



THE
NORWICH
SOCIETY

Clocks, Sundials and Weathervanes Trail

This walk takes you around the city centre, starting and ending at the Forum, passing seventeen locations with clocks, sundials or weathervanes. The trail is about 2 km (1.3 miles) long. There are many refreshment opportunities.

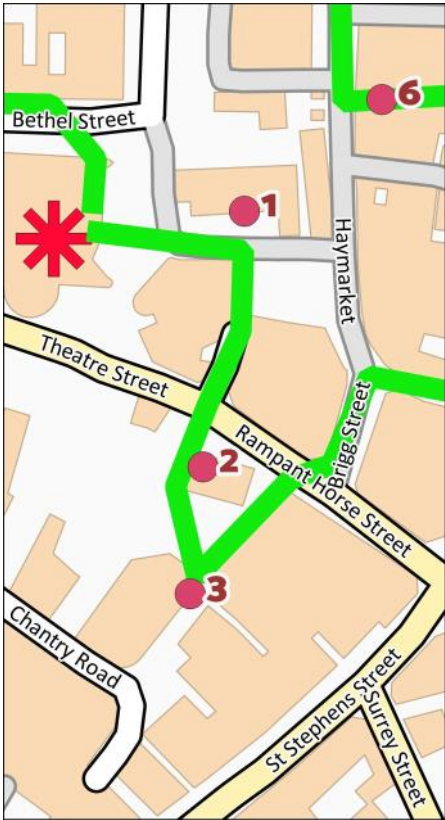
First edition 2024.



More information about clocks, sundials and weathervanes can be found in two publications available to download from the Society's website "Telling The Time in Norwich" and "Norwich Weathervanes". The website also includes other self-guided trails to help you explore the city and information about the Society's work and its other publications.

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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 St. Stephen weathervane

Walk along the top of Hay Hill to William Booth Street, where there is a good view across to the weathervane. Cross with care and enter the churchyard. Bear left beyond the church.



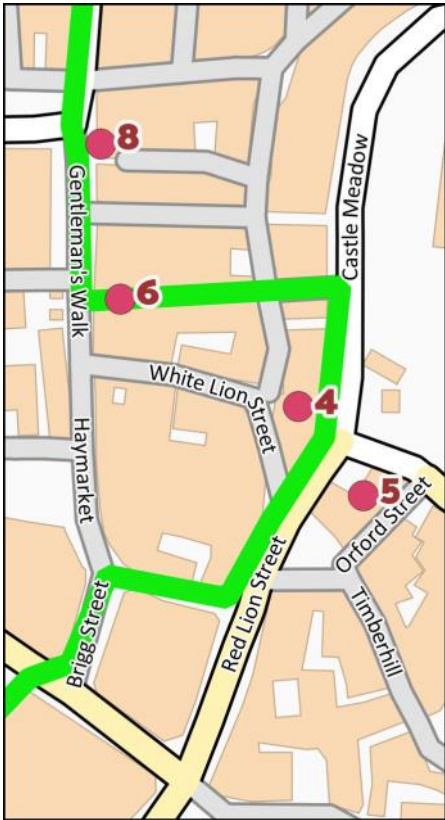
The oldest part of the church are the door and archway, which date from the 13th century. It remains an active church and has a café that is open during the week.

3 Chantry Place clock

The clock is on the wall next to Superdry. Go down Malthouse St between St Stephens and M&S. Cross into Brigg St then right into Orford Place to Red Lion St.



The only clock on the trail without a dial, this quirky design was made by Smiths of Derby. The shopping centre, previously known as Chapelfield, was opened in 2005 on the site of the former Caley's chocolate factory.



Gentleman's Walk

Haymarket

Brigg Street

White Lion Street

Red Lion Street

Castle Meadow

Orford Street

Timberhill

8

6

4

5

4 Castle Mall clock

Ahead of you is the Castle Mall clock, which you will see from various angles.



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.

5 Bell Hotel clock

Continue along Red Lion St with the Bell Hotel opposite. The clock is on the Castle Meadow side of the building.



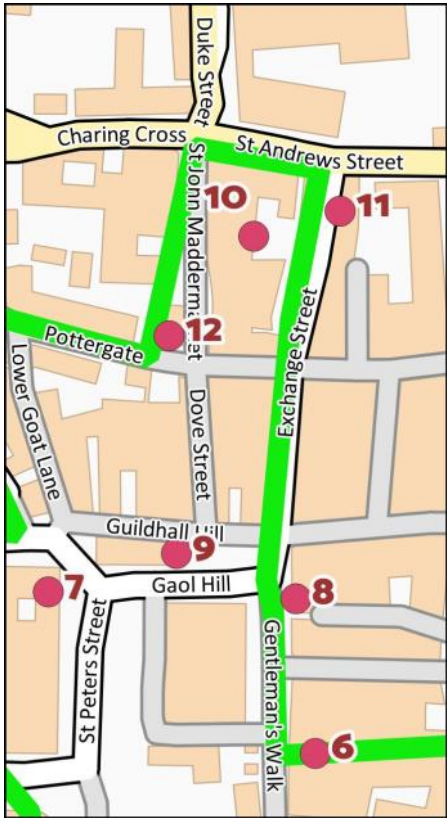
This clock is believed to date from the 1990s. The Bell Hotel is said to date from 1485. In the 1750s the Bell was the headquarters of the Hell Fire Club and throughout the 18th and 19th Centuries revolutionary groups used to meet here. From 1943 until the end of World War II the Bell was home to the American Womens' Army Air Corps.

