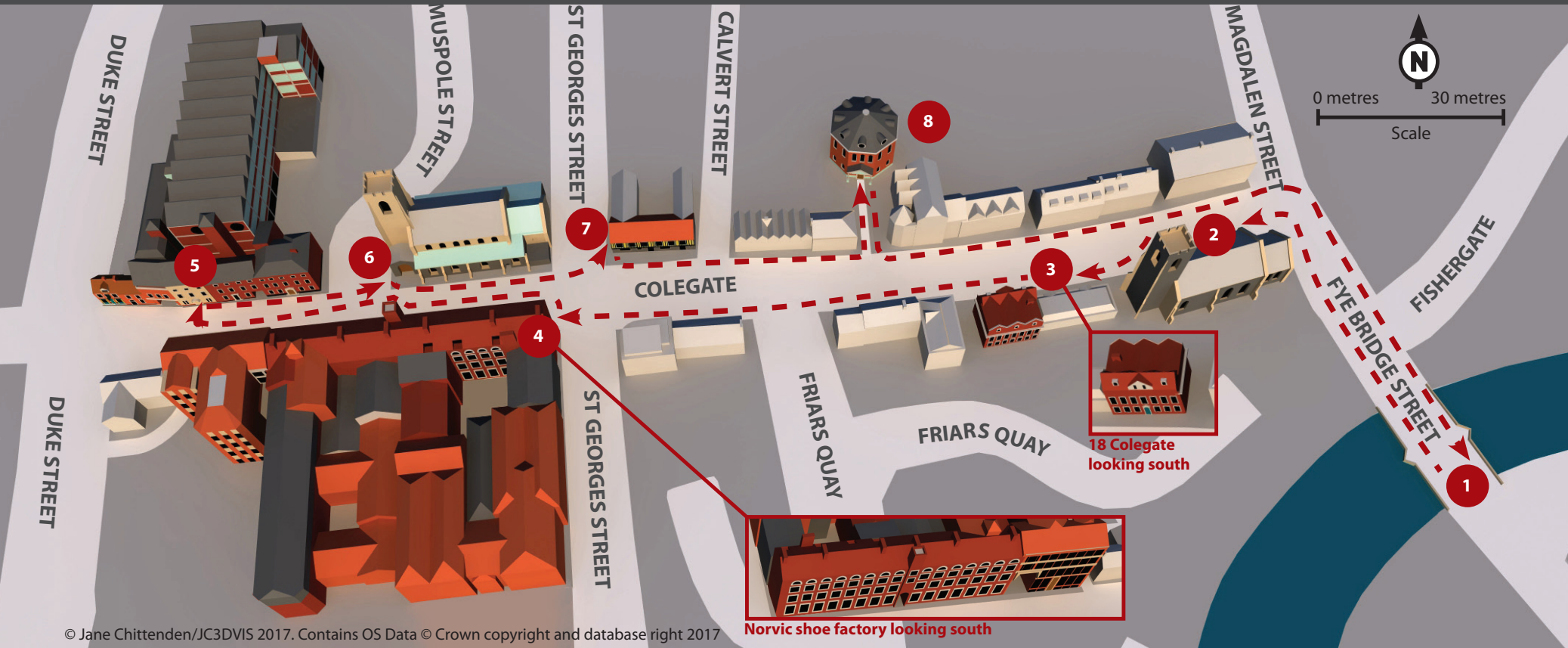


# The story of Colegate

Jane Chittenden  
Business writer and editor



© Jane Chittenden/JC3DVIS 2017. Contains OS Data © Crown copyright and database right 2017

Norvic shoe factory looking south

## 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

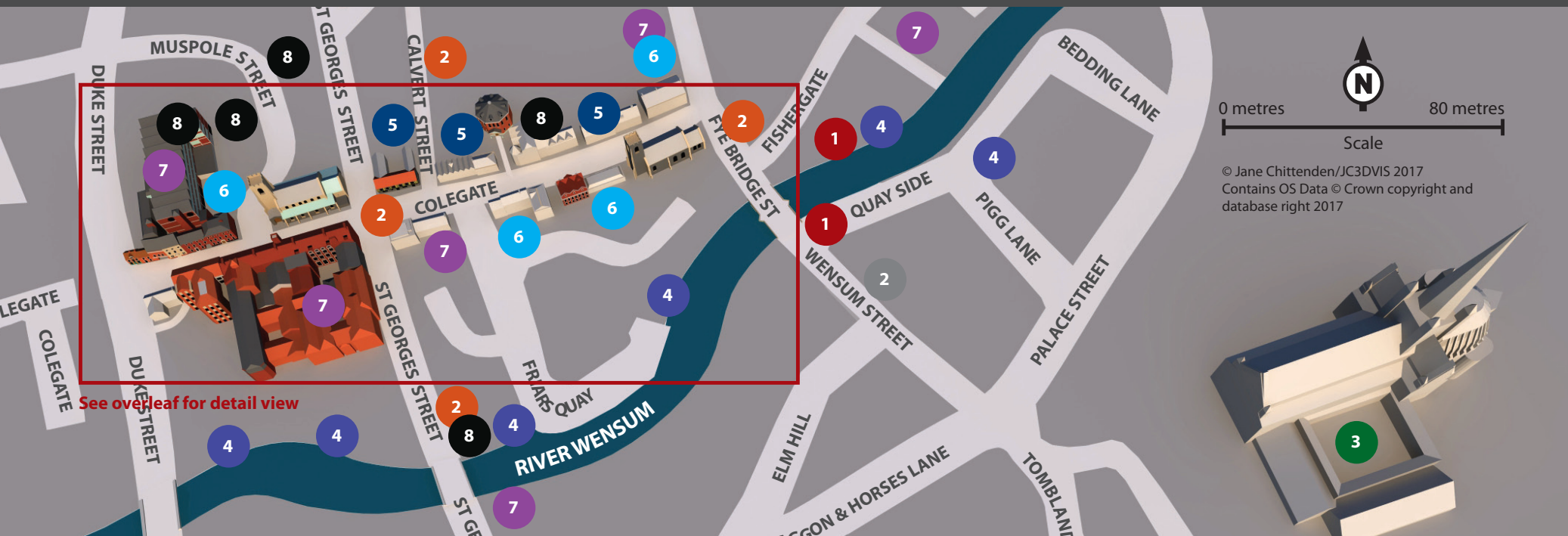
Textile merchant Henry Bacon built this house. In 1549 he hosted the Earl of Warwick, planning to crush Kett's Rebellion.

## 8 Octagon Chapel

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

# The story of Colegate

Jane Chittenden  
Business writer and editor



© Jane Chittenden/JC3DVIS 2017  
Contains OS Data © Crown copyright and  
database right 2017

## 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.