



THE
NORWICH
SOCIETY

Norwich Heritage Trails



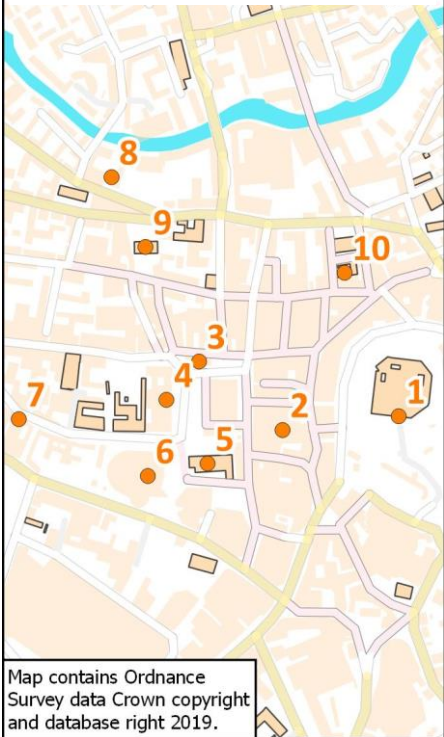
Discover some gems from
Norwich's past

These trails are designed to show you some of the key heritage sites in Norwich. We have devised three trails so you can choose how much you want to explore. Where the route is not so obvious the way is marked with a green dotted line. Each trail should take around 2 hours.

The Norwich Society is a membership organisation which celebrates Norwich's unique character and beauty, helps preserve its heritage and contributes to shaping its future. You can find more trails on our website.

www.thenorwichsociety.org.uk

Central Norwich

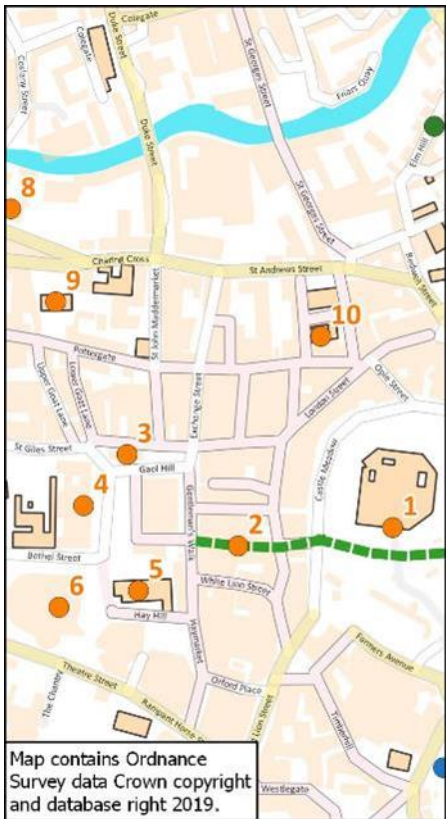


Map contains Ordnance
Survey data Crown copyright
and database right 2019.

1 Norwich Castle

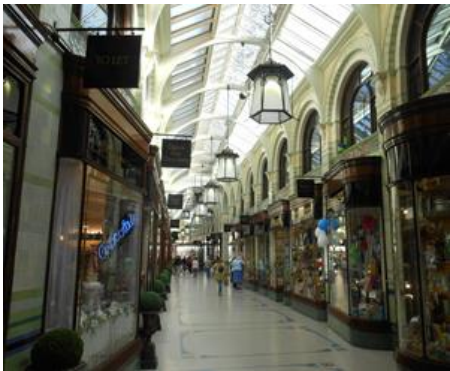


Norwich Castle Keep was built in 1120 on top of an earlier earth defensive mound. From the 14th to the 19th century it was used as the county gaol. In 1894 it was converted into a museum by architect Edward Boardman. The exterior looks suspiciously well preserved because it was refaced in the 1830s largely following the original design.



Map contains Ordnance
Survey data Crown copyright
and database right 2019.

2 Royal Arcade



Designed by notable local architect George Skipper and built in 1899, this magnificent example of Art Nouveau architecture is still a popular shopping destination.

It was built on the site of an old coaching inn. The hotel's frontage was retained and still serves as the entrance to the arcade from Gentleman's Walk.

