

Heritage Walks

Revised edition, updated 2023

Frampton Cotterell & Coalpit Heath

→ *Coalpit Heath*

→ *Frampton Cotterell*

→ *Coalmining*

→ *Half Moon*

→ *Wheelchair Users' Route*

→ *Brockridge Detectives*

→ *Frampton Detectives*



Contents

Key to symbols



Buggy friendly



Wheelchair friendly



Easy short walk on paved surfaces, suited to those with limited mobility



Firm even surface, mostly level



Uneven ground



Stile(s)



Toilets (restricted opening)



Picnic tables & toilets at Bitterwell Lake



Often muddy/slippery so sturdy footwear advised



Tea/coffee & toilets at Brockridge Centre (weekday mornings, some afternoons)



Route



Alternative route avoiding mud/stiles/kissing gates.

Coalpit Heath 6-13

Frampton Cotterell 14-23

Coalmining 24-33

Half Moon 34-39

Wheelchair Users' Route 40-45

Brockridge Detectives 46-55

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Heritage Walks

Introduction

Frampton Cotterell resident Sonia Taylor suggested at the Parish Plan Open Day in January 2008 that we should celebrate our local heritage by producing this Heritage Walks Booklet. Sonia felt this would enable people of all ages and abilities to find out about and appreciate what remains from days gone by in an enjoyable and healthy way.

This illustrated booklet describes seven walks in and around Frampton Cotterell and Coalpit Heath. Two of the walks have been designed for school children but we are sure parents and grandparents will enjoy them too! There is also a route especially for wheelchair or buggy users and others which focus on our mining heritage.

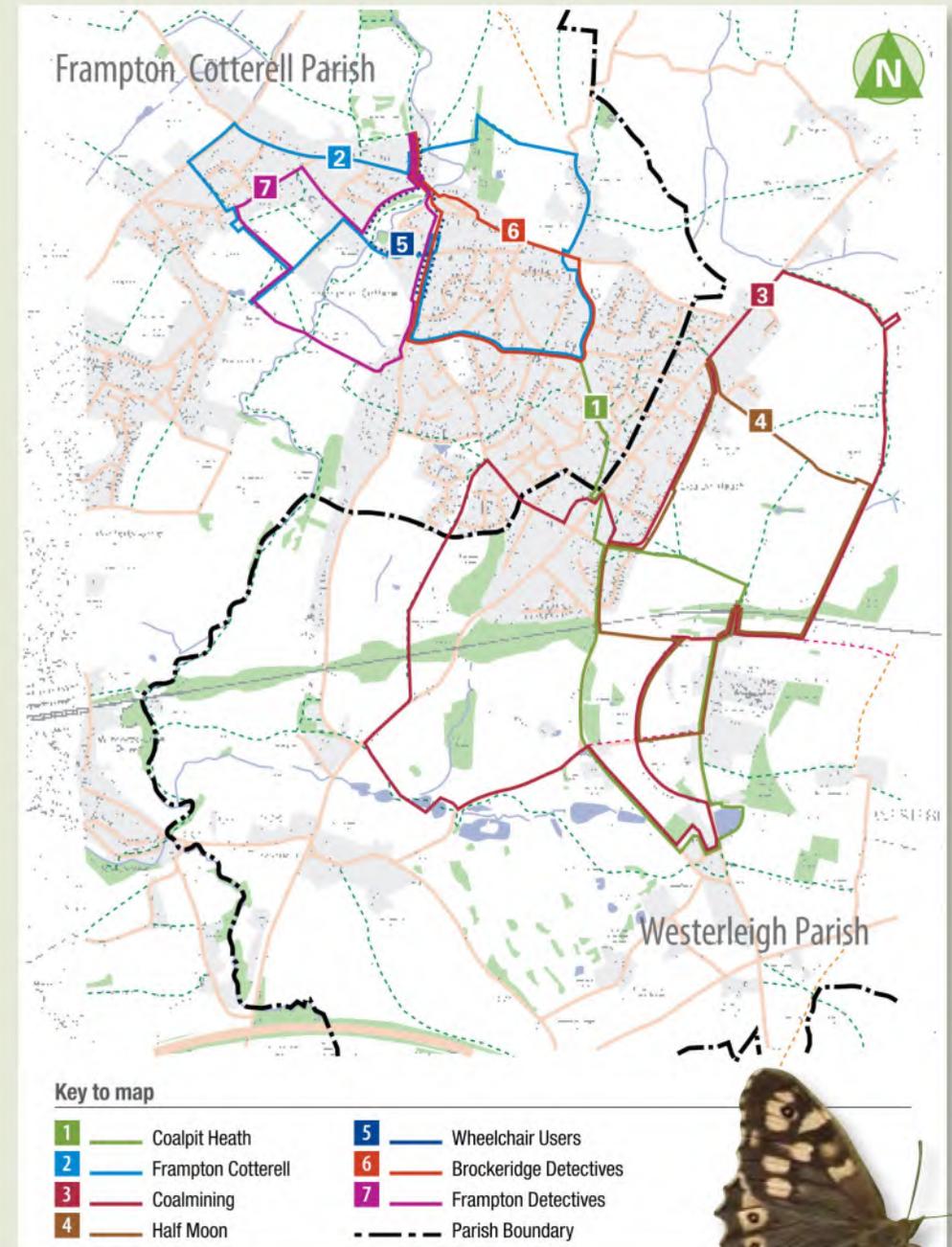
For those walks which cross our lovely local countryside, please respect it, stick to the 'Country Code', expect a bit of mud, put on appropriate footwear and clothing and enjoy yourselves.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This booklet was developed by **Stella Beecher, Sue Punnett, Jen Dunford and Dave Hockey** from the Village Action (Parish Plan) Team working in partnership with **Trevor Thompson, Ian Haddrell and Jeffrey Spittal** of the Frampton Cotterell Local History Society. It was funded by grants from South Gloucestershire Council. Help was also provided by staff at our local schools, by wheelchair users from Paul's Place and also from local resident, Ron Morris.
Revised in 2022 by Jean Fray and Jen Dunford.

NOTES

Each walk is colour coded as shown on the front cover. Historical information appears in *red italics*.



Coalpit Heath

Coalpit Heath



Description

Mostly firm surfaces. Buggy alternative avoids kissing gates and uneven fields that are muddy, especially after rain.

Toilets, seats and picnic tables at Bitterwell Lake (if walking round lake, do not disturb anglers).

Start at The Brockridge Centre in Woodend Road.

The building opposite the centre was

1. British (Brockridge) School.

Opened in 1846, three years after its Church of England counterpart. The cheap fees, generally one penny a week, were attractive to many of the poorer inhabitants of the village. In 2011, it was merged into Watermore Primary School, which was rebuilt nearby in 2020.



Go back past the Brockridge Centre and stop at the first corner (the intersection of Woodend Road and Lower Stone Close), called

2. The Spot.

This "Hallelujah Spot" was where, since 1882, Sunday missionary walks of the Salvation Army set out round the village.

Continue along Woodend Road to house No 19, where once stood



Spoil heap (6)



Ring O' Bells (6)

Total Distance → 3 miles/5 km

3. Bethel Chapel.

Established in 1851 by seceders from the Wesleyan Chapel in Church Road, it became redundant in 1969 when four chapels combined to form the United Reform Church at Zion.

Turn right (at old Post Office) into Church Lane. Proceed along footpath to its end. Turn left and then right along the main Badminton Road to

4. St Saviour's Church and Lychgate.

The church was the first Anglican commission for the eminent Victorian architect William Butterfield (1814-1900). Built 1844 - 1845, at the same time as the vicarage, it is a landmark in the development of English ecclesiastical architecture. The lychgate was a processional resting place for the departed, prior to the funeral service.

Return a few metres to cross the main road at the traffic island. Continue a few metres along the main road to enter playing field via gate and diagonally cross the corner of playing field.



5. Manor School.

Opened July 1st 1868, the architect is unknown but a plaque credits two Lords of the Manor with its erection and reflects ecclesiastical patronage. It closed in 1986 when the replacement school was built.

Exit field via the squeezer stile (beside metal gate).



Turn left, past community garden, to

6. Ring O' Bells.

Possibly of seventeenth century origin. In 1837 it was the local headquarters of a funeral and benefit club and later merged with the colliers' doctors' fund which was linked to the miners' trade union. It also served as a Coroner's Court investigating pit accidents.

DETOUR FOR BUGGIES AND TO AVOID MUDDY FIELD AFTER RAIN:

Turn right in front of pub (Henfield Road). Under railway, then first left (Ram Hill). Straight on (Broad Lane) and first left to Railway Cottages (see note 8). After Ram Hill Colliery, retrace your steps and turn right (Broad lane).

Continue up Roundways, passing the school. At St Anne's Drive (on right), take the signposted footpath to the

gate of a field. Keep to the hedge on your right to reach the farm gate ahead.

Look to your left for evidence of past mining activity: small spoil heaps and undulating contours in the land surface, indicating settlement of the subterranean structure.

Go through kissing gate and continue straight ahead to 2nd kissing gate. Turn right. Exit corner of field via 3rd kissing gate onto footpath that leads to gate of

7. Ha'penny Bridge.

The bridge maintains an ancient footway over the railway.

Proceed across the bridge to arrive at

8. Railway Cottages.

These red brick cottages were built by the Great Western Railway to accommodate railway employees who held key positions, such as the signalmen.

Directly opposite the cottages, enter (via gate) the site of



9. Ram Hill Colliery.



This coal pit was sunk around 1840 and worked for about 40 years.

It is a fine example of an early colliery and incorporated many typical features including an oval shaft (280 feet deep to High Vein) and a horse gin (horse drawn mechanism for raising coal and men to the surface). Foundations of an atmospheric engine, the holding down bolts and foundation blocks are clearly visible. This site was also the terminus of the Dramway (horse drawn railway) which, from 1829 to 1866, transported coal nine miles to Londonderry Wharf on the River Avon, near Keynsham. Recently, Ram Hill Pit has become a site of industrial archaeological restoration, recognised as an Ancient Monument.

Exit the site and continue to end. Turn right (Broad Lane). Turn left at the junction which is

10. Ram Hill.



The name possibly derived from the Old English name "hramsa" for wild garlic. The first house on the right is

11. Bleak House.

Once the residence of Frog Lane Colliery Manager, Francis Eames, who was a much respected mining engineer. He features in many of the mining photographs taken by the eminent Victorian photographer, J.C. Burrows, on his visit to Coalpit Heath in 1904.

Next-door is

12. Laburnum House.

Recorded as one of the oldest dwellings in the parish of Westerleigh, it was the colliery company pay house in the late 18th century and still retains a substantial wall safe in one of the ground floor rooms.



Continue along and downhill, passing Serridge Lane, to eventually reach (on left)

13. Bitterwell Lake.

The origins of this lake are unknown. The site was originally owned by The Coalpit Heath Colliery Company and was purchased from them in 1930 by Mr C Newman who presented it to Westerleigh Parish Council. The car park is sited on the original dramway sidings.

