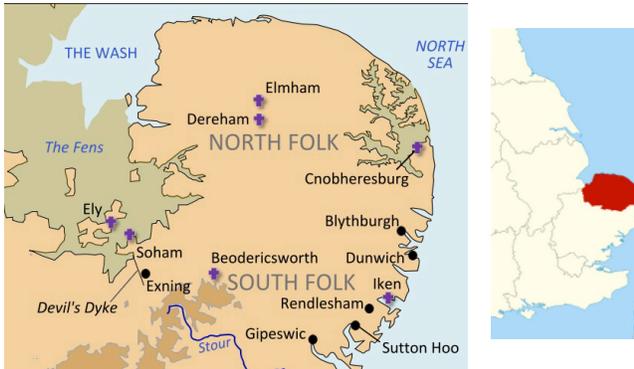


Norwich, Norfolk, England



Above: Skyline of Norwich showing two Cathedrals
Far Left: Early Saxon Kingdom of East Anglia.

East Anglia. The prehistory and early history of East Anglia indicate early human habitation. That of Norfolk is suggested by the discovery of stone tools in 2010 and by sets of fossilized footprints discovered in 2013. Possibly 800,000 years old, the footprints may be the oldest found outside of Africa. Norfolk has its share of causewayed enclosure sites dating from the Neolithic period (4000-2500BC). These enclosures may have served as places to trade goods, or as ceremonial sites. Perhaps the period of occupation by the Iceni is the most attractive, with the warrior Queen Boudica's attempt at revenge against Roman oppression.



The Snettisham Hoard, gold jewelry from ca 70 BC, probably Iceni. Unearthed in 1948 and now in the British Museum.



“Very flat—Norfolk.”

Noel Coward's tribute,
Private Lives, 1930

The Flatland. Norfolk lacks the attractive landscape features of other counties such as deep valleys, hills and waterfalls. Most of it is 150 feet below sea level. But that was fine for the Iceni. Leonard Cottrell writes: “The Iceni were great horse breeders . . . the rich, flat landscape of Norfolk seems entirely appropriate to such a pursuit.” (*A Guide to Roman Britain*)

Norwich is the capital and administrative center of Norfolk county. After the conquest of the Iceni and the departure of the Romans, there was an Anglo-Saxon settlement, perhaps of more than one tribe. For a while it came under the influence of the Vikings. By the 11th century it was one of the largest cities in England and the Domesday Book¹ claims it had twenty-five churches. By the 13th century Norwich was deep in the wealthy wool trade. Norwich seems to have absorbed dissident minorities with ease and was a haven for Flemish and Walloon weavers in the 16th century. There was a strong royalist faction in Norwich during the Civil War. By the restoration of 1660 Norwich was becoming increasingly urban. Competition reduced the wool industry, but Norwich survived with other industries, such as chocolate and brewing. It suffered severely during the air raids of 1942. As a memorial to Norfolk's past and a pledge to its future the 16th century Guildhall remains and now houses the Norwich Heritage Economic and Regeneration Trust.



William the Conqueror built Norwich Castle as a royal fortification. The keep (1095-1100) is all that is left. The rest of the castle was torn down in 1825. Today it houses a museum of art and antiquities, including a famous butterfly collection. The castle is one of 12 Heritage sites in Norwich.



St Benet's (Benedict's) Abbey, now in ruins, was one of the earliest monasteries in Norfolk and the only one in England to have survived in the Dissolution of the monasteries thanks to the bishop of Norwich who took it over and made it part of his diocese. He began regular preaching visits to the site by wherry, which continue today. *Above:* the ruins of the Abbey Gate and *below:* a modern bishop prepares to disembark from a wherry at the site. The bishop is standing next to the mast.



A City of Many Features



Norwich Cathedral

Bishop Hebert de Losinga transferred his see from Thetford to Norwich in 1094 in compliance with a decree of Archbishop Lanfranc's Synod that "all sees should be fixed at the principal towns of their dioceses." Norwich was a new diocese requiring a new bishop. Sadly, bishop Herbert obtained his preferment for the post from William Rufus for £1900, an act of simony of which he later repented.

In 1095 he began building the cathedral, dedicated to the Holy and Undivided Trinity, as the cathedral priory of the Benedictine monastery of Norwich. It was completed in 1054, and has survived almost a thousand years despite damage from political riots, and the ravages of wind and fire that brought down the spire more than once. It is a thoroughly Norman church, rich in interior architectural details. The bronze Pelican Lectern, possible 14th century Flemish, from which the Gospel was read, survived the Reformation and was found buried in the bishop's garden. Norwich cathedral has the second largest cloisters in England, and boasts the annual arrival of Peregrine falcons who make their summer home in the Cathedral's spires.



<Top Left: Royal Arcade (1899) stands on the site of the 15th century inn, The Angel. Below Left: Elm Hill, an intact medieval street.

The Lady and the City. For many people the mere mention of the name of Norwich brings to mind the anchoress Julian (1342-c.1416). We do not know her real name. She appears to have taken or been given the name she is known by because she lived in a cell attached to the church of St. Julian. We know her from her mystical writings, *The Revelation of Divine Love*, with the famous line: “All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well.” She was committed to share her faith: “But for I am a woman should I therefore live that I should not tell you the goodness of God?” Anchorites and anchoresses did not belong to any established religious order. In the early thirteenth century the *Ancrene Riwele*, or guidelines for those who chose this path, was published. Sometimes referred to as the *Ancrene Wisse*, the *Ancrene Riwele* was published in London in 1955 with a preface by J. R. R. Tolkien.



Right: Statue of Julian of Norwich as imagined by David Holgate FSDC. Norwich Cathedral



**Old
St.
Julian's**



The present **St. Julian's Church** dates from its rebuilding in 1953, when it became a shrine church for Julian of Norwich. The original church, dedicated to either St. Julian the Hospitaller or St. Julian of Le Mans, was destroyed in a 1942 bombing raid. The architect of the present church was J. A. Chaplin.

Mother Julian's cell would have been built against the exterior wall of the church. She never left her cell so we know it had a window to the street, because people would come to her for counsel. Also there was a small window opening into the church (not as deep as a squint) so that she could receive Holy Communion. We also believe there must have been separate access for her cell attendant.



Above: Original St. Julian's with tower, date of photo unknown.

Below: The interior in 1937. Five years before the air raid.