

**NORWICH CASTLE**

NORWICH CATHEDRAL

THE GREAT HOSPITAL

THE HALLS

THE GUILDHALL

DRAGON HALL

THE ASSEMBLY HOUSE

ST JAMES MILL

ST JOHN'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

SURREY HOUSE

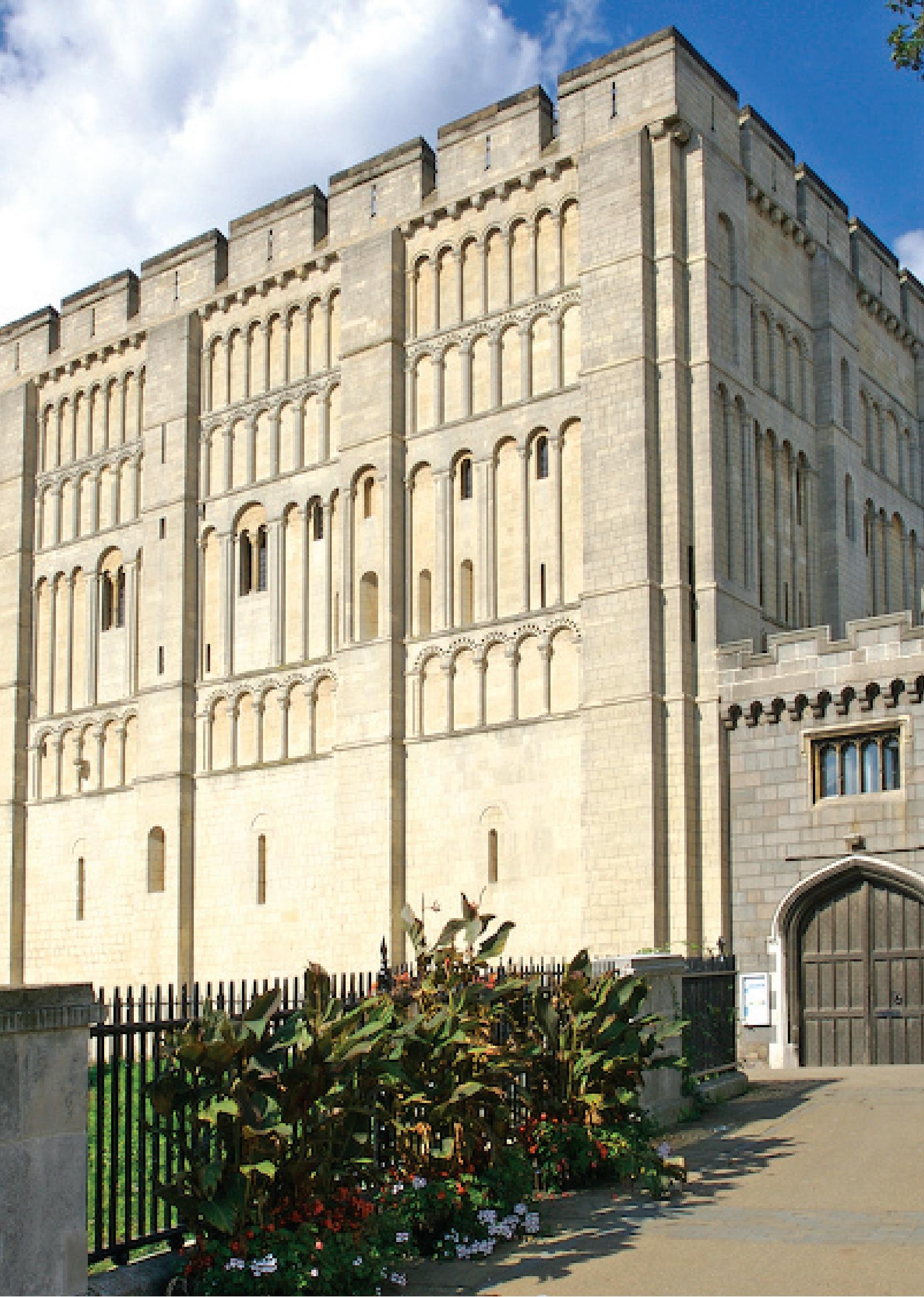
CITY HALL

THE FORUM



Key Stage 3  
(KS3) Local History,  
Geography and  
Citizenship





# NORWICH 12

## AN INTRODUCTION

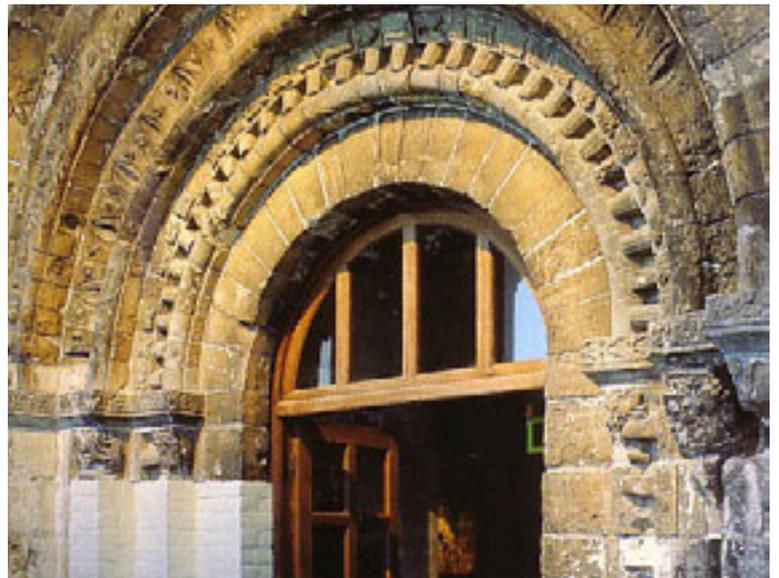
Norwich 12 brings together 12 of Norwich's most iconic heritage buildings as the UK's finest collection of individually outstanding heritage buildings spanning the Norman, medieval, Georgian, Victorian and modern eras. The group consists of: Norwich Castle, Norwich Cathedral, The Great Hospital, The Halls - St Andrew's and Blackfriars'- The Guildhall, Dragon Hall, The Assembly House, St James Mill, St John's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Surrey House, City Hall and The Forum.

Norwich 12 is a pioneering heritage concept which is an initiative by Norwich Heritage Economic and Regeneration Trust (HEART), a private, charitable trust set up to strategically plan, manage, regenerate and promote Norwich's heritage and to be a best practice exemplar internationally for heritage as a social and economic regeneration vehicle.

The Norwich 12 initiative is supported by funding from the Treasury's Invest to Save Budget. The overall aim is to develop the 12 iconic buildings into an integrated family of heritage attractions

which will act as an internationally important showcase of English urban and cultural development over the last 1,000 years.

One of the key aims of the Norwich 12 project is to support learning and education and this education pack is one of a suite of resources developed around the 12 buildings. For more information about other education resources available and Norwich 12 in general please visit [www.norwich12.co.uk](http://www.norwich12.co.uk) or call HEART on 01603 305575.



Norwich Castle  
Museum & Art Gallery

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For more information about activities please contact Kathryn Moore on 01603 495 891 or at [kathryn.moore@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:kathryn.moore@norfolk.gov.uk). In addition to the events included in this pack the following are also available on request:

**Medieval object handling session (45 mins)**  
**Keep tour (45 mins).**

1067

The Normans demolished at least 98 Saxon homes to make way for the Norwich Castle earth-works



## Norwich Castle Timeline

1822-27

The prison block outside the keep was demolished and the architect William Wilkins designed another new gaol

1066

Battle of Hastings

1215-16

The sieges of Norwich Castle at the time of the rebellion of Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk

1792-93

The architect Sir John Soane designed and built a new gaol, both inside and around the keep

2001

Norwich Castle was re-launched after a Heritage Lottery funded refurbishment, creating a museum for the 21st century