Turn left on leaving Bitterwell Lake. Turn right (opposite Henfield Hall) into Bitterwell Close. Then fork right

where there is an old engine house with a circular walled building in the garden - one of the few remaining horse gin houses in South Gloucestershire. This was the 19th century headquarters of the colliery company and is called

14. New Engine, Henfield.



Here were the original houses for key colliery workers together with workshops, some of which have recently been converted into dwellings. Early Ordnance Survey maps show railway sidings and a colliery engine house.

Continue along the winding track until it terminates at Henfield Road, opposite the entrance to the Kendleshire Golf Club. Turn right and proceed 500 metres until reaching (on left) the site of

15. Serridge Engine.



This site has been excavated by industrial archaeologists of South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group but there is now no visible evidence.

At the top of the rise, on the left, is:

16. Serridge Barn and House.

Formerly the home of Mr Henry Hewitt, described in 1841 as a farmer of 150 acres, deputy manager of the Coalpit Heath Coal Company and son of Mr William Hewitt, of Heath Cottage, who was manager and bailiff to The Lords of Westerleigh. William was one of the founder members of St Saviour's Church.

Continue straight over the cross roads, eventually passing under

17. The Railway.

The building of the railway, completed in 1902, was originally known as the Wootton Bassett Link. It was built to reduce the distance between London and South Wales by removing the long loop around Bath and Bristol.

Continue along, passing the Ring O' Bells on the right. Continue straight onto footpath (between old and new schools).

At the end of the path, continue straight along South View Crescent; then follow it left to the main road. On your right is

18. The Miners' Hall.

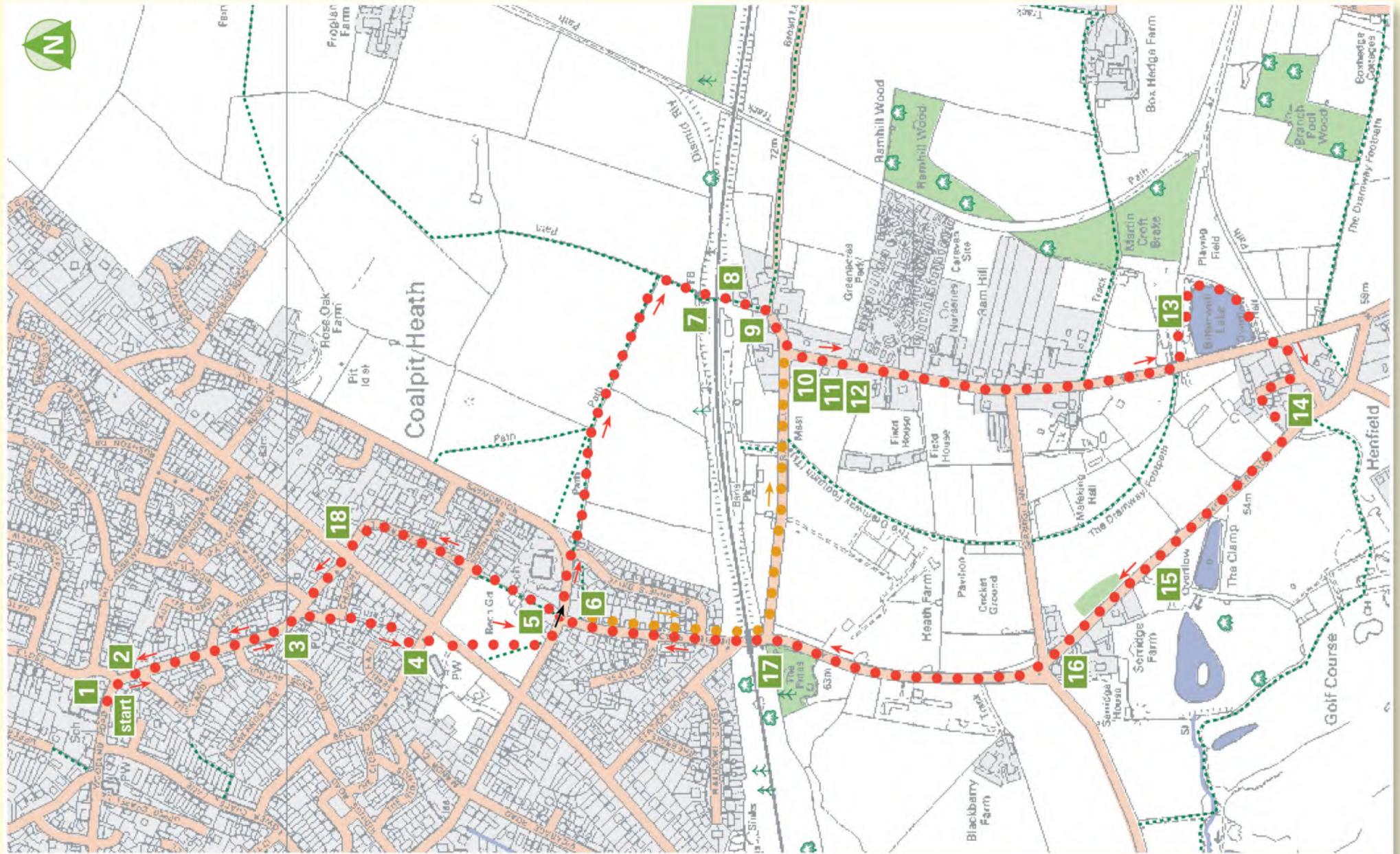
Originally, The Miners' Institute was opened in 1927 by H.B. Napier Esq. (see commemorative plaque) to promote the welfare of local miners and their families. The building costs were met by weekly contributions of six old pennies from the miners and an equal sum by the colliery company.



Cross at the pedestrian lights and turn down Woodend Road back to the Brokeridge Centre.



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|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| ▶ 1 British (Brockeridge) School | ▶ 4 St Saviour's Church & Lychgate | ▶ 7 Ha'penny Bridge | ▶ 10 Ram Hill | ▶ 13 Bitterwell Lake | ▶ 16 Serridge Barn and House |
| ▶ 2 The Spot | ▶ 5 Manor School | ▶ 8 Railway Cottages | ▶ 11 Bleak House | ▶ 14 New Engine, Henfield | ▶ 17 The Railway |
| ▶ 3 Bethel Chapel | ▶ 6 Ring O'Bells | ▶ 9 Ram Hill Colliery | ▶ 12 Laburnum Cottage | ▶ 15 Serridge Engine | ▶ 18 The Miners' Hall |



Frampton Cotterell

Description

Mostly firm surface. Buggy alternative avoids stiles and fields that are muddy, especially after rain.

Toilets at Brockridge Centre, Crossbow House (evenings & some weekends) and church if open.

Start at The Brockridge Centre in Woodend Road.

The building opposite the centre was

1. British (Brockridge) School. Opened in 1846, three years after the foundation of its Church of England counterpart. The cheap fees, generally one penny a week, were attractive to many of the poorer inhabitants of the village. In 2011, it was merged into Watermore Primary School, which was rebuilt nearby in 2020.



Walk uphill to reach

2. Zion United Church.

(see Page 52 photo 18)

The first chapel on this site was established in 1795 by Thomas Humphreys, Clerk to the Coalpit Heath Colliery Company. Membership grew rapidly during the 19th century and there was much involvement in local educational work. The new chapel was built in 1873; the original building behind is now the church hall and Sunday school. In 1969 Zion conjoined with the three village Methodist chapels.



Step House (5)



The Old Post Office (14)

Total Distance → 3.3 miles / 5.4 km

Opposite Zion is the iconic landmark of Frampton Cotterell

3. The Windmill.

Built around 1825, it was converted to steam power in the mid 19th century and was in use until the 1920s. The mill ground inferior quality corn primarily for agricultural foodstuffs. It was adapted for residential use in 1990.

Keep left to continue the walk along Woodend Road until

4. Gladstone Lane.

A reminder of Liberal political sympathies in the village of the nineteenth century (William Gladstone 1809-1898, Prime Minister, whose failure to complete the Home Rule for Ireland Bill brought his retirement from Parliament in 1895). In this lane can be seen a refurbished well, which was typical of old cottages here.

Continue down Woodend Road, passing on the left

5. Bunch of Grapes.



Dwelling No 159 was one of at least seventeen public houses in Frampton Cotterell and Coalpit Heath, of which only four now remain.

At the bottom of the hill, fork left. Opposite the playing field, pass the

6. Former Council Houses.



Circa 1925, the first example of such local provision in the village. Probably developed as a result of legislation promoted by John Wheatley (1869-1930), Labour MP with interest in housing and health.

At the end of the road turn right into Park Lane and proceed until reaching house No 191.

7. The Hat Factory.

In use by Messrs. Christy of Bermondsey 1823 to 1865. Prior to 1823, hat making was a cottage industry with component parts being dispatched from Frampton Cotterell for finishing elsewhere. These buildings brought the people and components together and introduced to Frampton Cotterell the factory system, where people worked for an employer with set terms of pay instead of individual freelance employment. The adjacent cottage was the factory manager's residence. The factories closed after industrial unrest and a change in fashion from the type of felt hat made in Frampton Cotterell to the bowler and silk top hat. Some local hatters accepted employment at Christy's other factories in Stockport and Bermondsey. During the 1830s, the weekly production was 110 dozen hats. The premises were used for building and woodwork manufacture during 1875 - 1945.



Further along Park Lane, past Rectory Road, is

8. Step House. (see also Pages 43 and 60)

Built in 1733 (see down pipe on side) for members of the Hall family, who were associated with the Christy family in the hat making business. From 1881 to about 1921 it was St Michael's Orphanage. "Step" refers to its raised position on the river terrace. At one time, its land extended up to what is now Ryecroft Road.

Retrace your steps and turn right opposite the former Live and Let Live pub, down Rectory Road, veering left at Meadow Mead. Cross the River Frome and continue uphill, turning first left into Park Row.

DETOUR FOR BUGGIES AND TO AVOID KISSING GATES:

Either: Continue up Rectory Road and turn left at end. Proceed to Crossbow House (see note 10), on left.

Or: Enter playing fields on right from Park Row. Diagonally cross playing field to car park and Crossbow House (see note 10).

At the end, go through the two kissing gates and keep right across the Hilly Field, heading for the large house on the right which is

9. Frampton Court.

Now several separate dwellings, it was originally a fortified dwelling house, parts of which (from documentary evidence) can be dated back to the 13th century. It was the dwelling house of the Lord of the Manor or his bailiff from the 14th century and was owned and occupied in the 16th century by the Seymour family. The head of this family was Protector Somerset, brother of Jane Seymour, Henry VIII's third wife. The house was much enlarged during the 17th century.

Return to the two kissing gates and turn left along the footpath between the playing field and the rear of Frampton Court (alternatively, if muddy, go up the steps and along a parallel path the other side of the hedge). Continue straight through the car park to





10. Crossbow House.

Originally a school, begun in 1842 in a room attached to St Peter's Church, moved to this building in 1856 (note two date stones) and eventually run by the National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Church of England. Gloucestershire County Council took over its management in 1903. Its successor, in Rectory Road, was opened on 8th September 1969. The Frampton Cotterell Community Association took possession of the building following the transfer of the school to its new location.

Turn left into School Road, cross the road and take the footpath (beside bungalow No 25), eventually reaching the main Bristol Road. Turn right to reach the

11. Former Cross Hands or Western Coach House.

Now three dwellings converted from one of the 17 pubs previously referred to. A public house occupied this site from the mid 19th century to 2006. Geographically, it is in the centre of the village. Some older residents once claimed to have known it as a favourite venue for bare knuckle fighting between local youths.

