



HADLEIGH “is one of the most perfect Small Towns in England, with trees, old red brick, flint and plaster and that unassuming beauty of East Anglia which changes to glory in sunlight.” *Sir John Betjeman, February 1962*

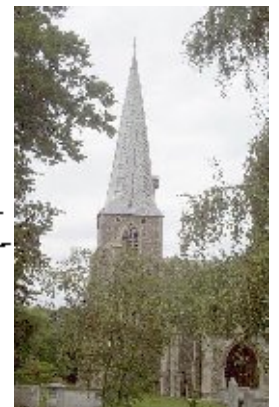
HADLEIGH is a small market town situated within the area of Suffolk so beloved by artists Constable and Gainsborough, offering an ideal centre for touring. The town is in the valley of the river Brett, where human activity can be traced back to the Bronze Age. The Romans farmed here and it was the Danish leader Guthrum's Royal Town and burial place in 890 AD. Since 1252, a weekly market has been held. During the Middle Ages, the town was a major producer of woollen cloth, the wealth generated being reflected in the size of the parish church and the quality of the many mediaeval buildings. The 19th Century saw the arrival of the railway (closed in 1965) and light industrial growth in malting, silk spinning and coco matting manufacture.

Today the town can boast a friendly, thriving community that retains its High Street shops, which supply a good selection of local produce. A small estate, the home to a variety of businesses, gives many employment opportunities. The surrounding countryside offers many open views and circular walks.

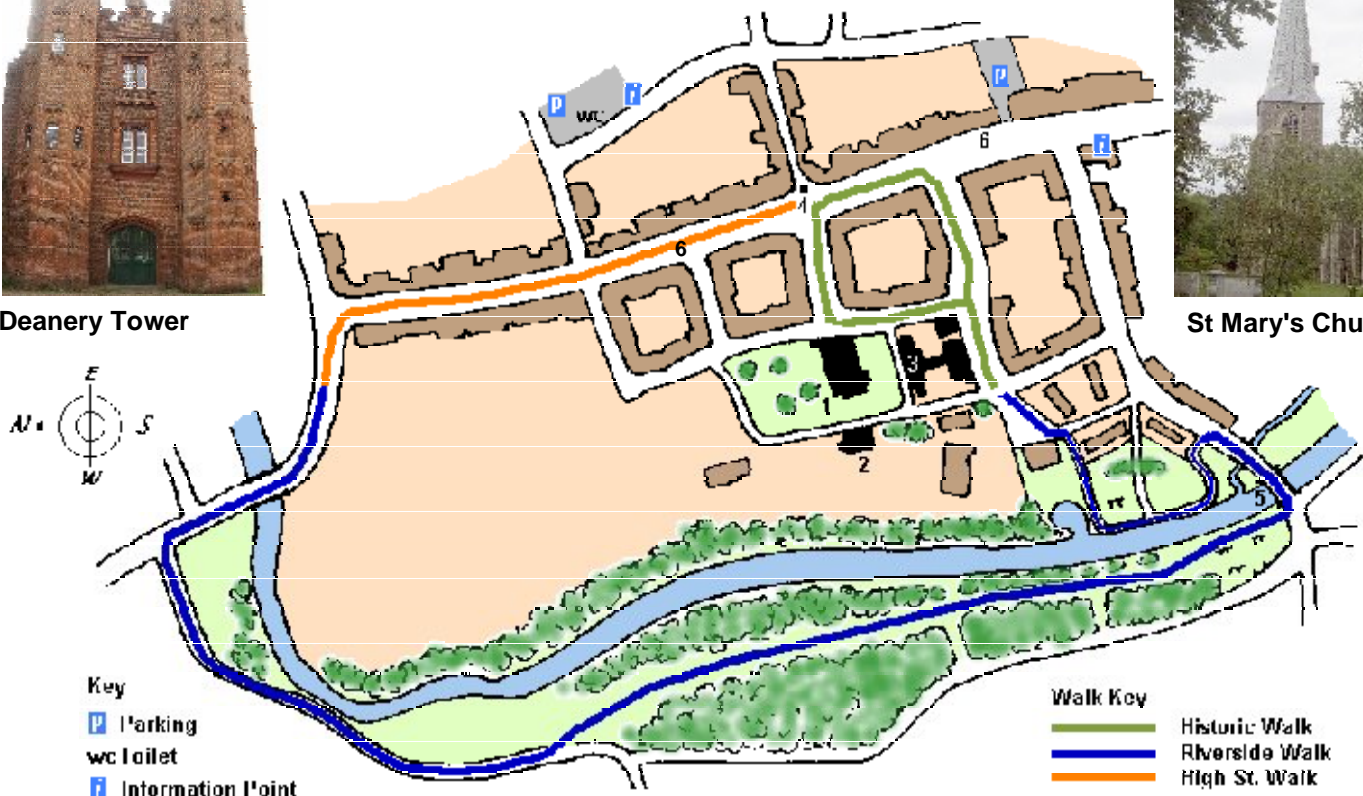
- 1. St Mary's Church.** One of Suffolk's largest churches, built in the 13th century and greatly enlarged in the 15th century.
- 2. The Deanery Tower.** Adjacent to the church, built in 1495 as the entrance to a residence for Archdeacon William Pykenham, whose death halted completion of the project. This is a fine example of late 15th century brickwork.
- 3. Guildhall-Town Hall complex.** The three-story Market Hall with Guildhall behind are both mid 15th century and together with the Victorian Town Hall still acts as a civic centre. Note the Georgian Corn Exchange nearby.



