



SUDBURY
ARTS —
CENTRE



SUDBURY PAST | PRESENT | FUTURE ARTIST BRIEF

1. INTRODUCTION

Sudbury Arts Centre (SAC) invites artists to submit proposals to design and install a painted mural for a prominent wall in Sudbury town centre. The mural will serve to engage the community by celebrating Sudbury's rich history, drawing inspiration from its artistic heritage, industrial past and natural environment, while also reflecting its future aspirations. The brief is open to artistic interpretation.

2. BACKGROUND

Housed in the Grade I listed St Peter's Church, Sudbury Arts Centre opened its doors to the public in 2023 following a major £2.5 million regeneration project to repair and revitalise the historic space. This public art project is being commissioned by the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) and delivered as part of the development phase of SAC, with funding provided by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The wall designated for the mural is owned by Sudbury Town Council, who have granted permission for its use. The Council is supportive of the project and will be consulted during the appointment of the artist(s).

3. SITE DESCRIPTION

Location: Gaol Lane, Sudbury

Dimensions: approximately 5.5m (H) x 15m (W)

Surface Material: brick

Accessibility: will require scaffolding

Located in the centre of Sudbury, Gaol Lane is a mixture of residential and commercial properties. It serves as a pedestrian link between Market Hill, the town's primary retail area, and North Street carpark.



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4. BUDGET

SAC have allocated budget of £10,000 for the design and installation of the artwork, including all materials, equipment required (scaffolding or cherry picker), licenses and insurances, the delivery of two community engagement workshops and VAT where applicable.

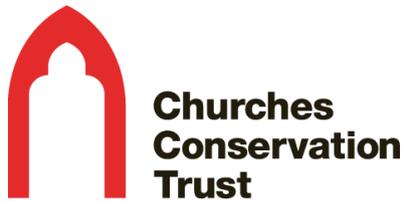
5. WHAT WE REQUIRE

- Experience of delivering public art commissions
- An understanding of the challenges associated with outdoor murals, including weathering.
- A track record of delivering projects on time and within budget
- Experience of working with stakeholders and community groups
- Experience of Health & Safety practices, particularly working at height and within a public environment.
- References from previous commissions.

6. DELIVERABLES

The artwork will:

- Reflect the town's heritage, Sudbury's artistic and industrial past, for example its weaving and market traditions.
- Include visual elements inspired by the architectural features of the Arts Centre, such as stained-glass, medieval graffiti, or the unique green folk carvings found within the building.
- Be engaging, bold, and accessible to a wide audience, local people and visitors, bringing life to an overlooked area of the town and creating a welcoming gateway from the main carpark to Market Hill.
- Foster unity and pride through its high-quality visual storytelling.
- Be durable and low maintenance.



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The artist will ensure that:

- Designs are developed for approval by SAC/CCT (allowing for two iterations).
- Final design is submitted for approval by SAC/CCT.

7. GOVERNANCE & REPORTING

The selected artist is required to have up to date public liability insurance cover to the value of £10,000,000 and professional indemnity cover to the value of £5,000,000.



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Project Timeline:

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| Stage One: Artist Selection | |
| Deadline for submissions | 13 Feb 2026 |
| Shortlisting | by 20 Feb 2026 |
| Final selection & notification to artist/s | 27 Feb 2026 |
| Site visit | tbc |
| Stage two: Design Development | |
| Research and planning | March 2026 |
| Community engagement x 2 workshops | April 2026 |
| Presentation of draft design | w/c 11 May 2026 |
| Stage Three: Approvals | |
| Final approval | w/c 8 June |
| Stage Four: Installation | w/c 22 June 2026 |

8. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Please submit

- A cover letter detailing why the project is of interest
- brief description of initial ideas along with concept designs
- examples of how you would engage the local community.
- An artist bio
- Images, URLs of similar works/projects
- References

Please submit by 13 February to Sophie Woods:

info@sudburyartscentre.com



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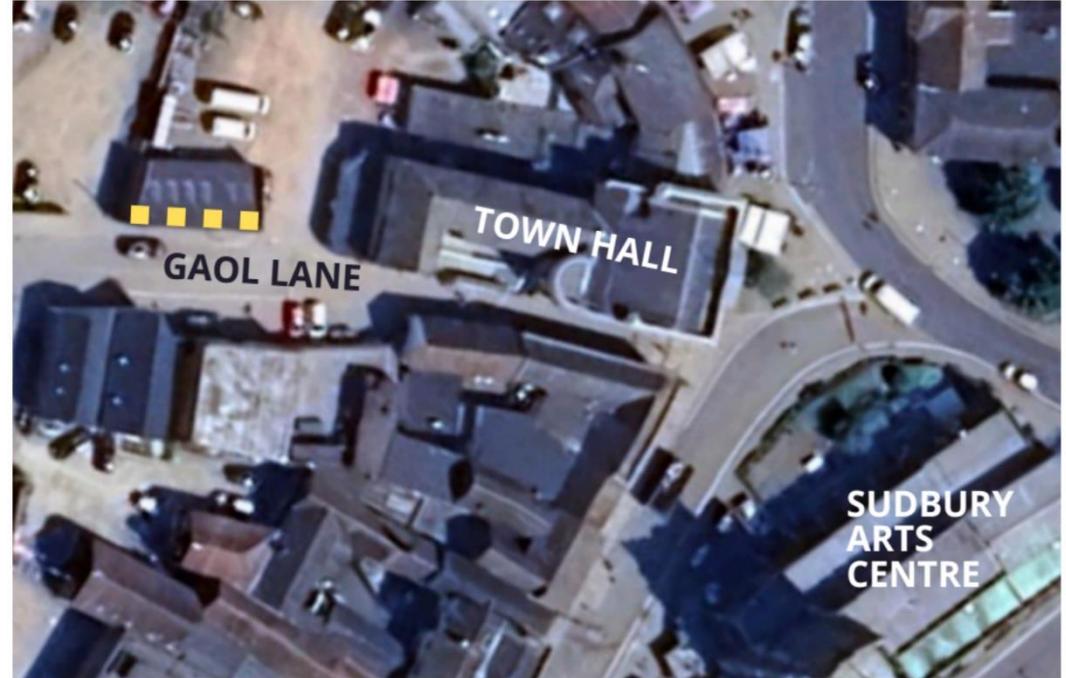
9. ABOUT SUDBURY

Sudbury, located on the River Stour near the Essex border, is the largest town in the Babergh District and has been a thriving settlement since Saxon times, first recorded in 798 AD as Suthberie. Its market, established in 1009, continues today, reflecting the town's long-standing role as a centre of commerce and community life.

The town is shaped by the River Stour and the extensive water meadows that run alongside it. Used for grazing and flood management, they remain a defining feature of the Stour Valley. The meadows provide a natural buffer around the town, support diverse wildlife and offer walking routes linking Sudbury with neighbouring villages.

Sudbury is known for its historic architecture, with more than 240 listed buildings contributing to its distinctive character, and for its artistic heritage as the birthplace of Thomas Gainsborough. The town also has a long-established silk weaving industry, which remains one of the most significant in the UK. Sudbury's mills supply fine fabrics to leading fashion houses and royal commissions, and the sector was recently recognised with The King's Award for Enterprise (Sustainable Development), highlighting the town's continued importance in British textile manufacturing.

Today, Sudbury is home to around 24,000 residents. New housing developments and strong commuter links are bringing continued growth, adding to the town's mix of heritage, industry and community.



Town Centre showing Gaol Lane, SAC and Town Hall





View of designated wall looking towards North Street carpark



View looking towards Market Hill and SAC. Town Hall on left