1000

1075

Lady Emma and the 1075 rebellion

1121

The stone keep, begun by William II in 1094 was completed in 1121 by Henry I, who visited the castle in that year

1100

1200

1300

1400

1500

1600

1700

1800

1900

2000

1834

The architect Anthony Salvin began refacing the castle with Bath limestone

14th Century

From the 14th century, the military importance of Norwich Castle declined and it was used instead as the county gaol

1894

The Castle was converted into a museum

2006

The Norwich Heritage Economic and Regeneration Trust (HEART) includes Norwich Castle in its Norwich 12 initiative

# THE 1075 REBELLION

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Norwich Castle was the centre of rebellion in 1075. This did not involve Saxons against Normans, as you would expect, but instead was mainly Norman versus Norman. The rebellion broke whilst William the Conqueror was away in Normandy. Ralph de Guader, the Norman Earl of East Anglia, married Emma, a daughter of another Norman baron. At the wedding feast, three Norman barons plotted to take control of William's kingdom because they were unhappy with how the kingdom was run. They appealed to the Danes to send a fleet of ships to help them and the Danes agreed. They also invited one of the last Saxon earls, Waltheof, Earl of Northumbria, to join in, and he, too agreed. This created a powerful coalition against William's rule. Ralph de Guader marched from Norwich to join the barons but found his way blocked by Archbishop Lanfranc's army. Lanfranc was Regent for William while the king

was away in Normandy. Lanfranc set about crushing the rebellion ruthlessly.

Ralph fled to his home castle in Doc, Brittany. He left his wife, Emma to stay behind and defend Norwich Castle. The siege lasted for three long months. Emma led the soldiers well, organising their forces and boosting morale. However finally, a deal was struck between Lanfranc and Emma, and her soldiers accepted safe passage to Brittany. Lanfranc then garrisoned the Castle with 300 of his soldiers, and crushed the rebels. Waltheof was beheaded and the others lost their limbs. The Danes sailed but never landed. The rebellion was at an end.



# BUILDING THE CASTLE

From about 1067, the Normans demolished at least 98 Saxon homes in Norwich. This was to make way for the castle earthworks within which they built a wooden fort, surrounded by deep, defensive, dry ditches. They installed a garrison of soldiers to keep law and order and prevent rebellion, under William the Conqueror who now ruled. Once the motte, or mound, had settled, William (Rufus) II began to build the stone Keep in about 1094. Following William's death in 1100, his brother Henry I succeeded him, and completed the Keep by 1121.

If you had visited the Castle at this time, you would first have gone through a large gateway, sited near to what is now Prospect House. This gateway would have brought you into the Bailey; an area that now forms

part of the Castle Mall. The Keep itself has a height of about 21.5m; its walls were built to withstand attack, and are about 3 metres thick at the base, and gradually tapering, as they get higher. The original doorway to the Keep is on the first floor on its eastern side. This doorway is protected by a forebuilding called Bigod Tower, built by and named after Hugh Bigod, twelfth century constable of the castle.



# HENRY I VISITS THE CASTLE

In 1121 Henry, son of William the Conqueror celebrated Christmas at Norwich Castle. By the time of his visit to Norwich, a lot of opposition to Norman rule had died down, and Henry did not have to face the same kind of difficulties that his father and brother, William II, had faced. However, in Norwich, there would still have been a lingering resentment at the Norman occupation and some would have remembered the Conqueror's cruelty when the castle was first build. Nevertheless by the time of Henry's visit to Norwich, most people willingly accepted him as king and there was a lot of sympathy for him at this time as a result of the

personal tragedy he had experienced, when his only legitimate son, William, was drowned in the wreck of the White Ship on passage to Normandy. 1121 was also the year that the stone keep, begun by William II, was completed, replacing the original "motte and bailey" castle, made of wood.



