

# Buckland Dinham & Great Elm

4.5 Miles | 7 km

Moderate

A walk over fields, along lanes and through woods, with good views, industrial archaeology and interesting wildlife, particularly in the riverside woodland.

Vallis Vale is a Site of Special Scientific Interest noted for its geology and wildlife. Look out for dippers, grey wagtails and kingfishers. In spring, wood anemones and wild garlic clothe the ground beside the path. You can also take a short detour to the De la Beche unconformity, a nationally important geological site. Instead of crossing the river for a third time, go across the gravel and up the steep bank. In front of you yellow Jurassic limestone rests on top of the eroded surface of the grey Carboniferous limestone, which is more than 100 million years old.

This walk can be muddy. Take care on roads – particularly the Hapsford to Great Elm road, which you walk along for a short distance in two places.

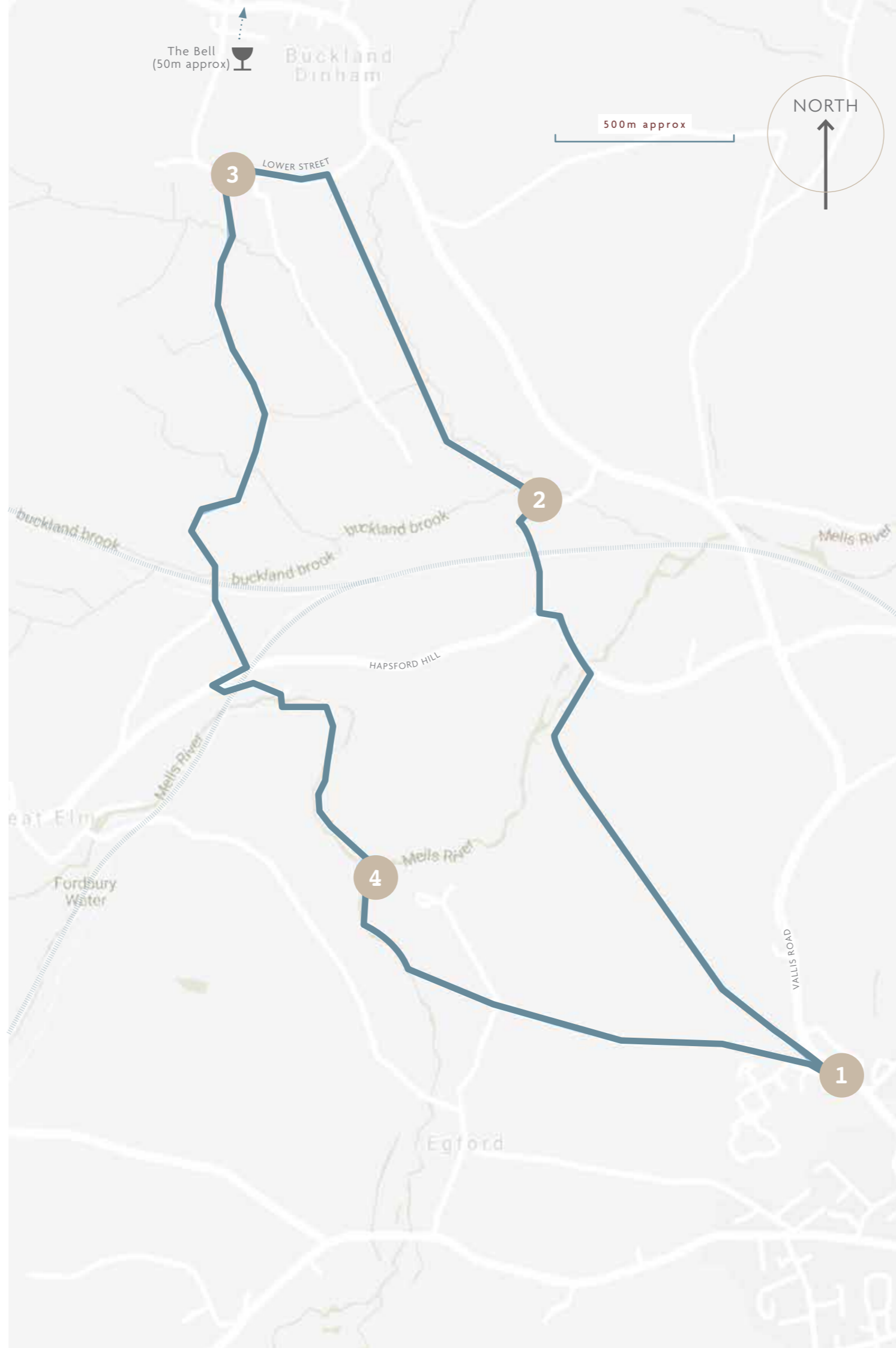
## START

**1** At the junction of Wallington Way and Vallis Road (A362) take the right fork in the first field and follow the footpath along the right-hand boundary, then across two more fields. Go through the band of trees, down metal stairs, then turn right. At a T-junction turn left, over the river and up the hill. Turn right into the lane with weak bridge.

**2** Go over the slab stile on your left by a beech tree. The path then goes across five fields before you reach the edge of Buckland Dinham. Keep a look out for an old coal-pit chimney. Oxley's Colliery was shown on the 1888 map. Shafts were sunk in 1880, but they flooded and were abandoned before coal was found. Turn left, then just as you leave the village turn left

again. At this point, a detour to The Bell at Buckland Dinham can be made. Instead of turning left out of the village, follow the road round to the right to take you into the village where you'll find The Bell opposite on the High Street. Retrace your steps to re-join the route.









**3** Follow this lane towards Great Elm. After the railway bridge, turn left through a gate into a field. Cross the field to a stile, turn right then left down "No Through Road" to Bedlam. Cross the river and make your way (there are two possible routes) to a broad track, a permissive path along the route of an old railway. Here turn left. Just after crossing the river again fork right along the path by the river.



