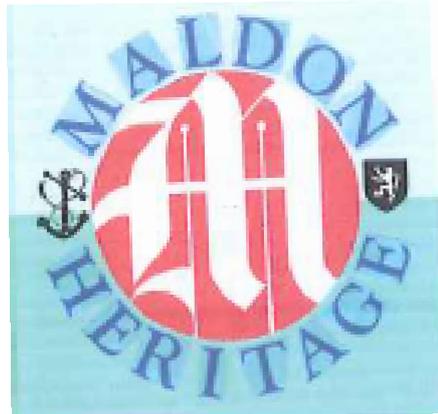


# **Maldon Town Centre Heritage Trail 1**



**A circular walk of about 2 miles, taking in Market Hill, of about two hours exploring Maldon's historic town centre. The walk is dog friendly. Refreshments are widely available in the High Street**

**The walk is for the most part accessible to wheelchair users.**

**Motorised wheelchair users have access to all areas except The Downs footpath and the narrow section shared with NCR1. Manual wheelchair users can access all areas except Market Hill and Thomas Plume's Library**

**Maldon** is an historic maritime and market town of some 15,000 people in the County of Essex, situated on the Blackwater estuary. It is an ancient Anglo-Saxon burgh that was granted a Royal Charter by Henry II in 1171. From the Iron Age, it has been settled by the Romans, Saxons, Vikings and Normans and is the site of the famous Battle of Maldon fought between Vikings and the native Anglo-Saxons in 991AD. Today, Maldon is world famous for many things, such as the Maldon Mud race run in May, Maldon salt and the Thames barges that still sail from the Hythe.

### **History and Heritage**

A walk along the High Street reveals many buildings whose brick facades conceal medieval timber frames. At the junction of the High Street and Market Hill stands the tower of St Peters which is attached to the building erected in 1704 by Dr Thomas Plume to house his famous library and the Maldon's grammar school. The school has long since moved and the ground floor now contains the Maeldune Centre which displays the Maldon Embroidery depicting life in the town from the Battle of Maldon to the present day. Further along is the Moot Hall, built in the 15th century for the d'Arcy family and most recently used as the council chambers, magistrates court and police station. In another few yards you reach the 13th century All Saints' Church, famous for its triangular tower and Washington Window. Maldon's Market Hill is lined with more timber framed buildings including the old workhouse and leads steeply down to Fullbridge at the crossing of the River Chelmer. This area was once a thriving port with its wharves busy unloading ships laden with timber and other materials. Here the Combined Military Services Museum contains a large collection of weapons and armoury and other displays.