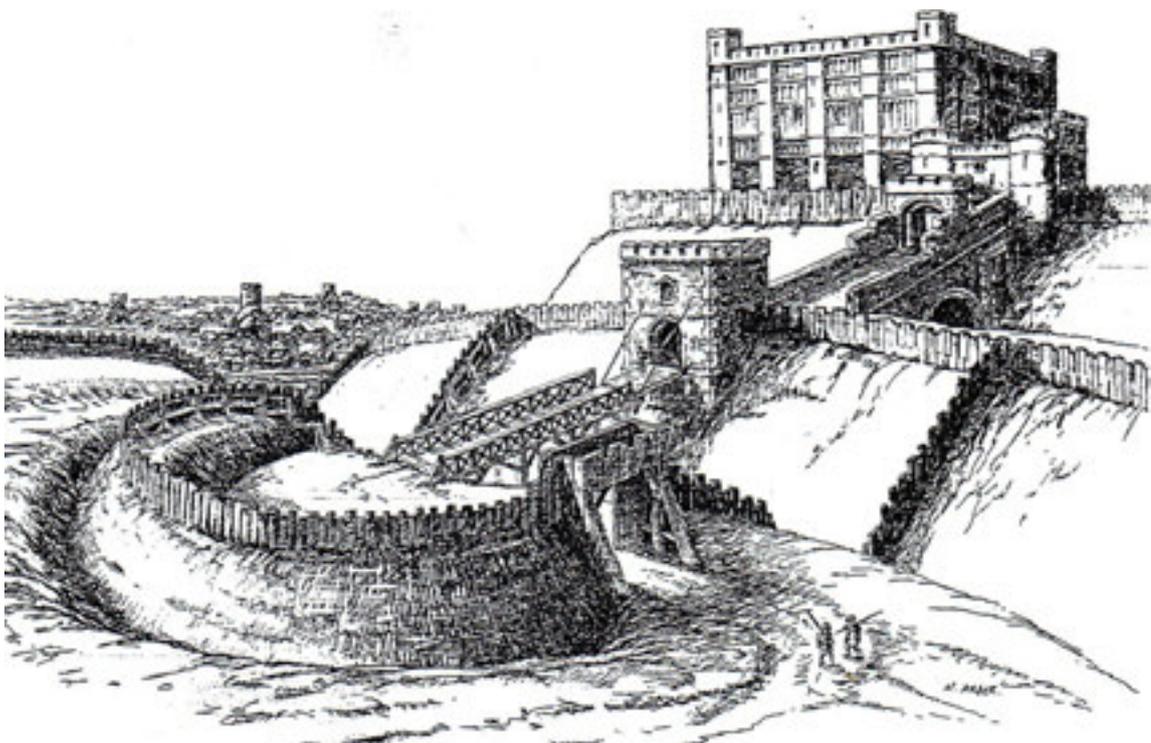
# ROGER BIGOD'S REBELLION

In 1214, a serious crisis began to arise between King John and his Barons. Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk and Constable of Norwich Castle, chose to side with the rebellious barons. Because of his decision, Norwich Castle was seized, taken from him, and entrusted to William Marshall (Earl of Pembroke) and John Fitzherbert. These two men became joint constables of the castle. By 1216, King John had died; the constables were again replaced by Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent- the great Judiciary.

The rebellious barons then approached Prince Louis, the French King's son, persuading him to become the King of England. Louis and his forces took arms and marched on Norwich, 1216. As Louis and his forces neared Norwich Hubert de Burgh marched towards

them, leaving his brother Thomas de Burgh to defend the castle. Hubert and his forces however failed to prevent Louis's army making progress towards Norwich Castle. Lacking the forces to help his defence, Thomas fled the castle, hoping to escape, but he was captured as Louis approached. Louis seized the castle and plundered the town, putting his own garrison into the castle and making William Beaumont his constable.

However, in the same year (1217), Louis was forced to quit the realm, and Hubert de Burgh took repossession of the castle. Then Henry III became king and was reconciled with Roger Bigod. Bigod was once again instated as Constable at Norwich before his death in 1221.



