

# 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.

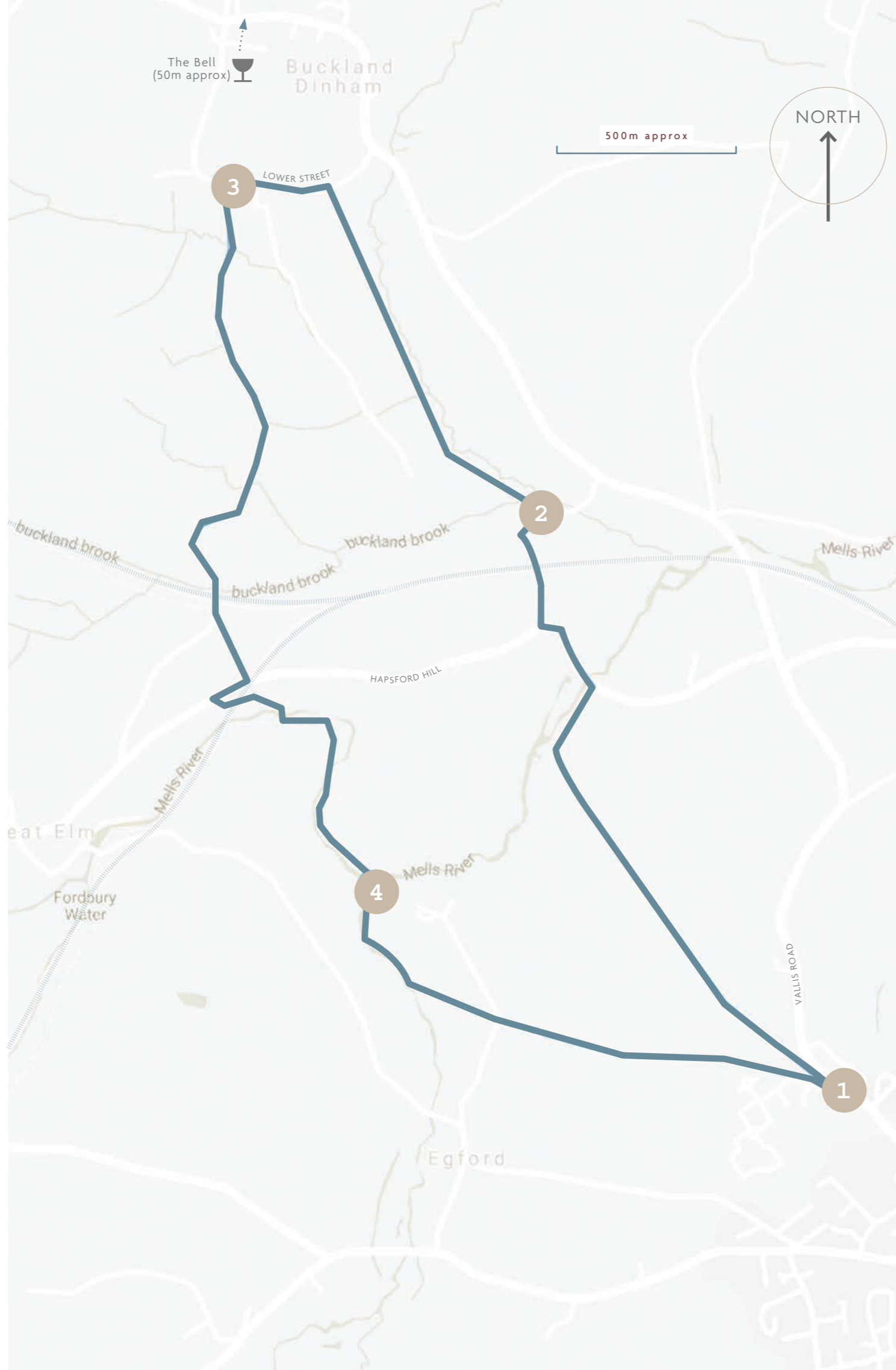
## START

**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.

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.

## FINISH

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).

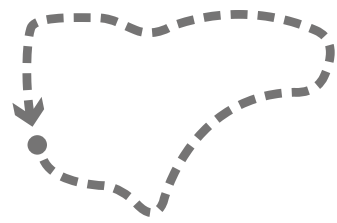
## Key

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





# FROME WALKS



## Trees you might find

### Ash



**Height** up to 35m  
**Bark** pale brown to grey and fissures as the tree ages  
**Twigs** smooth with distinctive black, velvety leaf buds arranged opposite each other  
**Leaves** 3-6 opposite pairs of light green oval leaflets with a single leaflet at the end  
**Flowers** small purple flowers growing in spiked clusters at the tip of twigs  
**Fruits** winged fruit or 'keys' form in late summer and autumn

