

# Parks & Green Spaces

2 Miles | 3.2 km

Easy

## START

**1** Starting at Victoria Park, head out of the park through the gate by the bowls club. Turn left and follow the path until it joins up with Park Road. Walk down Park Road, turning left as you reach the junction with Christchurch Street West.

**2** Take the crossing immediately outside the Town Hall then turn left. Head all the way along Christchurch Street West. You'll see a church on the opposite side of the road (as well as Frome's old fire station). When you reach the junction with Catherine Street, turn right (almost back on yourself).

**3** Walk along Catherine Street - past Frome's famous Valentine Lamp - and follow the cobbled Catherine Hill straight ahead. Continue down the hill as it turns left into Stony Street.

**4** Turn left into Cork Street, cross the road and following the road round to the right to walk through the town centre, along Market Place. When you reach the traffic lights near The Blue Boar, cross the road.

**5** Carry on across the bridge, then turn right into Willow Vale and follow the road (along the river). From here, you'll find Rodden Meadow on your right and

Millennium Green on your left.

**Rodden Meadow Loop:** There's lots to see in Rodden Meadow, and there's a riverside loop that makes for a slightly extended walk.

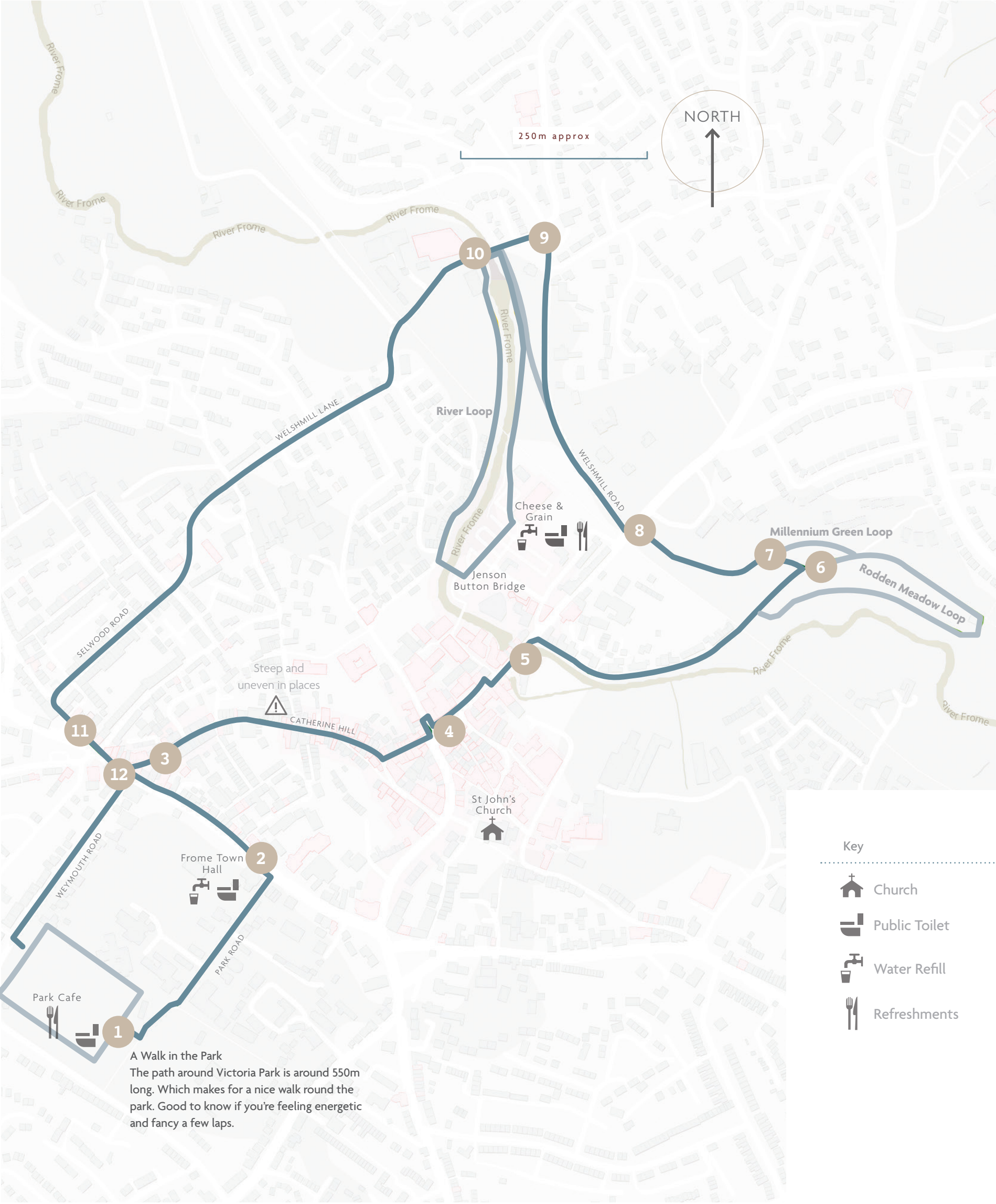
**6** Two sets of steps will take you up onto Millennium Green.

