

# Points of interest and notes

## Mortuary Chapel

The graveyard here (1) is the final resting place of Francis George Miles V.C. a Clearwell coal miner who was awarded the Victoria Cross near the end of World War I. He is also remembered on a plaque in St Peter's church.

## The Rocks – Iron Ore

As you walk up The Rocks (1 to 2), to your left is Clearwell Meend where iron ore and ochre were mined from Roman times until the early 1900's. At Clearwell Caves underground passages and caverns can be visited. Puzzlewood is beyond the caves and can be seen from (16). Recently a film location, Puzzlewood can also be visited.

## Ellwood – Coal

The mounds near Ellwood School (7) are formed from waste produced during coal mining. Many such mounds can be seen in the Forest of Dean some much larger than these. Deep mining ceased in the 1960's but independent Freeminers remain.

## Darkhill – Steel

Here (11 & 12) in the early 1800's father and son David and Robert Mushet carried out important experiments on the methods of production of steel. You are standing on a former railway line and the Mushets produced the first steel railway rail – much more hard wearing than the iron rails in use at the time..

## Milkwall – Colour

Enough ochre was mined near here to enable a colour works (13) to produce paint on the site to your left. As you walk uphill to (14) look for the stained glass window in a brick house to your right. This was once St Lukes church.

## Lambsquay

The strange name may be connected with the free roaming sheep that you often encounter in the area. The locals here enjoy the “right of common” that allows them to graze their sheep in the woodlands.

## Views

As you cross the fields (18-21) you will see some fine views including Newland with it's church and tower with Wales in the distance. Later you'll look down into Clearwell with a good view of the castle. The apple trees to the left (23-24) were planted by the children of Clearwell. A wassail helped them on their way.



## Darkhill Walk

**Distance:** 6.4 Km (4.0 miles) – allow 1½ – 2½ hours.

The walk uses quiet lanes, pavements on minor roads and recognised public footpaths across farmland. The farmland (and stiles) can be avoided if desired, especially in wet weather when stiles/paths are slippery (please see note on map).

**Difficulty and hazards:** The walk has a 300m ascent up a country lane. The descents on the return journey are more gentle. The paths used cross 15 stiles and surfaces will be uneven and will be muddy in wet weather. The fields may contain livestock. Please be alert for the vehicles.

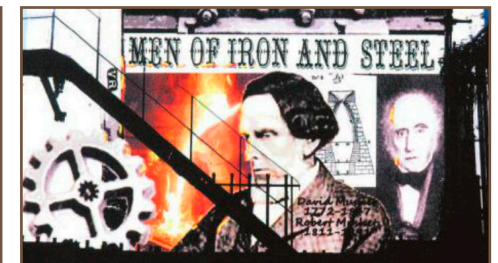
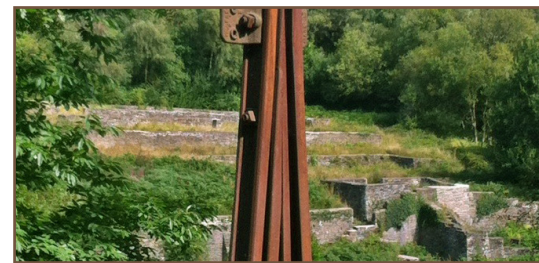
**Equipment:** Boots or strong shoes are recommended. Nettles, brambles and thistles may be encountered, a stick can be useful to control them.

**Other Notes:** Mobile phone coverage will be “patchy”. There is a shop (at 14) but no toilets on the walk. Carry water and take a hat if hot weather is likely and waterproofs if rain is probable. Ask at Reception for the weather forecast.

