



Framlingham is bursting with history and hidden nooks. The **Town Trail** is a circular walk marked by metal plaques to help you find them. Print out these trail pages, along with the map, or pick up a leaflet around Framlingham. You can download the audio guide for your mp3 player or iPod from our website at **Framlingham.com** ahead of your walk. The audio guide concentrates on areas of special interest you will see on your trail. Below is a guide to have handy during your trail with indications when to **» play the audio guide «** which is in 22 parts.

» Audio Guide Part 1 - Introduction «
Start: Start the trail at the **Elms Car Park**
» Audio Guide Part 2 - Elms Car Park «



» Audio Guide Part 3 - The Pump «

1. **The Pump** was one of the town's principal water supplies and has two spouts. The higher spout filled the tall water carts that supplied outlying houses and in summer, before the coming of tarmac in 1912, sprinkled water to lay the dust on roads.



2. **The United Free Church** is a typical late Victorian building though the oldest part was once an unsuccessful flour mill. It was converted and extended in 1867 as the People's Hall, bought in 1885 for a chapel by Methodists and became the United Free in 1988.

3. **The Ancient House** is a typical Suffolk timber frame house with fine pargetting (ornamental plasterwork) and tall windows dating the building as middle to late 17th century and the door panelling is worthy of note. Next door John Self's shop window and door are Victorian.



» Audio Guide Part 4 - Station Road «

4. **The Mills Almshouses** are named for Thomas Mills who came to Fram to learn wheelwrighting as an employee of Edward Smith who then left the business to Thomas. Perhaps inspired by both the Robert Hitcham Almshouses and his faith Thomas left instructions in his will for the building of six almshouses.



» Audio Guide Part 5 - Thomas Mills «

5. **The Tomb House** was the home of Thomas Mills. As a devout Baptist and dissenter he was not allowed to be buried in the churchyard when he died in 1703 and instead at his wishes was buried in his garden.



6. **The Railway** on the opposite side of the road (and The Station further along Station Road) show Fram had a railway which arrived in 1859. The railway closed to passengers in 1952 and then carried freight for a few more years before being dismantled in 1965.

Turn round and retrace your steps to Fore Street (previously called Lurke Street and Back Street). Cross the road by St Clare's Catholic Church and walk up **Queen's Head Alley**.



» Audio Guide Part 6 - Queens Head Alley «

7. As you go up **Queen's Head Alley** the house on the left was once an inn. Built in the late 1400s and originally called the Blue Boar it pre-dates the Crown Hotel by some 60 years. The name was changed to the Queen's Head before 1800 so probably refers to Queen "Bloody" Mary I who came to Framlingham twice, taking refuge in 1550 and re-visiting after being crowned. In the early days the rear of the inn was used by bear-leaders while the bears slept outside. In the 19th century vagrants used to shelter there for 1d per night. The archway is thought to be the original toll entrance into Framlingham.



8. Turn left onto the **Market Hill**. A market held on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays existed in 1270, in time two annual fairs became established; six days at Michaelmas and three days during Whit week. Now days the market is held on Saturdays and Tuesdays. The triangular Market Hill is surrounded by buildings of many ages and styles whose facades often conceal much older buildings.



9. The row of timber buildings on your left as you face the town sign was built between 1700 and 1751. The archway would have been similar to the one in The Crown allowing carriages to pass through.



10. The Town Sign was erected in 1991 with funds raised by Framlingham WI. The design was distilled from local people's ideas and includes The Pump and a Victorian Pillar-Box. The sign was made by Kettleburgh blacksmith Hector Moore from final drawings by his wife Mary who also painted it



11. The Guildhall is one of the oldest houses in Framlingham. Although the front is 18th century Queen Anne style inside there is 16th and 17th century timberwork. It was built on the site of a building known to exist in 1363. The raised pavement area in front of the building marks the boundary of the Mansion House that formerly stood on the site. Note the mathematical tiles on this and the adjoining houses hung on battens to give the effect of a brick wall and cover up a timber-framed building.



12. As a contrast Barclays Bank is a late Victorian building with Neptune's carved head over the door and muses musing over the lower windows.



» Audio Guide Part 7 - The Crown Hotel «

13. Next door The Crown (1553) was a coaching inn serving travellers between Ipswich and Norwich. Until the early 1950s there was an open carriageway through the building. The Crown's frontage is an 18th Century replacement of the original Tudor and inside there is a preserved example of the wattle and daub originally used in half-timbered.