3 The Guildhall



The Guildhall (built 1407-24), is the largest and most elaborate city hall ever built outside London. Henry IV's charter of 1404 gave the City the right to elect a Mayor and two Sheriffs, effectively making Norwich an independent, self-governing entity. From 1412 until 1597 the common gaol of Norwich was in the cellars of the Guildhall. Norwich Castle was the county gaol and held the more important prisoners.

4 City Hall



Norwich City Hall is an impressive Art Deco building designed by Charles Holloway James and Stephen Rowland Pierce. It was completed in 1938 and officially opened by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. It boasts the longest balcony in England (at 111m). It replaced the adjacent Guildhall which had become too small and was rat infested.

5 St Peter Mancroft and the Market



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.

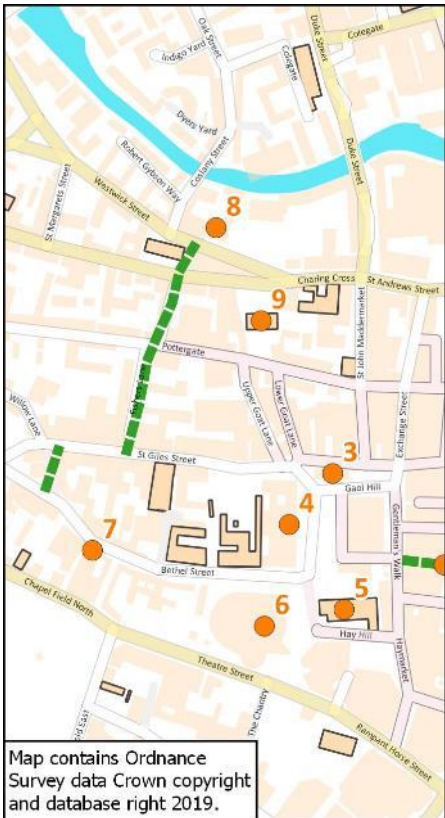
The Great Market was established between 1071 and 1075 following the Norman Conquest.

6 The Forum



Indispensable to Norwich, the Forum is a modern community centre, designed by Michael Hopkins & Partners, and built in 2001. It took the place of Norwich Library, which burnt down in 1994.

It is open seven days a week. Inside is England's most popular library, as well as a cafe, restaurant, Norwich's tourist information centre and the East Anglian HQ for the BBC.



Map contains Ordnance Survey data Crown copyright and database right 2019.

7 Coach and Horses pub



This is the oldest Coach House in Norwich and the second oldest pub after the Adam and Eve at Bishop Gate. Parts of the building are believed to date back as far as 1200. A parish marker on the outside dated 1710 states that this was the site of the Ascension tradition of 'beating the bounds', where choirboys were 'bumped and ducked' at their parish boundaries.

8 Bullard's Brewery

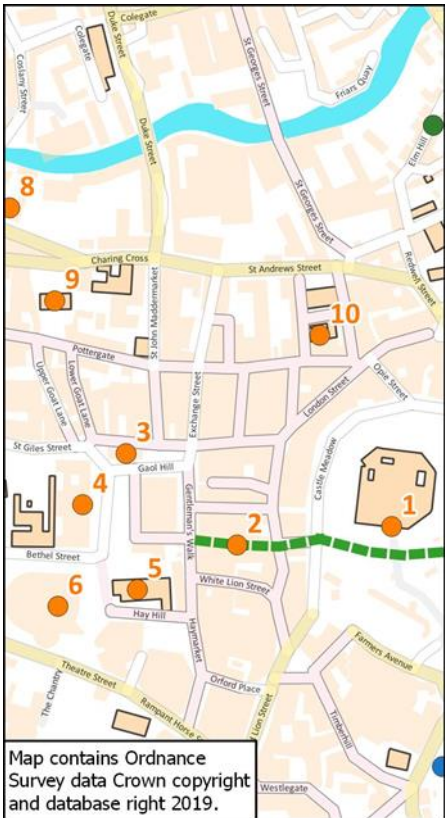


Beer was the drink of the masses during the medieval period as the brewing process killed bacteria in the water. Norwich developed many local breweries and this is the site of Bullard & Sons Anchor Brewery. For over a hundred years Bullard's was one of the major brewers in Norwich and supplied public houses across Norfolk. It was said that Norwich had a church for every week of the year and a pub for every day, but actually there were far more!