Turn right along Church Road passing, on the right, the site of the

12. Poor House.

Its site is behind No 417. This local provision for the indigent, infirm and poor of the village was built in 1824 at a cost of £179. It served its purpose until the establishment of Chipping Sodbury Union Work House in 1840. Note the fine example of a stone carved horse drinking trough in the front garden.

Further along Church Road (on left), just past School Road, is

13. Parsonage Farm.

Now apartments, this was the former home of the Brookman family who were the last bakers in Frampton Cotterell. They produced bread and fancy cakes from the bakery at the rear of this building until the business ceased on 25th November 2006.

On your right is

14. The Old Post Office.

This was Frampton Cotterell Post Office throughout the 19th century, prior to moving further up Church Road to the site opposite Ryecroft Road and finally closing in 2004. It became a Frozen Food shop and is now an Accountants.



Continue along Church Road and cross at the traffic island to reach

15. St Peter's Church.

(see also Page 41)
It is the third church on this site and was completely restored, with the exception of the tower, in 1857/58 by the architect John Norton (1823-1904). Gothic features are prominent both externally and internally with Tractarian (Anglo Catholic High Church) decoration.

Turn beside the church into Mill Lane. On the right hand, at the boundary of the churchyard, are the pillars and gate of the village pond, repositioned from their original site in Church Road. Further along Mill Lane is



DETOUR FOR BUGGIES AND TO AVOID MUDDY FIELDS AFTER RAIN:

Return along Mill Lane and turn left into Church Road, passing over the River Frome (from which Frampton derived its name: settlement on the R.Frome). Turn left through a gap in the wall and follow the pavement (Church Close), passing the entrance to

17. Iron Mine, now private dwellings (see item 18 on page 20). At the end of Church Close, turn left into Church Road. Continue to the shops (see note 20) at the top of hill and junction with Frampton End Road.



16. No 4 Mill Lane.

Formerly the New Inn, in the late 18th and early 19th century it provided "club rooms" for meetings of both the Felt Makers' Friendly Society and the Parish Vestry (predecessor of the Parish Council).



Turn right after No. 4 and proceed down the footpath crossing the River Frome. Enter field via metal gate and follow path between wooden posts and electric fence to gate on the opposite side of the field where you will come to

18. Iron Mine and Redundant Railway Embankment.

Low grade haematite iron ore was mined at three pits to the north of Church Road from 1862 to 1875. A single track railway was laid in 1868 to transport the ore for smelting in South Wales. The line was removed in 1892 but the embankments and trackway remain.

With closure of the mine, the site with its existing shafts was acquired by the West Gloucestershire Water Company who exploited the vast quantities of subterranean water for the surrounding district. Water pumping ceased here in 1958 when it closed due to contamination.

Proceed via the gate, up 15 steep steps and turn left along the disused rail track for 100 metres to turn right through a gap into the field. Keep the hedge on your right till it bends right; then go straight across the field towards a kissing gate (beside oak). Cross 2nd field to 2nd kissing gate. Cross 3rd field to 3rd kissing gate and stile. Turn right onto narrow road and look for

19. No 72 Frampton End Road.



A plaque identifies it as the site of the home of the parents of William (Bill) Green who was, during the 1930s, an American trade union leader and miners' representative.

Walk to the shops, facing you at the end of the road.

20. Shops, opposite Frampton End Road.

From the middle of the 18th century until it closed in May 2000, this was the centre of the local grocery trade with an extensive network of local delivery rounds.

Twenty metres away is

21. No 153 Church Road.



The Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, built in 1821, was demolished in 1967.

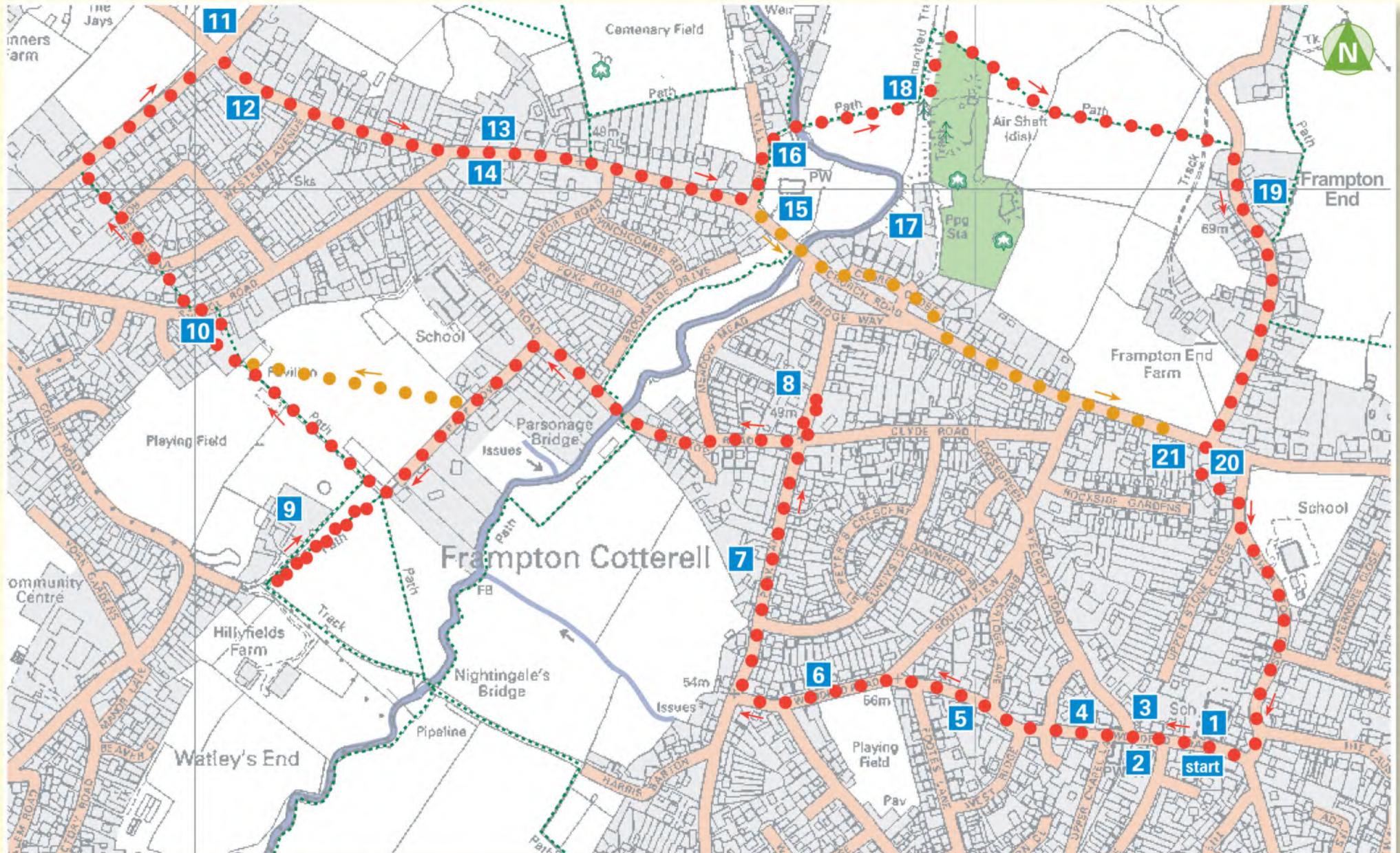
Between No 153 and the shops is a footpath known locally as "Dark Lane."



Proceed through the lane and turn right into Lower Stone Close. Continue on this road, crossing Upper Stone Close, to return to The Brokeridge Centre at the far end.



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Frampton Cotterell
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Frampton Cotterell
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|----------------------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------|---|--|
| ▶ 1 British (Brockeridge) School | ▶ 5 Bunch of Grapes | ▶ 9 Frampton Court | ▶ 13 Parsonage Farm | ▶ 17 Iron Mine | ▶ 20 Shops, opposite Frampton End Road |
| ▶ 2 Zion United Church | ▶ 6 Council Houses | ▶ 10 Crossbow House | ▶ 14 The Old Post Office | ▶ 18 Iron Mine and Redundant Railway Embankment | ▶ 21 N°.153 Church Road |
| ▶ 3 The Windmill | ▶ 7 The Hat Factory | ▶ 11 Cross Hands or Western Coach House | ▶ 15 St Peter's Church | ▶ 19 N°.72 Frampton End Road | |
| ▶ 4 Gladstone Lane | ▶ 8 Step House | ▶ 12 Poor House | ▶ 16 N°.4 Mill Lane | | |

Coalmining



Coalmining

Description

Mostly rural and very muddy in places, especially after rain.

Take care crossing main road. If walking round lake, do not disturb anglers.



Coalpit Heath



Dick King-Smith Memorial Bench

Start on the Badminton Road at

1. St Saviour's Church.

Proceed through the lychgate to the church door, passing (on right) the granite tombstone of

Francis Eames, colliery Manager of the Coalpit Heath Coal Company during the late 19th and early 20th century. His photograph is prominent in a series taken by photographers, Hughes and Burrows 1905 (See Images of England series. Frampton Cotterell and Coalpit Heath).



Continue along the church path, passing (on left, just past the yew tree) the

Tombstones of the Hewitt family. William Hewitt was, during the mid 19th century, Bailiff to the Lords of the Manor of Westerleigh, the owners of the Coalpit Heath Coal Company. He was also a principal person involved in the establishment and building of St Saviour's Church.





Other prominent tombstones are for men involved in coalmining, including merchants and the Underground Manager. Numerous coal miners have their final resting place in this churchyard. Many are unmarked, which accounts for the many gaps in the rows of headstones and areas completely devoid of any form of recognition.

Proceed beyond the churchyard and turn right into Beesmoor Road. Further along, turn third left into St Saviour's Rise. After Butterfield Close, turn left (dog bin) across the open space to the kissing gate at the far end, passing

2. Dick King-Smith's Carved Memorial Bench.

This famous author resided locally at Blackberry Farm where he wrote The Sheep Pig (made into the film "Babe").

Continue through the gate and along the footpath ahead, between houses built in 2020, towards the railway embankment.

The wooded area on the left is historically very significant as it features in the earliest record of coal mining in Coalpit Heath. On Thursday 5th November 1691, there was a perambulation of the coal mines in the parish of Westerleigh. An extract from the document refers to this wood:

"The Great Veine upon ye North East of the said John Bampton's house in ye flatt in Coalpit Heath. There wrought to ye depth of five fathoms to ye length of an hundred yards and further northward upon ye same veine it is wrought to ye depth of eight fathoms and the ended near ye corner of Watkins hedge in ye parish of Frampton lying on the north."

Woodland Farm, formerly Blackberry Farm, and John Bampton's House may not always be visible on the left. Proceed through the archway under the railway, known as a

3. Cattle Creep.

This allowed cattle to pass between farmland that had been divided by the construction of the railway.



After this, looking back through the trees on your left, you may glimpse the electrified railway and viaduct.

The original design proposal for the railway was for a series of 15 arches from Henfield Road to the Badminton Road. However, due to the extensive subterranean coal works and the difficulty in finding a suitable foundation for the supporting piers, the scheme was amended to an embankment and only three arches.