» Audio Guide Part 8 - The Crown & Anchor «

Proceed up Church Street towards the Castle and as you cross Crown and Anchor Lane look to your left and up to see the Church Clock. It was donated in 1872 by Sir Henry Thompson (1820-1904) in memory of his father a tallow-chandler in the town. The son had not follow his father's trade but studied medicine and later became surgeon to Queen Victoria.



» Audio Guide Part 9 - The Dipping Pond «

14. Cross the road and on your right is the Ducking Pond where we duck suspected witches ... though it's a been while



» Audio Guide Part 10 - The Bowling Green «

15. Walk up the drive to the castle passing on your left the Bowling Green. The green is a very old one and was certainly played on in the times of the Dukes of Norfolk in the 15th Century.



» Audio Guide Part 11 - Framlingham Castle «

» Audio Guide Part 12 - The Meadow «

» Audio Guide Part 13 - Framlingham College «

16. The present curtain-walled structure of Framlingham Castle dates from the late 12th Century, although there was a wooden motte and bailey castle near this site (possibly where the Castle Inn now stands) a century earlier. In the 1215 Civil War it was besieged and captured by King John's army and in 1553 Mary Tudor was staying in the Castle when she learned that she had become Queen. You may want to dedicate a couple of hours to visit the Castle - there's much to see. A comprehensive audio guide is included when you visit.



17. The Lanman Museum is housed in the castle and contains artefacts relating to Fram and the area, including a complete run from 1859 to 1938 of the Framlingham Weekly News.



» Audio Guide Part 14 - The Readery «

18. The Readery was the home of (wait for it) The Reader who (by the terms of Robert Hitcham's will) gave daily bible readings to the almshouse residents.



19. **Jeaffreson's Well** was sunk in 1896 in memory of town doctor William Jeaffreson FRCS and his wife Caroline. It was covered with a conical roofed, open-sided structure. Isaac Larter was the first man to make use of this supply communally when he put a tank in the roof to supply the bungalows he had built in Saxmundham Road in the 1930s. The well and tank are now disused.

Turn back into Castle Street and retrace your steps. Turn left into Double Street



» **Audio Guide Part 15 - Victorian Pillar Boxes** «

20. **The two Victorian Pillar Boxes** were bought in 1856 and 1857 and are still well used. The other box can be seen at the junction of Mount Pleasant and College Road.



21. **Double Street** was originally called Bow Street and is thought to be the inner moat of the motte and bailey castle. It got its present name when houses and shops were built on both sides of the road. It was once the main shopping street.

Cross over Church Street into the churchyard.



» **Audio Guide Part 16 - The Church Bells** «
 » **Audio Guide Part 17 - The Church Organ** «
 » **Audio Guide Part 18 - The Church Tombs** «
 » **Audio Guide Part 19 - The Church Yard** «

22. **St Michael's Church** has many important features including a curious wall painting dating from 1400, a fine hammer beam roof, superb tombs of the Howard family in the unique chancel and the Thamar Organ built in 1674. You will need to dedicate some time to visit the church properly. Our audio guides concentrate on the Church in 4 parts.

» **Audio Guide Part 20 - Bill Bustrade** «

Continue through the churchyard, down Church Steps, along Church Lane, and when you get back to the Market Hill turn right down Bridge Street



» **Audio Guide Part 21 - The Library Court** «

23. During the first half of the 19th century Fram was the **legal centre** for thirty three parishes. Petty sessions were held at the back of the Crown Hotel until 1872 when the Court House was built. Judges' courts were held until 1924 and Magistrates' courts until 1978 and nowadays the Court House is the library



24. **The Unitarian Church** built in 1717 was the first meeting house for dissenters in Fram. In 1812 the East Anglian Unitarian Society was formed and in 1813 the old meeting house became the Unitarian Church and is still used for worship. The house next door on the left was the Manse and the initials RBC on the door stand for Richard and Bridget Clarke who owned the house before it was sold as the Manse. They bought the house in 1631 so the date 1681 may refer to the year the house had a makeover.

25. Down the lane to the left of the house is the former **Check House for the Mauldens Mill** (a steam-power mill), and more recently the house was a betting shop.

Carry on down **Bridge Street** to **Well Close Square** or return to the **Elms Car Park** by the footpath on your right. You pass on your right the Elm Flats which stand on land that was the Cattle Market until 1937



26. **Well Close Square** was named for Mr Henry Wells who established a large shop in what's now Clarke and Simpson in 1829. Every conceivable commodity was sold ... and he went bankrupt in 1834.

Turn back and turn left down **New Road**.



» **Audio Guide Part 22 - The Mere** «

You can turn right in to the **Elms Car Park** where you started and where there is a gateway onto the **Mere**.