

A WALK IN THE PARKS

RAM MEADOW CAR PARK TO ABBEY GARDENS

St Edmundsbury Cathedral



If you are short of time, or just want a quick introduction to Bury St Edmunds, park the car at Ram Meadow car park (fee applicable) and take this short stroll into town.

FROM	To	OS MAP	MILES/KM
Ram Meadow (IP33 1XP)	Abbey Gardens	211	0.5/0.8

Getting to RAM MEADOW car park

If arriving in Bury St Edmunds by car, take the Bury St Edmunds Central exit from the A14 (near the silos of the British Sugar factory).

At the first roundabout, turn left into Northgate Street. Follow this road to the traffic lights at the T junction.

Turn left, then left again into Cotton Lane. Ram Meadow car park (IP33 1XP, charge, long stay, toilet facilities) is at the end

As you follow this route, think about the pilgrims who made their way to Bury St Edmunds in the medieval period. The shrine of St Edmund was their goal.

They came to pray for healing and seek guidance for their lives.

You are following in their footsteps.



Leave the car park via the pavement alongside the road where you entered.

Turn left along Cotton Lane.

At the end of the street, **cross the road** using the zebra crossing.

Turn left and walk along the pavement with the Abbey wall on your right. After a short distance the wall stops, and you will see a bridge on your left.

This is the Abbot's bridge and used to be situated alongside the East Gate into the town (now disappeared).

Take the path on the right which crosses the river near the Abbot's Bridge and follow it, past the tennis courts, until you reach the Abbey Gardens. **Turn right** over the bridge into the gardens, which are free to enter.



ABBOT'S BRIDGE

In medieval times, thousands of pilgrims entered Bury St Edmunds via the East Gate alongside the Abbot's Bridge.

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Follow the path. You will get to a fork in the paths. Ahead of you is a sculpture which commemorates the town's links with the Magna Carta.

Do **explore** the Abbey Gardens. Most importantly these contain the ruins of the former Abbey of St Edmund. Explore the atmospheric stones and find the places the monks would have prayed, worked and slept.

You'll also find a children's play area, the magnificent floral beds, the Water garden, bowling green, crazy golf, café – all set amidst the stunning surroundings of the former Abbey.

Finish your walk by **following the main footpath** which goes between the central flower beds towards an impressive stone archway. This is the Abbey Gate. The townspeople rioted in 1327 and pulled the original gate down. This is a re-build.

Walk through the gate and you will emerge onto Angel Hill, in the centre of Bury St Edmunds.

MAGNA CARTA The barons of England met secretly in 1214 and planned to force King John to accept a new Great Charter (later known as Magna Carta).

Do explore the town whilst you are here.

FIND OUT MORE?

<https://burystedmundsandbeyond.co.uk> gives ideas of places to visit, eat and stay.

Follow the route here <https://www.plotaroute.com/route/1820342>