9 Strangers' Hall



Strangers' Hall is one of Norwich's oldest buildings dating to 1320. Formerly the home of Sir Nicholas Sotherton, mayor of Norwich, who gave refuge to the "strangers" (cloth weavers from Holland and Belgium) in the 16th century. It is now a museum with a lovely Elizabethan-style knot garden.



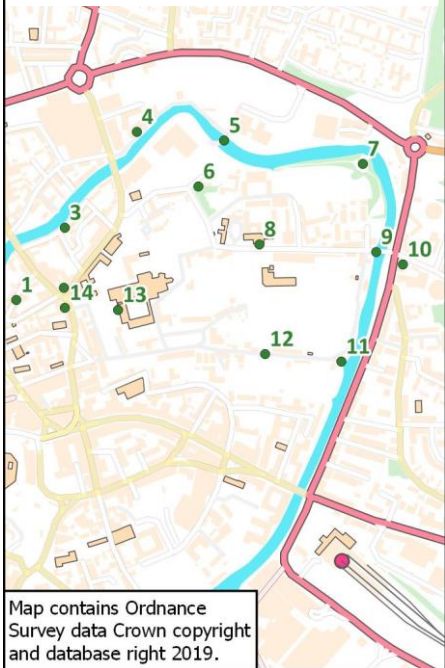
Map contains Ordnance Survey data Crown copyright and database right 2019.

10 Museum of Norwich at the Bridewell

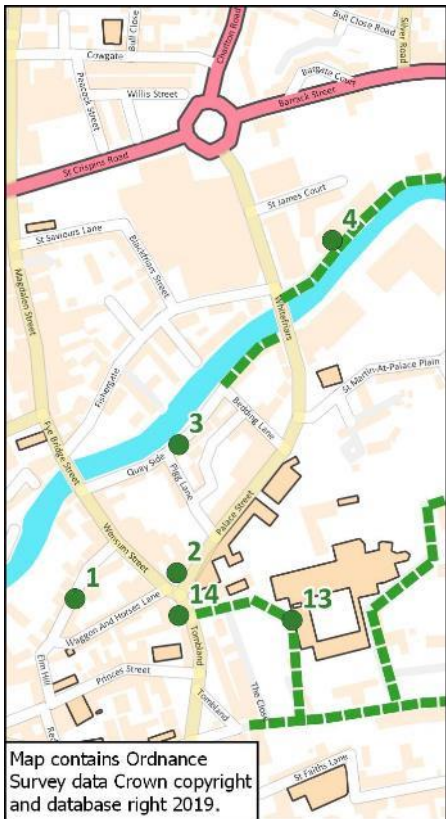


The Museum of Norwich is housed in an early merchant's house built in 1370. It has had a varied history as a Bridewell, or prison for women and beggars, from the 16th to 19th century until the new city gaol was built, and then a shoe factory. The long wall is built from meticulously knapped flints and is said to be the best example of flint building in Europe. The building is now a fascinating museum of Norwich history, including the brewing industry.

Cathedral and riverside walk



Map contains Ordnance Survey data Crown copyright and database right 2019.



1 Elm Hill



Elm Hill represents a remarkable survivor from the city's past. During the medieval period it was the epicentre of society, with 16 mayors and sheriffs living there. In 1507 most buildings were destroyed in a major fire but were quickly rebuilt making this one of the most complete Tudor streets in the country.

At the right at the top of Elm Hill is the Briton's Arms, reputedly the only building to escape the fire. This was built as a medieval beguinage, a home for a community of lay women who dedicated their lives to prayer and helping the poor. It is now an excellent cafe.



2 Maid's Head Hotel



The hotel, then called the Murtle Fish Tavern, was first mentioned in Norwich court records in 1287. Edward the Black Prince (eldest son of King Edward III) was entertained here in 1359 after a jousting competition. In 1472 John Paston confirms the name change to Maids Head in a letter, recommending the inn as a good place to stable your horse. In 1520 Queen Catherine of Aragon (King Henry VIII's first wife) is entertained here.

