

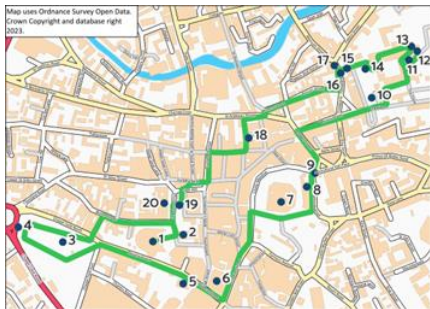
Norwich War Memorials

A walking trail through central
Norwich



Produced by the
Norwich War Memorials Trust and
the Norwich Society

This trail takes you to the war memorials in the centre of Norwich which are in the care of the Norwich War Memorials Trust (marked NWMT). Each one commemorates an important aspect of our nation's response to war – the heroism and sacrifice displayed by so many.



The route also takes you to other memorials or places of significance.

The trail covers approx. 2 miles and should take around 1 ½ hours to

complete. There are plenty of places along the way to stop for refreshment.



**Maps use Ordnance Survey Open Data.
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1 The Forum

The trail starts here. This is the landmark millennium project for the East of England. Named after the Latin word for a meeting place, the Forum has become a popular place for the people of Norwich to gather. This building, designed by Sir Michael Hopkins, won the Civic Trust Urban Design Award in 2003 and the RIBA Award for Architecture in 2004.





**American
Library**

In addition to being the main county library and housing BBC TV and Radio, it also houses the American Library, the Memorial to the 2nd Air Division, 8th Air Force, United States Army Air Forces. This commemorates over 350,000 Americans who were stationed on air bases across East Anglia.

Opposite the Library is

2 St Peter Mancroft

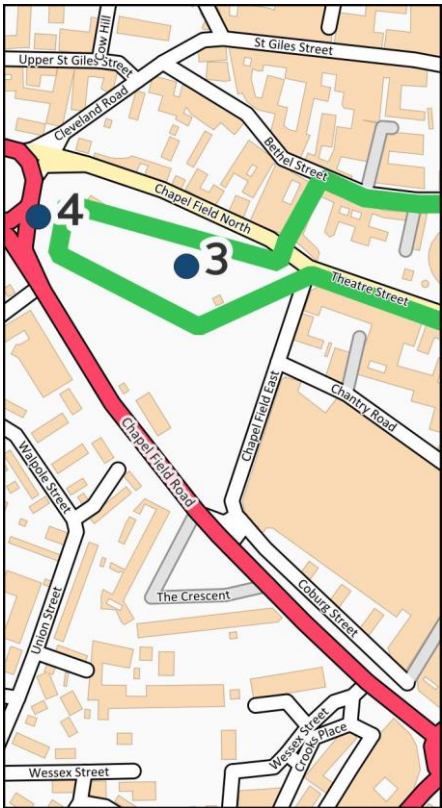
St Peter Mancroft was built in 1430 on the site of an earlier church built by the Normans. It is one of the finest parish churches in the country and well worth a visit. It was the first place in the world

to have rung a true peal of bells on 2nd May 1715.



Inside is a memorial to the Far East Prisoners of War 1942-87.





Leaving St Peter Mancroft turn right and then left up Bethel Street. Take the first left up Little Bethel Street and join Chapelfield North and Theatre Street. Facing you is

3 Chapelfield

Before England had a standing army all male citizens were required to defend their country in times of war. They needed to maintain their combat skills and Chapelfield was where they came to practice archery. Chapelfield gardens are also the earliest surviving ornamental public open space in Norwich. The land was owned by St Mary-in-the-Fields until the Dissolution in 1545. It was sold to the city in 1569 and was initially used as archery butts and grazing land. By 1655 the space was granted for the 'rights of citizens... to walk for their recreation at all times'.



During WW2 air raid shelters were dug in the gardens. Here you can see preparations in 1939. The photo shows the 19th century Pavilion, sadly now demolished.



