



A figure-of-eight walk from Frome town centre, following the Mells Stream to Mells and part of the Colliers Way cycle path back to Frome.

Route written by Tricia Golinski on behalf of Walkers are Welcome, Frome.

START

- 1** Starting at Frome Library, with the library behind you, walk along the riverside path with the river on your left, and cross the river on the Jenson Button bridge. Turn left and walk up Waterloo. Go across the junction at the top and walk straight ahead up the footpath. At the top turn right and then first left up Castle Street.
- 2** By the Lamb & Fountain pub, turn right and walk along Trinity Street. Go straight over the crossroads and continue along Trinity Street with Trinity church ahead of you. At the church, turn left then right then left and walk up Gould's Ground towards Vallis Road.
- 3** Go straight across Vallis Road and walk up Horton Street. At the junction turn right and then go up the second road on the left (Houston Way). Then turn right onto Leaze Road and walk to the end.
- 4** Where the road curves to the left, go straight ahead down the footpath between fences. Where the path curves to the right, go left through a gap in the fence where there is a footpath sign. Follow this wider path, also between fences. After the path curves to the right, go left by a wall corner and come out on to Egford Lane. Turn right and walk down the lane.

5 At the junction at the bottom turn right. Where the lane curves to the left, go straight ahead past a parking area and then fork left to follow the footpath alongside the river (the Egford Brook). Enjoy the mud and the paddling opportunities.

6 When you reach the confluence of the Egford Brook and the Mells Stream, go straight ahead over the 'Cheesegrater Bridge' (small dogs may need to be carried) and then turn left to walk alongside the Mells Stream. Keep walking with the river on your left, passing the ruins of an old lime kiln on your right. Cross a footbridge and pass under another bridge and continue with the river now on your right.

7 At Great Elm, with a pond on your right, go straight across the road through a kissing gate and continue on the path with the river on your right. Go across a footbridge and fork right to continue with the river on your right. After a narrow bit with high rock cliffs on your left, the path goes across a footbridge and continues with the river on your left.

8 The path comes out briefly onto a tarmacked driveway and then forks left at the entrance to 'Tree Tops' to continue along with the river on your left. Soon you pass the ruins of the old Fussells Iron Works on your left.

9 When you come to the road turn left (take care as there is poor visibility) and then take the footpath almost immediately on your right, over a stone stile, and turn left to walk along the edge of the field. Curve to the right round the edge of the field, with a barn on your left, and then go left after a house to come out on a lane.

10 At this point you can turn left to get to Mells Village Shop, Café and Post Office, and the bus stop. Or, to get to the church, pub and the Walled Garden, follow the road straight ahead, past houses on your left. Where the road curves to the left, go straight ahead through a kissing gate and follow the path between rows of young oak trees.

11 At the churchyard go left through a gate in the wall and walk straight down the yew tree lined path. Go either right or left to continue past the church and out through the church gates onto the street of old houses. At the end of the street, turn right for the pub (The Talbot) and left for Mells Walled Garden (seasonal opening only).

Return options. At this point, if you want a slightly shorter walk, you can retrace your steps to return the same way you came or catch a bus back to Frome (check www.travelinesw.com for details of the bus which is rather infrequent). Or for a slightly longer alternative return route, continue as follows:

12 Go back through the churchyard, up the yew tree lined path, through the gate in the wall, turn slightly right and then left to follow the footpath straight ahead up the field. Go over the stile in the hedge and continue across the next field towards a gap in the hedge. Then follow the path straight ahead keeping the hedge on your right. Follow the top of the field around to your left to come out on a lane.

13 Walk straight ahead up Conduit Hill. After about 600m you'll see a sign for the cycle path (the Colliers Way), go down the path on your left to join the cycle path and turn right at the cycle path to follow it towards Frome. Follow it until it comes out on a lane at Great Elm.

14 Turn right, walk up the lane a short distance and then take the footpath on the left through a field gate and follow the path up and straight across the field. Go across a stile to come out on a road, turn right and almost immediately left down a tarmacked drive. At the bottom go past a house on your left and then turn right to go across an old stone bridge across the river. Turn left and follow the path keeping the river on your left.

You are now back alongside the Mells Stream, reversing the steps you took at number 6: you go under a bridge and then across a footbridge over the river to continue with the river on your right.

15 Ignore the old railway bridge over the river and take the next footbridge over the river (the Cheesegrater Bridge) to follow the path with the stream on your right. Shortly after a very muddy bit, take the path off to the left going steeply uphill through trees.

16 At the top, go over the stile and straight across the field. At the far side, go over the stile, cross the tarmac drive and go straight ahead up the track. Where the track curves left to Vallis Veg, continue straight on up the path with the fence on your right. Go through a gateway and continue straight along the path.

17 At the end you come out on Vallis Road (a busy A-road). Cross the road, turn right and then take the first left (Whatcombe Road). Then fork left down Vernal Lane, walk to the end and through the kissing gate into Whatcombe Fields. Follow the path straight downhill with an old wall and the backs of houses on your right.

18 At the bottom corner of the field, turn right, go through the gate and straight on to join the cycle path. Follow the cycle path through a gate, then left and right and on through Weylands fields with houses on the right and the river on the left. Cross over the tarmac driveway and pass under the railway bridge to continue along the path with the river on your left.

19 Go straight across Welshmill Lane and follow the path with the river on your left (known as The Otherside). Go under the railway bridge up wooden steps or ramp and continue straight on at the road. Go left over the Jenson Button Bridge and back into Market Yard car park with the Library ahead of you.

FINISH