3 Quayside



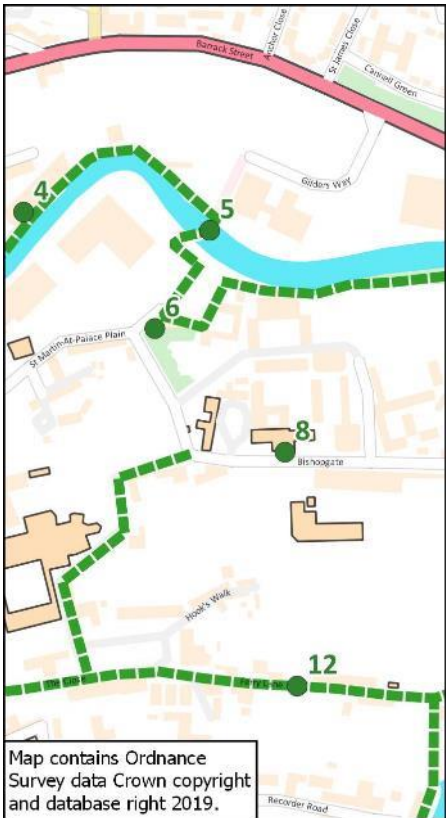
This wharf was the focus of port related activity for much of the City's history. The medieval warehouses have been lost but the first buildings that you come to contain remnants of 17th and 18th century buildings incorporated into modern dwellings.

You can now follow an attractive walk along the river.

4 St James's Mill



Built in 1836-39 in response to the crisis in the weaving trade. Norwich was a centre of weaving as early as 1174. By the 1670s, 50% of freemen were connected with the textile trade. However, in the 19th century mechanised weaving in Yorkshire dominated the market and Norwich hand-weavers went out of business. St James's Mill had a short-lived and unsuccessful career as a centre of mechanised weaving before being used for other trades.



Map contains Ordnance
Survey data Crown copyright
and database right 2019.

5 Jarrold Bridge

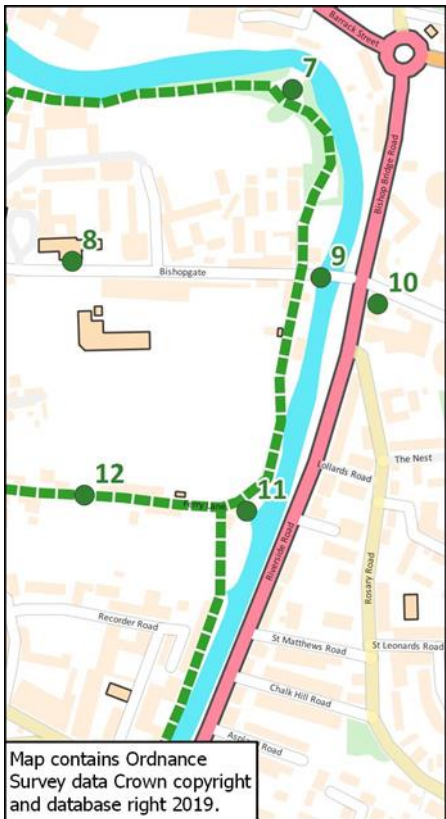


Built in 2012 this is a unique, curved, double cantilever structure. The sweeping curve of the bridge is defined by the site and clearances imposed on the structure. The use of propped cantilevers from both abutments achieves a stunning bridge that appears to 'float' over the water.

6 Adam and Eve pub



It is widely claimed to be the oldest pub in the city. A reference in 1249 tells of a brewhouse owned by Benedictine monks at the nearby Great Hospital and used by workmen building the nearby cathedral. The pub seen today is a 17th century building constructed from brick and flint with later additions such as Dutch gables.



Map contains Ordnance Survey data Crown copyright and database right 2019.

7 Cow Tower



Cow Tower was built originally as a toll house and prison by the prior of the cathedral some time after 1249. It was given to the city authorities in 1378 and was then reconstructed and refaced in brick as a free standing artillery tower c.1398/9.

8 Great Hospital



The Great Hospital was founded in 1249 by Bishop Walter de Suffield to provide care for poor aged priests, poor scholars, and sick and hungry paupers. Thirty beds were earmarked in the west end of the church for the sick poor, and thirteen paupers were to be fed at the hospital gates each day. Over the centuries the Great Hospital has expanded into a large sheltered housing complex.

