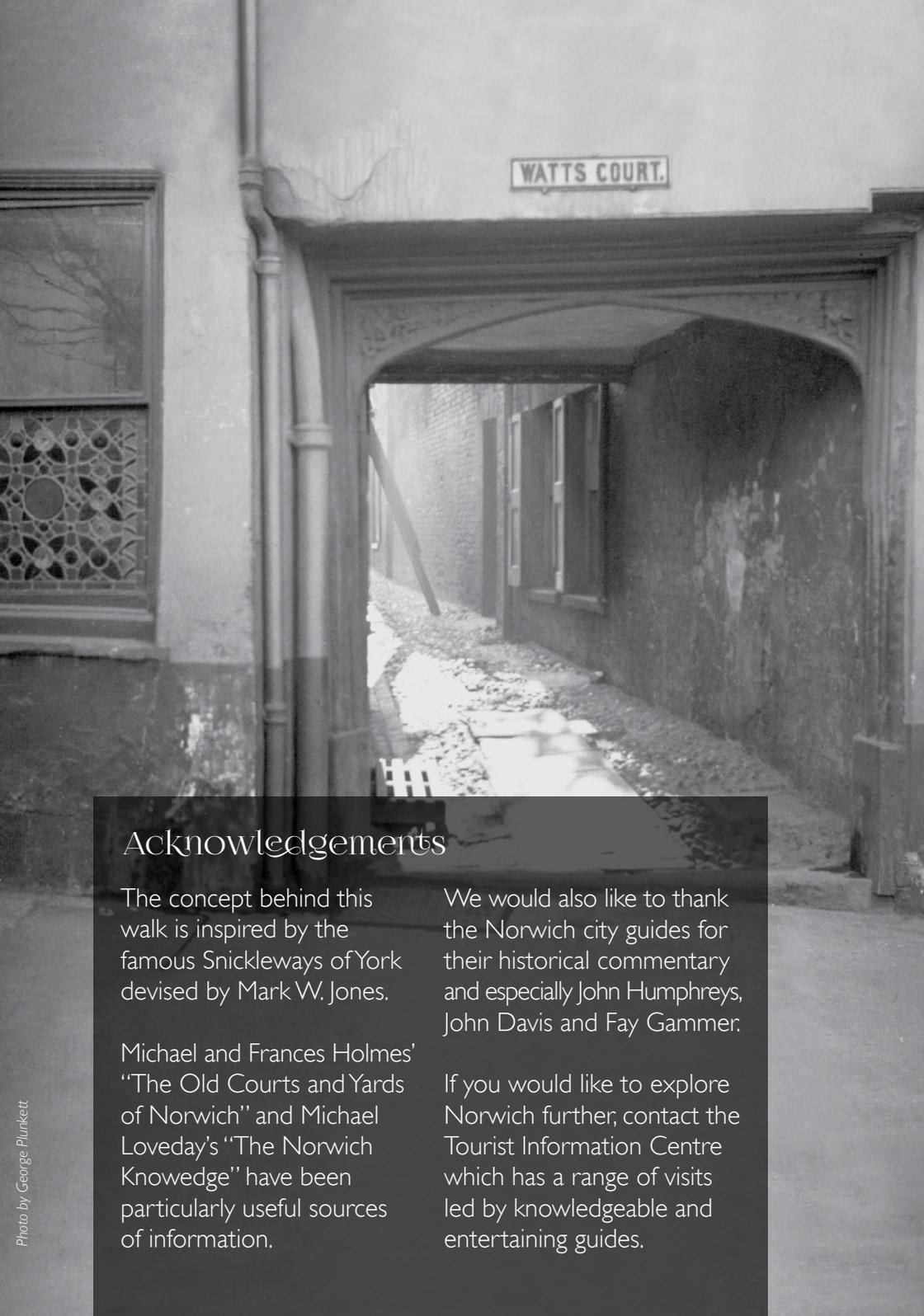




Norwich's nooks & crannies

...discover the city's historic
passageways on foot





WATTS COURT.

Acknowledgements

The concept behind this walk is inspired by the famous Snickleways of York devised by Mark W. Jones.

Michael and Frances Holmes' "The Old Courts and Yards of Norwich" and Michael Loveday's "The Norwich Knowledge" have been particularly useful sources of information.

We would also like to thank the Norwich city guides for their historical commentary and especially John Humphreys, John Davis and Fay Gammer.

If you would like to explore Norwich further, contact the Tourist Information Centre which has a range of visits led by knowledgeable and entertaining guides.

Introduction

The centre of Norwich is a fascinating place to explore on foot. Its historic pattern of streets is enriched by a world of hidden alleys, courts and lanes. As people packed into the area within the city walls, land behind the main streets was developed with warrens of homes and businesses.

Some have survived into modern times. Most of them come with a story – some of which are retold in ‘Norwich’s nooks and crannies’.

The stories range from a man who was determined to recreate Elizabethan theatre in his home; the morris dancing actor who won his bet with Shakespeare; a hidden stream that fed the horses in the inns behind the market place and a wild boy who was a princess’ pet.

This leaflet’s three walks take you on a journey of discovery as they guide you round the city’s historic passageways.