## **Local Heroes and Traditions**

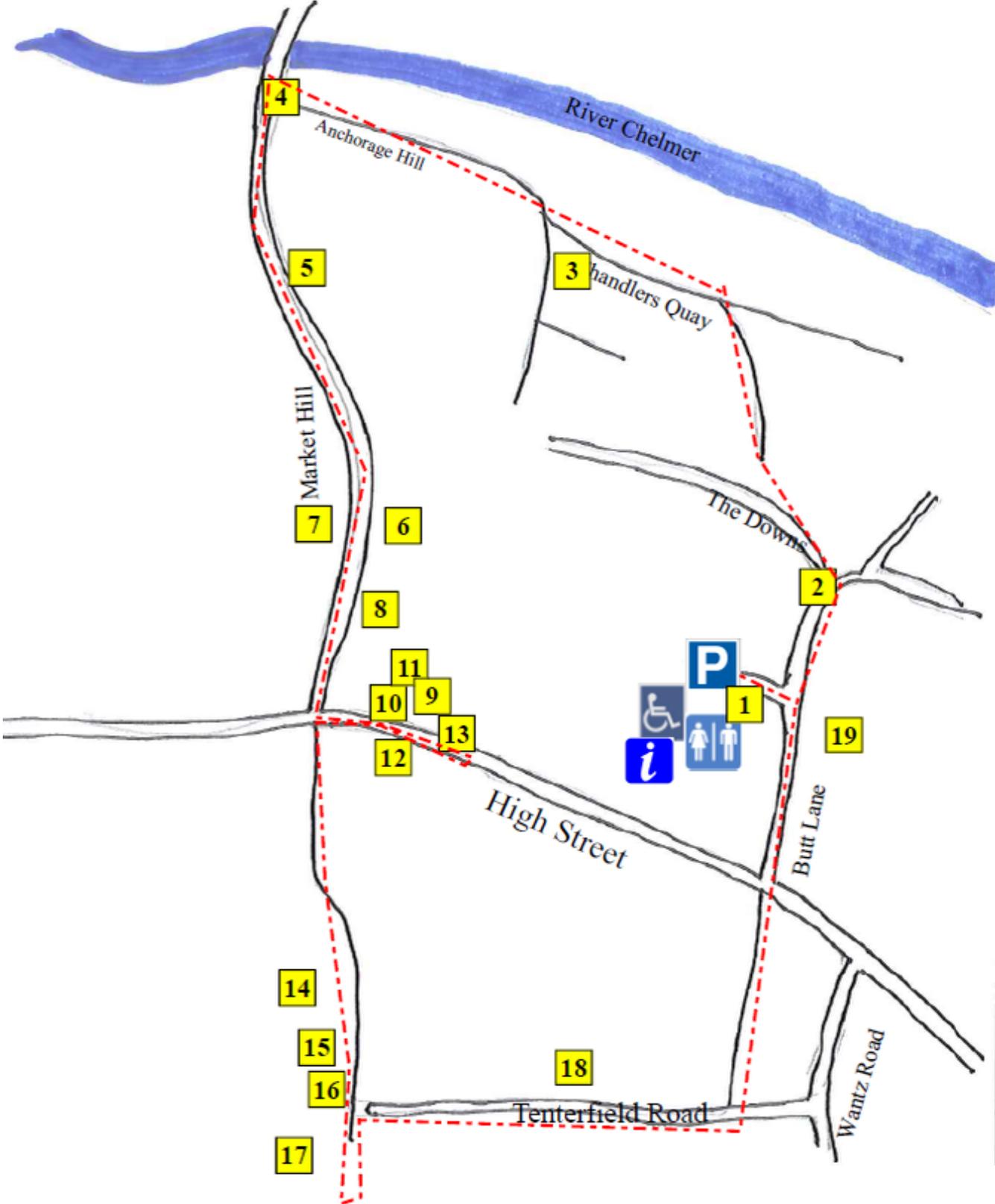
Interesting local historical characters include the Saxon hero Lord Brythnoth who bravely led his army against the invading Danes, Edward Bright, the fat man at Maldon, “supposed to be the biggest and weightiest Man in the World” upon his death in 1750, and the zealous Puritan peacher, Rev’d Joseph Billio whose sermons in the URC were legendary. Plough Monday is celebrated in a parade of ploughshares through the town, led by the border dance troupe, Dark Horse Morris.

## **Maldon Heritage Group**

In 2017, the Maldon Heritage Group was formed to enable member organisations to work together to share ideas, information and expertise with the objective of increasing footfall to venues and raising the profile of Maldon’s heritage to visitors and residents. Membership of the group is open to all Maldon-based non profit organisations with a heritage or cultural focus. The heritage venues and members currently represented are:-

- All Saints’ Church [www.allsaintsmaldon.com](http://www.allsaintsmaldon.com)
- Beeleigh Abbey Gardens
- Beeleigh Water and Steam Mill [www.beeleighmill.co.uk](http://www.beeleighmill.co.uk)
- Combined Military Services Museum [www.cmsm.co.uk](http://www.cmsm.co.uk)
- Friary Walled Garden
- Maeldune Heritage Centre [www.maelduneheritagecentre.co.uk](http://www.maelduneheritagecentre.co.uk)
- Maldon Museum [www.maldonmuseum.org.uk](http://www.maldonmuseum.org.uk)
- Maldon Little Ship Club [www.mlsc.org.uk](http://www.mlsc.org.uk)
- Maldon Riverside Association
- Maldon Society [www.maldonsoc.org](http://www.maldonsoc.org)
- Moot Hall [www.themoothall.co.uk](http://www.themoothall.co.uk)
- Museum of Power [www.museumofpower.org.uk](http://www.museumofpower.org.uk)
- [www.midessexquakers.org.uk/maldon-meeting](http://www.midessexquakers.org.uk/maldon-meeting).
- St Mary’s Church [www.stmarysmaldon.org.uk](http://www.stmarysmaldon.org.uk)
- St Giles Ruins
- Salt Water and Beer Shanty Singers
- Steam Tug Brent Trust [www.steamtugbrent.org](http://www.steamtugbrent.org)
- Thames Sailing Barge Trust [www.bargetrust.org](http://www.bargetrust.org)
- Thomas Plume’s Library [www.thomasplumeslibrary.co.uk](http://www.thomasplumeslibrary.co.uk)
- United Reformed Church

# MALDON TOWN CENTRE HERITAGE TRAIL 1



## **1. Butt Lane car park**

Start this walk from Butt Lane car park (CM9 5HD)/ Parking charges are clearly displayed. There are toilet facilities in the car park and refreshments are available nearby through the alleyways. A noticeboard and map provide more information.

## **2. The Downs**

On leaving the Butt Lane car park entrance on foot. No provision for pedestrian and wheelchair egress, so caution required. Turn left into Downs Lane, this will take you to Chandler's Quay.