**Millennium Green Loop:** There are some lovely views of the meadow and the river below and stretching across Somerset and Wiltshire into the distance.

**7** Follow the path back towards the town centre. Leave Millennium Green, walking through the adjoining North Parade car park and joining North Parade.

**8** There's a busy T-junction here. Safely cross the road and continue down Welshmill Road. Welshmill woods will be on your left and North Parade woods on your right.

**Footpath Cut-Through:** Alternatively, there's a rough and ready path that cuts through the woods. Look out for the gap in the wall on your left, then follow the trodden path until you reach the river before bearing right to follow the river to join up with Welshmill Lane.



**9** Turn left into Welshmill Lane.

**River loop:** From here you can walk a mile loop along the riverside path. Turn left onto the riverside path, keeping the river on your right. When you reach the Cheese & Grain, continue on through the car park to the Jenson Button Bridge. Cross the bridge and turn right, to follow the river path back to Welshmill Lane.

**10** Continue all the way up Welshmill Lane. Carry straight on into Selwood Road then turn left towards the shops at Badcox.

**11** There's a set of traffic lights and a crossing opposite Badcox car park. Cross here then turn left and follow Christchurch Street West until you reach Weymouth Road.

**12** Turn right into Weymouth Road and head up the hill. You'll reach Victoria Park again near the crest of the hill, on your left.

## FINISH

**A Walk in the Park**  
The path around Victoria Park is around 550m long. Which makes for a nice walk round the park. Good to know if you're feeling energetic and fancy a few laps.





# FROME WALKS



Easy

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## Parks & Green Spaces



### 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.

## Some points of interest

Just along from the Town Hall towards Christchurch is Thomas Bunn's pillar, there is a matching one towards Gorehedge. Thomas Bunn was a local philanthropist who devoted his life to improving Frome, his home town.

### Thomas Bunn's Pillar



On the opposite side of the road to the church is the Old Pack Horse Inn, now being renovated. The church was built on Packhorse Field – supposedly where the packhorses were rested after delivering their goods into the town. Christchurch Street, once called Behind the Town was on an important route between Frome and Westbury to the east

along the Portway – the carrying route between market towns.

To the west Broadway (another very old name for ancient tracks between settlements) leads to Whatley, Egford and Mells and the old manor house of Vallis.

