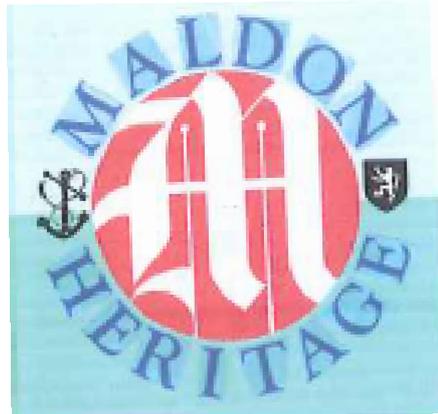


Maldon Town Centre Heritage Trail 2



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

MALDON TOWN CENTRE HERITAGE TRAIL 2



1. White Horse Lane Car Park CM9 5QP. Parking charges are clearly displayed. There are toilet facilities available and refreshments in the High Street. Take one of the alleyways through to the High Street. Turn right and then left down Market Hill

2. St Peter's Church and Churchyard. The former parish church, (grade II listed) is home to Thomas Plume's Library and the **Maeldune Heritage Centre**, (3) both open to visitors. Inside the Heritage Centre is the Millennium Embroidery depicting 1000 years of Maldon history. The Centre also houses artefacts and information on local archaeology, a photographic archive and exhibitions of work by local artists.

4. 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.

5. United Reformed Church. Its most famous pastor (see blue plaque) was the Rev Billio, famous for his thunderous sermons. In the corner of the churchyard is a memorial in the shape of a tree to the Sadd family with a reference to Myra Eleanor Sadd Brown (1872 - 1938) a famous suffragette.

6. Market Hill Garden - a peaceful oasis with stunning views over the rooftops

7. Cromwell Hill and Cromwell Pump

Cross over the road to Cromwell Hill where you will see the Cromwell Pump, which provided the town with its first public water supply in 1587. Thomas Cammock laid the conduits that brought the water from springs in Beeleigh Road

At the top of the hill turn right and walk along to Beeleigh Road. On the right is a row of attractive terraced houses with cottage-style front gardens.

Leave Beeleigh Road and continue along the footpath to Lodge Road to reach 8.

8. Leech Memorial Garden. This lane continues "the old way to Beeleigh", the route taken by White Canons between Maldon and Beeleigh Abbey.

Two local sisters, Edna and Joan Leech bequeathed the garden to the people of Maldon. They lived in the house opposite the garden, but died later in a plane crash, as the noticeboard explains. The garden features a wide range of native and ornamental trees and is maintained by the Friends of Leech Memorial Garden.

9. London Road cottages. Market gardening was a profitable business in Georgian Maldon. This row of four cottages (30, 28, 26 and 24) was built for the market gardener, Henry Lindoe.

10. Courthouse, London Road. Walk along Lodge Road (also named Dykes Chase) and turn left into London Road, once the main road out of Maldon. The old courthouse, (marked by a plaque) is now a private residence.

Alms Houses The cottages at 13 and 15 London Road were once the almshouses of Annastacy Wentworth's Charity. She left property for the education of poor children and the relief of the poor of All Saints parish.

Correction house. This cottage (no x) was the 18th century house of correction, built for housing idle and disorderly convicted criminals

11. Maldon's Town sign features the ancient coat of arms, based on its 14th century heraldic seal. The three lions of England were included because Maldon was a Royal town.

12. Ware Pond

Cross the road to visit the Ware Pond. You can find information about the site on the noticeboard.

13. Blue Boar. Walk back along the High Street and turn left into Silver Street, once the site of Maldon's mint. The Blue Boar hotel, a former coaching inn, bears the coat of arms of the De Vere family.

14. Bell Inn. This private home and guest house displays the sign of its origins

15. All Saints Church

This Grade 1 listed Church with its unique triangular tower has a beautifully designed 13th century shingled spire with eight bell ropes. The Church is open for visitors to see its famous Washington Window. Outside the church are statues commemorating St Mellitus, St Cedd Earl Byrhneth, Robert D'Arcy and Dr Thomas Plume. In front of the church is the Grade II listed Water Trough which commemorates the life of Lucy Hicks, a local Quaker. The town's war memorial was funded by public subscription

16. Moot Hall. The Grade 1 listed Moot Hall (with black plaque) started life as part of a larger private mansion owned by Sir Robert D'Arcy, Sheriff, Member of Parliament for Maldon and wealthy merchant. The building incorporates a police cell and exercise yard, 19th century Court room, Council Chamber and panoramic rooftop views. Guided tours can be arranged. The town clock with its five bell chimes was presented in 1881 by George Courtauld MP

17. Kings Head complex

This complex incorporates a pair of 15th century Wealden houses encased in Georgian brickwork. The King's Head won a conservation award after restoration of previously neglected buildings. Down the alley is a statue of Edward Bright, the famous "fat man at Maldon" and Friars Gate information boards.

Historical building facades

Many of the High Street stores, like the facade above Dorothy Perkins, retain features of their historical past. The site of Boots and Superdrug was formerly an enormous brick mansion, built for the merchant, Charles Coe - "probably the richest man in Maldon".

Home of the "Fat man of Maldon"

The buildings at 57 and 59 High Street (marked by a blue plaque) were home to Edward Bright senior, the "fat man of Maldon". When Edward died in November 1750 he weighed well over 40 stone. His remains are interred in a vault in All Saints Church