# LIVING IN THE CASTLE

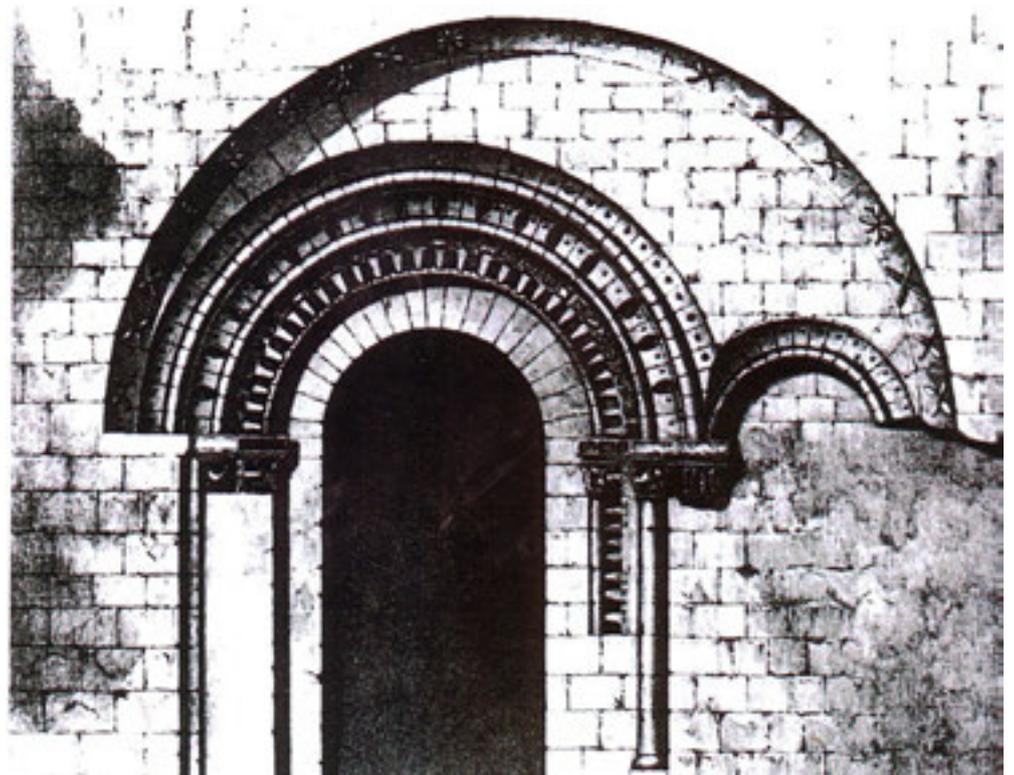
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Norwich Castle was originally built as a royal palace, but no Norman kings ever lived in it. However, the King's Constable and a garrison of soldiers would have been stationed here.

Although the keep has been much altered over time, a small kitchen, a fireplace, washbasin and garderobles (toilets) remain. Visitors to the castle keep would have been led up several flights of steps, through the elaborate carved archway (which still remains) and into the Great Hall. All of these features offer an insight into daily life of the Norwich Castle when it was first built.

From the 14th century the military importance of Norwich Castle declined, it began to be used instead as a holding place for prisoners.

From the 14th to 19th century the castle was the county gaol.



# THE REFACING OF THE KEEP

The original castle keep was built using fine limestone, imported from Caen in Normandy, and also with flint up to the first floor level. Drawings made by the architect Francis Stone in 1819-1820, give us evidence on the appearance of the original keep.

In 1834 the walls of the keep were in very bad condition, and architect Anthony Salvin undertook a restoration of the Keep, using Bath

stone. The 19th century painting below shows this external repair work under way. This refacing of the keep is why the building does not look as weatherworn as a Norman castle would, had it been untouched.



