

## City Centre Clocks and Sundials Trail

This walk takes you around the city centre, starting and ending at the Forum, passing fifteen locations with clocks or sundials. It is one of three trails to help you explore Norwich's publicly-viewable clocks and sundials.

A publication "Telling The Time in Norwich", which includes details of more than 50 publicly-viewable clocks and sundials in the city, is available on the Society's website.

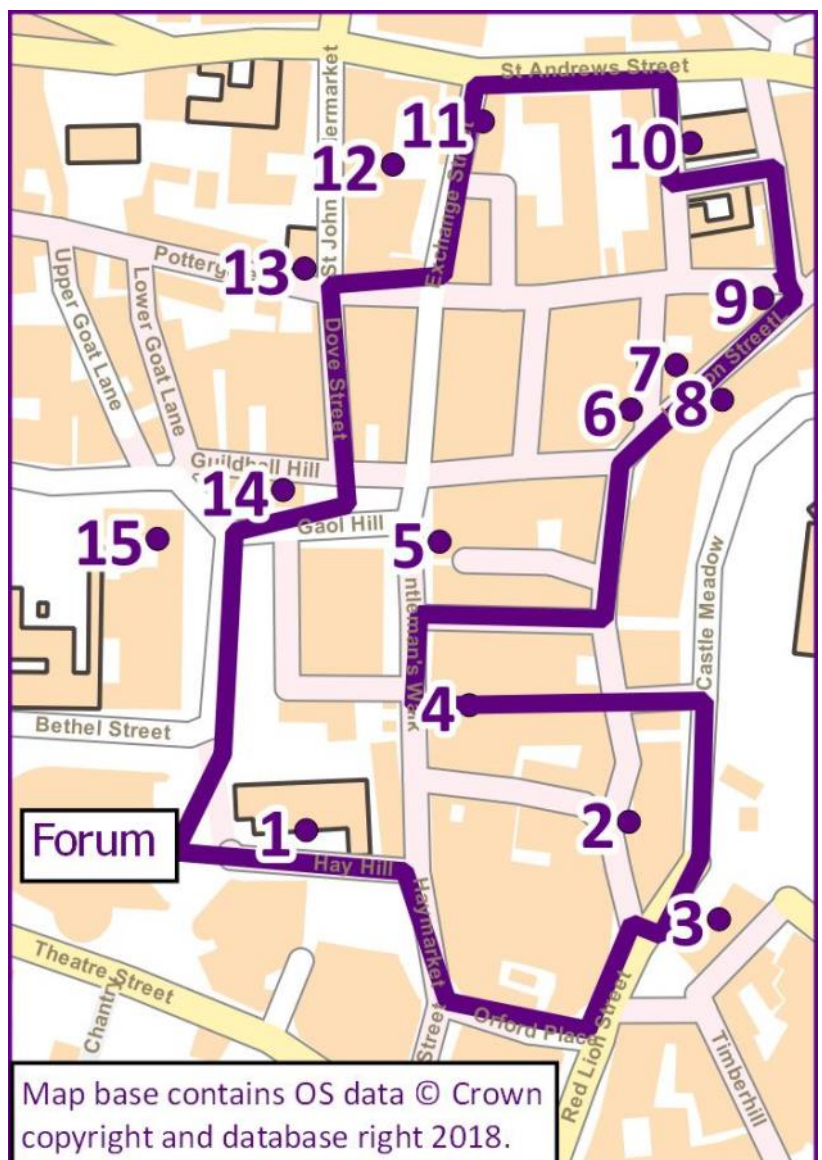
THE NORWICH SOCIETY encourages the preservation, development and improvement of features of historic interest that will add to the enjoyment of those living, working or visiting the City.

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## 1 St. Peter Mancroft sundial

**Starting at the Forum, take the path to the right of St Peter Mancroft.** St. Peter Mancroft was built in 1430 on the site of an earlier church built by the Normans. It is one of the finest parish churches in the country and well worth a visit. The gnomon is supported by gilded crossed keys, and the arch under the dial means that it is not square in appearance.



## 2 Castle Mall clock

**Ahead of you is the Castle Mall clock, which you will see from various angles. At the bottom turn right into Haymarket, then left into Orford Place.** The clock dates from 1993 and is on all four faces of the tower, located above the entrance to the Mall in Castle Street. Castle Mall was developed on the site of the former Cattle Market and adjoining areas and extends underground for a considerable distance, with additional exits on Timberhill, Farmers Avenue and Cattle Market Street.



## 3 Bell Hotel clock

**Cross Red Lion St to cross at the traffic lights to the Bell Hotel and then go left. Cross Farmers Avenue towards the castle.** This clock is believed to date from the 1990s. The Bell Hotel is said to date from 1485. In the 1750s the Bell was the headquarters of the Hell Fire Club and throughout the 18th and 19th Centuries revolutionary groups used to meet here. From 1943 until the end of World War II the Bell was home to the American Womens' Army Air Corps.



## 4 Royal Arcade clock

**Cross Castle Meadow to go down Arcade Street and into the Royal Arcade. The clock is at the far end.** The Arcade was opened in 1899, designed by local architect George Skipper in Art Nouveau style. It occupies the site of the former stables and yard of the Royal Hotel in Gentleman's Walk, the façade of which remains at the Gentleman's Walk entrance to the arcade. The Castle Street entrance is much more ornate.



