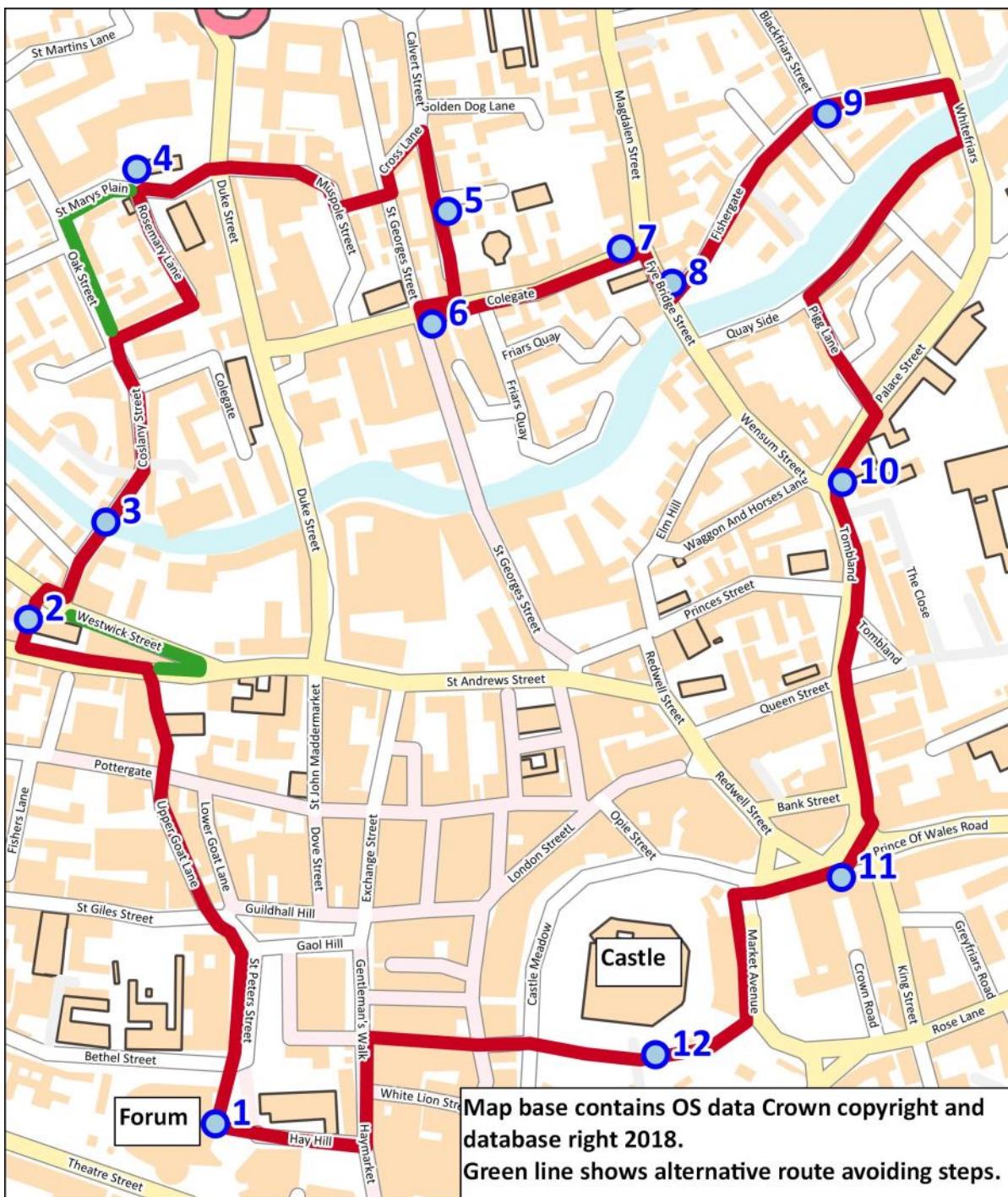


Viking Norwich Trail

This walk has been prepared to coincide with the 2019 exhibition *Viking : Rediscover the Legend* in Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery. It starts and ends at the Forum, visiting twelve locations which have connections with Viking Norwich, and is about 2 miles (3 km) in length. It draws on information contained in the Viking Norwich trail prepared in 2001 and available on the Norfolk Heritage Explorer website, which contains more information about these and many other locations [<http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/>]. Other Norwich Society trails are available from our website to help you explore the City Wall, clocks and sundials and signs of past times.