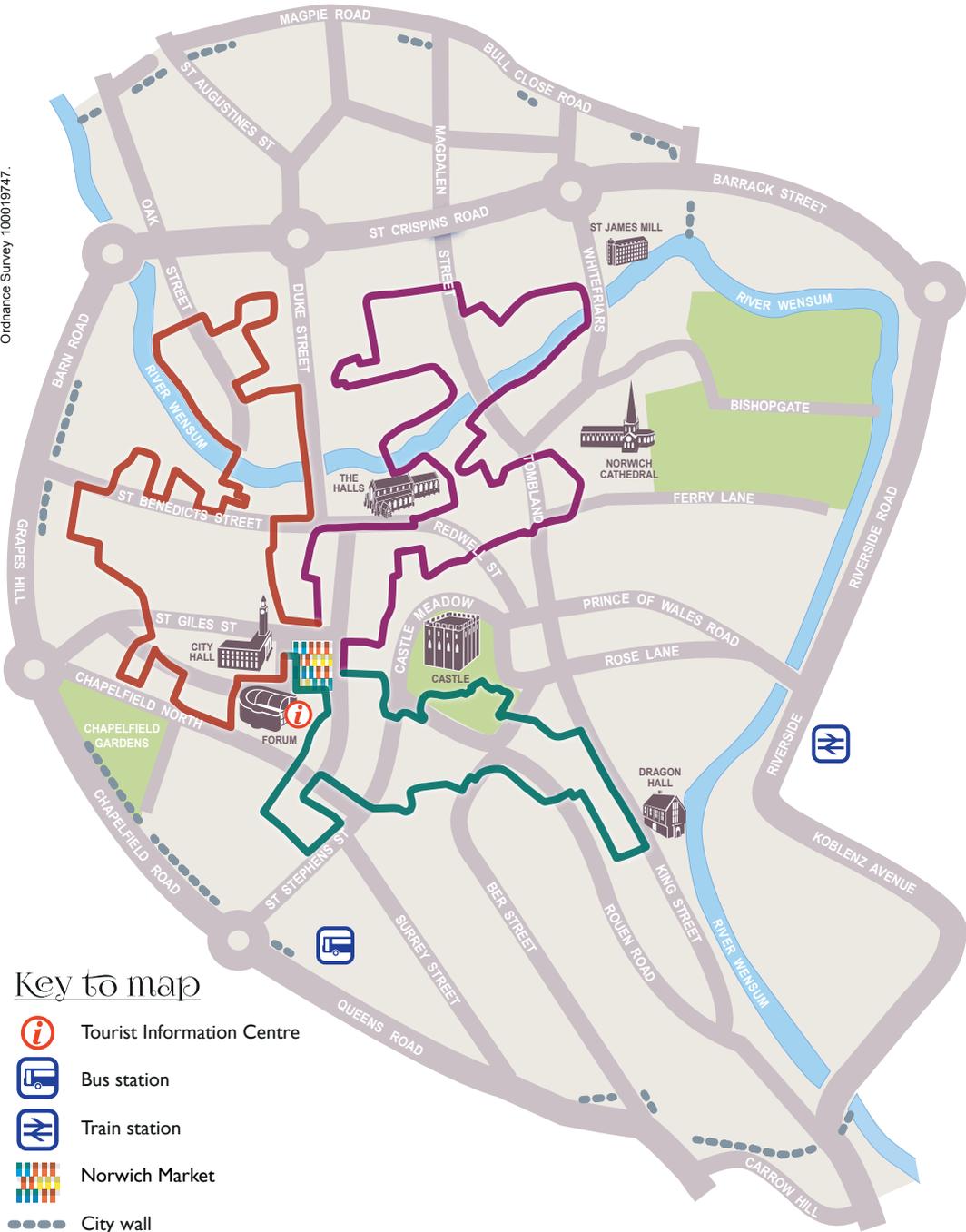
Each walk starts and finishes in the market place – the bustling

heart of the city for more than 900 years. In its modern guise it’s also a great place to fuel up before you set out on each walk and then reward yourself after completing them.

The entire route meanders around the city centre in a series of loops without ever crossing the same point twice. If you’re feeling energetic you could do the whole 5.7 mile, three-part walk, covering 50 alleys, courts and lanes in one go, or you could have a break between each one. Walk A is 2.2 miles, walk B is 1.5 miles and walk C is 2 miles.

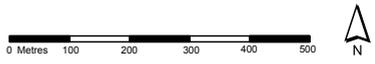
You will encounter steps in some places, these are identified on the maps. Walk C (west) has more obstacles which makes it less suitable for people with mobility problems. However, the maps show the surrounding streets so you can find a way round.

Happy exploring!



Key to map

-  Tourist Information Centre
-  Bus station
-  Train station
-  Norwich Market
-  City wall
-  Walk A - North-East
-  Walk B - South
-  Walk C - West



Contents

Walk A - North-East

1. St Johns Alley	p7
2. The Garth	p8
3. Friars Quay	p8
4. St Clements Alley	p9
5. St Georges Alley	p9
6. Lowes Yard	p9
7. Golden Dog Lane	p10
8. Thoroughfare Yard	p10
9. Quayside	p10
10. Roaches Court	p11
11. Plumbers Arms Alley	p11
12. Tombland Alley	p11
13. Cathedral Close	p12
14. Bridewell Back Alley	p13
15. Bridewell Alley	p14
16. Swan Lane	p14
17. Old Post Office Court	p15

Walk B - South

18. Royal Arcade	p17
19. Back of the Inns	p17
20. York Alley	p18
21. Castle Green	p18
22. St Peter Parmentergate churchyard	p19
23. St Julians Alley	p19
24. Kilderkin Way	p20
25. Grouts Thoroughfare	p20

26. Lion and Castle Yard	p20
27. Barwells Court	p21
28. One Post Alley	p21
29. St Stephens Churchyard	p21
30. Weavers Lane	p22
31. St. Peter Mancroft churchyard	p22
32. Memorial Gardens	p23

Walk C - West

33. Will Kemp Way	p25
34. Little Bethel Street	p25
35. Watts Court	p26
36. Ninhams Court	p26
37. Rigbys Court	p28
38. St Benedicts Alley	p28
39. St Swithins Alley	p29
40. St Margerets Alley	p30
41. St Lawrence Little Steps	p30
42. St Lawrence Steps	p30
43. Anchor Quay	p30
44. St Miles Bridge Alley	p31
45. New Mills Yard	p32
46. St Marys Alley	p32
47. Rosemary Lane	p33
48. St Miles Alley	p33
49. St Gregorys Back Alley	p35
50. Lower Goat Lane	p35



Walk A - North-East

North-East

Start by the **Guildhall**. Face downhill.
Turn left into **Dove Street**.
Turn left into **Pottergate**. In front of
the **Belgian Monk** turn right into ...

I. St Johns Alley

It takes its name from the church, St John Maddermarket, which was rebuilt in the 14th century with a tower that flies over the alley. The church roof had to be replaced in 1876 after the vicar hunted for a gas leak with a lit taper in his hand.

The Maddermarket was the area where components for the dying trade were sold. All the bollards in this area are red because the madder plant produces a red dye. Some have bronze finials with links to past people and events.

In 1921 Nugent Monck moved his Maddermarket Theatre from Ninhams Court into an early Roman Catholic chapel. Monck was committed to

reproducing authentic Elizabethan staging of drama.

It's fitting that this was the place where in 1599 the thespian Will Kemp, jumped over the churchyard wall at the end of his nine-day morris dance from London to Norwich; winning his bet with Shakespeare.

In October 1671 the diarist John Evelyn visited the city and wrote: "most of the churchyards were filled up with earth or rather the congestion of dead bodies one upon another, for want of earth etc, to the very top of the walls, and many above the walls, so as the Churches seemed to be built in pits".

This affected the quality of drinking water. The pump near the church had to be moved because, according to the city's first public analyst, "the water produced was almost pure essence of churchyard".