## **3. Chandler's Quay**

Beware of vehicles manoeuvring here. Turn left as you walk along; you will see houseboats with floral hanging baskets. Opposite the wharf and boatyards is one of the town's oldest flour mills

## **4. Fullbridge**

At the Fullbridge, there are boatyards, colourful planters on the bridge and a recent "lighthouse" development.

## **5. Market Hill - Old Customs House**

Market Hill is the steep entrance to the town. At the bottom of Market Hill is a very rare Victorian pillar box. As you walk up the hill, you will pass the old Customs House on your left. Be wary of cyclists. NMU's can catch a bus from outside Tesco to the top of the hill. Otherwise avoid this section

## **6. Maldon Workhouse**

Further up the hill, on the right, are homes (marked by a blue plaque) which served as Maldon's Union Workhouse in the 18th and 19th centuries. Be wary of vehicles and machinery manoeuvring here

## **7. Market Hill Garden**

This beautiful peaceful oasis, with stunning views over the rooftops of the old houses and beyond, is a popular place to rest, halfway up one of the steepest hills in Essex. A noticeboard provides information on the Garden.

## **8. United Reformed Church**

Further up Market Hill is the Maldon United Reformed Church. Its most famous pastor (commemorated by a blue plaque) was the Rev Billio, famous for his thunderous sermons.

## **9. St Peters Church and Churchyard**

The former Parish Church, which is Grade 11 listed, is home to Thomas Plume's Library and the Maeldune Heritage Centre, both open to visitors.

On the side of the Church is a sundial, dating from the 12th century. The gardens feature a mixture of formal design with a mix of perennials and seasonal plants as well as dry beds around the edge against the walls. Shears Tomb stands at one corner of the churchyard. Outside the churchyard are three old-style telephone boxes.

## **10. Maeldune Heritage Centre**

Inside the Centre is the Millennium Embroidery depicting 1000 years of Maldon history. The Embroidery, designed by Humphrey Spender, measures 42 feet and involved more than 100 volunteers in its making. The Centre also houses artefacts and information on local archaeology, the Maldon Society's oral and photographic archive and exhibitions of work by local artists.

**11. Thomas Plume's Library** - one of the oldest in England, is on the first floor, accessed by an ancient spiral staircase in the church tower. In 1704 Plume bequeathed to Maldon his collection of over 8,100 books and pamphlets and his collection of paintings to be housed in his Library. Some 2000 volumes have been added since. Books may be consulted without appointment during normal opening hours. Numbers are limited to 12 visitors at any one time. Admission is free; groups must be booked in advance.

## **12. Plume School Planter**

Outside the churchyard is the Plume Planter, designed, built and planted by students. It features decorated tiles displaying various pictures each student associated with the town of Maldon.

## **13. Church House**

Next to the church is the former home (marked by a blue plaque) of Edward "Ted" Bright, son of the "fat man of Maldon". Use Pelican crossing to cross the High Street.

## **14. Friary Walled Garden**

Return to the High Street and cross to take the lane beside Iceland. By the library is the Friary Walled garden, which will be open over Heritage Weekend. This Georgian garden was restored in 1987 and is maintained by Maldon & Heybridge Horticultural Society as a working garden. Visits can be arranged.

### **15. Site of Carmelite Friary**

Nearby is the site of a former Carmelite Friary. Monastic communities were known to have kept extensive gardens for raising fruit and vegetables and herbs for medicinal and domestic purposes.

### **16. Chequers Lane**

Walk down Chequers Lane by the Friary Wall (Grade 11 listed) to reach the Longfields open space. The award-winning homes were built on Friary Fields.

### **17. Olympic and Paralympic Avenue**

This open space was once home to allotments. An avenue of London Plane Trees commemorating the 2012 London Olympics was planted by local schoolchildren as part of the town's Olympic legacy. Information boards provide more detail. Beyond can be seen a small linear "Grow Wild" garden in front of the hedgerow. Some of the Maldon in Bloom work in the town..

### **18. Tenterfield Road**

Come back up Chequers Lane and turn right into Tenterfield Road. Many of the cottages were home to outworkers in the weaving industry. Tenter hooks were used to stretch and dry woven cloth.

### **19. Friends' Meeting House**

At the end of the road, take the alley and then cross the High Street to Butt Lane by the public house. On the right you can see the Friends' Meeting House, built in 1821. It has two rooms, originally for separate meetings of men and women.

**20. Swan Hotel** Late 15th Century urban merchant's house, which became a main post and passenger carriage terminus in the town serving the Dengie Hundred and Witham in the early 19th Century

### **Butt Lane car park**

The end of the trail, but if you wish to see more of Maldon, follow the Riverside Trail to visit boatyards, sailing barges on Hythe Quay, Promenade Park, Maldon Museum and St Mary's Church.