**4** Two bridges further on, cross the river again. Follow the path by a smaller river. Look out for a smaller path going off diagonally to the left. Go up a steep path to a field then on to the lane. [To avoid the steep hill, or if you miss the path to the left, continue along by the river. When you reach the lane turn left up the hill. Turn right onto a track just before the houses to the right.] Go straight over the lane and across fields back to the starting point.

FINISH

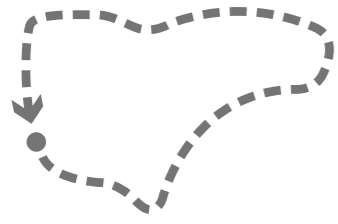
## Key

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  Church        |  Take Care     |
|  Public Toilet |  Route Marker  |
|  Water Refill  |  Walking Route |
|  Refreshments  |  Pub           |





# FROME WALKS



Route written by Veran Conn on behalf of Frome Recreation and Open Ground Supporters.

4.5 Miles | 7 km

Moderate

## Buckland Dinham & Great Elm



### Respect

Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors.

Leave gates and property as you find them.

Follow paths where crops are growing. Use gates or stiles if possible.

Avoid climbing walls or fences. Don't disturb ruins or historic sites. Don't interfere with machinery or livestock.

### Protect

Protect plants and animals and take your litter home. Be careful not to drop matches or smouldering cigarettes.

Keep your dog under effective control so that it does not disturb or scare farm animals or wildlife.

Always clean up after your dog and get rid of the mess responsibly.

### Enjoy

Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs.

### Nature Notes

Listen out for skylarks when crossing the first three fields.

At Hapsford there is a rookery.

After crossing the river at Hapsford Bridge, use the footpath on the left where maidenhair spleenwort and wall rue grow out of the wall.

After the weak bridge the roadside banks have many spring flowers.

While walking through the fields to Buckland Dinham you may be lucky enough to see buzzards circling overhead or a heron by the brook.

Along the lane from Buckland Dinham to Great Elm the hedgerow trees are initially ash, but change to oak about half way along. In places the hedges have Black Bryony and Old Man's Beard growing through them.

In Vallis Vale look out for dippers, grey wagtails and kingfishers. In spring wood anemones and wild garlic clothe the ground beside the path.

Vallis Vale is a Site of Special Scientific Interest noted for its geology and wildlife. More details are available in the pamphlet "Vallis Vale" (Discover Frome Information Point).