



THE  
**NORWICH**  
SOCIETY

## **Norwich Castle fee**

This 30 minute walk takes you around the original boundary, or fee, of Norwich Castle



[www.thenorwichsociety.org.uk](http://www.thenorwichsociety.org.uk)

From around 1067 the Normans demolished at least 98 Saxon homes in Norwich to make way for the castle earthworks within which they built a wooden fort, surrounded by deep defensive dry ditches. Once the land had settled, work was begun on the stone keep in 1094 by King William (Rufus) II. Following his death in 1100 it was continued by his brother King Henry I and completed by 1121.

Norwich Castle was designed to be a royal palace rather than a fortification. However, no Norman kings ever lived in it. The only time Henry I is known to have stayed at Norwich Castle was for Christmas 1121. The lavishly decorated rooms that he knew will be recreated as part of the refurbishment project currently underway, transforming visitors' understanding and experience of the Norman Keep.



Originally, the castle fee, or land occupied by the castle, was much more extensive than we can now see. What remains is just the central mound and keep.



The boundary of the castle fee is identified by these commemorative pavement markers.

From the 14th century the keep was used as a county gaol, until a new gaol, designed by Sir John Soane, was constructed both inside and around the keep in 1792-93. The prison was quickly seen as outdated and difficult to patrol and so the outside block was demolished between 1822 and 1827. The prison layout is still obvious in the interior galleries.



The exterior looks suspiciously well preserved because it was refaced in the 1830s by Anthony Salvin largely following the original design but actually using fewer castellations – 9 to a side rather than 13.



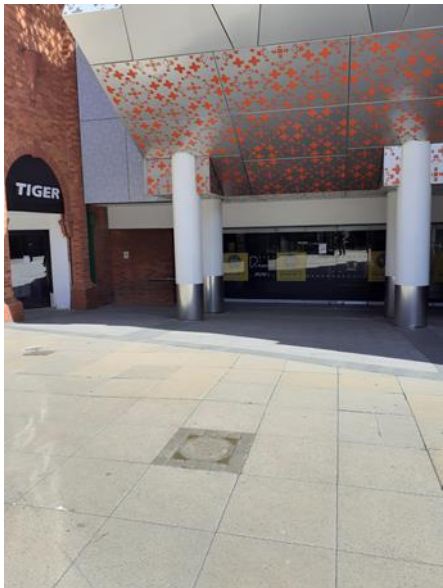
The use of the castle as a gaol ended in 1887, when it was bought by the city of Norwich to be used as a museum. The conversion was undertaken by local architect Edward Boardman and the museum opened in 1895.

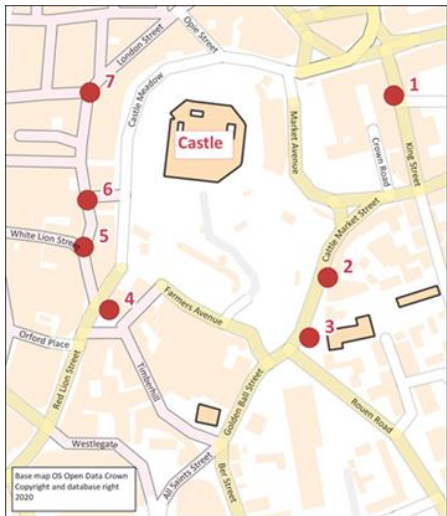
Now Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery is one of the foremost museums in the country with collections Designated as being of national importance.

The City of Norwich coat of arms features a castle with a lion, and can be seen in many different locations throughout the city.



Finding all the Castle fee markers should take you around 30 minutes. They are sometimes quite hard to spot. Can you see Marker 5 in this photo?





**The Norwich Society celebrates  
Norwich's unique character and beauty,  
helps preserve its heritage and contributes  
to shaping its future. Find out more at  
[www.thenorwichsociety.org.uk](http://www.thenorwichsociety.org.uk)**