Madder paving

Turn right into **St Andrews Street**. Cross the zebra crossing outside **St Andrews Church** and bear right into **Princes Street**. Turn left into **Elm Hill** just before **St Peter Hungate** church. Do not turn the corner in front of the **Britons Arms** but bear left into **The Monastery** car park. As you approach the river, turn left into ...

2. The Garth

This space was the cloisters for the Blackfriars who occupied **St Andrews** and **Blackfriars Halls** (now simply known as 'The Halls'). This is the most complete medieval friary complex in the country. The Blackfriars were originally

established in 1226 just across the river in **Colegate**. Royal patronage meant they grew and moved to the present site in the 14th century. A fire in 1413 destroyed most of the buildings. The rebuilding was completed in 1465.

Sir Thomas Erpingham, a hero of **Agincourt** who we will meet later at the entrance to **Cathedral Close**, paid for the nave. The buildings survived the dissolution of the monasteries when the Mayor, **Augustine Stewart**, persuaded **King Henry VIII** to sell it to the **Norwich Corporation** in 1538. It has been used for many things since then. One of the most enjoyable is the largest provincial beer festival in the country.

Turn right into **St Georges Street**, cross the **River Wensum**, take the diagonal path across **St Georges Green** and enter ...

3. Friars Quay

This was built in 1975 as a pioneering piece of waterfront regeneration. It is characterised by its steeply pitched roofs,

square chimneys, red bricks and intimate courtyards. French bricks were used because of industrial action in the English brickyards at the time.

Walk along the river front and turn left into...

4. St Clements Alley

St Clement was the third bishop of Rome (AD91). Legend has it that he was banished to the marble quarries where he baptised fellow workers. He was ordered to be drowned and was tied to an anchor.

St Clements Church is now home to the stonemason's Guild of St George where you may get a glimpse of apprentices working stones in the churchyard. You'll find the Mischief Tavern next to the alley, which was built in the 16th century as the house of merchant Alexander Thurston. He was a member of the Guild of St George, as indicated by the emblem over the fireplace. The main street frontage was rebuilt at the end of the 19th century when the road was widened for trams. Resembling an owl, the

bollard at the Colegate end of the alley is unique in the city.

Turn left into Colegate, right into Muspole Street, and right into ...

5. St Georges Alley

Cross St Georges Street into ...

6. Lowes Yard

Slum clearances by the city council meant that the original Lowes Yard was demolished in 1937. The modern yard passes behind Bacon House which has 15th century origins and was developed into a substantial courtyard mansion



Bacon House

in the mid-17th century. It was once subdivided and used as a shoe factory, an industry that dominated this area at the time. In the 1970s it was rescued from dereliction by the city council, which converted it into flats, a studio, a private members club and a store for the civic portrait collection.

Turn left into *Calvert Street* and right into ...

7. Golden Dog Lane

Turn right into *Magdalen Street* and left into ...

8. Thoroughfare Yard

The name reflects the fact that unlike most of the yards, this one connects two streets. In 1935 the 27 residents of the original yard were moved out and the following year its 12 properties were demolished. It has recently been redeveloped with new homes.

Turn left into *Fishergate*, right into *Whitefriars*, cross the bridge and turn right onto ...



Thoroughfare Yard in 1936

9. Quayside

This area between Fye Bridge and Whitefriars Bridge was the focus of river trade for most of the city's history. This is commemorated by the cargo sculptures that double up as

bollards and barriers to stop people falling into the river.

Cross Fye Bridge Street and enter the passageway to the left of the Ribs of Beef pub. Turn left into ...

10. Roaches Court

Named after Richard Roach, who lived here in 1830. The flanking properties, 34 and 36 Elm Hill, were built in 1540 as a substantial merchant's house that extended down to the river. The central courtyard was entered through the



Archway from Elm Hill

archway off Elm Hill. Only the court entrance survives following demolitions in the late 1920s and 1937.

Turn right into Elm Hill, left into Waggon and Horses Lane and right into ...

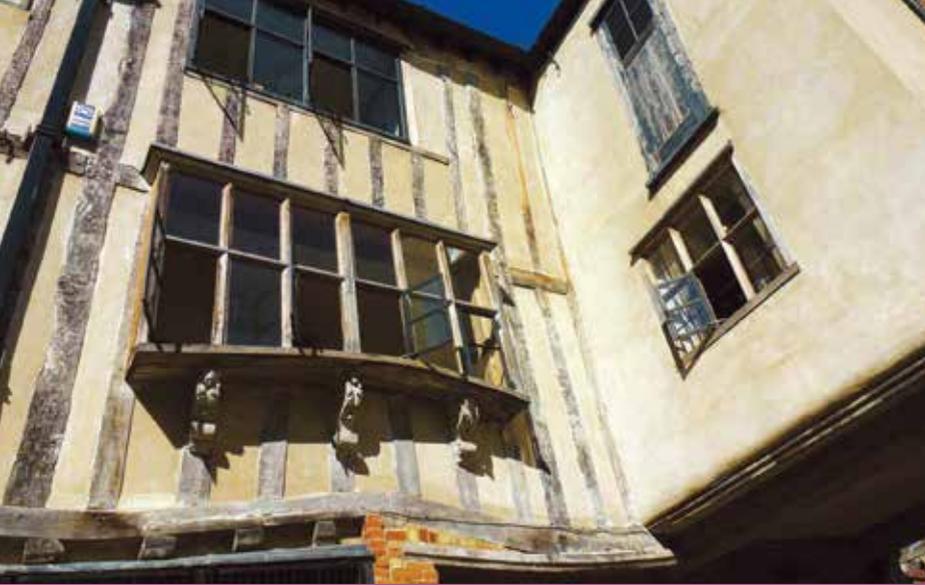
11. Plumbers Arms Alley

Named after the Plumbers Arms Pub recorded at 18 Princes Street from 1822-1868. Note the multiple front doors at the back of the original house facing Princes Street as an example of the breaking up of old houses into the court and yard system.

Turn left into Princes Street and left into ...

12. Tombland Alley

Part of the ancient trackway that crossed the city from west to east along Dereham Road, St Benedicts, Princes Street and Tombland Alley, under the north aisle of the Cathedral and over Bishop Bridge. When he was a pupil at the Norwich School in the 1760s, Horatio Nelson is thought to have lived



Augustine Stewart House

in the alley. It was the site of the first synagogue in Norwich after Cromwell invited Jews back to England in the mid-17th century. The 'Crooked' House belonged to father of three times mayor of Norwich, Augustine Steward. The alley forms the edge of a medieval plague pit where 5,000 bodies were found.



