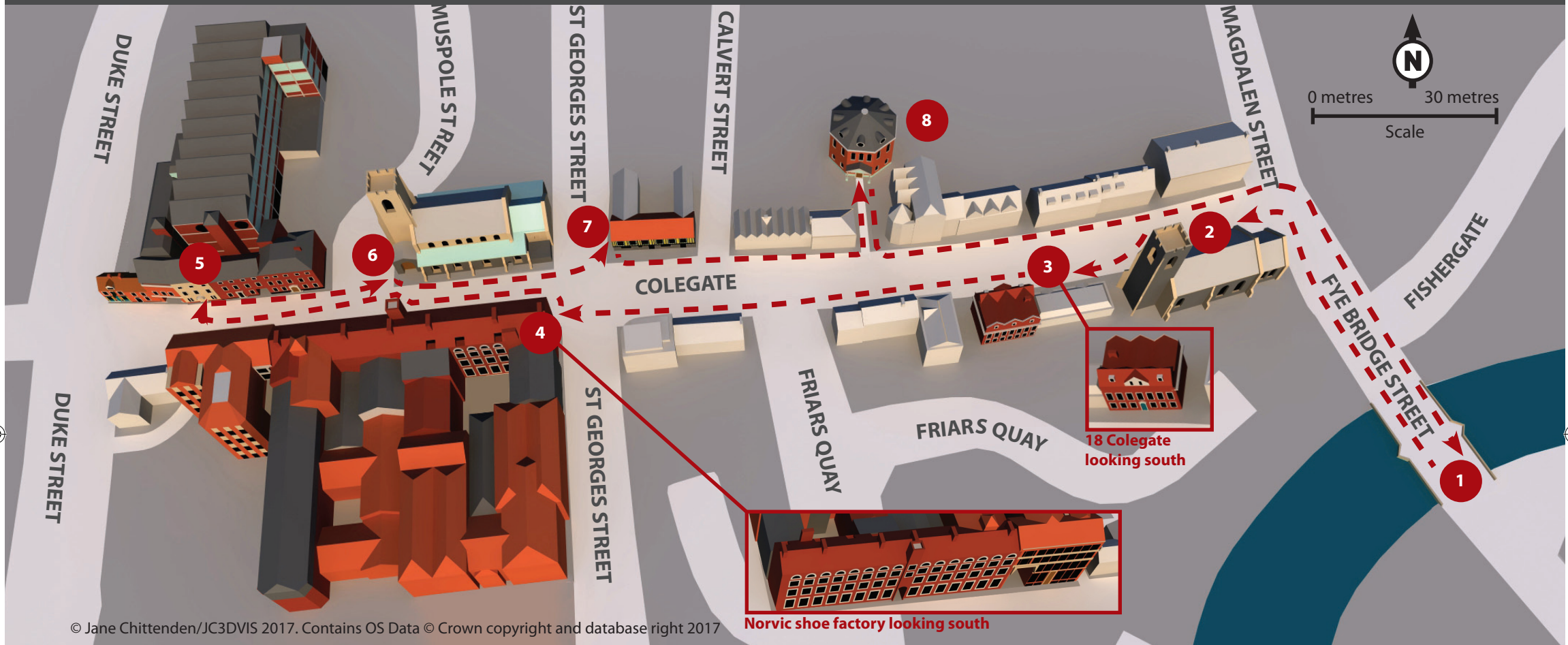


The story of Colegate

Jane Chittenden
Business writer and editor



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1 Fye Bridge

The oldest river crossing in the city, constructed more than 1000 years ago. Saxons built it; Viking invaders traded here too.

2 St Clement's Church

An important Viking church (St Clement is a favourite saint in Scandinavia), now home to apprentice stonemasons.

3 18 Colegate

Grand Georgian townhouse, one of Norwich's finest, where the wealthy Harvey family of textile merchants lived and did business.

4 The Norvic shoe factory

Purpose-built in 1896, this was the largest shoe factory in Britain. Now repurposed as the Jane Austen Academy.

5 St George's Works

Another former shoe factory, this building has recently been transformed into a 21st century collaborative workspace.

6 St George's Church

A medieval gem with beautiful Georgian interior, paid for by wealthy local merchants. The painter John Crome is buried here.

7 Bacon House

Textile merchant Henry Bacon built this house. In 1549 he hosted the Earl of Warwick, planning to crush Kett's Rebellion.


8 Octagon Chapel

Designed by Thomas Ivory and completed in 1756, this was the blueprint for Methodist chapels across Europe and the US.

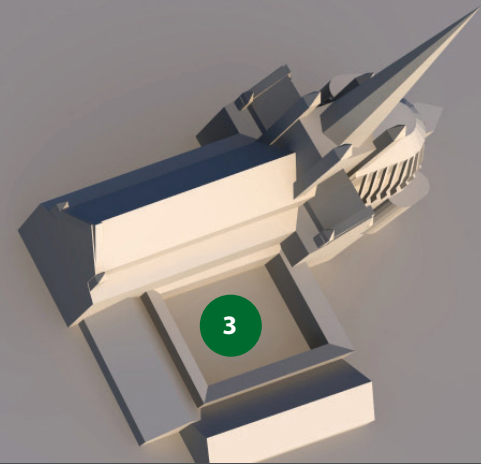
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0 metres  80 metres
Scale

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- 1 Saxon traders**
The Saxons called their town Norvic and traded across the North Sea from their port at Quay Side. Among other things, they imported swords and millstones, wine and furs.
- 2 Viking settlers**
Viking place-names are everywhere ('gate' means 'street' in Old Norse). They include Gildengate (now St Georges Street) and Snailgate (now Calvert Street).
- 3 Norman rulers**
When the Normans built the castle and the cathedral, they made sure that the ironworks and tanneries stayed in the area they named 'Norwich-over-the-water'.
- 4 Medieval craftsmen**
Skilled workers were employed in more than 130 trades, especially textiles. Merchants imported many types of raw material, including Russian timber, and luxuries such as olive oil from Seville.
- 5 Tudor weavers**
Thousands of refugee Strangers settled here, bringing new weaving skills, their canaries – and radical new ideas. You can still see their weavers' lofts high above the streets.
- 6 Georgian merchants**
The golden age for the textile merchants, who entertained continental buyers in their fine houses. 'Norwich stuffs' made here were popular in China and Russia, and prized across Europe.
- 7 Victorian shoemakers**
7000+ people worked in the shoe factories, mostly in this area. The Technical Institute (now part of Norwich University of the Arts) trained their craftsmen to make beautiful high fashion shoes.
- 8 Modern entrepreneurs**
Tech and creative companies are moving into Colegate. They're breathing new life into the old lofts and factories. Other businesses are following their lead; there's a new buzz in the ancient streets.