Turn right along the main Badminton Road to cross at the first traffic island. Continue along Badminton Road into the lay-by opposite Park Lane. Go through the kissing gate.

Take the signed footpath, veering left across the golf course (follow the marker posts). Keep left past the pond, after which you will pass over an adit.

This is an underground drainage tunnel, sufficient in size for a man to walk in. It was constructed by the colliery company to drain water from the coal mines of Coalpit Heath. Branch adits extend into Coalpit Heath, connecting the water courses within the colliery workings. The water is discharged into the River Frome, 200 yards to the north of Damsons Bridge. Two spoil heaps, arising from the excavations, remain and have been incorporated within the landscape of the golf course.

Pass right of the next pond (follow markers) and across a stone bridge. Keep right and then turn right onto a track leading to a kissing gate. Turn left onto Ruffet Road. Continue 500 metres uphill to the cross roads, passing (on right) the gardens of



4. Serridge House and Gardens.

This was the residence of the bailiff of the Lords of the Manor of Westerleigh, in particular the Hewitt family. The house and farm (the buildings now converted into dwellings) were originally within the Manor of Pucklechurch and were sold by Sir Nicholas Poyntz (of Acton Court) to Sir Maurice Dennys of Syston Park in 1574. Serridge and its estate was not incorporated within the parish of Westerleigh until 1786 when it was purchased by the Lords of the Manor. However, the coal and mineral rights had previously been leased or sold to various adventurers since 1709.

Turn right towards Henfield and (near a small 30mph sign), you will pass (on right) the site of

5. Serridge Engine. (see Page 11 photo 15)

This is an industrial archaeological site that was excavated by the South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group. It is no longer visible to the right of the gate. In 1712, Thomas Newcomen invented the first effective engine using the power of steam in conjunction with atmospheric pressure to pump water from deep mines. Newcomen engines are often referred to as "Fire Engines" due to their use of fire to raise steam.

Turn left opposite the entrance to the golf club into an unmade road passing cottages and other houses into

6. New Engine.

For many years, this was the headquarters of the Coalpit Heath Coal Company. Some of the old workshops have been converted



into dwellings, the old cottages were for key workers.

Follow this winding lane between the houses until eventually reaching (on right) the prominent

Engine House (now a residence) and the remains of a horse gin. This site was also one of the termini of the Dramway. The early Ordinance Survey maps show railway sidings and the extent of the works.



Fork left at this house. Turn left out of Bitterwell Close, opposite Henfield Hall. On the right, behind a hedge, you will pass

7. Bitterwell Lake.

Opposite the entrance to Bitterwell Lake, turn left along the signed

8. Dramway Footpath.

This Dramway (a horse drawn railway) was completed in 1832 and was used to transport coal from Coalpit Heath to Londonderry Wharf at Willsbridge on the River Avon.

Proceed along the footpath through two gates beside stable. Lift cable handle to cross field between electric fencing. Follow hedge curving to the right. Cross Serridge Lane to signed Dramway footpath.

At this point was the site of Churchlease Colliery. Look in the footpath beside the cricket pavilion to see relics of the old Dramway track.

9. Sleeper Stones.



At the end of the track, before turning right, cross the road to see the original gate posts of the entrance (now a business park) to the old



10. Coalpit Heath Railway Station.

(see also Page 36 Item 7)

Follow the Dramway sign and, at the top of the incline, keep straight on into Broad Lane and then turn left following the signed Dramway footpath. On your left is the site of

**11. Ram Hill Colliery.**

A site now registered as an Ancient Monument. Enter the site via gate and look for the: engine house, oval shaft and horse gin (an ancient mechanism for raising the coal. The horse was connected by means of a pole to a large drum around which was wrapped a long rope attached at each end to a kibble or circular iron tub; as the horse walked in a circle so the drum revolved, thus raising the full kibble or lowering the empty one). Further into the site can be seen the termination point of the dramway.

Continue along the footpath over Ha'penny Bridge,

passing over the railway which was built in 1902 and known, at that time, as the Wootton Bassett Link. The bridge is much changed by the electrification of the line. The former Coalpit Heath Station is to your left.

Retrace your steps past Ram Hill Colliery and turn left down Broad

Lane for approximately 300 metres. Look out for a track ("No Bikes") on the left and access it via the gap beside a metal barrier. Proceed under the railway and along the footpath.

12. Dismantled Railway.

This is the old trackway that connected Frog Lane Colliery with Westerleigh junction LMS or Coalpit Heath Station GWR.

Just before the gate at the end, fork right round bushes to climb wooden stile beside gate. Turn right to pass Frog Lane Farm on your left. Go straight across, taking a narrow path to the left of hedge (right of hedge is a worked field). Continue (through two gates of Fairview House) until you reach the road (Frog Lane). Pass 'Willows' mobile home park. Turn right into a private road to Danco Marquee Hire. At the end is the site of

13. Frog Lane Colliery.

Little or nothing now remains. The house on the left was the house of the caretaker of the colliery. Some facts about the colliery: Two shafts were sunk in the early 1850s. The winding shaft was 220 yards deep and the pumping shaft was 230 yards. For ventilation purposes, it was connected underground to Mays Hill Colliery. Two seams of coal were worked: High Vein and Hard Vein. A third seam, the Hollybush, was not exploited due to geological conditions. Output was approximately 3,500 tons per month. The colliery closed in 1949.

Return along private road and turn right along Frog Lane until you reach the main road. Looking north to the skyline you will see

**14. Mayshill Farm.**

At the end of the 18th century, this was one of the homes of Thomas Smythe, son of Sir Jarrit Smythe of Long Ashton, who was one of the joint Lords of the Manor of Westerleigh. In the late 18th century, the Lords of the Manor were the owners of all the coal pits in the parish of Westerleigh including Coalpit Heath, Henfield and Serridge. The ancient name of the field below the house is Trinham. It is the site of early coal mining activity, a fact confirmed

by the recorded death in the Westerleigh Parish burial register of "John Wills killed in a coal pit at Trinham." He was buried on the 23rd of May 1705.

Turn left for 200 metres, then turn left into Woodside Road. Turn right into Rose Oak Lane and continue straight on (Roundways). Opposite No 143 Roundways are fields which still show evidence, in the form of

15. 19th Century Spoil Heaps.

(see also Page 37 Item 9)

Extending between Frog Lane and the Ring O' Bells were twelve pits with names such as Leonards Pit, Half Moon Pit and Rose Oak Pit.

At the end of Roundways (opposite the modern and old schools) is the

16. Ring O' Bells.

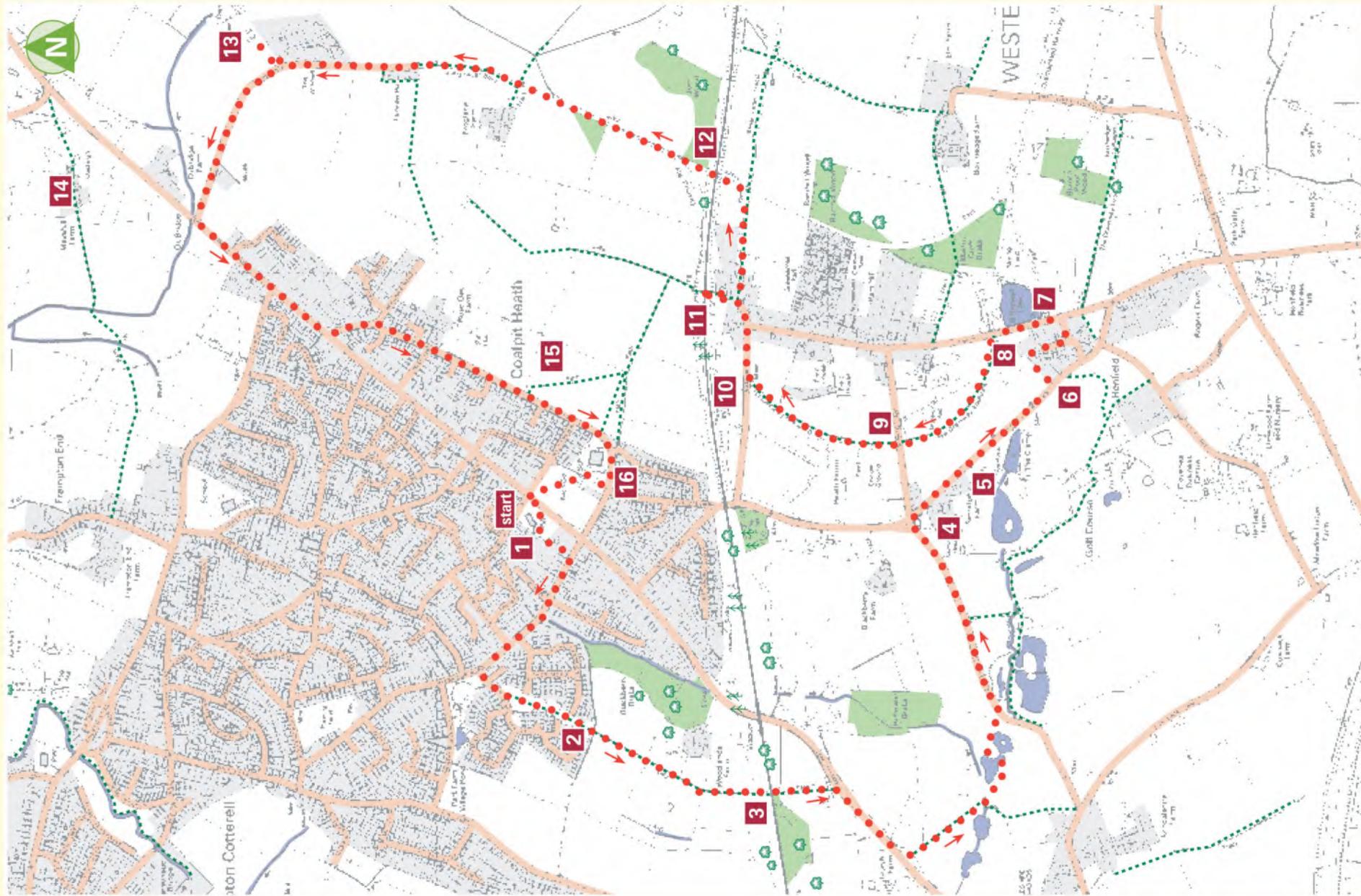
This public house has been associated with the mining industry of Coalpit Heath for centuries. It features on the earliest maps of the parish and was the site of the Coroner's Court for those miners killed in the coal pits. It was also the headquarters of the Miners' Burial Club.

Turn right onto the footpath between the schools.

Then diagonally cross the playing field to exit right of the bus shelter. Cross via the traffic island back to St Saviour's Church.



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- ▶ 1 St Saviour's Church
- ▶ 2 Dick King-Smith Memorial Bench
- ▶ 3 Cattle Creep
- ▶ 4 Serridge House
- ▶ 5 Serridge Engine
- ▶ 6 New Engine
- ▶ 7 Bitterwell Lake
- ▶ 8 Dramway Footpath
- ▶ 9 Sleeper Stones
- ▶ 10 Coalpit Heath Railway Station
- ▶ 11 Ram Hill Colliery
- ▶ 12 Dismantled Railway
- ▶ 13 Frog Lane Colliery
- ▶ 14 Mayshill Farm
- ▶ 15 19th Century Spoil Heaps
- ▶ 16 Ring O'Bells



Half Moon



Half Moon

Description

Firm surfaces except a short field section – avoidable, if muddy.