6 Royal Arcade clock

Go down Arcade Street from Castle Meadow just before the pelican crossing 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.



Duke Street

Charing Cross

St Andrews Street

St John Maddermarket

10

11

Pottergate

12

Lower Goat Lane

Dove Street

Exchange Street

Guildhall

9

Gaol Hill

7

8

St Peters Street

Gentleman's Walk

6

7 City Hall clock

Go right into Gentlemans Walk. The City Hall clock can be seen across the market.



City Hall was completed in 1938, and the clock, easily the most visible clock in the city, was installed then. 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.

8 Former H Samuel clock

Continue along Gentlemans Walk: this clock is above the Co-op Bank.



The clock is a prominent feature on the Walk, although a 1938 photograph by George Plunkett shows a similar, but different one.

9 Guildhall clock and weathervane

These can be seen from the bottom of Gaol Hill looking left.



The clock and clock tower were donated by Henry Woodcock, mayor in 1849 and 1850. 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.

10 Norfolk House clock

Continue down Exchange Street.
Norfolk House is on the left past
Lobster Lane.



Norfolk House, now used by City College, was built in the 1950s by a local property developer in the style of 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.

11 Abbotts clock

The Abbotts clock is a little further down on the other side of the road. At the bottom turn left along St Andrews St and at the traffic lights left again.



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 St. John Maddermarket weathervane and sundial

Go up Maddermarket Alley to the right of the churchyard, observing the weathervane, and under the tower. Then go left to see the sundial on the corner of the building.



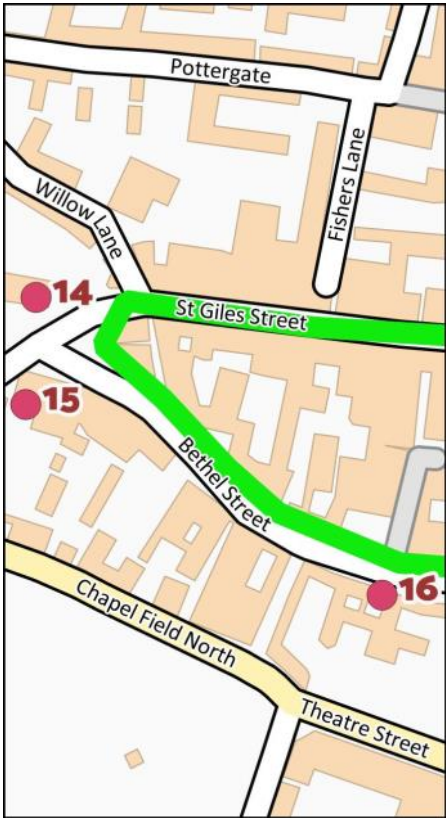
One of three churches in Norwich now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust, the church of St John the Baptist, Maddermarket takes its name from the yellow flower which produced madder or red vegetable dye, marketed in this area.

13 St. Gregory clock

Retrace your steps and continue along Pottergate to see the St Gregory clock. The go left up Upper Goat Lane past the Friends Meeting House.



Records show that there was an 17th century astronomical clock. The present clock is thought to date from around 1860. It The church was rebuilt in the 14th century, and has some very fine 15th century wall paintings. The church is in the care of the Norwich Historic Churches Trust, and is leased for use as an antiques centre.



Pottergate

Fishers Lane

Willow Lane

14

St Giles Street

15

Bethel Street

16

Chapel Field North

Theatre Street

14 St. Giles clock and weathervane

Turn right into St Giles St, with the church at the end.



The clock is first mentioned in 1712, with a dial surmounted by a figure of Father Time. At the restoration of the church in 1865-6 the clock was restored and recoloured, repositioned lower in the tower and a minute hand. At the same time the figure of Father Time was removed. The church has the tallest church tower in Norwich and is positioned on the highest ground.

15 Churchman House sundial

Churchman House is opposite, across Bethel Street. Turn left into Bethel Street.



This Grade II listed building is a fine example of a Georgian town house. It is now shared between a café run by the Food Project and the REST partnership project led by Norfolk



and Waveney MIND. The sundial is on the rear wall of the building.

16 Bethel Hospital weathervane

The Hospital weathervane can be seen from the street.



The hospital was founded for the "poor lunatics of Norwich" in 1713. The 19th century facade to the hospital was added by Edward Boardman a Norwich architect. His design incorporated many architectural features that add to the richness of its outward-facing façades. The ornate weathervane complements the commemorative ironwork in the rainwater goods and the decorative iron ties.

17 Isaac Newton College weathervane

The College weathervane has to be viewed from the path between the College and the Police Station.



The site was built as a Fire Station and the weathervane depicts a person raising the alarm and running in front of the Fire Engine to direct the firefighters to the blaze.

THE NORWICH SOCIETY

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