9 Bishop Bridge

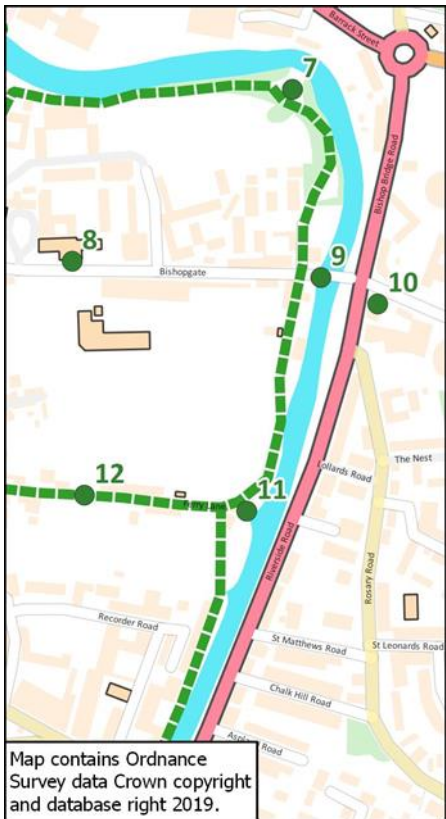


The River Wensum formed part of Norwich's defensive walls. Bishop Bridge is dates from about 1340 replacing an earlier stone and timber structure. It originally had a gatehouse to control traffic into the city and to repel invaders. Once one of the key traffic routes into the city it is now part of a pleasant pedestrian route.

10 Lollards Pit pub



The building began life as a house, built in the 15th century, although it has had extensive remodelling. It was built adjacent to a medieval execution site after which it is now named. Lollards believed that the Bible should be available for all to read in English and, in consequence, were persecuted by the established church. Many Lollards were burned to death in the C15th and C16th.



Map contains Ordnance Survey data Crown copyright and database right 2019.

11 Pulls Ferry



Pulls Ferry was the water gate for Norwich Cathedral with a canal (now filled in) leading up to the cathedral to deliver stone from Caen in France for the building programme. In the C15th an arched gateway was built across the canal, and the current Ferry House was built a century later. The house was used as an inn, but also as a home for a ferryman carrying people across the Wensum.

12 Ferry Lane



A canal, dug at the end of the 11th century, originally ran alongside this narrow road in order to transport stone from the River Wensum to the Cathedral building site. Heavy stone from Caen, France, timber from the Baltic and iron from Sweden came through the watergate.



13 Norwich Cathedral



Norwich Cathedral was founded in 1096 by Bishop Herbert de Losinga. In order to create the new cathedral, priory and precinct, several existing churches and many homes were destroyed. The cathedral precinct or 'Close' is the largest to survive in England and also has the largest number of residential houses within it. These houses range from 18th century townhouses to homes converted from what remained of the 14th and 15th century monastic buildings.

14 Augustine Steward's house



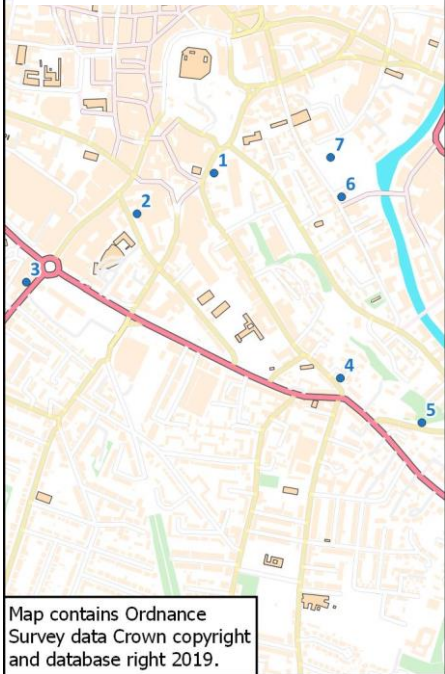
The crazy leaning half-timbered house (centre) was built for Augustine Steward, three times mayor of Norwich between 1540 and 1556. Steward was acting mayor during Kett's Rebellion in 1549. The Marquis of Northampton and other army leaders dined there on 31st July to plan their attack on the rebels. The Earl of Warwick also set up his HQ there after occupying Norwich on 24th August.

