

The Abbey was founded in 1020 by King Cnut and today includes the Abbey Gardens, Abbey Ruins, the Cathedral, St Mary's Church, the Great Churchyard, the Water Meadows and the former Vinefields.

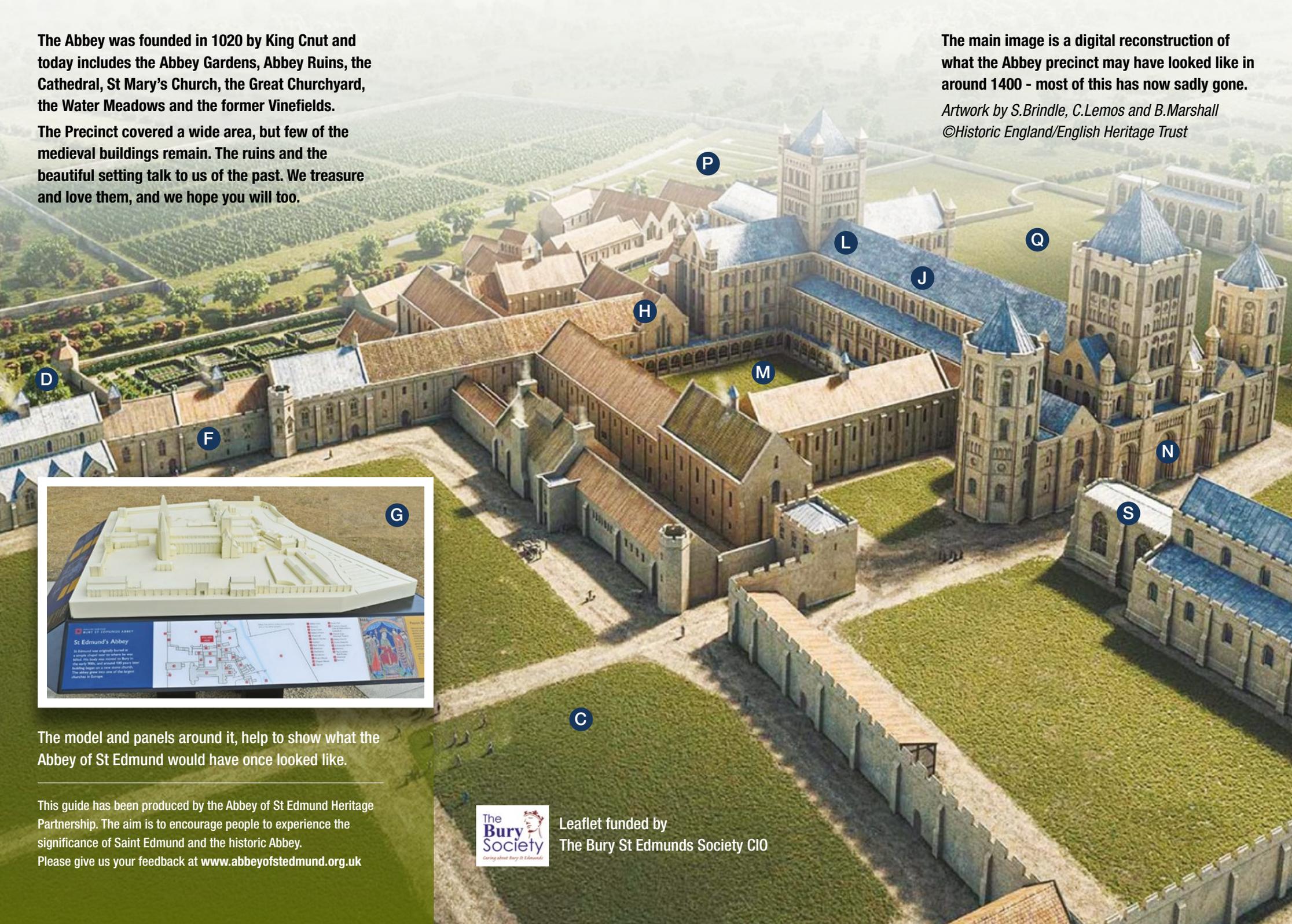
The Precinct covered a wide area, but few of the medieval buildings remain. The ruins and the beautiful setting talk to us of the past. We treasure and love them, and we hope you will too.