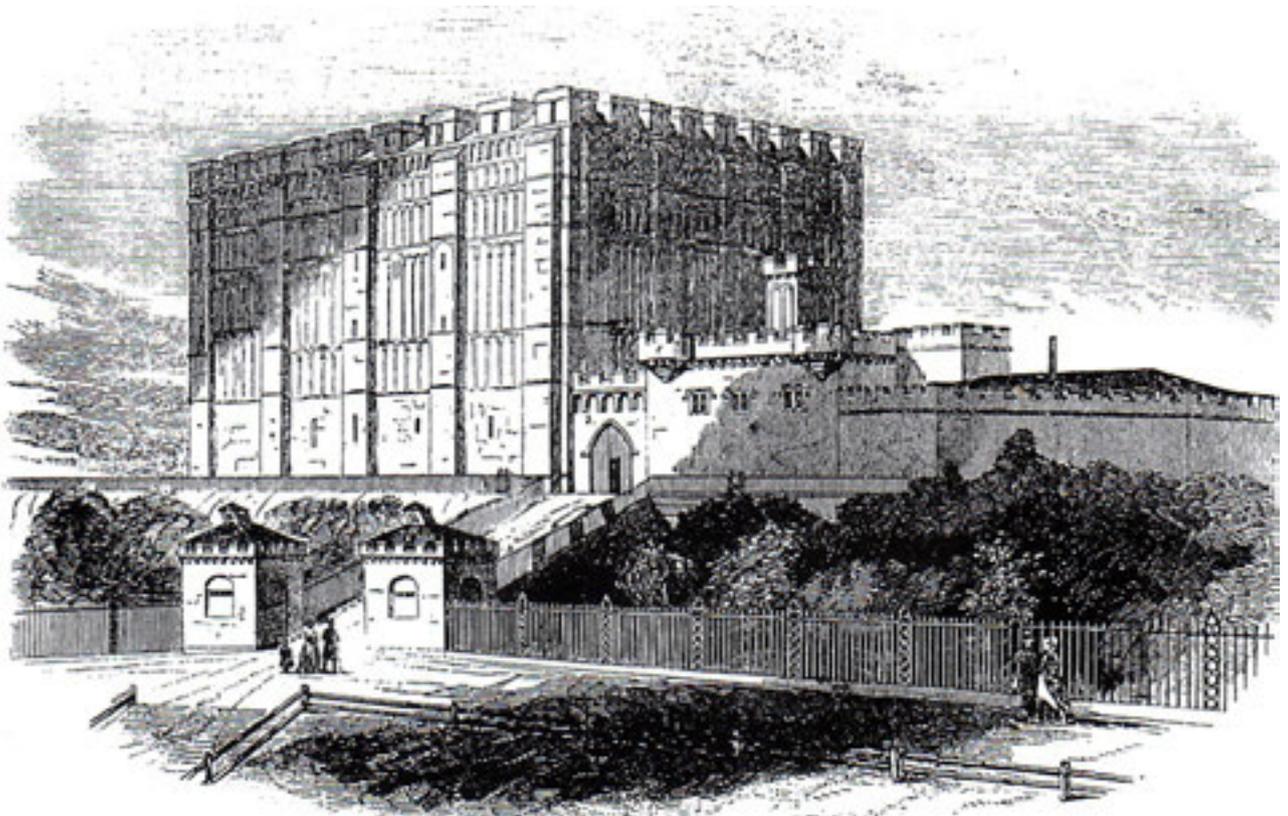
# FROM CASTLE TO GAOL

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From the 1400s until 1792, the castle's keep housed prisoners. In 1792 the new gaol was designed by and built under architect Sir John Sloane. This new gaol was constructed both inside and around the castle keep.

The castle was used as a gaol in this way until 1894 when it was converted into a museum.

Even this new gaol soon became cramped and inadequate, so it was demolished between 1822 and 1827. This time William Wilkins designed a gaol which aimed to keep different types of prisoner apart. Under his design, prisoners had their own cell, in blocks radiating from a gaoler's house, located in the centre of the prison. From here, prison officers could keep watch over the complex of cells and exercise yards.

