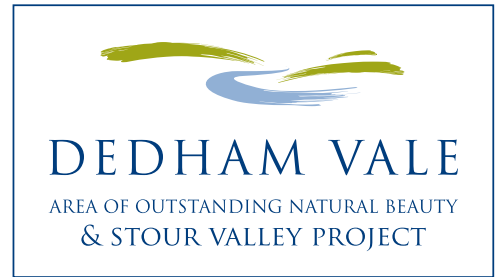


## WALKS OFF THE STOUR VALLEY PATH

# EXPLORE BELCHAMP BROOK

Walk length: 9 miles (14.5 km); short cut north 6.5 miles (10.5 km);  
short cut south 6 miles (10 km).

Please use OS Explorer Map number 196



## An Introduction to the Belchamp Brook Walk

Enjoy Belchamp Brook on a circular walk in this remote corner of Essex and explore the undulating, unspoiled and ancient countryside of the Stour Valley and this tributary. The walk (with a short cut) traverses the extensive common lands that are such an attractive feature of the western side of Sudbury. Join the walk anywhere along the Stour Valley Path between Ballingdon Bridge and Brundon at Sudbury, then follow the Belchamp Brook up through the water meadows to Belchamp Walter and Bulmer, returning via Little Henny and Middleton.

### Points of interest

This part of Essex has many farming and sporting estates, with their ancient halls and game coverts dotting the landscape. Small herds of Fallow deer (re-introduced by the Normans) can be seen.

It is possible to visit four fascinating churches on this walk. Belchamp Walter and Bulmer churches are on the route, while Borley and Middleton churches are a short detour. For information on all the churches on the walk please visit [www.explorestourvalley.co.uk](http://www.explorestourvalley.co.uk)

**Brundon Mill** was, in 1705, the upper limit of the Stour Navigation. Barges would carry coal, corn, hay, flour, bricks and lime up and down to the mills wharves and warehouses. The coming of the



Sudbury from Brundon

railway in the 19th century saw the demise of river transport by the 1920s. The watermill and adjacent cottages form a very photogenic group.

At **Belchamp Walter** St Mary's Church has fine 14th century examples of red ochre wall paintings. The martyrdom of St Edmunds depicts him bound to a tree, being shot through by the Danes with bow and arrows. The Church stands opposite a 1720 Hall. St Andrew's Church at **Bulmer** has a font carving of the Green Man.



St Mary's Church

The "**Auberis**" (near Bulmer, on the short cut) was the location of Thomas Gainsborough's famous painting of 'Mr and Mrs Andrews', circa 1750. The land here drops down to the Stour Valley, just as depicted by the artist.

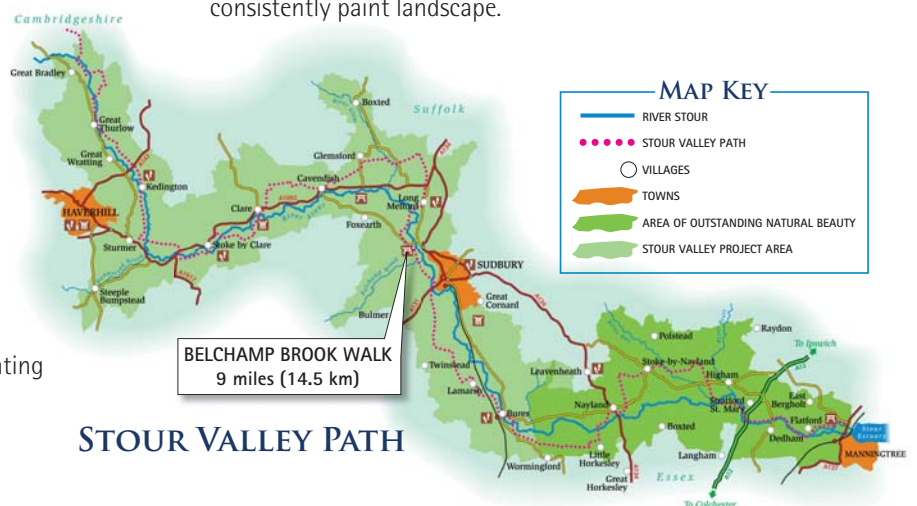
At **Little Henny** the deep-set Ryes Lane adds an air of mystery as it descends towards the Stour Valley Path at Middleton. There are excellent viewpoints over Sudbury and the Stour Valley.