Start on the Badminton Road at

1. Badminton Arms.

Formerly the Half Moon Inn.

Cross the main road at the traffic island, go up Woodside Road and continue past the houses.



Opposite here the Half Moon Pit (with a brick-lined shaft of 9 feet diameter and 240 feet depth) was in production till late 18th century

Go straight through gated farmyard to climb metal stile/fence at end. Straight ahead over wooden stile (yellow arrow) beside metal gate. Bear right round bushes to join path along

2. Dismantled Railway.

This footpath is on the former track of the colliery branch line which connected Frog Lane and Mayhill Collieries to the GWR at Coalpit Heath and the LMS at Westerleigh junction. This main line was completed in 1902 and connected the London-Bath-Bristol line at Wootton Bassett to the Bristol-South Wales line (via the Severn Tunnel). At that time, it was called the Wootton Bassett Link.



Carved bench depicting Ram Hill Colliery history



Laburnum House (5)



Railway Houses

Total Distance → 2.9 miles / 4.7 km

At the end, look back to see the gantries of the now electrified railway. Turn right at a metal barrier (Broad Lane). Turn right at the top (signed Dramway footpath) to

3. Ram Hill Colliery.



This late 18th – mid 19th century colliery site is now recognised as an ancient monument. Enter the site to see the foundation ruins of a Newcomen Engine, a horse gin, an oval shaft and the termination of the Dramway. This Dramway (a horse drawn railway) was opened in July 1832 to transport coal from the collieries to the River Avon near Keynsham. Note the pair of railway houses, built by the railway company for key workers (in this case, the signalmen).

Return back to Broad Lane and turn right (signed Dramway footpath). At the junction, turn left (signed Railway path). The first house on the right is

4. Bleak House.

This was once the residence of the Manager of Frog Lane Colliery, Francis Eames. He was a much respected mining engineer who features in many of the mining photographs taken by the eminent Victorian photographer,

J.C.Burrows, on his visit to Coalpit Heath in 1904.

Next on the right is

5. Laburnum House.

Recorded as one of the oldest dwellings in the parish of Westerleigh, it was the colliery company pay house in the late 18th century and still retains a substantial wall safe in one of the ground floor rooms.

Turn first right opposite 'Little Orchard' and 'Perriwood' into Serridge Lane. Turn right alongside the cricket club (yellow arrow; signed Dramway footpath) which is the

6. Dramway.

Notice, beside the cricket club, the sleeper stones that supported the rails and remain embedded in position. (see Page 29 photo 9)

Continue through a kissing gate to the end. Turn left but notice the entrance (now a business park) to the old

7. Coalpit Heath Railway Station.

Only the two original gateposts remain.

At the end of the road, turn right to pass under the railway. Continue along the road to reach the

8. Ring O' Bells.

The Ring O' Bells was the building in which the coroner held his court whenever there was a death in the collieries of Coalpit Heath.

Turn right and proceed along Roundways.



Roundways was named to commemorate Lord Roundway of Devizes who was one of the joint Lords of the Manor.

DETOUR TO AVOID MUDDY FIELD AFTER RAIN:

Continue on Roundways. Opposite No 143 is a Colliery spoil heap (see note 9).

At St Anne's Drive (on right), take the footpath between the houses and enter the field, turn immediately left to proceed along the hedge line parallel with the road. In this field you will notice remains of old

9. Colliery Spoil Heaps.

In the 18th century, a series of pits from Frog Lane to Ram Hill worked the coal to a depth of approximately 240 feet before it was lost in the Coalpit Heath Fault.

Circumnavigate the rough hump beside the hedge and exit field via kissing gate. Turn right (Roundways) and proceed past

10. Rose Oak Farm.

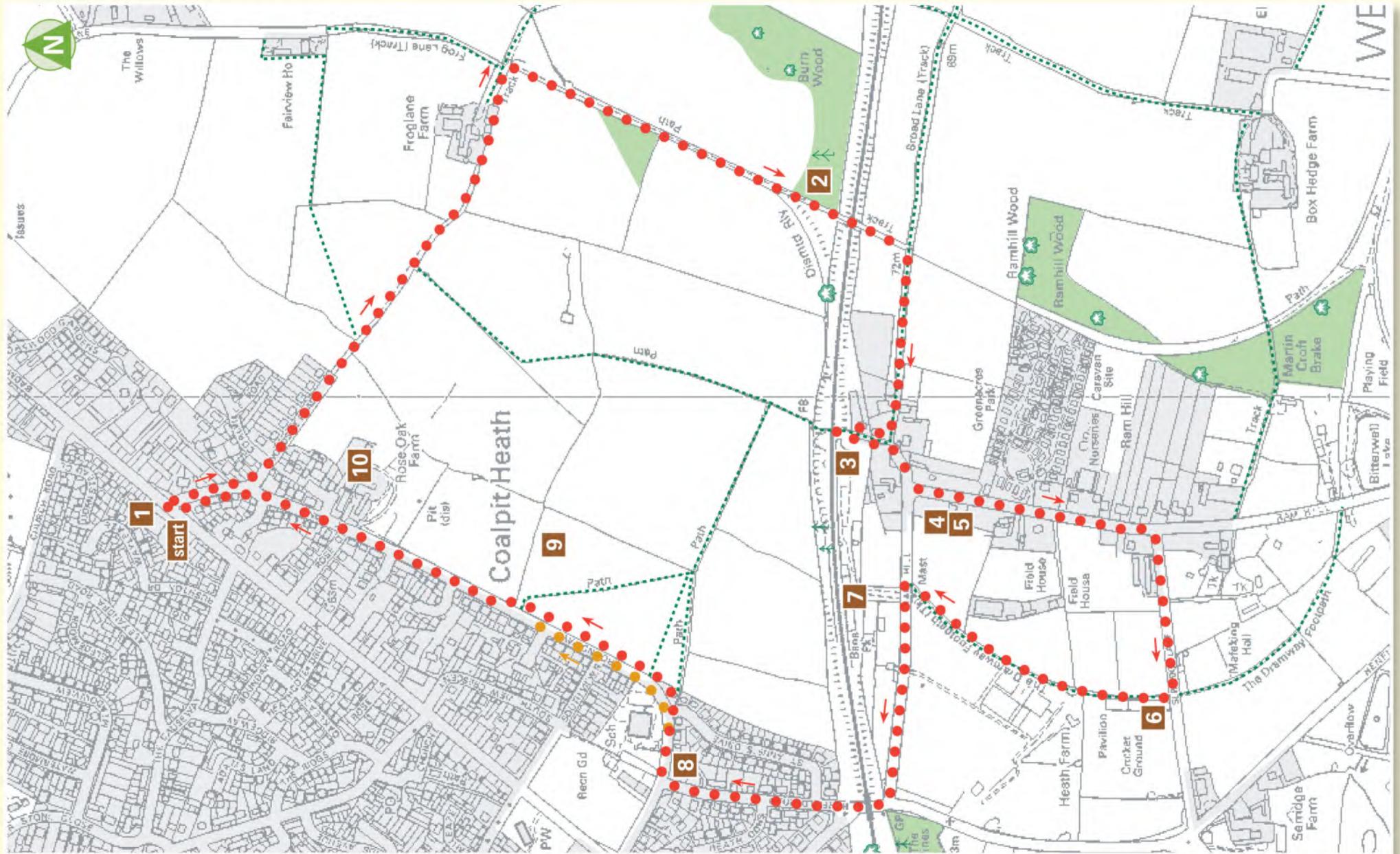


The architectural style of this house is typical of many in South Gloucestershire dating from the late 17th century with its steeply pitched roof, high gables, thick stone walls and small windows. Notice the oblique angle of the chimney tops.

At end, turn left into Woodside Road. At the main road, cross at the traffic island to return to the Badminton Arms.



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- ▶ **1** Badminton Arms
- ▶ **2** Dismantled Railway
- ▶ **3** Ram Hill Colliery
- ▶ **4** Bleak House
- ▶ **5** Laburnum House
- ▶ **6** Dramway
- ▶ **7** Coalpit Heath Railway Station
- ▶ **8** Ring O'Bells
- ▶ **9** Colliery Spoil Heaps
- ▶ **10** Rose Oak Farm

Wheelchair Users



Description

Owing to some slopes, manual wheelchair users are advised to be accompanied.

Mill Lane (cul de sac) has no pavement and the church path paving slabs are slightly ridged – both can be omitted.



Toilet, suitable for disabled people, in the church (when open).

Ramps available by arrangement (contact details on website: www.fromsidechurches.org.uk).

Seat opposite the church.



Overgrown slab stile (after Item 5)

Total Distance → 1.1 miles/1.7 km

0.5 Miles – Distance can be halved by omitting Mill Lane and the Hat Factory, which can be done as two more separate walks (starting at the church).

Start in Church Road at

1. St Peter's Church.

Go through the gates and proceed along the path to the main door.

Immediately on the left is the war memorial of two world wars. To the right of the porch are a carved gargoyle and two drainpipes with date stamps 1858, the year the church was rebuilt with the exception of the older tower. Carved figures of a man and woman can be seen on the porch.



The tower houses a peel of bells, a clock and (within one of its corners) spiral stairs to the roof. If the church is open, look at the internal Tractarian (Anglican High Church) decorations and the fine stained glass windows.

Return to the front gate and turn right into Mill Lane. By the corner of the churchyard is an



2. Old Gate with Stone Posts.

These were from the old village pound. The village pound was where, in previous times, stray animals were kept prior to being reclaimed by their owner. They were repositioned here from their original site in Church Road.

Proceed along Mill Lane, on the right is

3. No 4 Mill Lane.



Formerly the New Inn, in the late 18th – mid 19th century it provided “club rooms” for meetings of both the Felt Makers’ Friendly Society and the Parish Vestry (predecessor of the Parish Council).

Nearby and facing Church Road is

4. No 10 Mill Lane.



An old house with an interesting archway within the front wall. This house was originally two cottages and was known as The Parson’s Rooms. The blocked-in arch was once a passageway wide enough for a pony and trap to access the yard and stables at the rear.

Between Nos 4 and 10, is an uneven pathway leading down to a bridge over the River Frome. If this option is taken then great care is needed as there are no safety railings on the bridge.

From here can be seen, beyond duck/geese/horse enclosures, the

5. Old Railway Embankment (wooded).

This served the iron mine operating 1862-1875.

Further along Mill Lane, past allotments on the left, is

a typical old stone slab stile (overgrown) beside path to Centenary Field which was purchased in 1994 by the Parish Council for the use of parishioners to commemorate the 100th anniversary of its establishment. In the field is a beacon, which was lit for the Millennium celebrations, and half a colliery winding wheel (or sheave) which serves as a reminder of the local historical connections with the coal and iron mining.

On the right is the

6. Old Mill.

Frampton Mill was powered by the River Frome. The mill pond wall and mill race were demolished sometime in the 1950s when the river was cleared of obstruction. The mill ceased grinding sometime between the two World Wars. Most of the original buildings which included a malt house, brewery and fishery were demolished in the 1930s. Only the house remains.