Edith Cavell

Cross Tombland and enter ...

13. Cathedral Close

The walk dips into the serene world of Cathedral Close. It's separated from the busy world of Tombland by two gateways – Erpingham Gate and Ethelbert Gate.

Tombland, meaning empty space rather than burial site, was the Anglo-Scandinavian market place before the Normans moved it to its present location beneath their castle. There is a quartet of English heroes commemorated in sculpture in this area.



Sir Thomas Erpingham

Just outside Erpingham Gate is a statue commemorating Edith Cavell, a Norfolk born nurse who was matron at a hospital in Brussels at the time of German occupation in World War I. She was shot by the Germans in 1915 after helping allied soldiers to escape and buried beside the Cathedral in 1919.

A niche in the gate contains the kneeling figure of Sir Thomas Erpingham, who probably paid for it. Sir Thomas (1355-1428) was a diplomat and soldier who commanded the English

longbow archers at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415. The gate which commemorates him was built between 1420 and 1435.

Enter Cathedral Close through the Erpingham Gate, turn right and cross the green, passing the statues of Nelson and Wellington. Exit via Ethelbert Gate.

The Ethelbert Gate dates from 1316-20. Citizens were ordered to rebuild it following the riot of 1272 when tensions between the citizens and church authorities exploded into violence.

Cross Tombland into Queen Street. Cross Redwell Street into London Street. Turn right into St Andrews Hill. Turn left into ...

14. Bridewell Back Alley

The Bridewell was the city's House of Correction for women and beggars and took its name from London's Bridewell Prison located in Fleet Street by St Brides Well.

The flint wall facing St Andrews Church is a fine example of



Knapped flint



Peter The Wild Boy

knapped flint, which is the practice of creating a perfect glassy finish to the flint by shaping it into cubes. Celia Fiennes travelled to Norwich in 1698 and declared it the finest flintwork in England. It has also been a townhouse, tobacco factory and boot and shoe factory/warehouse.

Turn left into ...

15. Bridewell Alley

The Bridewell now houses the Museum of Norwich. At the junction of the two alleys is a bollard with a finial dedicated to Peter the Wild Boy, a feral

child found in a German forest in about 1725 and kept as a curiosity by Caroline, Princess of Wales. In 1751 when his celebrity had waned he arrived in Norwich and was briefly imprisoned in the Bridewell under suspicion of being a Spanish spy.

Cross Bedford Street into ...

16. Swan Lane

Named after the White Swan pub, run in the 19th century by Jem Mace, the world heavyweight bareknuckle boxing champion. The lane is adorned with a large swan perched on Dipples clock.



Dipples Swan

Across on London Street you can see two chubby stone children, known architecturally as putti, holding up an ornate balcony above the entrance to the former London and Provincial Bank, designed by local architect George Skipper.

*Bear right into **London Street**, straight on into **Castle Street** and right into ...*

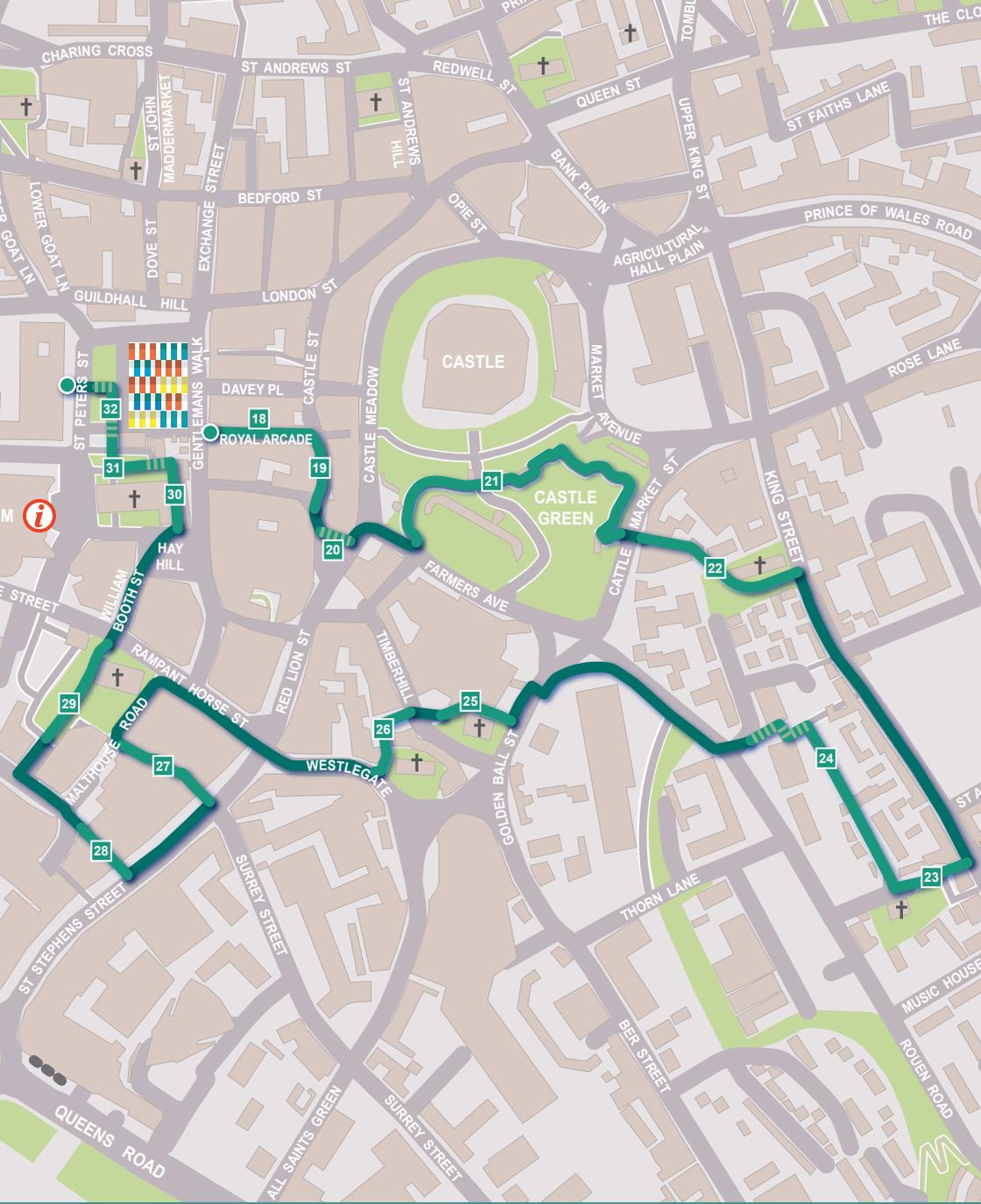


London Street Putti

17. Old Post Office Court

Before London Street was widened in the 19th century and Exchange Street was created, this was one of the alleys that led from the market to give access to the water of the Great Cockey. The Cockey was a tributary of the river Wensum that formed in the vicinity of All Saints Green and ran along the base of Norwich Castle and into the river where St Andrews Car Park now stands.

