

# Explore Whatcombe

3.5 Miles | 5.6 km

Moderate

### START

**1** At the Cheese & Grain, head north-west past the canoe club, under the railway bridge, passing the pump track and the children's play park.

**2** When you reach Welshmill Lane, turn left over the bridge and immediately right following the footpath sign directing you along "Riverside path to Low Water". The River Frome is now on your right.

**3** The tarmac path takes you through a meadow and houses. The path turns left and then right signposted to Spring Gardens. Go through the gate, and through Whatcombe Fields. When entering the third field, the footpath leaves the tarmac path, it goes straight on over the field. Head for the telegraph pole and kissing gate straight ahead. Go through the kissing gate. There is a view of Selwood Manor in the distance. Cross the field and go through the stone stile.

**4** Follow the path straight ahead with trees and then a wall to your left. Whatcombe Farm is on your left. Go through the kissing gate, passing the Whatcombe Wall canal embankment on your left (part of the Dorset and Somerset Canal that was never completed). There are poplar trees on your right.

**5** Go through a kissing gate. Stop look and listen and beware of trains before crossing the railway track. Go through another kissing gate. Cross the pasture, through another kissing gate onto Coalash Lane.

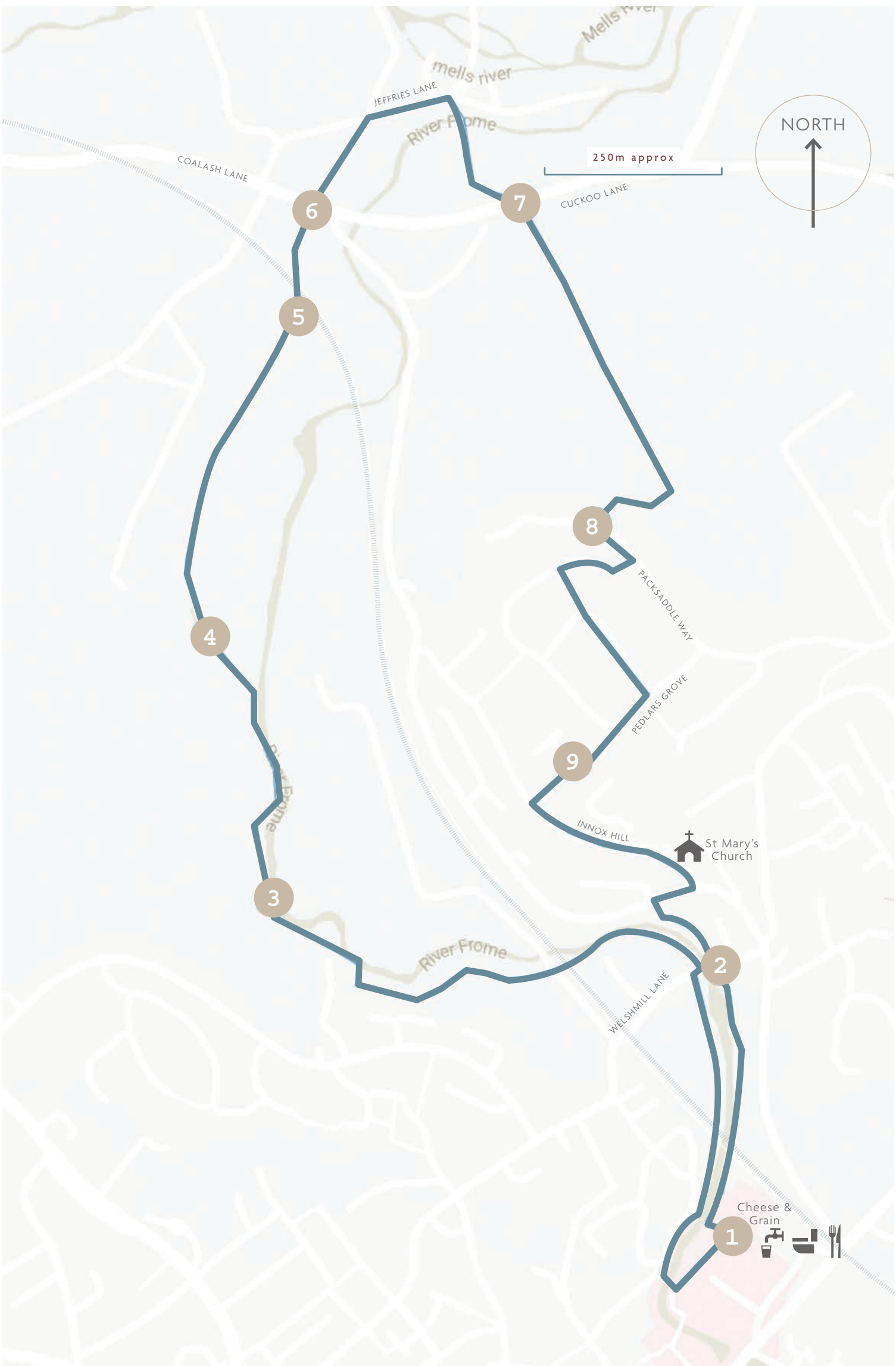
**6** Cross the road and take the footpath straight ahead having crossed the stile. Then go over the next stile into Jeffries Lane. Turn right, passing Jeffries Mill on your left. When you reach a sign saying Private Road to the right take the public footpath to the right between two walls. Take the footbridge over the river. Go through the gate and straight across the field. Cross the drive to the house and take the footpath up the slope heading towards the left. Go through the gate.

**7** Cross Cuckoo Lane again, through the kissing gate straight ahead. Keep going straight up the field to the hedge right at the top of the hill, past the cider apple trees. At the hedge at the top of the field turn around to see the view over to the Orchardleigh Estate, turn right, then go through the kissing gate into Packsaddle Way.









**8** Turn left onto Packsaddle Way, after approx. 20 yards turn right along Pedlars Grove with a children's play park on your right. At the end of the play park take the footpath on your left which leads to Farmhouse Drive. At the end of the footpath turn left. At the end of Farmhouse Drive take the footpath which leads into Pedlars Grove. Turn right past the children's play area and after approx. 20 yards take the footpath between the houses going straight on down the steps into Over Innox Road.

**9** Turn left down Innox Hill with views over Frome to your right, past St Mary's Church at the bottom. Turn right into Lower Innox, and after 20 yards at Mill Close cross Lower Innox and take the footpath alongside the river. Cross Welshmill Lane. Turn right over the bridge and immediately left. Take the footpath, keeping the River Frome on your left (along the other side) until you reach the Jenson Button Bridge over the river, into the Market Yard Car Park. The Cheese & Grain is on your left.

FINISH



### Key

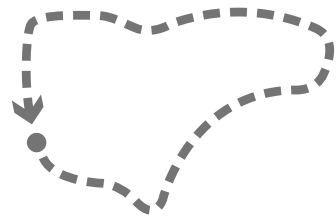
-  Church
-  Public Toilet
-  Water Refill
-  Refreshments
-  Take Care
-  27 Route Marker
-  Walking Route
-  Pub







# FROME WALKS



Moderate

3.5 Miles | 5.6 km

# Explore Whatcombe



## 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.

## 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 'lamb's 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  
**Fruits** the cup becomes a prickly, woody case enclosing one or two beech nuts (or beechmast)

### 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-petal flowers  
**Fruits** clusters of scarlet berries, enjoyed by birds

### Judas Tree



The Judas Tree (*cercis siliquatrum*) 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; *siliquatrum* comes from Latin *siliqua* "pod".