This area is called Tombland – nothing to do with burials, however.

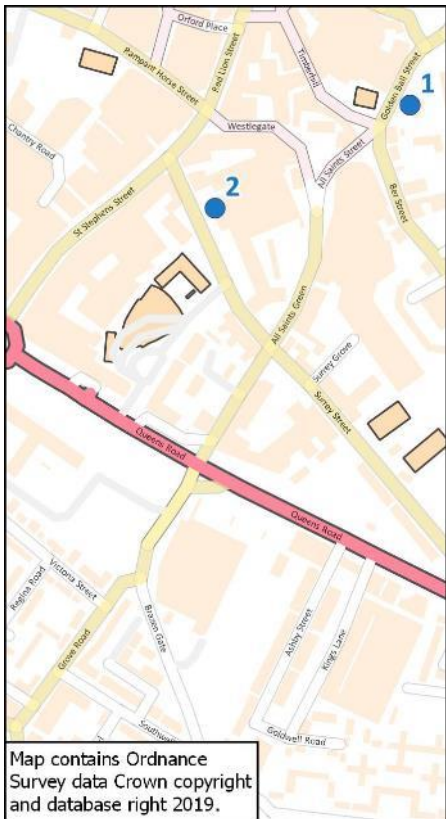


The name Tombland comes from two Old English words meaning open ground. This was the main market place and centre of activity before the Normans arrived in 1066. The Normans built the castle and moved the market nearby so they could keep a close eye on what passed. Tombland was transformed by the building of the Cathedral which entailed the demolition of many houses and several churches.

City wall and King Street



Map contains Ordnance
Survey data Crown copyright
and database right 2019.



Map contains Ordnance
Survey data Crown copyright
and database right 2019.

1 Woolpack Inn



This pub contains a series of panels by eccentric pub artist, John Moray-Smith, who was employed by Morgan's Brewery in the 1930s, '40s and '50s to provide both interior



and exterior decorations for their pubs. This delightful series shows the activities involved in the wool trade.

2 Marble Hall



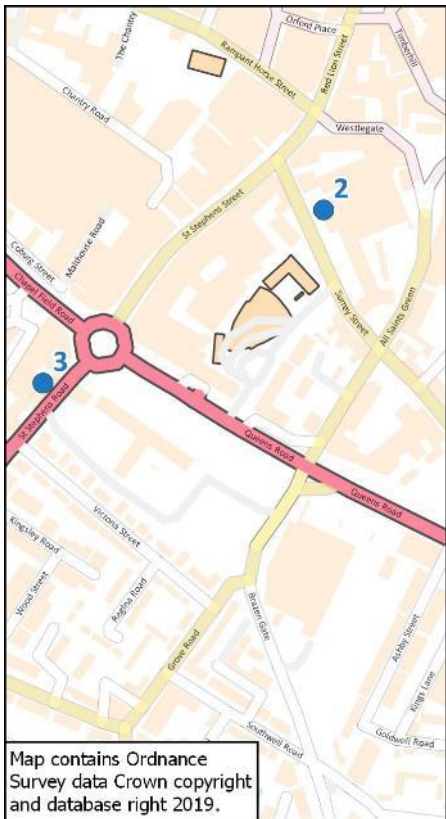
This is housed in Surrey House, Aviva HQ (previously Norwich Union). It was the site of the Duke of Surrey's mansion in the 16th century. The house was demolished and the HQ built by George Skipper, a celebrated Norwich architect, beginning in 1900. The interior is a sumptuous homage to the English Renaissance.



You can visit on weekdays and gaze in wonder at the Marble Hall, fashioned from 15 kinds of marble which were destined for Westminster Cathedral. The cost proved too



much for the Cathedral authorities, but Skipper persuaded NU to buy the entire consignment and he used it to stunning effect.



Map contains Ordnance Survey data Crown copyright and database right 2019.