The main image is a digital reconstruction of what the Abbey precinct may have looked like around 1400 - most of this has now sadly gone.

Artwork by S.Brindle, C.Lemos and B.Marshall  
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# The Abbey of St Edmund

## VISITOR GUIDE



The model and panels around it, help to show what the Abbey of St Edmund would have once looked like.

This guide has been produced by the Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership. The aim is to encourage people to experience the significance of Saint Edmund and the historic Abbey. Please give us your feedback at [www.abbeyofstedmund.org.uk](http://www.abbeyofstedmund.org.uk)



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



# Welcome to The Abbey of St Edmund



ABBEY OF ST EDMUND  
HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP

Around the Abbey are 13 information Panels installed by English Heritage and grant aided by Bury St Edmunds Town Council. The location of these is shown on the map and they are listed below along with other points of interest.

*Please note there is no specific order to view the panels.*

# Indicates an English Heritage interpretation panel

- # **A THE ABBEY GATE** was the impressive public entrance to the Abbey. The first gate was destroyed by rioters and then this one was built next to the old site in 1346.
- # **B THE ABBEY OF ST EDMUND** was one of the largest and most powerful Abbeys in the country. It was a Benedictine monastery.
- # **C THE GREAT COURT** was a huge open courtyard with access to all of the working areas of the Abbey. The flower gardens follow the layout established by Nathaniel Hodson in 1831.
- D THE DOVECOTE** is a tower that stands in what used to be the Abbot's garden.
- # **E THE ABBEY BRIDGE** carries the precinct wall across the River Lark. The Lark and Linnet rivers provided fresh water and took waste away.
- # **F THE ABBOT'S PALACE** was a large and luxurious residence, this ruined building is all that remains.
- # **G THE ABBEY MODEL** shows what the Abbey would have looked like around 1200.
- # **H THE CHAPTER HOUSE** was where the Abbot gave out his orders to the monks. The monks' communal lives were highly regulated by the Rule of St Benedict.
- # **I CNUT'S CHURCH** was a large round stone church built here in 1020 to honour and care for Edmund's body.
- # **J THE ABBEY CHURCH** was larger than most cathedrals and roughly twice the size of St Edmundsbury Cathedral. It was started in 1080 and the Abbey was dissolved in 1539.
- # **K THE CRYPT** was originally underground. This eastern end of the Abbey Church was the first part to be built.

- # **L THE CROSSING** was the heart of the Church. The monks sat and sang in the Choir, below the central tower, eight times every day.
- # **M THE CLOISTER** was used by the monks to access everything they needed and stay separate from the outside world and the rain.
- # **N THE WEST FRONT** of the Abbey Church was magnificent and would have impressed every kind of visitor.

- # **O THE CHURCH GATE**, also known as the Norman Tower, led directly to the Abbey Church for pilgrims in search of a miracle.
- P THE CRANKLES** lie between the confluence of the rivers Lark and Linnet within the Abbey precinct. Historic maps show they may have been monastic fish ponds.
- Q THE GREAT CHURCHYARD** and Charnel Chapel served the Abbey and several other churches.
- R ST. MARY'S CHURCH** was founded in the early 1100s. It contains the grave of Mary Tudor, Queen of France and sister of Henry VIII.
- S THE CATHEDRAL** was originally built as the parish church of St James around 1125. It became St. Edmundsbury Cathedral in 1914.



BURY ST EDMUNDS TOWN CENTRE, SHOPS, RESTAURANTS AND CAFÉS

## KEY TO SYMBOLS

- Main pedestrian access
- Pedestrian access
- Main path
- Main path with steps
- Café
- Public toilets
- Children's playground
- Abbey Church Location
- Abbey walls extant
- Abbey walls lost
- Abbey buildings extant
- Other buildings