Photo: George Plunkett

Amongst the various features in Chapelfield is

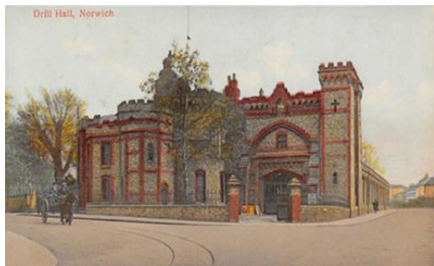
The Peace Pillar

This was a gift from Japanese Peace Groups in 1984 and reads “May peace prevail on earth” in English, Japanese, German and French.



4 Volunteer Drill Hall

At the far end of Chapelfield, actually on what is now the Grapes Hill roundabout, is the site of the Volunteer Drill Hall.



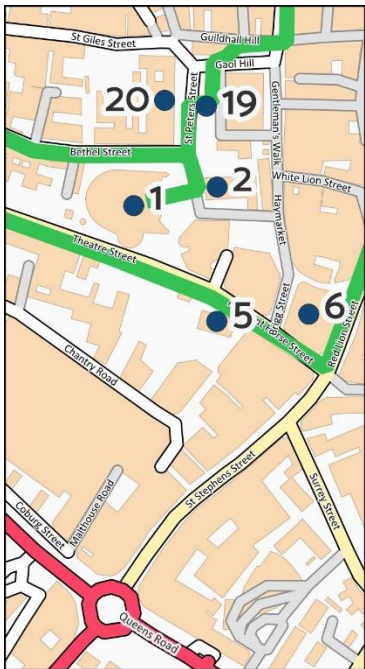
It was built in the castellated Gothic style and incorporated one of the medieval towers forming part of the city walls, which served as an officer's room. It was opened by the Prince and Princess of Wales in October 1866. It was initially used by elements of the 1st Norfolk Rifle Volunteer Corps which

became the 1st Volunteer Battalion, The Norfolk Regiment in 1883.



The Drill Hall became the headquarters of the 4th Territorial Battalion the Norfolk Regiment during WW1. The battalion served in the Middle East and then the Far East during WW2. Following the amalgamations that lead to the formation of the 1st East Anglian Regiment in 1959, the Chapel Field Road

Drill Hall was decommissioned and then demolished to make way for the ring road in 1963.



*Return to Theatre Street and turn right.
Just past the Theatre Royal and the
Assembly House is*

5 St Stephen's Church

This church has had several brushes with conflict. Much of the original stained glass was destroyed in 1648 during the English Civil War when a nearby powder magazine (store) exploded. The royalist mayor of Norwich had been taken into custody and the powder magazine was ignited in the ensuing riot. The explosion, known as "The Greate Blowe", shattered the windows of churches for several miles around.



On the 19th September 1942 St Stephen's had a lucky escape when a 250kg bomb fell in the churchyard but failed to explode. Had the bomb detonated the building would have been destroyed. To mark this event and to thank God, St Stephen's Church moved its Patron Saint's day to the 19th September.

To the right of St Stephen's is one of the entrances to

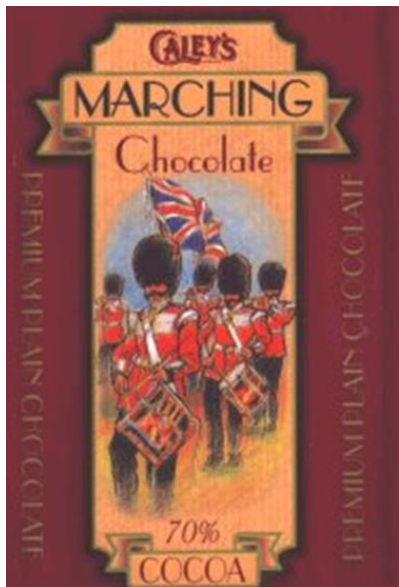
Chantry Place shopping mall

This was the site of Caley's chocolate factory - a significant employer during WW2 and a supplier of chocolate rations for troops.

Caley's Marching Chocolate, known as Marcho, was a high quality plain chocolate, developed during WW1 to form a major part of the sustaining diet for the troops.

The factory was destroyed by Bombing in 1942 and re-opened in 1947 following reconstruction. In 1988 the company was bought by Nestle and within eight years production had moved to York.

