further up on the right. A few more metres on, if you look left you will see a handsome house (now three dwellings) known as 'The Tuckies'. Follow the road you are on back to the entrance of Maw's Craft Centre and your starting point.