From here you can see, at the far end of the lane, the

7. Workshop of A. F. Drew.

This steel fabrication business is the only craft or artisan business remaining in Frampton Cotterell. In past generations there were many small businesses within this and surrounding villages including boot and shoe makers, carpenters, cabinet makers and upholsterers - all of which have since disappeared.

Return along Mill Lane where opposite the church, to view through an arched gateway, is

8. The Globe.

One of two remaining public houses in Frampton Cotterell, the other being The Rising Sun. During the past 200 years, records reveal that there have been at least 17 inns, alehouses and beer houses in Frampton Cotterell and Coalpit Heath.

Turn left along Church Road and cross at the traffic island (dropped kerbs). Turn left to cross over the River Frome.

The old stone bridge was demolished when the road was re-aligned and widened after 1966. Heavier traffic and weight-bearing concerns caused it to be replaced again in 2014 by one of the first composite high-tech bridges in UK, constructed off-site and transported here.

Turn right into Bridge Way and cross Meadow Mead at lowered kerbs. Proceed up the slope following the pavement into Park Lane and on to

9. Step House.

Built in 1733 for members of the Hall family who were involved in the hat making business. From 1881 to around 1921 this was St Michael’s Orphanage. Of Georgian style, it has large windows and a shell hood porch. There is an ornate cast iron hopper-headed rainwater pipe with date stamp on the left end wall. Step refers to its original raised position on the river terrace.



Continue along Park Lane. Cross Rectory Road (dropped kerbs) then immediately cross Park Lane (dropped kerbs). Continue along Park Lane to No 220, opposite

10. The Hat Factory.

From 1823 until 1865 these buildings were used by Messrs. Christy of Bermondsey and Stockport. Prior to 1823, hat making was a cottage industry with component parts being sent away from Frampton Cotterell for finishing. These buildings brought the workers together and introduced to Frampton Cotterell the factory system, where people came together to work for an employer and wages instead of individual freelance employment. The factories closed in 1865 following industrial



unrest and a change in fashion from felt hats to silk top hats and bowler hats. Some local hatters accepted employment at Christy's other factories in Bermondsey and Stockport. During the 1830s, they produced 110 dozen hats weekly. Between 1875 - 1945 the buildings were used for carpentry and general woodwork manufacture. The adjacent cottage was the factory manager's residence.



Follow the tarmac path round till it widens into Brookside Drive, where you should cross diagonally to a lowered kerb.

This is Church Farm estate, also referred to as The Benson Estate (builder's name).

Proceed along Brookside Drive with (behind hedge) the Glebe Field and the community orchard on the right. Cross Foxe Road,

named to commemorate Rev. William Charles Fox who was instrumental in the rebuilding of the church in 1858.

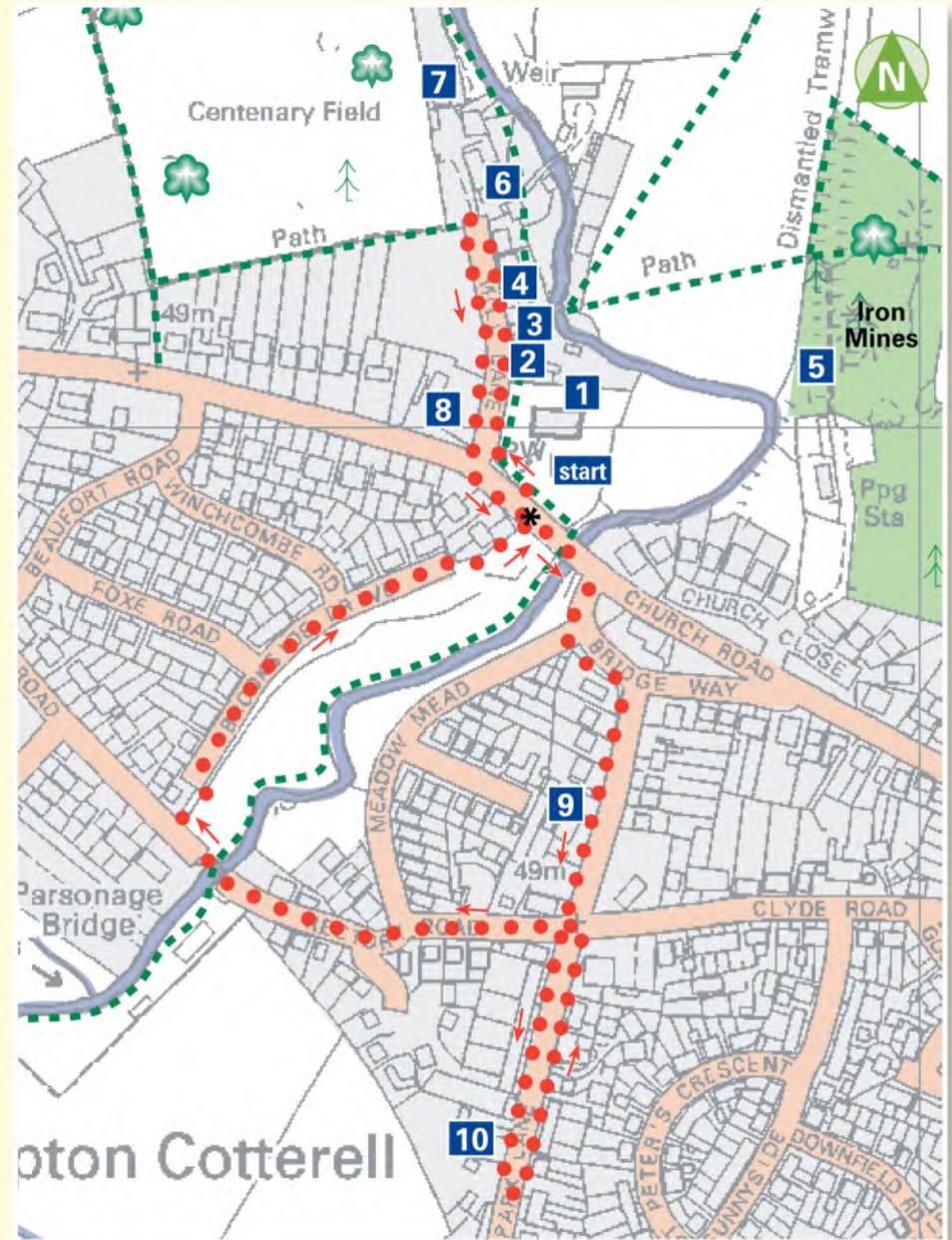
Cross Winchcombe Road (dropped kerb). At the end, take the path to Church Road. Cross over via the traffic island (dropped kerbs) and return to St Peter's Church.

Return back to the junction with Clyde Road, re-cross (dropped kerbs) and go down Rectory Road which is a downhill slope with dropped kerbs at side road. Outside the garages of No 29 use the tarmac ramp onto the road, continue down the road passing Bridge House on your left. Cross over the River Frome at Parsonage Bridge (dropped kerb).

Keep to the path on the right until coming to a short sloping tarmac path beside steps.



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- ▶ 1 St Peter's Church
- ▶ 2 Old Gate with Stone Posts
- ▶ 3 N°.4 Mill Lane
- ▶ 4 N°.10 Mill Lane
- ▶ 5 Old Railway Embankment
- ▶ 6 Old Mill
- ▶ 7 Workshop of A.F. Drew
- ▶ 8 The Globe
- ▶ 9 Step House
- ▶ 10 The Hat Factory

Brockbridge detectives



Description

Specially written for children but equally enjoyable for all ages.

Take care crossing Church Road; no pavement in Mill Lane and near Zion. One uphill section.

Toilets at Brockbridge Centre and church if open. Suitable grass picnic sites opposite the church and off Woodend Road.



Be a Local History detective!

As you walk, you can find many history clues and you may like to record some by wax crayon rubbings on paper (don't damage anything - ask an adult first).

Look for:

- Dates on older buildings
- Names of roads, buildings etc.
- Different styles of building and materials
- Local names that remind us of past events and people

Frampton Cotterell

The name came from: Fram is from Frome and ton is the Saxon name for a settlement; so Frampton was a Saxon settlement on the River Frome. Cotterell is from an old family called Cotele who once lived here as the Lords of the Manor.

Start in Woodend Road at the old

1. Brockbridge Infants School.

The original school was built for children up to the age of 14 years, when they left school. They paid one old penny a week to go there. Since then, the size of the building has increased. (see page 15 Item 1)



Number 10 Mill Lane



River Frome Bridge (7)

Total Distance → 1.8miles/3km

How many of these are still visible:

- 📍 The date stone?
- 📍 Where the extensions were added?
- 📍 Carved stones to show where Boys and Girls entered separate doors?
- 📍 Different building materials of old stone with slate roof compared to the newer parts?

Go towards the corner and left into Lower Stone Close, you will notice that the new houses opposite are a site named

2. The Spot.**📍 Why call it The Spot?**

This is the old name of the spot where, since 1882, the Salvation Army used to meet each Sunday for their missionary walk round the village.

Continue along Lower Stone Close past the shops to

3. Watermore Primary School.

Originally Highcroft Junior built in 1968, it was replaced in 2020. Notice the differences in style, shape and building materials compared with old Brockridge School.



Continue to Church Road. Turn left.

4. Shops.

These shops were once the shopping centre of the village. There was a large grocery shop, a butchers and an animal feed store.

- 📍 Have these shops changed? Where is Frampton's shopping centre now? Why do you think it moved from here?

Walking down Church Road, look for the back garden of Number 183.

- 📍 Can you see a small rock face behind the house?

This is the evidence that there used to be a stone quarry on this site. It was one of many quarries along Brock ridge which supplied fine building stone for Frampton's houses and walls.

- 📍 How many of these old stone houses and walls can you spot as you walk?

Continue down Church Road.

- 📍 Can you detect where the old Post Office used to be? (Clue: its post box is still visible on right.)

- 📍 Can you find a small house that used to be the Bank? (Clues: further along on left; see photo.)

Both services are no longer available in Frampton Cotterell.

5. Old Bank.

Cross the road with great care and turn into Church Close (footpath through a gap in the wall opposite old bank) to come to the site of

6. The Iron Works and later The Waterworks.

From 1862, low grade iron ore was dug from three pits between here and the next village north.

- 📍 Do you know the name of this village? Can you guess where its name came from?

The pit owners thought that the mining would continue a long time so they built a special railway from Iron Acton to Yate and thence to South Wales, where the iron ore was smelted. However, the pits kept

flooding and it was too expensive to keep pumping huge quantities of water from them, so the iron mine closed in 1875.

- 📍 How long was the iron mine worked?

About 11 years later, it provided our first local mains water when the West Gloucestershire Water Company started pumping 250,000 gallons of water daily. In 1958, it closed due to contamination.

Continue down Church Close pavement, going through a gap in the wall to return to Church Road. Turn right to the

7. River Frome Bridge.

The old stone bridge was replaced in 1966 and again in 2014.

- 📍 Do you know why? (Clue: Page 43 after Item 8)



On the right is

8. St Peter's Church.

Probably the third church on this site. It was rebuilt in 1857-8 and was designed by John Norton. Only the tower remains from the older building.