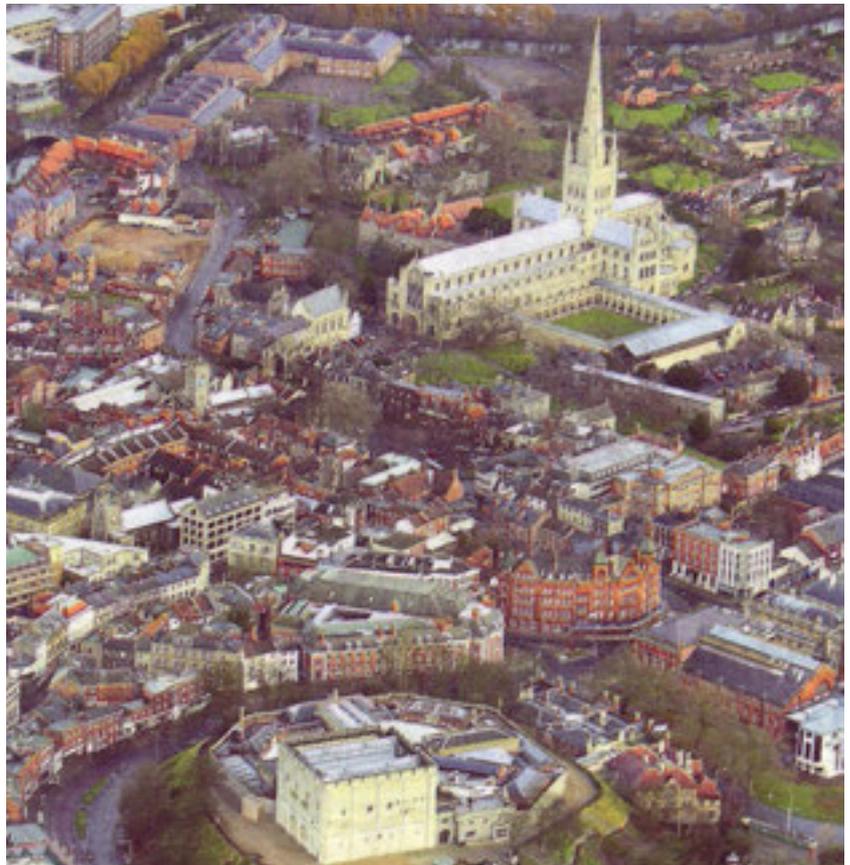


# NORWICH CASTLE MUSEUM

A MUSEUM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

In 2000-01, Norwich Castle was significantly refurbished, using substantial funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The keep was completely redisplayed, galleries extended and new displays created showcasing the extensive NMAS collections of archaeology, fine and decorative arts, natural history and geology. Norwich Castle keep itself is one of the finest surviving secular Norman buildings in Europe. It remains a striking reminder of the

awesome might of Norman kings. In 2006 the Norwich 12 Initiative was launched by HEART, the Norwich Heritage Economic and Regeneration Trust; a charity specialising in heritage led regeneration. The Norwich 12 aims to develop 12 buildings within the city, which collectively represent a millennium of urban development. Norwich Castle has been recognised as one individually outstanding heritage building of the city.



# ABOUT NORWICH CASTLE

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### **Why does Norwich Castle keep look so new?**

From 1834-39, architect Anthony Salvin refaced the castle with Bath limestone. The original Normandy limestone had become badly eroded.

### **How high is the mound for Norwich Castle and did it have a moat?**

The conquered Saxons were forced to raise a mound, some twenty-one metres high and surrounded by a dry ditch.

### **What was the ground floor of the Keep used for?**

Most of the ground floor was used for storage but at one end, under the chapel, were dungeons reached only by holes in the first floor.

### **How many soldiers would have been garrisoned in Norwich Castle?**

This would vary but probably ranged somewhere between 70 and 120 men. An 1193 Pipe Roll records a total garrison of 75 knights and men at arms, both horse and foot.

### **How deep is the well?**

The well in the keep is thirty-six metres deep.

### **What has been the most unusual archaeological find on the Castle site?**

Perhaps the most unusual find has been a parrot, bones of which were found in a seventeenth century refuse pit. This is the first archaeological site at which parrot bones have been recovered in England.

