

## pre-history



From earliest times Man was attracted to settle on the high ground overlooking the flood plain of the River Stour.

The old town's semi-circular street pattern follows the line of the Saxon defences, or "Great Ditch"



# Sudbury Heritage Centre & Museum

An introduction to the town's past



## 8thC

The first recorded mention of the town is in 798AD when the Anglo Saxon Chronicle records the death of Bishop Aelthun in Sudbury.



## 11thC

Sudbury was already an important town by 1086 when the Domesday Book records a church, a market and a royal mint.



# heritage SUDBURY

## 13thC

The first bridge across the River Stour at Ballingdon was built around 1200.



Opening times:  
Monday to Saturday 10am - 4pm

This free leaflet is a brief summary of the content of the town's Heritage Centre and Museum

## 13thC

Elizabeth de Burgh, whose grandfather was Edward 1, used her royal wealth to create the Market Hill.



## 14thC



Simon of Sudbury rose to be Lord Chancellor and Archbishop of Canterbury before being killed by rebels in the Peasants Revolt 1381.



Simon's legacy to the town was a college for priests, on the site where Walnut Tree Hospital now stands.

## 15thC

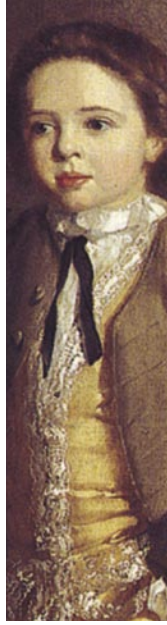
Great wealth was created by the woollen cloth industry in the late Middle Ages.



## 16thC

Sudbury was granted borough status in 1558 as a reward for its loyalty to Mary 1 against the claims of Lady Jane Grey.

## 18thC



In the early 18th century the town was linked to the sea when the River Stour was transformed into a Navigation.

The famous painter, Thomas Gainsborough, was born at 46 Gainsborough Street in 1727.

## 19thC

Eatanswill in Charles Dickens' *Pickwick Papers* was modelled on Sudbury - a byword for corruption at election times.



Silk manufacturing became an important industry in the 19th century.



Sudbury was also famous for its brick making and malting.

# 20thC

The memorial to over 400 Americans of the USAF who died in operations from the local airbase in WWII.



# To the visitor

We hope that you have enjoyed your visit to this Heritage Centre and Museum. We also hope that you will now explore our attractive and historic town. The staff at the adjacent Tourist Information Centre will be happy to offer help and advice. Among the many publications available there we suggest you look at ....

**The Town Trail** Produced by the Sudbury Society this is a well illustrated booklet which takes you round a selection of the town's historic sites; there is map on the back page to show their location.

**Sudbury History and Guide** Written by local historian Barry Wall this book provides a fascinating insight into Sudbury's past. It has a full colour picture section, details the town's history and includes a walking tour of the town.

**The Sudbury Museum Trust** May 2006

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# Today

The Common Lands, stretching in a great loop around the town, are the oldest continuously grazed pastures in East Anglia and a unique feature of the town.