- 📍 Can you find a date stamp? (Clue: First find some drainpipes.)
- 📍 Look at the stone carvings. Which ones do you like? Why?
- 📍 What pictures can you see on the stained glass windows?

Leave the church and turn right into Mill Lane

- 📍 Can you find where this photo was taken?



9. Old Gate and Stone Posts from the Village Pound.

In the past, a village pound was where stray animals were kept before their owners paid to have them back. This pound was originally in a field opposite the church where there are now houses

- 📍 Can you detect when this gate was moved here? Can you guess why?

Next to the churchyard there is a very old house

10. Number 4 Mill Lane.



This house used to be The New Inn. In the late 18th and early 19th century it was used by the Felt Makers' Friendly Society and also the Parish Vestry (now the Parish Council).

- 📍 Look at its path, traditionally made with stone slabs placed on their edge (called pitching).
- 📍 Find nearby Number 10. Can you detect the blocked up archway where a pony and trap would have gone to reach the yard and stables at the back?

Further along Mill Lane, look for the old

11. Mill.

Before the 1930s, the Mill was a very important place and had been controlled by the Lord of the Manor. Long before supermarkets and bread shops, the local mill ground the farmers' wheat into flour for making bread. The miller also ground other seed crops, such as barley and oats, for the farmers' animals. The mill was powered by the flow of the river turning the waterwheel which then moved the mill stones to grind the wheat. There used to be many mills along the River Frome between Chipping Sodbury and Bristol. There were five mills in Frampton Cotterell and Iron Acton.



- 📍 Are there any buildings in or near Frampton with "mill" as part of the name?
- 📍 Find an overgrown stone stile near here (Clue: Page 40)

There are many stone stiles on footpaths around Frampton Cotterell. Have you seen any others?

From here you can also see the steel business of

12. F.H.Drew.

In the past, there were several other small workshops in Frampton Cotterell and surrounding villages including blacksmiths, carpenters, shoemakers, chair makers and cabinetmakers - all these have now gone. This steel workshop is the only one left.

Return back along Mill Lane and turn left to cross the busy Church Road at the traffic island. Walk left to go over the bridge and turn right into Bridge Way. Cross Meadow Mead and follow the pavement right into Park Lane. Continue to

13. Step House.

This Georgian style house was built in 1733 for the Hall family who were hat makers.

- 📍 Can you see its shell hood porch and its very large windows?
- 📍 Can you find where the date stamp is? (Clue: look for a decorated rainwater drain pipe.)

It is called Step House because it is a step higher above the river bank. This was St Michael's Orphanage from 1881 to about 1921.

Continue along Park Lane. Cross both Rectory Road and Park Lane at the former Live and Let Live pub. Stop outside house number 222 to see

14. The Hat Factory.



For many years, people of Frampton Cotterell worked in their own homes making felt and hats as well as other things. This was called Cottage Industry. When the factory was built in 1823, people came here to work together. This was called the Factory System. The factory closed in 1865 because workers were unhappy with conditions and also hat fashions changed. Some families moved to other hat factories in London and Stockport to continue their trade. On one side of the factory is the Manager's house.

- 📍 Can you read its date stone?
- 📍 Can you detect where an old door used to be?
- 📍 What is behind this building? Describe the windows.



Turn 2nd left into Woodend Road.
Look on the right for

15. Beesmoor Road.

This used to be a lane and footpath with a stile on the parish boundary (between Westerleigh and Frampton Cotterell). In 1928, Rev. Phillips (vicar of St Saviour's Church) persuaded the parish councils to make it a road. This gave work to unemployed men and made an easier way to Badminton Road and the railway station.

Continue along Woodend Road.
Look for

16. House Numbers 178-198.



After the 1st World War, many people had no jobs so lots of houses needed repairs or became derelict. To improve this, in 1925, the first council houses were built here. They had long gardens for growing their own fruit and vegetables.

Fork right to continue up Woodend Road, passing on the right a house that was once a public house called

17. The Bunch of Grapes.

Beside the house is a small two story building which was once a pigeon loft. Breeding and racing pigeons was the favourite pastime of lots of working men.



17 Compare the old and newer houses as you walk up the hill.

Turn left into Gladstone Lane.

17 Find the well that was typical of many old cottages here.

Return to continue up Woodend Road. At the top of the hill is

18. Zion Chapel.



The original Zion Chapel and Sunday School, built in 1795, is now the hall behind. Membership grew rapidly during the 19th century and in 1820, the Sunday School had 200 children. Today's chapel was built in 1873. There used to be several chapels in the village. In 1969, the three remaining chapels joined with Zion to become one.

18 Find house numbers 124 and 124a opposite Zion. Can you spot clues as to what used to be there?

18 What are the house names?

18 Nearby, find

19. The Windmill.

This was built about 1825 and used until the 1920s for grinding poor quality corn, mostly for farm animals. Sometime in the 19th century, the sails were removed and it was powered by steam.

19 Can you see where the boiler house was by a tall chimney?

The Windmill was higher than today but it was unsafe, so about 3 metres was removed from the top in the 1960s. It was changed to a house in 1990.

19 Spot the very large stone in the front garden. Guess how heavy it is.

Old Brockridge School is further along the road.

(Watermore groups may wish to return to their school by the footpath alongside the windmill into Upper Stone Close; Watermore is at the far end of this road).



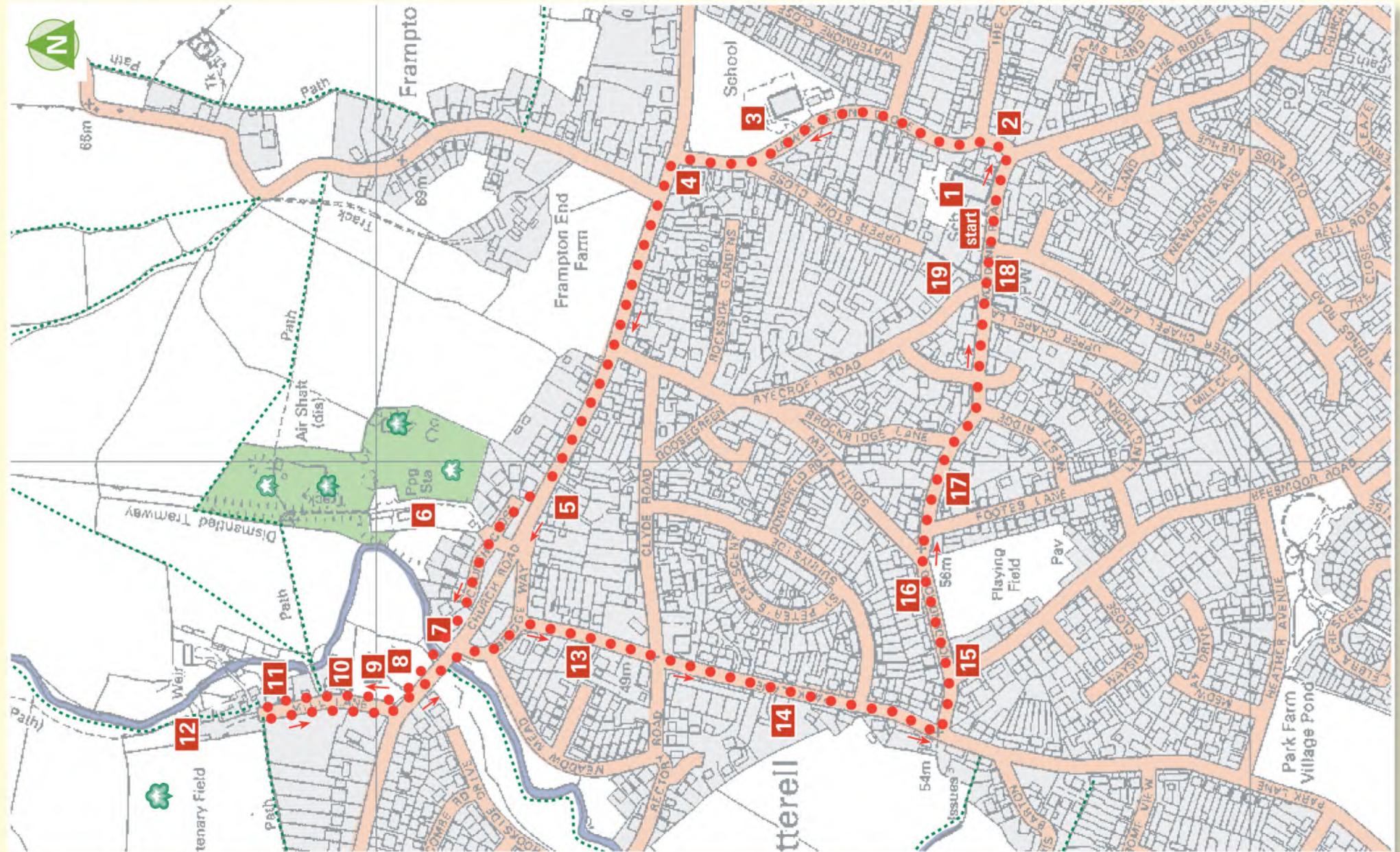
Historical clue 124



Historical clue 124a



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- | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| ▶ 1 Brockridge Infants School | ▶ 4 Shops | ▶ 7 River Frome Bridge | ▶ 10 N°4 Mill Lane | ▶ 14 The Hat Factory | ▶ 18 Zion Chapel |
| ▶ 2 The Spot | ▶ 5 Old Bank | ▶ 8 St Peter's Church | ▶ 11 Mill | ▶ 15 Beesmoor Road | ▶ 19 The Windmill |
| ▶ 3 Watermore Primary School | ▶ 6 The Iron Works and later The Waterworks | ▶ 9 Old Gate and Stone Posts from the Village Pond | ▶ 12 F.H.Drew | ▶ 16 House number 178-179 | |
| | | | ▶ 13 Step House | ▶ 17 The former Bunch of Grapes | |

Frampton detectives



Description

Specially written for children but equally enjoyable for all ages.

Take care: narrow pavements in Park Lane; crossing Church Road; no pavement in Mill Lane. Group organisers should check conditions between Crossbow House and Nightingale's Bridge.

Grass picnic sites: opposite church and in The Park near Crossbow House, which has toilets (open evenings and some weekends). Toilet in church, if open.



Lodge Cottage



Number 10 Mill Lane

Total Distance → 2 miles/3.3km



Be a Local History detective!

As you walk, you can find many history clues and you may like to record some by wax crayon rubbings on paper (don't damage anything - ask an adult first).

Look for:

- Dates on older buildings
- Names of roads, buildings etc.
- Different styles of building and materials
- Local names that remind us of past events and people

Frampton Cotterell

The name came from: Fram is from Frome and ton is the Saxon name for a settlement; so Frampton was a Saxon settlement on the River Frome. Cotterell is from an old family called Cotele who once lived here as the Lords of the Manor.

Start in Rectory Road at

1. Frampton Cotterell Church of England School.

It was built in 1969 to replace the old school in School Road. It is on land that was part of the old rectory garden. The modern style has a flat roof and large windows, a design to give maximum light and space



for teachers and pupils but not in the traditional style or building materials of Frampton.