The factory was demolished and the new shopping mall built in 2004.



Continue down Theatre Street. On your left is

6 Debenhams



Norwich suffered extensive bomb damage during WW2, affecting large parts of the old city centre. Norwich became one of the targets of the so-called "Baedeker Blitz", which took place in retaliation for the bombing of Lübeck by the RAF earlier that year. Attacks on Bath, Canterbury, Norwich, Exeter and York used Baedeker's series of tourist guides to the British Isles to identify key targets. The heaviest raids in Norwich

occurred on the nights of 27/28 and 29/30 April 1942.

The Debenham's department store, then owned by the Curl brothers, was razed to the ground during the raids. However, Curl's managed to keep trading after the bombing as Jarrold's offered the use of their basement.

Reconstruction commenced in 1953 and took three years to complete. A blue plaque is planned to commemorate the loss of civilian life.

Turn left up Red Lion Street – you will see Norwich Castle in the distance. Cross the road at the lights and continue onto Castle Meadow. Just beyond the Castle Quarter entrance turn right into Castle Gardens and follow the signs to the Castle, which is accessible by lift or steps.

7 **Norwich Castle**

(Admission charge applies)



Norwich Castle was built between 1066 and 1075 to demonstrate the power of the Normans and as a royal palace. The lottery-funded 'Royal Palace Reborn' project currently underway will restore the Norman Keep to its palatial splendour when it hosted Henry I for Christmas 1121.

ROYAL NORFOLK REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

The Castle is also the home of the Royal Norfolk Regimental Galleries displaying a rich and varied collection of objects, photographs and archive material illustrating the county Regiment's 300-year history.



The displays focus on the experience of life as a soldier in peace time and conflict. The main section deals with the 20th century – the First and Second World Wars and the National Service years, including the Cyprus Emergency and Korean War.



Leave the Castle and turn into Castle Gardens again, going past the little thatched theatre. Turn left into Farmers Avenue and the building on your left is the Shirehall Study Centre. This building houses the

Immediately outside is the

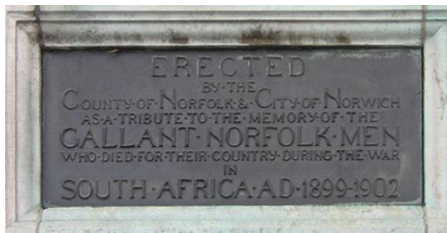
**9 South Africa War
memorial, Bank Plain
(NWMT)**

This imposing memorial features an
impressive statue of Peace.



Between 1899 and 1902, the British Army fought a bitter colonial war against the Boers in South Africa. Although outnumbered, the Boers were a skilled and determined enemy.

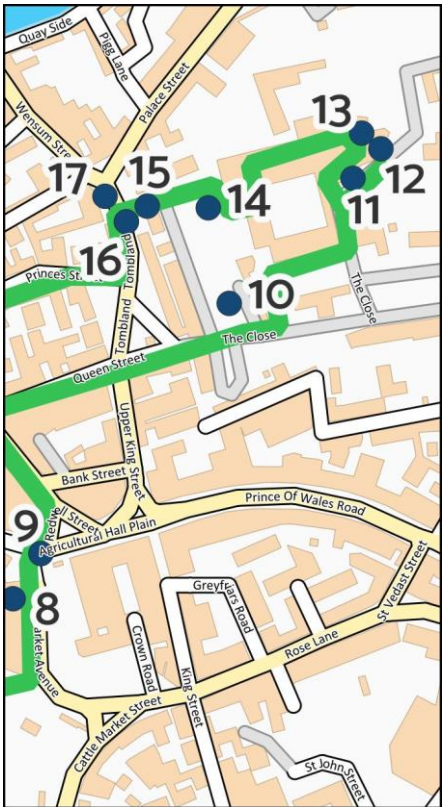
After several reverses, the British mobilised their superior resources and sent more men to South Africa. These included troops from across the Empire, especially from Canada and Australia. Eventually, over 400,000 soldiers were involved.