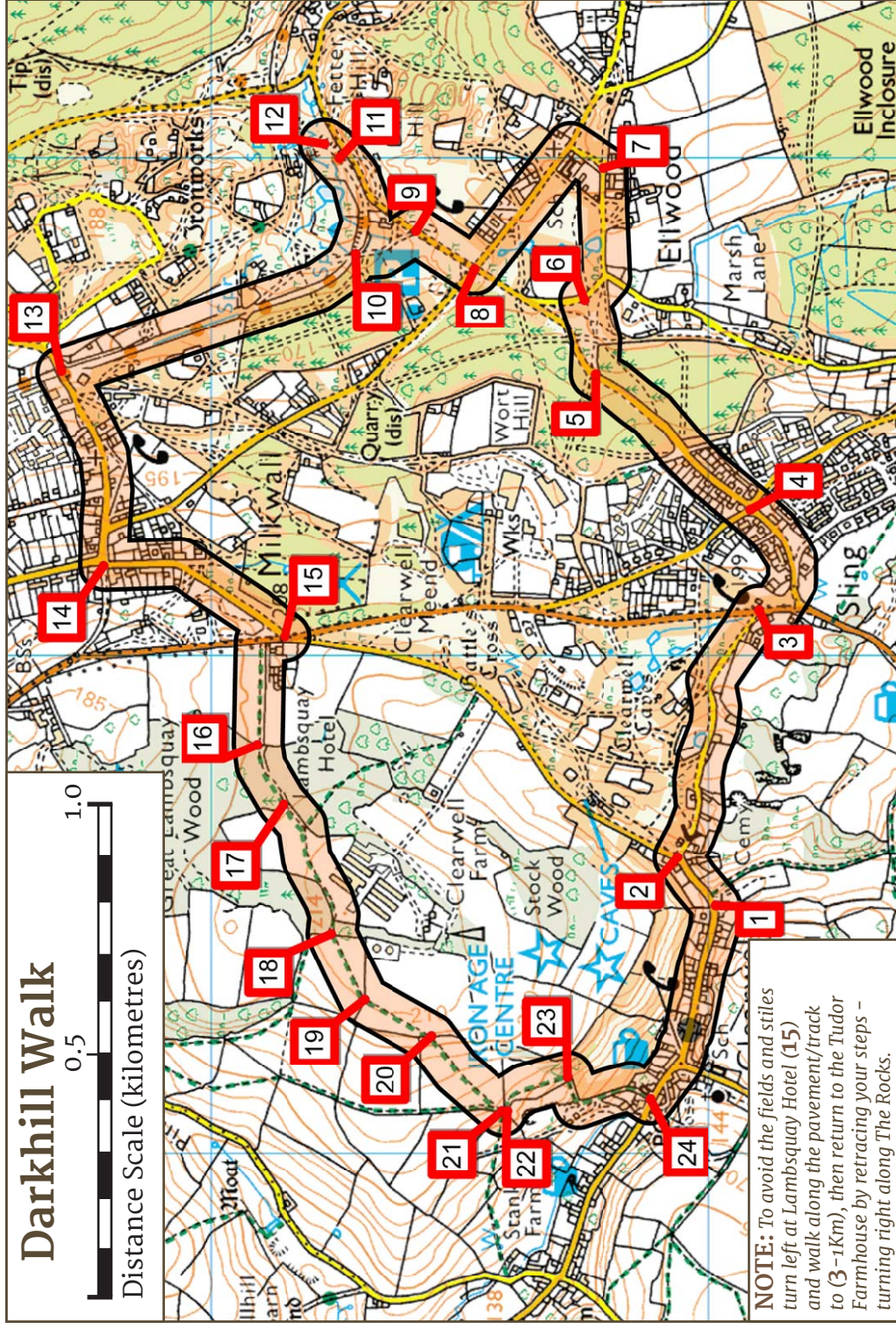
**Navigation:** The main changes of direction and stiles are marked on the map by a number. In the Directions, the distance from the previous number is given

e.g. (2-130m) means that 2 is 130m from the last point mentioned – in this case (1)

If you find that the footpath you need is obstructed by crops, walk around the edge of the crops until you reach the next stile.



Monument & the site of Darkhill Ironworks. Robert (left) & David (right) Mushet.



## DIRECTIONS

From the Tudor Farmhouse walk to the left as far as the Chapel with the large iron gates situated on the bend (1-250m).

Walk on and turn right up The Rocks (2-130m). The small path visible across the lane leads up to Clearwell Caves.

At the end of The Rocks (3-550m) cross the road. Take care crossing here. Walk through The Miners car park and leave left through the gate into Sling. Continue to the crossroads (4-300m). Continue along the pavement straight ahead on the right hand side of the road until it leaves the road (5-400m). This is the well used route to Ellwood School.

Stay on the pavement until it reaches a small road (6-150m) then walk right. Keep left at the road junction and continue until you reach some mounds ahead near the school (7-300m).

Go left to the T junction and walk left between the school and the chapel. Continue to Ellwood crossroads (8-400m).

Turn right, walk down the hill and take the track into the car park (9-150m). Walk straight through the car park to the cycle track (10-130m), then walk to the right down the cycle track until you reach the Musket crossed rails monument (11-200m).

Continue downhill to the Ironworks viewpoint on the left (12-50m).

Turn around and walk back along the cycle track past the car park (10) continuing on the cycle track to the road at Milkwall (13-900m).

Walk uphill to the left. Turn left at the top of the hill along Lamsbasy Road (14-400m).

Continue to the junction at Lamsbasy Hotel (15-400m), cross the road and take the track to the right of the hotel. Take care crossing here.

Cross 6 stiles at the edge of the field to enter the wood (16-270m).

Cross the stile at the end of the wood into the field (17-140m).

Cross the field towards the building and follow the fence on your left. Cross the stile and cross another into open fields (18-300m)

Bear left across the top of the field.

Cross the stile then go through the gate into the chicken farm (19-140m).

Walk around the right hand edge of the field to a galvanised pedestrian gate (20-160m).

Go through the gate and cross the stile just beyond it.

Bear left downhill to the corner of the field.

Cross the stile, (21-200m) turn left and immediately cross another stile. (22-5m)

Go downhill, keeping the hedge to your right.

Turn right at the gate and stile (23-170m) and walk downhill, ignoring the kissing gates, to the road in Clearwell village.

Cross the stile (24-200m) and turn left to return through Clearwell to the Tudor Farmhouse (120m).