## 5 H Samuel clock

**Go right into Gentlemans Walk: in front of Lloyds Bank look for this clock then turn into Davey Place, at the end go left into Castle Street.** The clock is a prominent feature on the Walk, although a 1938 photograph by George Plunkett shows a similar, but different one. H Samuel is a national chain of jewellers, founded in Liverpool in 1821 by brothers Moses & Lewis Samuel as a clock making & silversmiths business. Harriet, daughter-in-law of Moses, took over in 1862 and renamed it H.Samuel.



## 6 Dipples clock

**At the junction look for this clock ahead of you in Swan Lane.** The Swan reflects the name of the street. Dipples is nearly 140 years old and is the only fifth generation family jewellery business in Norwich and Dereham. The business was founded in 1878 in Woodford, Essex, by George Henry Dipple. Between 1888 and 1890 the business was relocated to Ipswich. The store made a final move to Norwich around 1894 and has been located in Swan Lane ever since.



## 7 Bullens clock

**On the right is Bullens.** The clock is above the entrance doorway. The business was established in 1887 by W R Bullen who in 1889 installed, and may have made, the 'Forget-Me-Not' clock at St Michael at Plea church. The shopfront is the original one made by local cabinet makers Robertson and Colman when the shop was opened in its present location in 1898.



## 8 Aleks clock

**Just along London Street on the right is Aleks.** The clock is believed to date from the 1990s, and advertises Aleks, a family-owned jewellers that has been in business for over 40 years. It occupies a prominent place above London Street, the first street in England to be pedestrianised. A plaque near to Aleks marks the 50th anniversary in 2017 of that pedestrianisation.



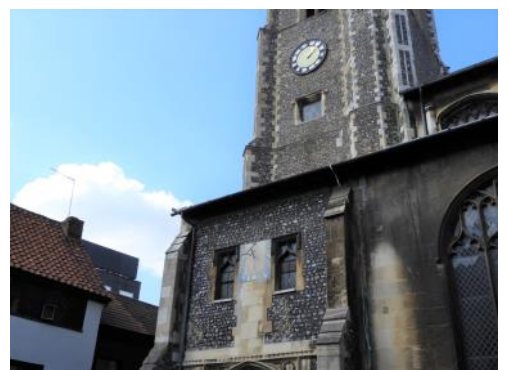
## 9 NatWest clock

**At the next junction go past this clock and left down St. Andrew's Hill.** The former Nat West building, recently given permission to reopen as a restaurant, was opened in 1925, although having the appearance of a much earlier building, and designed by F.C. R. Palmer and W. C. Holden. The clock is a high-quality gravity escapement clock, now electrical, restored & updated by Cumbrian Clock Co. The hands are impressive – torch and sword.



## 10 St. Andrew clock & sundial

**Turn left by the side of the Bridewell to St. Andrew's church.** The origins of the sundial, which is located above the south porch, are not known. St Andrew is the only building in Norwich with both a clock and a sundial. The church was completely rebuilt in 1506 and contains one of the finest collections of monuments in the city. It is still in use for worship. Opposite is the wall of the Bridewell, one of the finest examples of flintwork in the city.



## 11 Abbotts clock

**Go past the church to St. Andrew's Street and turn left at the next junction (traffic lights) into Exchange Street.** The clock was made by "As Time Goes By", a family firm for 30 years based in Curdridge, Hampshire. Abbotts estate agents have been in business since 1850 and are part of the nationwide Countrywide business.



## 12 Norfolk House clock

**Norfolk House is a little further up and on the other side of Exchange Street.** Norfolk House, now used by City College, was built in the 1950s by a local property developer in the style of town hall of Halmstad in southern Sweden, although the coat of arms above the clock are those of East Anglia and the ship atop the building is a wherry. The creeper covering the front of the building means that the clock is only visible in winter.



## 13 St. John Maddermarket sundial

**Turn right up Lobster Lane by Thorns.** One of three churches in Norwich now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust, the church of St John the Baptist, Maddermarket takes its name from the yellow flower which produced madder or red vegetable dye, marketed in this area. Nothing is known about the history of the sundial, which is located high on the south-east corner of the clerestory, and is in poor condition. The gnomon has an upturned end.



## 14 Guildhall clock

**Go up Dove Street from St John Maddermarket to the Guildhall.** The clock and clock tower were donated by Henry Woodcock, mayor in 1849 and 1850. The gift was conditional on the Corporation revealing the old roof of the Council Chamber by removing the false ceiling. The clock, the responsibility of the City Council, is not currently working. The Guildhall was built between 1407 and 1413 and served as the seat of civic government until 1938, when it was replaced by City Hall.



## 15 City Hall clock

**Continue in front of City Hall to return to the Forum.** City Hall was completed in 1938, and the clock, easily the most visible clock in the city, was installed then. The Great George bell weighs nearly 3 tons and was named after George VI who opened City Hall. It is the largest and deepest toned bell in East Anglia and if the wind is in the right direction, can be heard in Wymondham, eight miles away. The clock strikes every hour from 7.00am weekdays to 10.00 pm seven days a week.