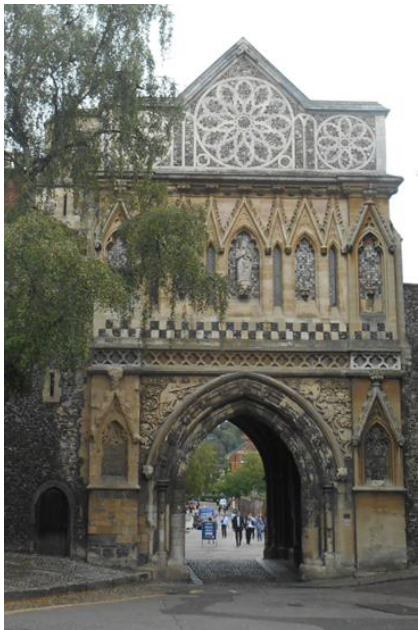


At home, the population volunteered in great numbers. The war was the first campaign in which British people from all sectors of society took up arms, with many joining newly raised formations like the Imperial Yeomanry. It was a forerunner of the patriotic fervour that inspired volunteers during the First World War (1914-18).

After initial setbacks and a long period of guerrilla warfare, the British eventually prevailed.

Cross the road by the memorial and turn immediately left down Bank Plain and Redwell Street. Cross the road at the lights and go straight down Queen Street. Cross Upper King Street at the lights and go straight through the Ethelbert Gate into the Cathedral Close.





You are now on the Upper Green and on your left is

10 Statue of the Duke of Wellington 1854 (NWMT)



This life-size statue of the Duke of Wellington was unveiled in 1854, two years after Wellington died, when it was located in Gentleman's Walk in Norwich Market. In 1937 it was moved to its current location in the Cathedral grounds.

Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, was one of the leading military and political figures of 19th-century Britain. He is best known for his military career, during which he served as a commander in the British Army and led the forces that defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. He was also twice appointed as the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, serving from 1828 to 1830 and from 1834 to 1835.

Many streets are named after Wellington or his battles, eg various

Waterloos, Wellesley Roads, and Cintra Road. This is often because they were built on land owned by Sir Robert Harvey, who fought under the Duke of Wellington. Harvey also helped the Duke's son to become MP for Norwich.

Keeping the Upper Green on your left walk straight ahead and turn left just before the Lower Green. Follow the road round past the Cathedral's South Entrance until you get to

11 Edith Cavell's grave (NWMT)

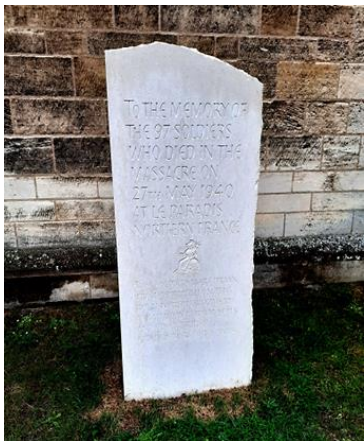


Edith Cavell was a British nurse who is celebrated for saving the lives of soldiers from both sides without discrimination, and in helping some 200 Allied soldiers escape from German-occupied Belgium during the First World War, for which she was arrested. She was accused of treason, found guilty by a court-martial and sentenced to death. Despite international pressure for mercy, she was executed by a German firing squad on 12th October 1915. The night before her execution, she said, "Patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone."

Just beyond is

12 Paradis monument (NWMT)

To the memory of 97 soldiers who died in the massacre on 27th May 1940 at Le Paradis, Northern France.



Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Norfolk Regiment, had become isolated from their unit while attempting to retreat to Dunkirk. After running out of ammunition they surrendered to German troops but were gunned down. After the war, the German commander was convicted of war crimes.

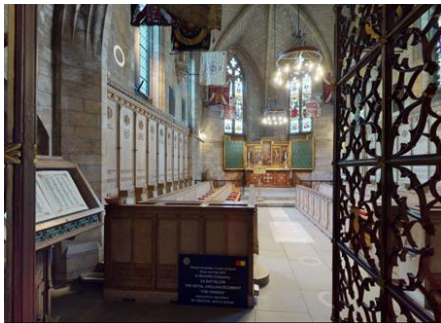
Retrace your steps and go into the Cathedral's South entrance door.



