

Dark Hill Amble

Region – Forest of Dean

County/Area – Coleford/Milkwall, Gloucestershire

Length – 1.6 miles / 2.5 kms (approx.)

Ascent – Initially level going, undulating around the Ironworks

Grade - Easy

Start – Great Western Railway Museum, Coleford

Postcode – GL16 8HR (approx. location only)

Walk Route Description

An easy walk along the Coleford/Milkwall/Parkend cycle track and around the remains of the Dark Hill Ironworks. This is a branch of the Family Cycle Trail from Coleford to Parkend. Formerly it was part of the Severn and Wye Railway that ran from Parkend up the valley to a terminus at Coleford. The walk follows the cycle track for approximately 1.5 miles (2kms) until you reach the area of the Ironworks. After a circuit of the Ironworks the route returns along the cycle track back to your start point.

- Follow the town path from the museum to the start of the Coleford/Milkwall cycle track located on Old Station Way (B4228) and opposite the entrance to the “The Main Place” office complex.
- Stay on the cycle track for approximately 1.5 miles, keeping the Golf Course to your left.
- After approximately 1 mile the cycle track crosses Station Road. Keep straight.
- After approximately half a mile you will enter the area of the Ironworks.

Note: You will see large railway lines set vertically in the ground to your left. This is a monument to Davis Mushet and his son Robert who were early pioneers in metallurgy.

- Continue down the hill to the restored remains of buildings in the valley to the left. These are the remains of the Dark Hill Ironworks.
- Continue down the gravel track.
- Follow the path uphill where the gravel tracks becomes a macadam surface.
- At the dirt path ahead (large rock on your left), turn left up the path.
- Follow the dirt path.
- Continue ahead past a fence on the left and hedge on your right.
- Continue ahead through the large rocks and uphill until you reach Marefold (a large house on the right).
- Take the track on the left at Marefold through the stones downhill.
- At the bottom of the hill cross the shallow ford using the stepping stones.
- When you reach the cycle track at the top of the slope, turn right and retrace your route back to the Museum.