### **Is there any other Norman Keep as decorative as the one in Norwich?**

The closest one is at Falaise in Normandy, although not as decorative as Norwich. It might be called Norwich's twin. It was built by Henry I, who also played an important part in overseeing the construction of the stone keep at Norwich.

### **How many prisoners did Norwich Castle Gaol hold?**

It varied, but in April 1800 there were 34 criminals and 30 debtors in the castle. The criminals were held in the keep, and the debtors in the new prison buildings.

### **Who was Norwich's most celebrated 19th-century criminal?**

Executed for murder in 1849, James Rush attracted a crowd of over 12,000 people for the public hanging outside Norwich Castle. The last public hanging at Norwich Castle was of Hubbard Lingley for murder on 26th August, 1867. The last man executed in Norwich Castle was George Harmer on 13th December, 1886. The first man executed at Norwich Prison was George Watt on 12th July, 1898. This was the murder of his wife.

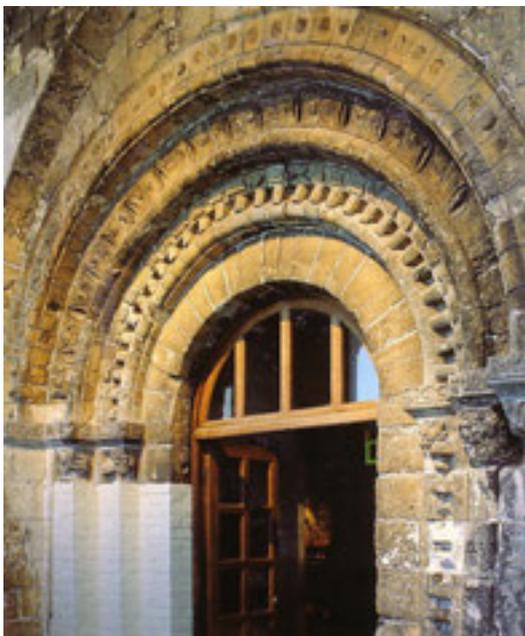


**Left: A ceramic souvenir of James Rush**

# ABOUT NORWICH CASTLE

## CASTLE STATISTICS

- Norwich Castle was the third royal fortified palace built in England after the Norman Conquest, the earlier two being the Tower of London and Colchester Castle.
- The original wooden motte and bailey castle was built within a year of William the Conqueror's victory.
- The Normans demolished at least 98 Saxon homes in Norwich to make way for their castle.
- Recent archaeological evidence has suggested most of these dwellings housed poorer townspeople; and also that a couple of minor churches may also have been demolished.
- Once the motte, or mound, had settled, William (Rufus) II began the stone Keep about 1094.
- Following William's death in 1100, his brother Henry I succeeded him.



- He completed the keep by 1121.
- The keep is c. 95 ft (29 m) by 90 ft (27 m) by c. 70 ft (21 m) high.
- The walls are about three metres thick at the base, although they do gradually taper as they get higher.
- The sequence of measurements across the south wall of the Keep shows a ratio of 1:3. This is between the buttresses and the length of plain wall between them.
- Each of the five buttresses is 5'6" wide and the spaces between them vary from 16'2" to 16'6". This unit is significant, for 16'6" is an important land measurement current in medieval England. It is known as the perch.
- Entry to the Keep was up a flight of steps to a vestibule at first-floor level and then through the grand entrance, illustrated below, into the great hall.
- The great overarch is 16'6" across; the same width as the bays on the outer wall.
- An 1193 Pipe Roll gives the total garrison as 75 knights and men at arms, both horse and foot.
- From the 14th to the 19th century, the Keep was used as a county gaol, until 1894.
- That year, it was converted into a civic museum.

Pack commissioned by Norwich Heritage Economic and Regeneration Trust ([www.heritagecity.org](http://www.heritagecity.org)), written by Kathryn Moore and John Barwell and designed by Isobel Simons Educational Resource Design ([www.isobelsimons.co.uk](http://www.isobelsimons.co.uk)).

