

Northern Frome

2.5 Miles | 4.2 km

Moderate

This walk links together several of the town's open spaces. Trees, both native and introduced, are a particular feature of the walk, including wingnut, alder and lime along the riverside path.

Between Rodden Road and Willow Vale you can turn right up the steps to the Millennium Green or turn left into Rodden Meadow. Both are semi-wild areas, where there have been new plantings of native species, providing an oasis for wildlife and for people, close to the centre of the town.

Take a short detour about 50m further along Innox Hill to see the old workers' cottages. Along the road and in an open sided quadrangle behind, the cottages were built in the early 1800s. Many of the occupants would have worked in the cloth industry, some as home-workers, but many at Sheppard's Mill at Spring Gardens to the north.

START

1 In the Market Yard Car Park, outside Frome Library, take the riverside path, past the Canoe Club, under the bridge to Welshmill Lane.

2 Cross Welshmill Lane and continue by the river to Lower Innox. Turn right then left up Innox Hill. After 500m go right up a footpath (by modern lamp post) to Pedlars Grove.

3 Turn left, then left again on Packsaddle Way. Take a right turn through a metal kissing gate and follow the track.

4 Go through another metal kissing gate on the right, turn left and walk with the hedgerow on your left to another kissing gate. Turn right along the lane. Then turn left through an un-gated gap. Follow the grassy strip in front of you across Mendip Drive and on to Grange Road.

5 Go left and walk to Bath Road. Cross at traffic lights, turn right towards the town centre.

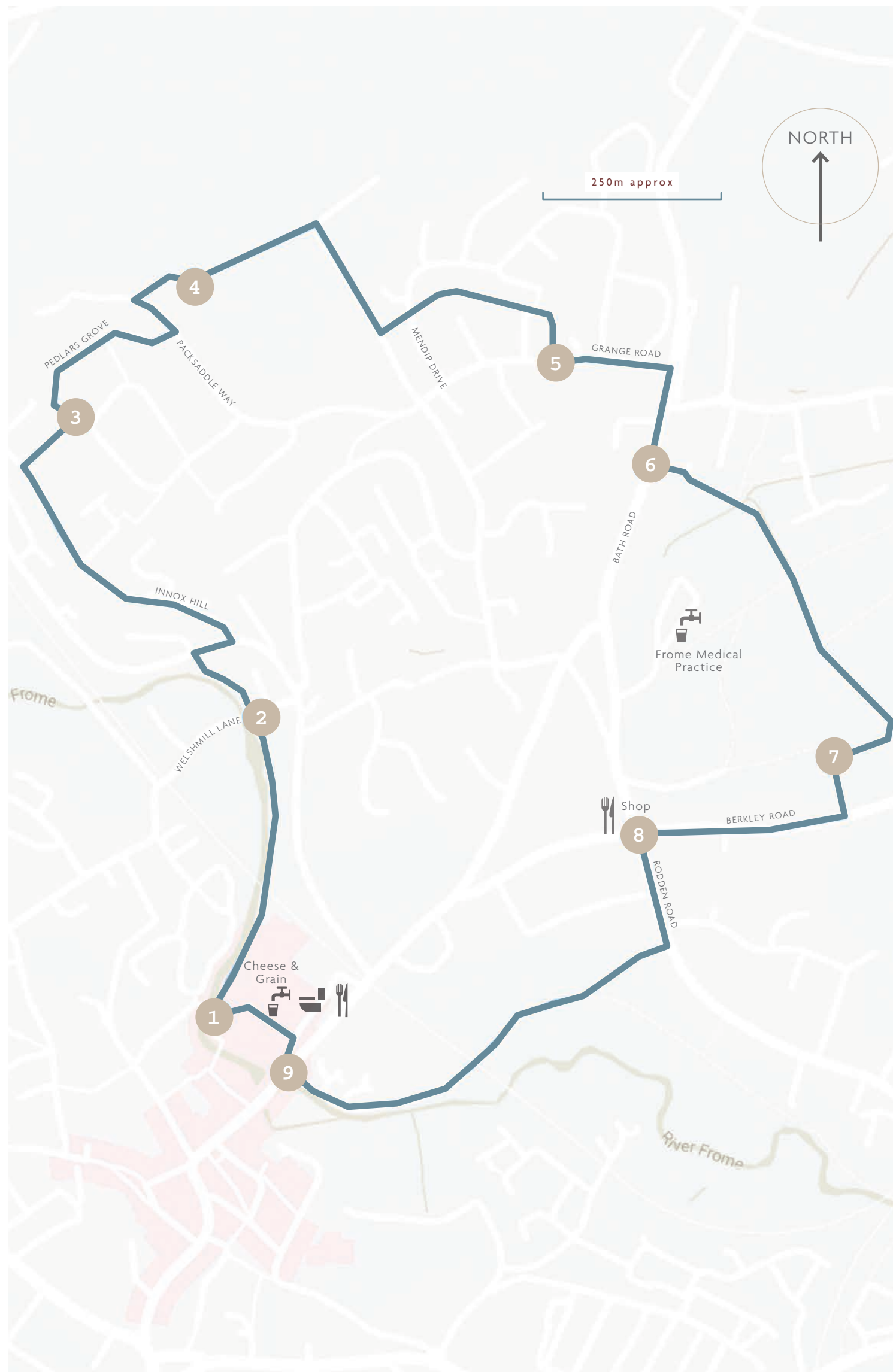
6 Take the second driveway on the left, by a bungalow called "Cleveland". Continue past hospital and across former "showfield". At far side follow path round to right.

7 Turn left between houses to Badgers Hill near the football ground. Turn right and walk to traffic lights by Vine Tree pub.

8 Turn left. After Windsor Crescent, take next track right. Before last house go half left onto open scrubland. Follow clear path downhill, then turn right onto a tarmac path. Go under railway bridge and along Willow Vale, to North Parade.

9 Cross North Parade into Bridge Street. After the Black Swan Arts Centre turn left back to the car park and library.

FINISH



Key

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



Map design by Fancy Studio
www.fancystudio.co.uk



FROME WALKS



2.5 Miles | 4.2 km
Moderate
Route written by Verian Conn on behalf of Frome Recreation and Open Ground Supporters.

Northern Frome



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 fissured 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 white (occasionally pink), 5 petals, highly scented and grow in flat-topped clusters
Flowers 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-petalled 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".