*Enter **Gentlemen's Walk** at the bottom of the market place, turn left and walk to the entrance to the **Royal Arcade**, where this part of the walk ends.*



Walk B - South

South

Start on *Gentleman's Walk* at the entrance to the *Royal Arcade* ...

18. Royal Arcade

The site of the former Angel coaching inn (which was later renamed the Royal Hotel). The original stable and stable yard area is now the Art Nouveau masterpiece of local architect George Skipper, complete with glass, tiling and mahogany shop fronts.

The Arcade was opened in 1899 and hailed as a 'fragment

of the Arabian nights' dropped into the heart of the old city. Colman's Mustard Shop in the Royal Arcade is a reminder that the world famous mustard was first produced in Norwich at the Carrow factory founded by Jermiah Colman 200 years ago. As you emerge from the Royal Arcade, notice on the ground the bronze roundel – one of a set placed around the castle to denote the extent of the castle fee – the area governed directly by the crown and separately from the city of Norwich until 1345.

Continue through to the end of the *Royal Arcade* and turn right into ...



Royale Arcade

19. Back of the Inns

As most of the coaching inns fronted the market with stabling behind, the narrow alley at the back was called the Back of the Inns. It gave access to The Great Cockey, an open stream which provided water for the horses and was later put underground.

Continue along past the entrance to **Castle Mall**. Turn left immediately after **Moss Bros** into ...

20. York Alley

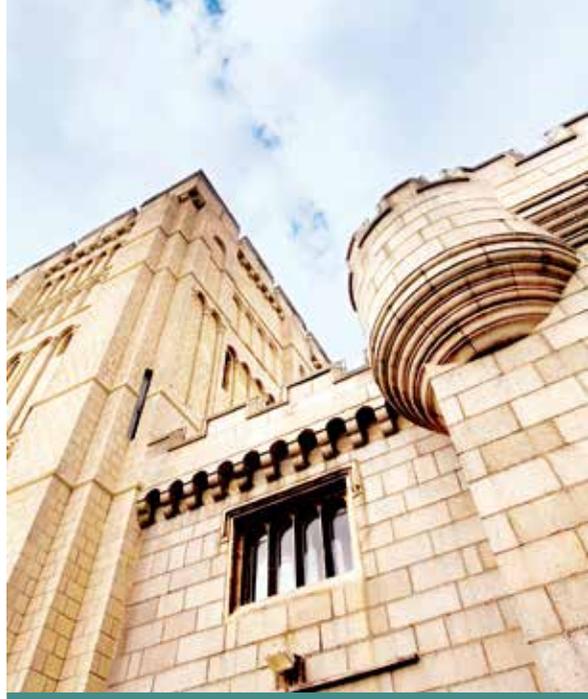
Moss Bros is on the site of the Criterion Café where Norwich City Football Club was founded in 1902. It is part of the ancient south-east to north-west route across the city from Bracondale, along Ber Street, down Timber Hill, through York Alley and White Lion Street, across the market, through Lower Goat Lane and across the river at St Miles Bridge.

Cross **Red Lion Street** to the **Bell Hotel**, walk round the corner and turn left across **Farmers Avenue** to enter ...

21. Castle Green

This green space was built on top of the Castle Mall shopping centre. It lies below Norwich Castle, which was originally a royal palace. Henry I spent Christmas here in 1121. From the 14th century it was used as the county jail.

Public hangings held at the gates to the castle were a popular



Norwich Castle

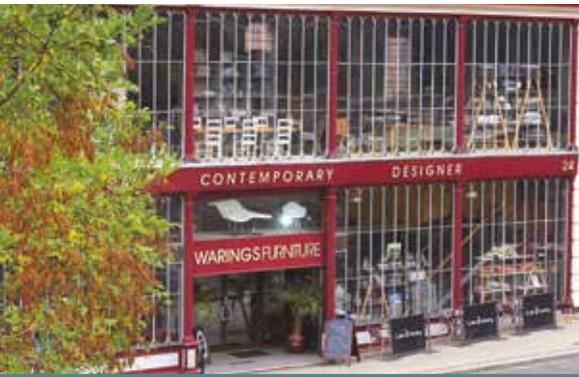
public spectacle until 1867. A politically potent execution at the castle was that of Robert Kett on 7 December 1549. He led a protest about the enclosure of lands by wealthy landowners. After a clash with the army in which the rebels were defeated, Kett was sentenced to death by hanging. His decomposing body was left hanging in chains from the castle walls as a warning to others.

The building was converted into a museum which opened in 1894 – this function continues today.

Take the meandering path through the glass domes of the **shopping centre** below to the **castle gates**. Keeping the black railings to your left, follow the path round the circular red brick ventilation shaft. At the **open seating area** and view point, turn right, and follow the map to emerge on **Cattle Market Street**. Take the alley to the left side of the glass fronted building into ...

22. St Peter Parmentergate churchyard

The building next to the entrance was developed in 1863 by Holmes & Sons engineers as a showcase for their steam engines. Its cast iron and glass facade was inspired by the Great Exhibition of 1851. The church at the bottom of



Crystal House

the path is named after parmenters, who worked with leather and parchment.

Turn right into **King Street**, pass the end of **Mountergate** and **St Anns Lane**. Turn right opposite **Dragon Hall** into ...

23. St Julians Alley

Dragon Hall was built in the 15th century by the wealthy local merchant Robert Toppes. He had his own staithe on the river and the upper storey of the hall was his showroom and warehouse. It is now occupied by the Writers' Centre.

The alley houses a shrine to St Julian which was rebuilt after a World War II bombing. Julian of Norwich had a series of religious visions in May 1373 after a serious illness. The experience prompted her to become a religious recluse in the church. Her 'Revelations of Divine Love' written in 1393 is thought to be the earliest surviving publication by a woman in the English language.

Turn right opposite **St Julians Church** into ...