1 The Forum

The Forum occupies a site from which a Viking gold ingot and part of a crucible with gold residues were discovered during excavation in 1998. *Starting at the Forum, go left and cross the road to walk in front of City Hall. At the end go slightly left and then down Upper Goat Lane. At the end cross to go down St Gregory's Alley past the church, cross St Benedict's Street and go left to St Lawrence church. At the far end of the church go down St Lawrence Little Steps. To avoid steps go right and then left down Westwick Street.*



2 St Lawrence's Church

The west doorway of the Church has a carving showing the martyrdom of St Edmund by the Danes. He was King of the East Angles and was killed after a battle won by the Danes. The saint is pictured tied to a tree, being shot full of arrows. His head was cut off afterwards and when found by his followers, it was protected by a wolf. The wolf's head is shown in the bottom right hand corner. *At the bottom of the steps cross Westwick Street and go slightly right then left into Coslany Street to the bridge over the river.*



3 Coslany (St Miles) Bridge

This metal bridge was built in 1804, replacing an earlier stone bridge. There may well have been a crossing point in Viking times, as it lies on the line of an earlier Roman road. *Continue along Coslany Street to St Miles Coslany church. Turn right to follow a path beside houses behind the church and then turn left up steps to Rosemary Lane, which leads to St Mary's Plain. To avoid the steps continue along Oak Street and then right into St Mary's Plan.*



4 St. Mary's Church

The church has a round tower, one of over a hundred surviving in Norfolk. Such towers are a legacy of links between eastern England and northern Europe where a number of similar towers survive in Germany and southern Sweden. *Beyond the church continue to Duke Street, crossing to go down Muspole Street. At Alms Lane turn left down a path between houses and then left into St George's Street, bearing right into Cross Lane and then right again into Calvert Street.*



5 Snaylgate / Calvert Street

Until 200 years ago this street was called Snaylgate. 'Gate' or 'gata' is a name of Scandinavian origin meaning street or way, and does not mean there was a gate here. *At the bottom of Calvert Street cross to the other side of Colegate and go right for a short distance to the junction with St George's Street.*



6 St. George's Street

The Danish defences consisted of an earth bank topped with a wooden fence. Outside was a ditch, now roughly followed by St George's Street. The defences were built around 900 and demolished in the 1100s. *Go back along Colegate to the junction with Magdalen Street, where there is a Viking Norwich display panel (in poor condition).*



7 Colegate

Colegate and Fishergate are further examples of Scandinavian influence on street names. St Clement, after whom the church at the end of Colegate is named, was the patron saint of sailors and particularly popular in Scandinavia. Running north from the junction is Magdalen Street, which was the main street of the Anglo-Scandinavian town. *Cross the road and go right and then left into Fishergate.*



8 Fye Bridge and Fishergate

A wooden causeway formed the first river crossing here. Remains were seen in 1896 and again in 1999 - the causeway linked the main Danish settlement on the north bank of the River Wensum to a growing settlement on the south bank. *Go along Fishergate to St Edmund's church.*



9 St. Edmund's Church

The church is dedicated to St Edmund, already encountered at St. Lawrence's church. *Beyond the church continue to Whitefriars, going right to cross the bridge. At the end of the bridge go right down a riverside path to Quayside. Walk along Quayside, turning left up Pigg Lane as the river bends to the right. At the end of Pigg Lane cross Palace Street and go right to the junction with Tombland.*



10 Tombland

Tombland was the Anglo-Scandinavian market-place in the 11th century. The name tom is Scandinavian in origin meaning 'empty' or 'open', the 'openland' being used as a market. *Keep on the same side of the road through Tombland and then Upper King Street, crossing at the junction with Agricultural Hall Plain to the former Agricultural Hall opposite.*



11 Former Agricultural Hall

The former Agricultural Hall, once the studios of Anglia Television, partly occupies the site of an Anglo-Scandinavian church, which was an early version of the famous stave churches which survive in Norway. *Continue up to the traffic lights at the end of Market Avenue, crossing by the Boer war memorial and then go left in front of the Shirehall. At the end go right through an arch to the Castle gardens and under the arch carrying the road leading to the Castle. The Castle can be reached either by the steps on the left or the lift on the right.*



12 Norwich Castle and Castle Mall

Castle Mall occupies part of the Anglo-Scandinavian town. Remains of timber buildings with cellars, were uncovered by excavation between 1989 and 1991. The Castle dates from the Norman occupation of Norwich in the 11th century, which is also when the market was moved to its present location.

The exhibition in the Castle runs until 8 September 2019. There is a permanent gallery devoted to Anglo-Saxons and Vikings, with one of the best collections of Anglo-Saxon material in the country, and over 900 superb objects on display.

At the end cross the road and go ahead down Arcade Street and the Royal Arcade to Gentlemans Walk. Go left and then right up Hay Hill to return to the Forum.



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