Go to the main body of the Cathedral and turn right under the arch. The 3rd chapel along is

13 St Saviour's Chapel

The Chapel of St. Saviour is dedicated to the Royal Norfolk Regiment and the Royal Anglian Regiment. On the wooden stalls are the names of the places where these units have fought, and there are further memorials and a book of remembrance with the names of all victims of World War Two of Norfolk.



Hanging from the roof of the chapel are a series of regimental colours. The spirit of a regiment was embodied in its colours. These standards (or flags) carried a regiment's battle honours, awarded by monarchs to commemorate bravery on campaign.



They served not only as a rallying point in battle, but also as a focus of regimental pride. To lose the colours to the enemy was the greatest disgrace a regiment could suffer. Soldiers, therefore, defended them with their lives.

When a battalion was presented with new colours, the old standards were normally displayed in a church or chapel associated with the regiment. Once on display they are allowed to decay naturally with time.

The Cathedral was hit by incendiary bombs during the Baedeker raid in June 1942 and were it not for the work of their own fire-watchers (formed from some of the clerks in the solicitors offices in Cathedral Close), the Cathedral would have suffered substantial damage.

There is plenty to explore in the Cathedral. When you are ready to resume the trail follow signs to the exit/shop towards the West End, opposite the copper font. This leads you into the Hostry exhibition space. Exit onto the Upper Green and follow the path to the right to see the

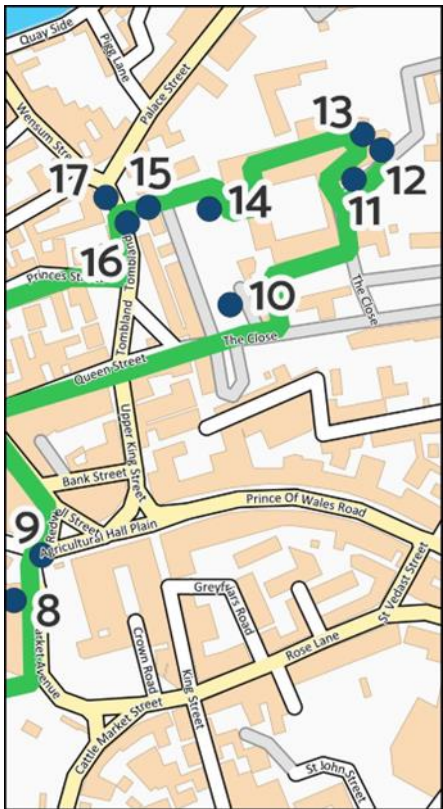
**14 Statue of Horatio Nelson
1847 (NWMT)**



Horatio Nelson (1758 –1805) is widely regarded as one of the greatest naval commanders in history. Nelson was born into a moderately prosperous Norfolk family. After joining the navy he distinguished himself in a number of conflicts, famously losing the sight of one eye and an arm in the process.

Nelson's final and most celebrated action came at the Battle of Trafalgar on 21 October 1805, during which he was mortally wounded.

In 1767, Nelson was a pupil at the Norwich School, which is located in various historic buildings around the Cathedral Close.



*Make your way out of the Cathedral
Close via the*

15 Erpingham Gate



The Erpingham Gate was erected around 1420 and was funded by St Thomas Erpingham. You can see him kneeling inside a niche on the outer face of the arch.



Sir Thomas Erpingham (c. 1357 – 1428) was an English soldier and administrator who loyally served three generations of the House of Lancaster, including Henry IV and Henry V. As well as going on one of the Crusades to the Holy Land, he commanded the archers in the Battle of Agincourt on 25 October 1415, where he was positioned alongside the king.

Outside the gate turn immediately left and you will find

16 Edith Cavell memorial, Tombland (NWMT)

The monument to Edith Cavell showing her in her nurses' uniform, was erected in 1918.