24. Kilderkin Way

Built on the site of Morgan's Brewery, one of the four large breweries based in Norwich at the end of the 19th century. A kilderkin is a cask for liquids holding 18 gallons. At the end of the street turn left and climb the steps. There is a war memorial commemorating employees of the breweries who lost their lives in World War I, World War II and The Korean War.



War memorial

At the top of the steps cross **Rouen Road** and walk up the hill. At the top turn left into **Golden Ball Street**. Cross Golden Ball Street into ...

25. Grouts Thoroughfare

Cross **Timberhill** into ...

26. Lion and Castle Yard

Named after a pub as well as the city's coat of arms, it contains two of the city's six remaining thatched buildings within the city walls. You pass all but one on these walks – the others are Britons Arms in Elm Hill, Pykerell's House in St Mary's Plain and a house in Hampshire Hog Yard off St Swithins Alley.

As you emerge onto Westlegate you will see a thatched building that was once a pub, the Light Horseman, but known as the 'Barking Dickey' because of the badly painted sign which appeared to show the horse as a braying ('barking') donkey ('dickey').



Barking Dickey

Turn right into **Westlegate**, where the blue bricks on the ground represent the Great Cockey that flowed down here from its origins close to where John Lewis now stands. Go straight on into **Rampant Horse Street**. Turn left at the end of Marks & Spencer into **Malthouse Road**. Turn left into ...

27. Barwells Court

Turn right into **St. Stephens Street** and right immediately after Halifax into ...

28. One Post Alley

Posts were put at the entrance to alleys to stop cattle straying off the road when being driven to market.

Continue straight ahead from the alley to the entrance to **INTU Chapelfield**. Turn right and enter ...

29. St Stephens Churchyard

The congregation of St Stephens was forward thinking enough to allow the churchyard to be used as an additional link between the



St Stephens Churchyard

Chapelfield shopping centre and Rampant Horse Street on the other side of the church. The shopping centre was built on the site of a chocolate factory. Around 50,000 people now walk past the church each day. The design of the gates at the entrance to the churchyard commemorates the life of St Stephen, who was stoned to death and became the Christian church's first martyr. The stones set in the gate represent the stones that killed him.

Cross the road and walk through **William Booth Street** (named after the founder of the Salvation Army) into **Hay Hill**. Pass the statue of **Sir Thomas Browne**, bear left at the **brain and eye sculptures** into ...

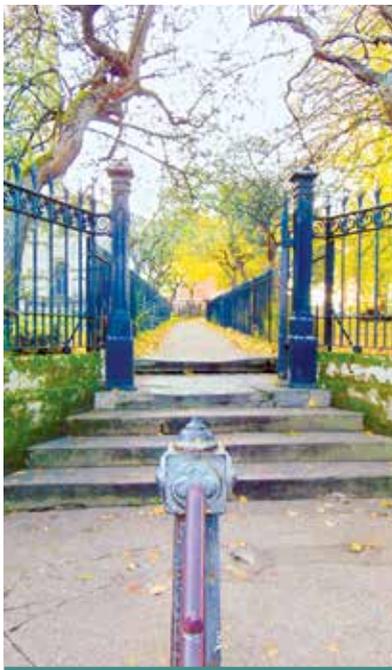
30. Weavers Lane

Formerly known as Spicers Row, Weavers Lane runs from the Haymarket to the market past the east end of St Peter Mancroft Church.

Turn left before you reach the Sir Garnet pub and climb the steps that lead to a path through ...

31. St Peter Mancroft churchyard

Ralph de Gauder, Earl of Norfolk, founded the church between 1071 and 1075, to cater for the market merchants and the new French borough. The current church was built between 1430 and 1455 and financed by the city's merchants.



Churchyard path

All stallholders of Norwich Market have the right to be married and buried at the church. It is believed that the main entrance of the castle ran along what is now Bethel Street, through the churchyard and along White Lion Street, originally named Saddlegate.

Turn right opposite the north porch of the church, cross Pudding Lane, the motorbike park and enter ...



Bolingbroke family tomb



Memorial Gardens flag pole base

32. Memorial Gardens

The War Memorial was designed by Edwin Lutyens who was responsible for the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London. Originally it stood at the east end of the Guildhall but it was moved in the 1930s when City Hall was built and the market place redeveloped. In 2010 the War Memorial was moved again onto St Peters Street and turned round to face City Hall. A new sculpture called *Breath* was commissioned from Paul de Monchaux to commemorate all victims of war and to promote peace.

Ascend the ramp onto St Peters Street, where this part of the walk ends.



War Memorial



Walk C - West

West

*Start on **St Peters Street** in front of **City Hall**.*

City Hall, which was opened in 1938, is home to Norwich City Council and was part of the project which saw the redevelopment of the market area and the creation of the Memorial Gardens. This project also saw the widening of Bethel Street, St Giles Street, St Peters Street and Gentlemans Walk. City Hall boasts the longest balcony in England and an art deco interior. The bronze front doors feature eighteen plaques depicting Norwich trades and crafts and scenes from the city's past.

*Walk along **St Peters Street** towards **St Peter Mancroft Church**, turn right and walk along the side of the **Forum** on **Bethel Street**. Turn left at the back of **The Forum** into ...*

33. Will Kemp Way

This was originally called Lady Lane and then renamed

Esperanto Way during the life of the former library that burned down in 1994. It was renamed Will Kemp Way to commemorate his nine day morris dance from London to Norwich in 1599.

*Head towards the **Theatre Royal** and at the top of the flight of stairs or adjacent ramp turn right and walk alongside the wall of the **Bethel Hospital** site towards **Chapelfield Gardens** before turning right into ...*

34. Little Bethel Street

Chapelfield Gardens was opened as an ornamental garden in 1888. Originally the site was fields belonging to the College of St Mary in the Fields. Over the following years it was a venue for tournaments, an archery training ground, a plague burial site and in the late 18th century it was a reservoir with water being pumped from near New Mills.

Bethel Hospital was the first provincial mental hospital in the country. It was established by Mary Chapman in 1713 with the aim of treating patients rather than incarcerating them. Prior to its construction the site contained the county Committee Rooms which were destroyed in the 'Great Blowe' of 1648 during the Civil War. The hospital continued to operate until the 1980s. Part of the building has been converted into apartments.

At the junction with **Bethel Street** turn left and continue past the **Coach and Horses**. Opposite the **YMCA** is the entrance to ...

35. Watts Court

Until its destruction by the Luftwaffe in 1942, the yard was entered through a Tudor carved wooden archway which can be seen on the inside cover of this publication. The current entrance is much less impressive. As you walk towards Chapel Field North you can see some pretty Tudor style chimneys at the back of the late Victorian house at 12 Chapel Field North.