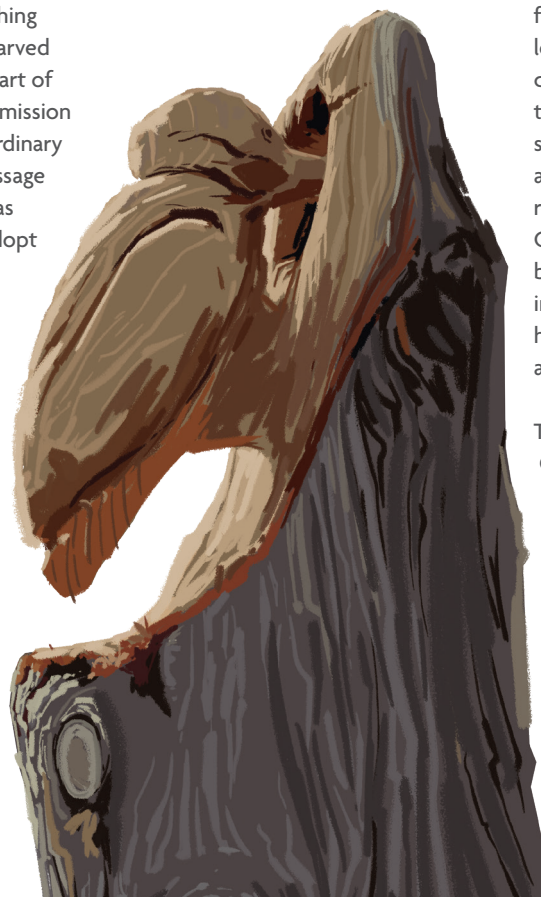
The Valentine lamp. Dedicated to the memory of St Valentine, this is the only working gas lamp in Somerset. The six-paned, three mantle gas lantern on a column cast in a local foundry, is set amidst a heart-shaped ring of cobbled stones. The lamp has a renovated George V posting box attached, for your love letter or Valentine card.

On your way along Willow Vale look out for "Something wonderful will happen" carved into a wall. This formed part of artist, Ruth Proctor's commission for 'Instructions for an Ordinary Utopia'. The motto, a message of hope and aspiration was offered to the town to adopt as it saw fit.

Rodden Meadow is an ancient meadow which was once used for sheep grazing and teasel cultivation – meaning it was essential to the textile trade that saw Frome develop and prosper. Nowadays it's a natural wildflower meadow. Frome Town Council manages the site with a nod to the traditions of the past, using scythes for cutting. This helps to encourage the patchwork of grasses and

wildflowers you'll find here in the summer. Towards the end of the meadow you can find a Veteran Oak tree (*Quercus robur*), remnants of a once wider wood pasture landscape. If you're lucky you may spot a kingfisher along here.

Historically, Millennium Green was used as both a quarry and for grazing horses. Since 2000, in the hands of the Frome Millennium Green Trust, the site has become a more natural area, home to lots of wildlife, a community orchard and one of the oldest trees in Frome! Commissioned by the Trust, the site also features a number of pieces produced by local artists, making this a distinct and characterful landscape in the town.



The Millennium Green Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), one of Frome's oldest trees, has stood overlooking Frome, since the midlate eighteenth century. In the early hours of January 16th 2018, strong winds stirred up by 'Storm Fionn' saw around half of the tree

## The Valentine lamp. Dedicated to the memory of St Valentine, this is the only working gas lamp in Somerset.

crash to the ground. Inspection revealed the presence of two fungi, which combined with heavily loaded limbs, contributed to the collapse. Frome Town Council cut the remaining branches in 'coronet style' to mimic natural breakage and soften the tree's form, retaining most of the fallen wood. Over time this fallen wood will break down naturally and provide important decaying and deadwood habitat, brilliant for biodiversity – animals, birds, insects and lichen.

The 'poetry stones' at Millennium Green were put in as a reminder of two poets with connections

to Frome and the surrounding area. Take a seat and read the excerpt from 'South Wind' by Siegfried Sassoon who is buried at Mells and 'What Good Shall My Life

Do Me' by Christina Rossetti who lived in Frome between March 1853 and April 1854.

Victoria Park. Look out for the wood carvings created by one of Frome Town Council's Rangers, David Krzyzosiak. There are three in total – an owl, squirrel and woodpecker.



The Woodpecker Carving by Dave Krzyzosiak