### Silver Birch



**Height** up to 30m  
**Bark** white and sheds paper-like layers, becoming black at the base. As it ages, the bark develops dark, diamond-shaped fissures  
**Twigs** smooth with small dark warts  
**Leaves** small, light green and triangular with a toothed edge  
**Flowers** long yellow-brown catkins, commonly known as 'lambs' tails' and short, bright green catkins  
**Fruits** female catkins thicken and become dark crimson

### Hawthorn



**Height** up to 15m  
**Bark** brown-grey, knotted and fissured  
**Twigs** slender, brown and thorny  
**Leaves** about 6cm long, toothed  
**Flowers** white (occasionally pink), 5 petals, highly scented and grow in flat-topped clusters  
**Fruits** deep red known as haws

### Common Beech



**Height** 40m+  
**Bark** smooth, thin and grey, often with slight horizontal etchings  
**Twigs** dark brown with distinctively sharply pointed leaf buds not pressed against the twigs  
**Leaves** oval and pointed with a wavy edge. Lime green with silky hairs, becoming darker and hairless  
**Flowers** tassel-like catkins hang on long stalks; flowers grow in pairs surrounded by a cup the cup becomes a prickly, woody case enclosing one or two beech nuts (or beechmast)  
**Fruits**

### Blackthorn



**Height** 6-7m  
**Bark** dark brown and smooth  
**Twigs** black-purple, forming straight side shoots which develop into thorns  
**Leaves** oval, toothed, pointed and tapered at base  
**Flowers** white five-petalled flowers appear in March and April  
**Fruits** Blue-black fruits about 1cm and perfect for sloe gin

### Sweet Chestnut



**Height** up to 35m  
**Bark** grey-purple and smooth, developing vertical fissures with age  
**Twigs** purple-brown with red-brown oval buds  
**Leaves** glossy, 16-28cm long and 5-9cm wide. Oblong with a pointed tip and toothed edge  
**Flowers** long, yellow catkins  
**Fruits** spiky green cases hold shiny red-brown nuts ready for Christmas

### Alder



**Height** up to 28m  
**Bark** dark, fissured and often covered in lichen  
**Twigs** light brown, spotted stem turning red towards the top  
**Leaves** Young twigs are sticky purple or grey leaf bud; dark green leaves are 3-9cm, racquet-shaped and leathery with serrated edges.  
**Flowers** male catkins are 2-6cm long and turn yellow; female catkins are green and oval shaped  
**Fruits** catkins become woody and appear as tiny cone-like fruits in winter

### Hazel



**Height** up to 12m  
**Bark** smooth, grey-brown which peels with age; bendy, hairy stems with oval, blunt and hairy buds  
**Twigs** bark can peel in younger shoots  
**Leaves** round/oval, doubly toothed, hairy and pointed at the tip  
**Flowers** catkins are yellow and hang in clusters; flowers are tiny and bud-like with red styles  
**Fruits** oval fruits hang in groups and mature into a nut with woody shell surrounded by leafy bracts (modified leaves)

### Ginkgo Biloba



Originating from China, Ginkgo biloba is neither a broadleaf or a conifer and has its own division, Ginkgophyta. The only tree left in its division, it's often known as the 'living fossil tree' as fossil records show that species closely related to today's Ginkgo have existed for over 200 million years. Frome has its very own Ginkgo outside the library!

### Elder



**Height** around 15m  
**Bark** grey-brown, corky and furrowed  
**Twigs** green, unpleasant-smelling, hollow or have a white pith inside  
**Leaves** buds are ragged-looking; leaves have 5-7 toothed leaflets which smell unpleasant when touched or bruised  
**Flowers** creamy-coloured, highly scented, five-petal flowers on large flat umbels 10-30cm across  
**Fruits** small dark purple berries

### Rowan



**Height** 15m  
**Bark** smooth and silvery-grey  
**Twigs** start hairy, becoming smoother  
**Leaves** buds are purple and hairy; leaves comprise of 5-8 pairs of leaflets, plus one at the end. They are long, oval and toothed  
**Flowers** dense clusters of creamy-white, five-petalled flowers  
**Fruits** clusters of scarlet berries, enjoyed by birds

### Judas Tree



The Judas Tree (cercis siliquatstrum) is believed to have arrived in the UK in the 17th century and if you're lucky to be in Frome in late April – May visit Victoria Park where you can enjoy its stunning deep pink/purple flowers.

There are two ideas for how it got its common name 'Judas Tree', the first pertaining to the myth that Judas hung himself from this tree after his betrayal of Jesus Christ. The second is that it's a derivation from the French Arbre de Judée (tree of Judea) where the tree was a common sight.

The name Cercis comes from the Greek kerkis "shuttle" because of the seed pods' resemblance to a weaver's tool; siliquatstrum comes from Latin siliqua "pod".

Route written by Verran 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.