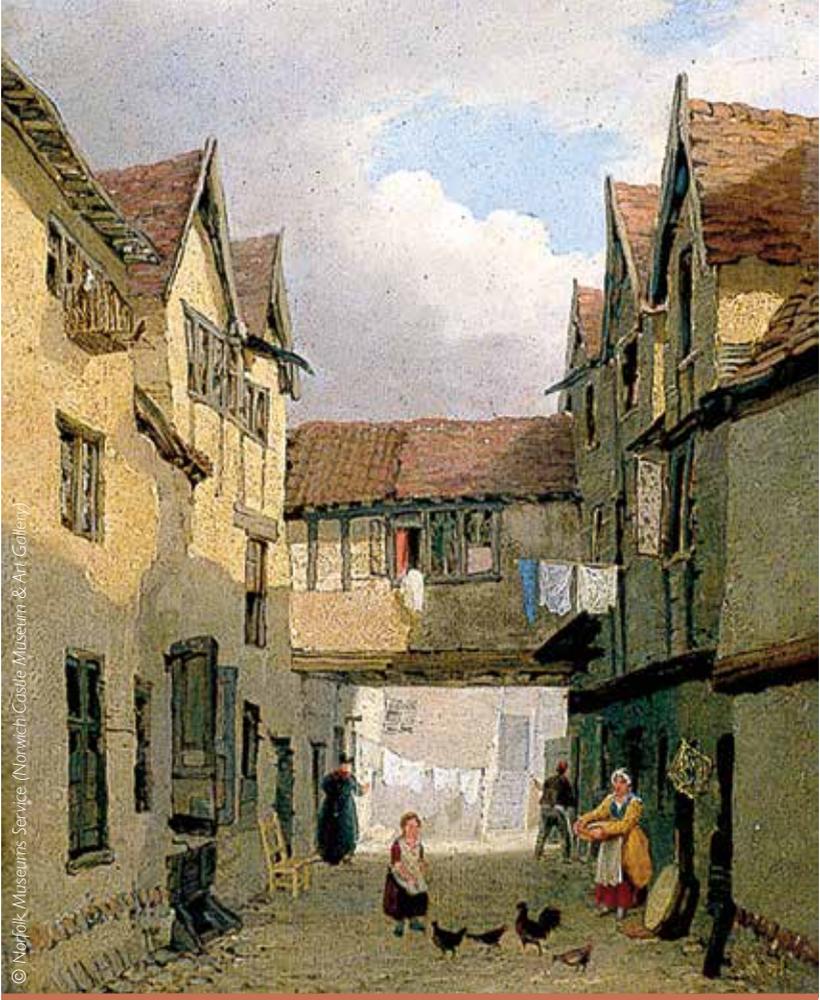


Tudor style chimneys

Turn right into **Chapel Field North** and then right again into ...

36. Ninhams Court

Originally named Masters Court but renamed in 1908 in honour of Henry Ninham whose house stands at the Chapelfield end. Henry was a member of the Norwich School of Artists and painted some of the yards in Norwich.



© Norfolk Museums Service (Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery)

Henry Ninham, Old Houses near St Benedicts Church, Norwich, oil on millboard

In the alley is the house of Nugent Monck, who founded the Norwich Players here in 1911. His company first performed in the large drawing room, which accommodated a small stage and an audience of about 70 people. Their

popularity meant that he needed more space and moved to the site of the current Maddermarket Theatre in St Johns Alley. This is a 16th and 17th century above a 15th century undercroft.

Cross Bethel Street and enter ...

37. Rigbys Court

Edward Rigby was born in Lancashire but settled in Norwich in 1769. A brilliant surgeon he was instrumental in the founding of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. He introduced vaccination to the city and reorganised the catering in workhouses. He practiced in St Giles where he also had an apothecary's shop.

Cross St Giles Street into Willow Lane. At the bottom of Willow Lane turn right into Cow Hill, then left into Pottergate. Turn right before the entrance to the subway and enter ...

38. St Benedicts Alley

Towards the end of the alley you pass a green space containing the remains of St Benedict's Church which was bombed in the air raid of 1942 that devastated this end of St Benedicts Street.

St Benedicts Street is the main entrance to the city from the west. Along its route to Charing Cross is the densest collection of medieval churches in the city. The street is part of



Church ruins

the Roman Holmstrete east-west route. This is the closest the walk gets to the city walls at the edge of the medieval city.

The city wall was built to defend the north and west sides of medieval Norwich while the east side was protected by the river. The wall was 2.5 miles long and absorbed enough masonry to build 80 parish churches. This made Norwich the largest walled city in the country and one of the largest in Europe.

Built in flint, the wall was completed in 1334 and maintained until the late 18th century, when the gateways were demolished. In front of the wall was a deep ditch. Over time, much of the wall has disappeared. Buildings gradually encroached on it and sections collapsed or were plundered for building materials. Parts were demolished for redevelopment and road widening. Today, 15 sections survive above ground.

*Turn right onto **St Benedicts Street** and turn left immediately before **Norwich Arts Centre** into ...*

39. St Swithins Alley

The Arts Centre is housed in St Swithin's Church which also contains a monument to Catherine Suckling, the mother of Lord Nelson. Halfway down the alley is a fragment of Hampshire Hog Yard containing one of the six remaining thatched buildings within the walls.

The building operated as a pub until 1912. Its landlord

in the late 19th century was boxer John 'Licker' Pratt, who, in 1850, beat fellow publican Jem Mace, the future middleweight champion of England in a bare-knuckle fight that lasted over two hours.

The building narrowly escaped slum clearances in the 1930s and was restored by the Norwich Preservation Trust in 1975.



Thatched building

*Turn right into **St Swithins Road**, then right into **St Margarets Street**, left into **St Benedicts Street** and left into ...*

40. St Margarets Alley

Turn right into Westwick Street and right again into ...

41. St Lawrence Little Steps

The spandrels filling the corners above the eastern doorway of St Lawrences Church, which is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, depict St Edmund and St Lawrence being toasted alive on a gridiron. Today's building owes much to the perpendicular style of the 15th century and stands on the site of an old fishing quay.

On joining St Benedicts Street turn left, pass the front of **St Lawrence** church and turn left down ...

42. St Lawrence Steps

Descend the steps, cross Westwick St, turn right heading uphill towards the city centre and at a break in the wall on the left before a car park, take steps down towards ...

43. Anchor Quay

To the left of the steps leading down to Anchor Quay is **Gybsons Conduit** ...