Deanery Tower



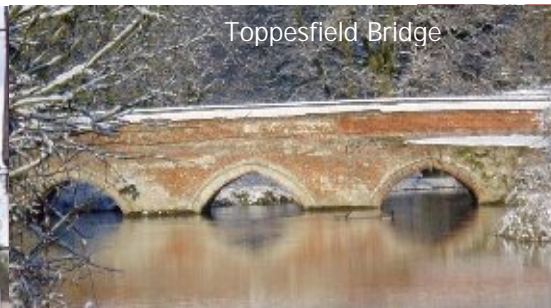
St Mary's Church



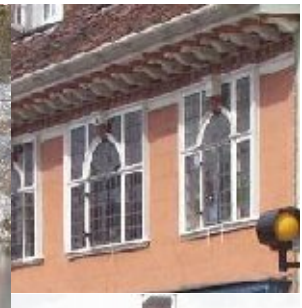
- 4. The Mile Stone.** This 18th century obelisk was refurbished in 2004.
- 5. Toppesfield Bridge.** Originally built in the 13th century, this is the oldest bridge in Suffolk still in vehicular use.
- 6. The High Street.** Having been erected between the 14th and 17th centuries, most of the buildings in the High Street are listed at Grade II or II*. However, in the 18th century, many were 'modernised'. Fortunately the owners could not afford completely new buildings so only alterations in the form of windows and shallow rooflines were made leaving the original timber-frame structures behind Georgian facades.



High Street



Toppesfield Bridge



Constitution Hill from riverside walk



George Street

Information about Hadleigh can be obtained from Hadleigh Library and Tourist Information Point, 29 High Street. Opening hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, 9.30am – 5.00pm, Friday 9.30am – 7.30pm and Sunday 10.00am – 4.00pm. Telephone 01473 823778. Web: www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/libraries E-mail: Hadleigh.library@libher.suffolkcc.gov.uk

www.hadleigh.org.uk - *The online guide to the town, with everything you need to know.* Visit the website and send electronic postcards of photos in this leaflet to your friends.

The Hadleigh Town Council offices in the Guildhall complex. Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm. Web: www.hadleightowncouncil.co.uk

The Riverside walk is circular and takes approximately 30 minutes. This walk encompasses the major part of the High Street and Hadleigh's two bridges, the Iron Bridge and Toppesfield Bridge. Walking along the western side of the river shows views of the back of the High Street across the water meadows.

The walk can be lengthened by taking one of the footpaths up to the high ground above the town and looking down into the valley. These paths re-link to the riverside walk.

This leaflet was produced in partnership between Hadleigh Town Council and Hadleigh Library in 2005. Photographs and map © Craig Martin and Ken Oliver



Hadleigh - *A Walk Through Time*



Market Hall