On the opposite side of the road and to your right is



Samson and Hercules House is a rare example of an historic house that has really moved with the times. The house was built by Christopher Jay in 1657 when he was mayor of Norwich. In past centuries wealthy householders used sculpture to decorate the outside of

their houses to demonstrate their wealth, status and culture. The Samson and Hercules statues supporting the porch are rare



survivals of that art form. What you see are actually replicas as the originals are preserved in the Museum of Norwich.

In the first part of the 20th century the Samson & Hercules became renowned as a dance hall and popular music venue with a swimming pool in the basement. During World War 2 it gained the nickname "little America" as it was so popular with GIs stationed in Norfolk.



Cross the road at the lights and turn immediately right up Prince's Street. Continue past the top of Elm Hill/bottom of Redwell Street, go past The Halls (St Andrew's and Blackfriars' Halls) on your right. Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing, turn right and then first left up Bridewell Alley. Here you will find

18 Museum of Norwich at the Bridewell

Admission charge applies

This fascinating museum chronicles life in Norwich over the centuries. Our City 1900 - 1945 explores what life was like in Norwich in the first part of the 20th century. This era was one of great change, with Norwich citizen's coping with two world wars and the hardship caused by the Great Depression.

A collection highlight is Spitfire Cottage, a model house made by Philippa Miller and Pamela Baker while fire-watching at the Blyth School, Norwich, during World War 2.



Also on display is Wally's Map This map was made by 15 year old Wally Emms after the bombing raids of April 1942. He rode around Norwich on his bicycle looking for bomb damage and marked it on this map.



At the top of Bridewell Alley turn right into Bedford Street. Go right to the end to Exchange Street and turn left. Turn right just before the market and go up Guildhall Hill. Walk up past the Guildhall and stop in front of City Hall.



19 War Memorial, outside City Hall (NWMT)



The memorial gardens outside City Hall were built in 1938 as part of the new City Hall scheme designed by CH James and SR Pierce. Like City Hall, they are Grade II* listed in recognition of their architectural and historic value.

The war memorial itself is 10 years older. It was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and was originally located at the

lower end of the Guildhall and unveiled in 1928. The memorial was relocated to outside City Hall when the memorial gardens were built in 1938

At that time the memorial faced the market place. However, in 2004 as part of a refurbishment project, and in accordance with the long-held wishes of veterans, the war memorial was turned to face City Hall and St Peter's Street, and new ramps were put in to allow disabled access. It was rededicated on Armistice Day 2011. In 2015, it became part of a national collection of Lutyens' war memorials.

WW1 Roll of honour inside City Hall

(viewing by appointment)

The Norwich Roll of Honour lists the names of 3,544 men from Norwich who

died in World War I. It was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, who also designed the war memorial immediately outside.



As the stone memorial was not large enough to contain so many names, it was decided that Lutyens should also design a Roll of Honour to be made of folding oak panels on which the names would be painted. The result was a unique memorial; there are no other Rolls of Honour anywhere in the country like it.

It was originally installed in the Norwich Castle Keep on 13 January 1931. Over the years it suffered some damage and, after a restoration project was relocated to City Hall in 2016

20 City Hall doors



The war memorial stands in front of City Hall built in 1938 and a fine example of Art Deco design. Have a look at the bronze entrance doors. The roundels feature key Norwich industries, one of which was making aeroplanes.



Boulton and Paul ironmongery company was a key industry in Norwich during the 19th and early 20th centuries, located next to the river. In 1915, Boulton & Paul began to construct aircraft and built more Sopwith Camels than any other manufacturer.

This obviously made them a target in World War 2 and the works were bombed in 1939. Following a decline in

the manufacturing industry in Norwich, the works were abandoned and the Riverside leisure complex was developed on the site from 1999.



This brings you to the end of the trail and we hope that you have enjoyed exploring Norwich and finding out about its wartime experiences.

Norwich War Memorial Trust
was formed in 2010 to help care
for those war memorials in the
stewardship of Norwich City
Council.

www.norwichwarmemorialstrust.org



THE
NORWICH
SOCIETY

**The Norwich Society celebrates
Norwich's unique character and
beauty, helps preserve its heritage
and contributes to shaping its
future.**

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