Gybson was a brewer in the 16th century in the parish of St Lawrence. He asked to buy the rights to a well that had been used in the parish since the 13th century. This was agreed in exchange for him maintaining free public access to the water via a conduit.

He created this elaborate structure in 1578 that displayed



Gybsons Conduit

the royal coat of arms and 'Vivat Regina' in honour of Queen Elizabeth I's visit that year. The conduit was recently restored by the Norwich Preservation Trust.

The 1980s housing development at Anchor Quay today stands on the site of Bullards Anchor Brewery. For over 100 hundred years Bullard's was one of the major brewers in Norwich and from its Coslany brewery supplied public houses across Norfolk. Over the years Bullards absorbed many of Norwich's smaller breweries before being taken over in

1963 by Watney Mann who closed the site in 1968.

Cross Anchor Quay and head towards the archway. On joining Coslany St, turn right to St Miles Bridge. Cross the river and immediately after passing a house on the left turn left into ...

44. St Miles Bridge Alley

Look back at the bridge, which dates from 1804 and is the oldest iron bridge in the city. On the upstream side of the bridge you can see a plaque giving the various flood levels and the chute for the fire hoses to take water from the river. The site is one of the earliest river crossings in the city.



St Miles Bridge

This ancient district of Coslany lies to the west of the defended Anglo-Scandinavian settlement of Northwic. The name is Danish in origin and means 'island with reeds', reflecting that the river is braided with an island (or islands) sitting in the river and two bridges crossing along the line of what had been a Roman road.

*Follow the path heading west along the **River Wensum** opposite **New Mills** and turn right into ...*

45. New Mills Yard

New Mills stands at highest navigable point of the River Wensum and at its tidal reach. There were mills on the site before the Norman Conquest. In 1794 the Norwich Corporation made

an agreement for two citizens to pump water from here to a new reservoir in Chapelfield.

The present pumping station was built in 1897 and used a compressed air system to pump the sewage through to Trowse. It was decommissioned in 1972 and the machinery is one of two surviving examples of such a system. The other is in the Houses of Parliament.

*Continue to the junction with **Oak Street**. Cross **Oak Street** and turn right then first left entering **St Marys Plain**. Walk towards the church passing the front of **St Marys Works** on the left. Head towards the round tower of the church and turn left into ...*

46. St Marys Alley

Built in the 1920s, St Marys Works was home of Sexton Sons and Everard, one of the largest shoe manufacturers in the city. In the late 1960s it began to struggle against foreign competition and in 1972 receivers were called in, making 750 people redundant.



Photo courtesy of Norfolk Museum Services

New Mills Yard 1972

St Mary Coslany is one of only three round towered churches in Norwich.

A notable parishioner was Luke Hansard. He was born in the parish in 1752 and baptised at the church. He went to London as an apprentice printer and from 1774 was responsible for the publication of the House of Commons Journal. In 1943 his name was lent to the daily official record of parliament, the Hansard Reports. This continues today including the electronic version of reports which are available on the parliament website by 6am the following day.

Turn right into Duke Street looping round the church back into St Marys Plain. Turn left into ...

47. Rosemary Lane

Named after the Rosemary Tavern which stood on the lane. The tavern was operating in 1860 from the century building is better known as Pykerell House, one of oldest inhabited houses in the city. It was built in the late 15th century and is one



Pykerell House

of six remaining thatched buildings inside the city walls.

Head along Rosemary Lane, go down a set of steps and turn sharp right into ...

48. St Miles Alley

St Miles (St Michael Coslany church) is the lowest lying of all the churches in Norwich and stands on what was originally marshland. The current building dates from the late 15th century. Its eight bells are second only to St Peter Mancrofts thirteen in the 'ringing churches'.

A key feature is the flushwork on the south aisle and chancel.



St Michael Coslany flint flushwork

The decorative feature uses scarce freestone such as limestone to decorate panels of the more readily available knapped flint. Here these patterns give an effect of window tracery and are perhaps the finest examples in England. The church is now home to a circus training centre.

Turn left at the junction with Oak Street and then left again into Colegate.

The housing on Colegate is called Barnard's Yard. It's a reminder of

the iron works of Barnard Bishop and Barnard that stood on this site from the latter part of the 19th century until the 1970s.

Charles Bishop had an ironmongery business on the market in 1826. By 1844 he had invented a machine for weaving wire fencing for farmers. The original machine can be seen in the Bridewell Museum. By the end of the century the increasing sophistication of its machine enabled the company to supply Australia with rabbit-proof fencing.

Continue along Colegate towards Duke Street. Turn right into Duke Street, cross the river, walk past the entrance to St Andrews Car Park (where the Dukes of Norfolk had a palace between 1602 and 1711 that gave the street its name) and continue to the cross roads at the end. Turn right and continue along Charing Cross with Strangers Hall on the opposite side of the road. Where the road forks, cross Westwick Street and St Benedicts Street to join ...

49. St Gregorys Back Alley

Very unusually it goes under the chancel of the church. This enabled the church to be extended over a right of way that formed part of the pre-conquest south-north route across the city.

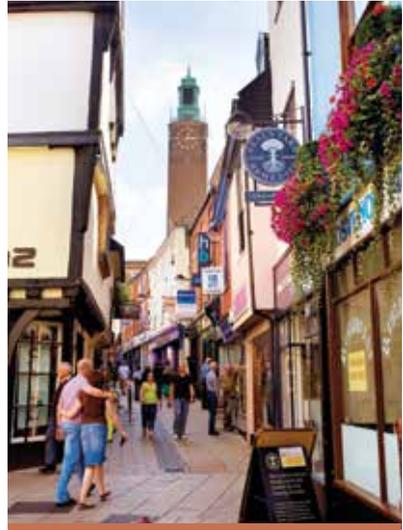
St Gregorys is currently an antique and bric-a-brac emporium and the church interior features a notable 15th century wall painting of St George and the dragon.

Go along St Gregorys Back Alley past the east end of **St Gregorys**

Church, and continue across the open space to join **Pottergate**. Cross Pottergate and enter ...

50. Lower Goat Lane

Formerly named Stonegate Magna. The fact that this ancient street may have been paved supports the theory that it was part of a Roman thoroughfare leading from Ber Street to Oak Street. In the 18th century and 19th century there were a number of pubs in the vicinity with 'goat' in their name.



Lower Goat Lane

Emerge into the **market place** where the walk ends.



Department
for Transport

PUSHING
AHEAD



NORWICH
City Council

www.norwich.gov.uk