Turn left out of the school along Rectory Road.

📍 Look for Lodge Cottage which marks a previous driveway to the rectory.

Turn left along School Road until reaching

2. Crossbow House.



This building used to be The National School which was originally started in 1842 in a room attached to St Peter's Church.

📍 Can you see the date it was built here?

It was called The National School because it was run by The National Society for the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church. It closed in 1969 when the present school was opened.

📍 Compare the height and type of windows with today's school. Are the walls thicker?

📍 Can you detect how the old school was heated?

DETOUR FOR BUGGIES AND TO AVOID KISSING GATE AND FIELD:

Continue to the end of School Road. Turn left into Court Road and continue straight into Nightingale Lane, which bends left to Frampton Court (see note 3)

Take the footpath at the rear of Crossbow House by going straight ahead through both car parks: the path runs between the playing field and the grounds of Frampton Court. At the kissing gate, turn right across the top of the field

(with the ancient name of Home Ground but often known as Hilly Field)

towards the very large house on the right which is

3. Frampton Court.



Probably Frampton Cotterell's oldest house that has been continuously lived in. Now several dwellings. It was originally fortified with parts built in the 13th Century when the Lord of the Manor lived here. In the 16th century, it was home to the brother of Jane Seymour (Henry VIII's third wife). In 1538, King Henry visited Acton Court in Iron Acton. Could he have visited this place too?

Ask your parents to take you to Acton Court in the summer when they have special events.

Just beyond Frampton Court, turn left down a rough track that goes beside Hilly Field until reaching

4. Nightingale's Bridge.

This is the only stone arch bridge that still remains in Frampton Cotterell.

📍 What might Victorian children have done here?

📍 Who do you think used this ancient track?

📍 Estimate how narrow the bridge is - just enough for a pack horse or single cart to cross the River Frome?

An old tale tells of Cavaliers and Roundheads fighting here during the Civil War and how their ghosts can occasionally be heard on very dark nights.

Carry on up the lane.

📍 Can you spot a line of stones that made up the old road surface? They are slabs placed on their edge, which is known as pitching. (Clue: they are near a crumbling old stone wall.)



Further up the lane is

5. Harris Barton.

📍 At the first building, can you find the old decorated stone gate posts that are typical of many old houses in Frampton Cotterell?

📍 What might have been lowered through the trap door at the far end of this building?



Barton is the old term to describe an area or barn where produce from the land was stored - such as barley, wheat and oats. Harris - do you think the barn or farm was Harry's or belonged to Mr Harris?

📍 Look carefully at the old cottages here to find out how the whole village would have looked over 100 years ago. The outsides have not changed much. Look at the small windows, locally quarried stone, clay roof tiles and chimneys for coal fires from the nearby coal mines.

📍 Can you think of a nearby place with a name that tells you coal was mined there?

Perhaps you could try the Half Moon walk or the longer Coalmining walk with your family.

📍 Look for Hope Cottage that used to be a public house called The Castle of Comfort.



Walk through Harris Barton and turn left along Park Lane to a larger building which was originally the

6. Hat Factory.

For many years, people of Frampton Cotterell worked in their own homes making felt and hats as well as other things. This was called Cottage Industry. When the factory was built in 1823, people came here to work together. This was called the Factory System. The factory closed in 1865 because workers were unhappy with conditions and also hat fashions changed. Some families moved to other hat factories in London and Stockport to continue their trade. On one side of the factory is the Manager's house.

- 🔍 Can you read its date stone?
- 🔍 Can you detect where an old door used to be?
- 🔍 What is behind this building? Describe the windows.

Continue along Park Lane and cross Rectory Road to arrive at



7. Step House.



This Georgian style house was built in 1733 for the Hall family who were hat makers.

- 🔍 Can you see its shell hood porch and its very large windows?
- 🔍 Can you find where the date stamp is? (Clue: look for a decorated rainwater drain pipe.)

It is called Step House because it is a step higher above the river bank. From 1881 to about 1921, this was St Michael's Orphanage.

Continue to the end of Park Lane, following the pavement into Bridge Way; cross Meadow Mead to reach Church Road and the

8. River Frome Bridge

(see Page 49 photo 7)

The old stone bridge was replaced in 1966 and again in 2014.

- 🔍 Do you know why? (Clue: Page 43 after Item 8)

Cross the busy road at the traffic island to walk up the path of

9. St Peter's Church.

Probably the third church on this site. It was rebuilt in 1857-8 and was designed by John Norton. Only the tower remains from the older building.



- 🔍 Can you find a date stamp? (Clue: where was the date of Step House?)
- 🔍 Look at the stone carvings. Which ones do you like? Why?
- 🔍 What pictures can you see on the stained glass windows?

Leave the church and turn right into Mill Lane

- 🔍 Can you find where this photo was taken?

10. Village Pound Gate and Stone Posts.



In the past, a village pound was where stray animals were kept before their owners paid to have them back. This pound was

originally in a field opposite the church where there are now houses

- 🔍 Can you detect when this gate was moved here? Can you guess why?

Next to the churchyard there is a very old house



11. Number 4 Mill Lane.

This house used to be The New Inn. In the late 18th and early 19th century it was used by the Felt Makers' Friendly Society and also the Parish Vestry (now the Parish Council).

- 🔍 Look at its path made of pitching stones (easier to see than the ones near Nightingale's Bridge).
- 🔍 Find nearby Number 10. Can you detect the blocked up archway where a pony and trap would have gone to reach the yard and stables at the back?

Further along Mill Lane look for the old

12. Mill.

Before the 1930s, the Mill was a very important place and had been controlled by the Lord of the Manor.



🔍 Are there any buildings in or near Frampton with “mill” as part of the name?

🔍 Find an old stone stile near here.

There are many stone stiles on footpaths around Frampton Cotterell. Have you seen any others?

From here you can also see the steel business of

13. F.H.Drew.

In the past, there were several other small workshops in Frampton Cotterell and surrounding villages including blacksmiths, carpenters, shoemakers, chair makers and cabinetmakers - all these have now gone. This steel workshop is the only one left.

Return back along Mill Lane and re-cross Church Road at the traffic island. Follow the path beside house No. 309 to Brookside Drive, at the far end of which a path and steps lead to Rectory Road. Turn right and walk up Rectory Road back to the school.

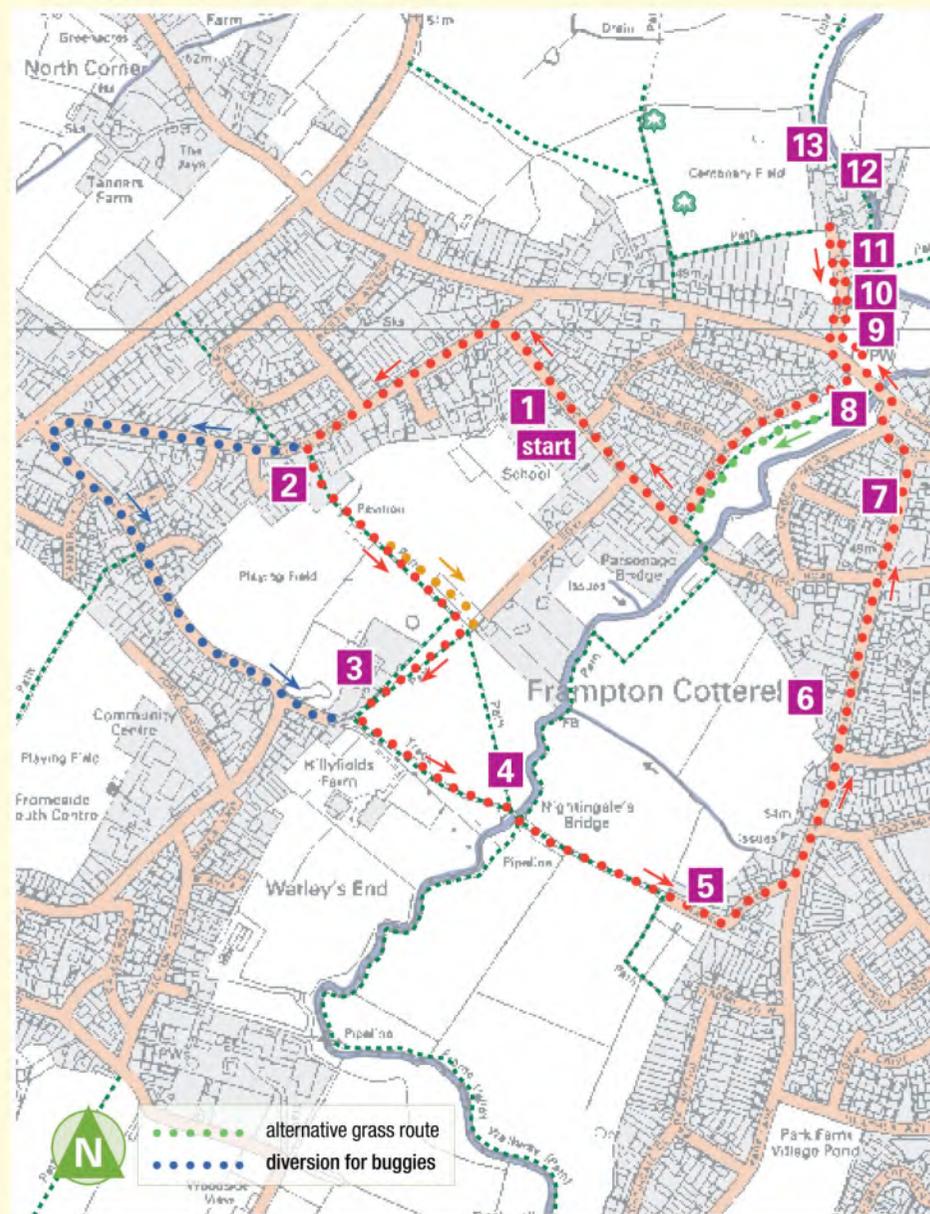
(Alternatively, the Glebe field opposite the church leads to Rectory Road).

Long before supermarkets and bread shops, the local mill ground the farmers' wheat into flour for making bread. The miller also ground other seed crops, such as barley and oats, for the farmers' animals. The mill was powered by the flow of the river turning the waterwheel which then moved the mill stones to grind the wheat. There used to be many mills along the River Frome between Chipping Sodbury and Bristol. There were five mills in Frampton Cotterell and Iron Acton.



Orchard in the Glebe

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- | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ▶ 1 Frampton Cotterell.
Church of England School | ▶ 5 Harris Barton | ▶ 10 Village Pound Gate & Stone Posts |
| ▶ 2 Crossbow House | ▶ 6 Hat Factory | ▶ 11 Number 4 Mill Lane |
| ▶ 3 Frampton Court | ▶ 7 Step House | ▶ 12 Mill |
| ▶ 4 Nightingale's Bridge | ▶ 8 Bridge in Church Road | ▶ 13 F.H.Drew |
| | ▶ 9 St Peter's Church | |



Countryside Code

Advice for the public

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep your dog under close control
- Consider other people

Advice for land managers

- Know your rights, responsibilities and liabilities
- Make it easy for visitors to act responsibly
- Identify possible threats to the safety of visitors

Search online to find out more
about the Countryside Code.



Frampton Cotterell & District
Local History Society



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