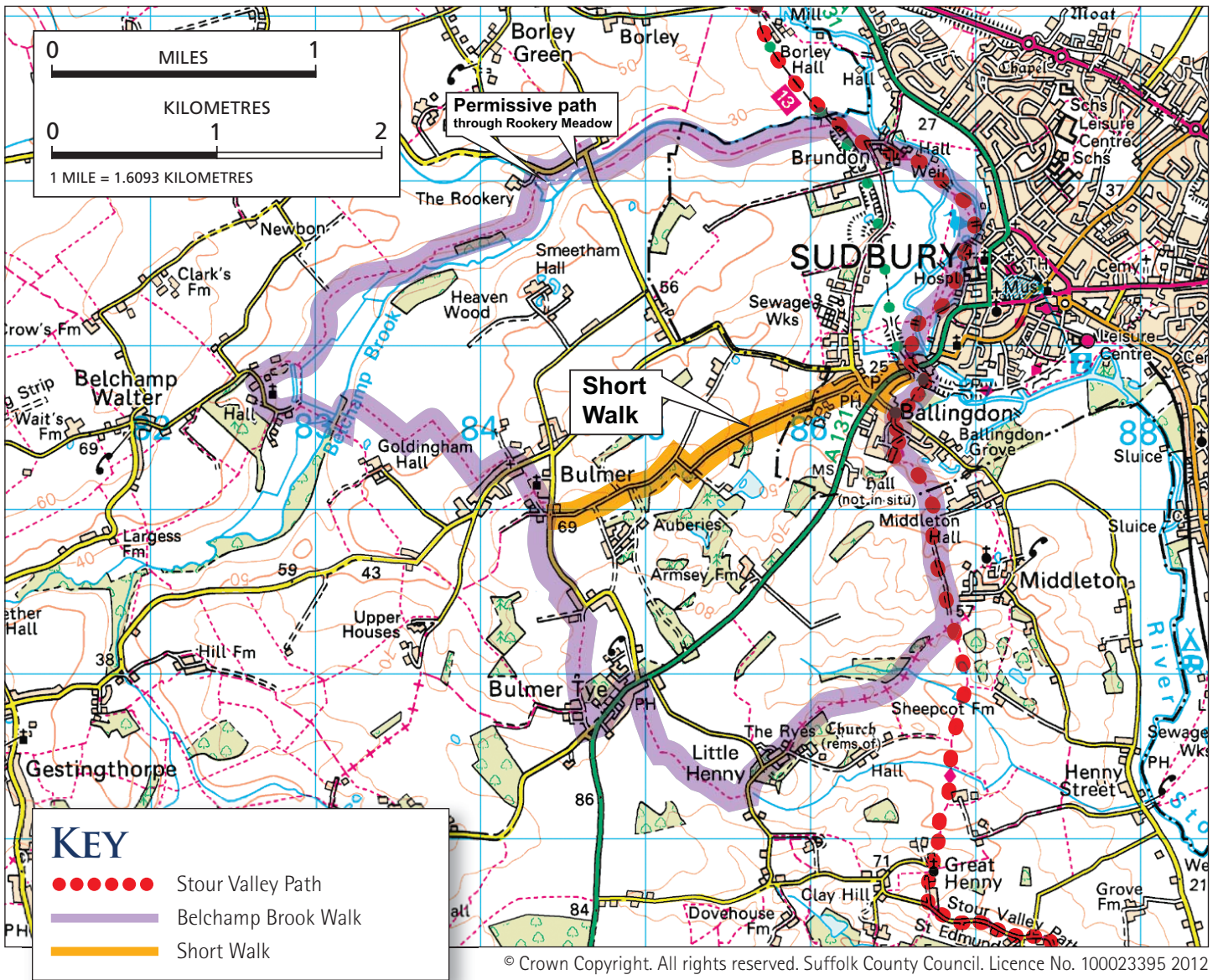
Although there is nothing to be seen today it is interesting to note that the 19th century brick makers, "Allens of **Ballingdon**", were based at Ballingdon Grove. They were renowned for their Ballingdon Reds and Suffolk Whites, many of which were exported to London and used in the frontages of the finest buildings.



Ballingdon Bridge Sudbury

**Sudbury** is a thriving market town established in the 17th century, and is a crossing point on the River Stour between Suffolk and Essex. For centuries the weaving and silk industry has prospered here and many great houses and churches have been built, giving the town a major historical legacy. Take time to visit Gainsborough's House, the museum and gallery at the birthplace of Thomas Gainsborough (1727-1788), who was the first important British artist to consistently paint landscape.





# EXPLORE BELCHAMP BROOK

Walk length: 9 miles (14.5 km);  
short cut north 6.5 miles (10.5 km);  
short cut south 6 miles (10 km)

Please use Explorer OS Map number 196

Terrain: The routes include public paths and  
bridleways along field-edges and across  
cultivated land which may be muddy. Expect  
some stiles on grazing land. Use is also made of  
farm tracks and minor roads where care is  
needed even if traffic is light.



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## Refreshments

Along the route there are numerous places for refreshments, especially at Sudbury, Bulmer and a cafe on the Bulmer Road Industrial Estate at Ballingdon.

## Car Parking

Various car parks can be found in Sudbury. Alternatively park at one of the villages along the route.

## Transport

[www.travelineeastanglia.org.uk](http://www.travelineeastanglia.org.uk)

**Train:** Sudbury has a train from Marks Tey, which is on the London Liverpool Street-Norwich main line.

**Bus:** Sudbury has buses from Colchester, Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds. Bulmer and other local villages are served by a regular bus from Sudbury.

## Please follow the Countryside Code

- Be a responsible dog owner
- Protect plants and animals, prevent fires and take your litter home
- Leave things as you find them and follow any signs