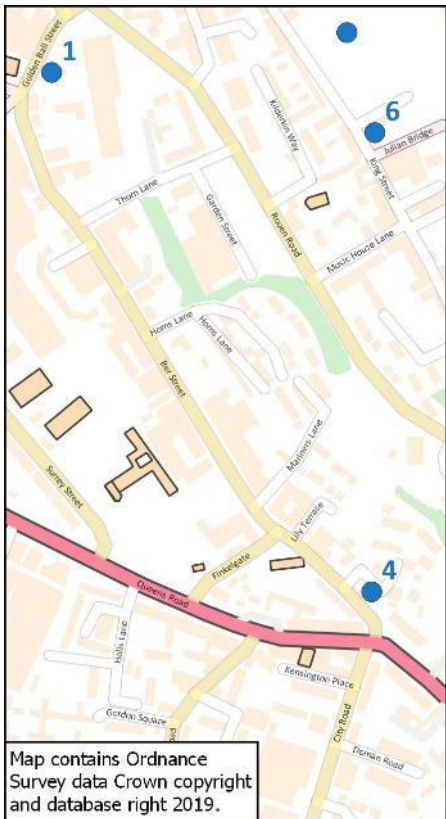
3 Coachmakers' Arms pub



On the wall is a 1937 bas-relief of St. Stephen's Gate by John Moray-Smith, taken from an 18th century drawing (see below). The gate was built about 1319. Then, as now, this was a main entrance to the city from London, and on ceremonial occasions, such as the visit of Queen Elizabeth I in 1578, it was lavishly decorated with flowers and banners, and a masque was performed in her honour.

The Gate was not always so festive: it was more likely to have been decorated with a gallows, the heads of criminals on spikes, or the quartered bodies of traitors. It was demolished in 1793 to provide an easier route for traffic into the city.



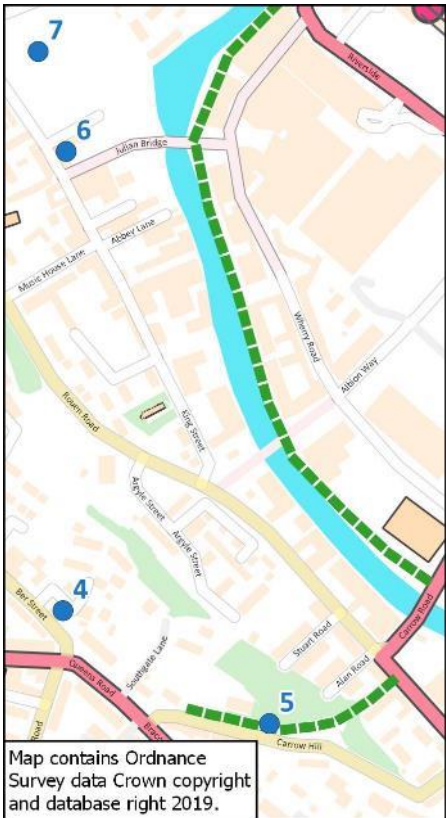


Map contains Ordnance Survey data Crown copyright and database right 2019.

4 Berstrete Gates pub



This is named after the medieval Ber Street Gate, part of Norwich defensive walls built in the early 14th century. On the pub's exterior wall is a 1930s bas-relief of the gate by John Moray-Smith, taken from a drawing by John Kirkpatrick who managed to record all the gates before they were demolished in the early 18th century.



Map contains Ordnance Survey data Crown copyright and database right 2019.

5 City Walls

Just beyond the pub you can see a good example of the medieval city walls off Carrow Hill.



This is one of the longest and best preserved sections of the walls, possibly because it is built on steep ground which was unsuitable for housing or industry therefore was not demolished or incorporated into other buildings. Note the arrow slits and putlog holes (where the building scaffolding rested).

6 Dragon Hall



This is a unique survival of an early 15th century merchant trading hall. The undercroft dates from 1330 with later additions. It is now occupied by the National Centre for Writing, which offers occasional tours.



7 St Anne's Wharf, former brewery site



There was a brewery on King Street as early as 1563. Howard House was built by the Duke of Norfolk in 1660 and had a famous garden attached. In later years this became one of the principal pleasure gardens in Norwich. In the mid-19th century the brewery was taken over by Morgan's. Howard House formed part of Morgan's brewery estate before closing down in the 1980s.