

**Scene 1:**

It's a bright, autumn day and you're standing next to the River Severn, which flows for 220 miles and is the longest river in Great Britain. During the Industrial Revolution, the Severn was an important transportation route, linking the iron and coal fields in the Midlands with the Bristol Channel.

**Scene 2:**

We are going to explore Ironbridge, a small town in Shropshire, on the banks of the River Severn. Katie grew up near here and visited the town a few times as a child, to see the historic Iron Bridge, which the town is named after.

**Scene 3:**

Dave's first glimpse of the bright red Iron Bridge took his breath away! He felt like a child, marvelling in awe at something so grand and impressive.

**Scene 4:**

Katie was surprised by the colour of the bridge, which was grey last time she saw it. The bridge was painted red during restoration work in 2018, to better reflect its original colour. The bridge was designed by Thomas Farnolls Pritchard and the construction project was managed by Abraham Darby III. When it opened in 1781, this was the world's first major bridge made of cast iron. Its success had a global impact, and inspired the widespread use of cast iron as a building material.

**Scene 5:**

Did you know that cast iron can be very strong or very weak and brittle, depending on how it is used? That's why steel and wrought iron are often more suitable building materials. This means that, while the Iron Bridge was innovative at the time, industrial developments eventually produced better materials for building bridges.

**Scene 6:**

Katie loves planning these trips and finding hidden treasures and windows into the past. Most people walk straight past this car park and miss these kilns. They were used to process limestone and produce lime, which is a key ingredient in purifying iron ore.

**Scene 7:**

These are the remains of the coke-fired blast furnaces. A lot of the ironwork used to build the Iron Bridge was cast here. It's a short walk from the town centre, which is lovely on a sunny day like this.

**Scene 8:**

When we walked back along the river towards the bridge, IKatie noticed this small shed, which is apparently the last coracle maker's shed in England. A coracle is a small one-person boat made of woven wood. They have been used in the UK for over 2000 years, and the shed stands as a memorial to a dying practice.

**Scene 9:**

While visiting the Iron Bridge, don't forget to explore the shops and treat yourself to a delicious, award-winning pork pie, or a tasty ice cream if you're lucky enough to have good weather. Dave had the best sausage roll of his life here.

(attach image as well)

**Scene 10:**

The Iron Bridge might take all the glory, but it's not the only bridge in town! This simple but eye-catching, stone bridge is on the edge of the town, just over a mile north of where we just were.



Scene 11:

We actually started our day here, and it was lovely and peaceful in the early morning. This area is surrounded by natural beauty, dotted with signs of the region's industrial past.



Scene 12:

Originally, the Iron Bridge was used by vehicles, but this stopped when it was designated as a monument in 1934. Since then it has only been used by pedestrians, so when we drove out of town, we crossed the river via this neighbouring modern bridge.

**Scene 13:**

Dave loves this view. On one side you can see the redbrick Jackfield Tile Museum, which presents the history of the British decorative tile industry. And opposite is St. Mary the Virgin church. It was built in 1863 using local brick, and some of the woodwork came from an older chapel, dating back to the mid 1700s.

**Scene 14:**

We're about two miles east of the Iron Bridge now and we've found another bridge! If you look through it, you can see the beginning of the Hay Inclined Plane. This track was used to transport tonnes of materials and was really important for the industrial activities in the Ironbridge area.

**Scene 15:**

Our final stop of the day was the Coalport China Museum, which details its history as a manufacturer of fine English chinaware between 1795 and 1926. It was so quiet and peaceful, we could almost forget about modern life and imagine ourselves back in the heart of the Industrial Revolution... although the 360 camera was a reminder of how far we've come!

**Scene 16:**

Today the Iron Bridge is celebrated as a symbol of the Industrial Revolution. In 1986 the Ironbridge Gorge area was one of the first sites in the UK to be given World Heritage status by UNESCO. It's truly a marvel to behold, and we hope you've enjoyed exploring it with us.