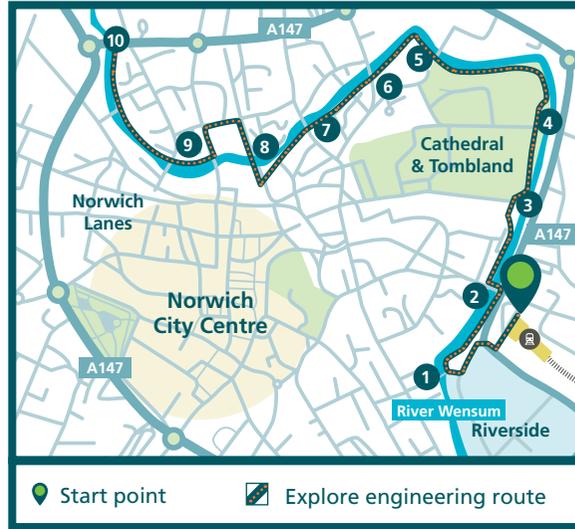


St Miles Bridge is the oldest cast iron bridge in East Anglia and was constructed in 1804, only 25 years after the world's first at Ironbridge in Shropshire. Its construction owes much to carpentry. Designed by James Frost, it is built of iron plates and ribs which were cast in a foundry next to the bridge. These were joined together with mortise and tenon joints which were "glued" with molten lead. During construction, this "new" technology may not have been trusted. The cast iron arch ribs were reinforced with a hidden brick arch which was discovered during refurbishment works in the 1990s.

Continue along the Riverside Walk past New Mills Pumping Station. This structure marks the limit of the tidal river. The difference in water level created by the sluice was used to provide compressed air, which flushed Norwich's sewer system, and electricity for its tram network.

Further along the Riverside Path is St Crispin's Road Bridge (10). In the heyday of rail travel Norwich had three stations. This single span wrought and cast iron arch bridge was constructed in 1882 to link the newly constructed City Station with Oak Street and the city. It was also manufactured in a foundry adjacent to the site by local iron founders Barnard, Bishop and Barnard.



Contemporary with the bridge and adjacent to the Riverside Path is one of the oldest reinforced concrete structures in East Anglia. Finished to look like traditional parquetry, this gentleman's urinal is locally known as Zarkov's Rocket from its shape and resemblance to the rocket which featured in the early Flash Gordon films.



From the bridge is a fine view of the 19th century Roman Catholic Cathedral of St John. Return to Norwich Station via the riverside path or through the city centre.

With thanks to Norfolk County Council for its help in preparing this leaflet. Area covered by Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 237.

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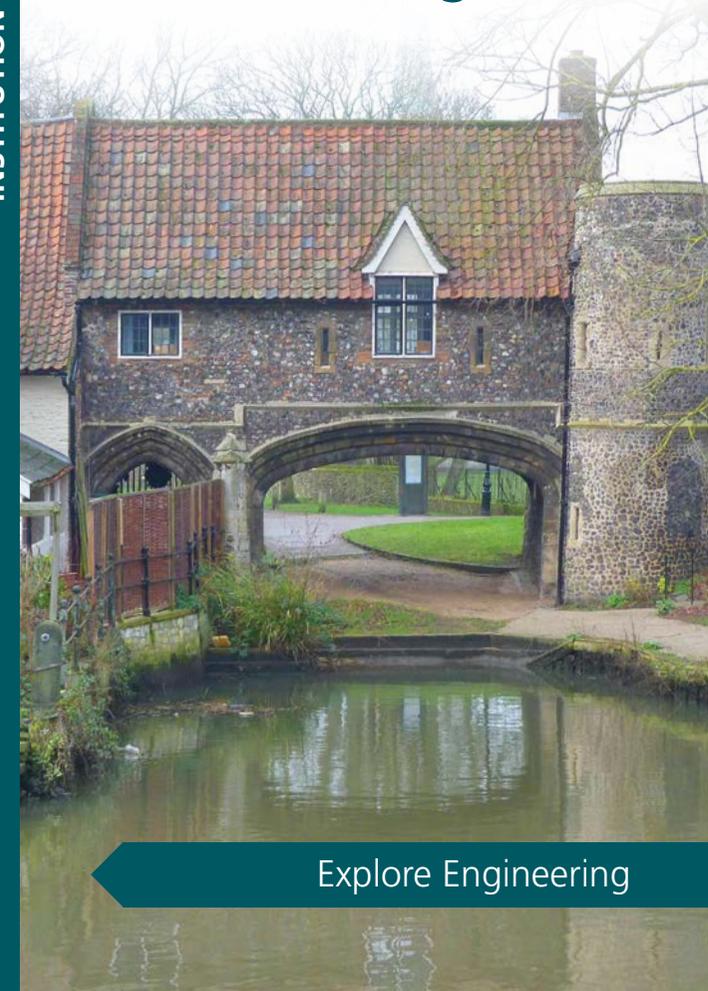
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A Walk along the River Wensum in Norwich, looking at Historic Bridges



Explore Engineering

This walk follows the Riverside Walk from Norwich starting at Norwich Station.

Distance 2 miles, duration 1hr

Turn left out of Norwich Station and cross Koblenz Avenue at the pedestrian crossing.



Walk through the Riverside Entertainment area as far as Lady Julian Bridge (1) opposite the Odeon cinema.

Turn right and go along the Riverside Walk for a good view of the bridge, which was designed by Mott MacDonald and completed in 2009. Despite its appearance, Lady Julian Bridge is a swing bridge, allowing larger vessels to reach the turning basin, upstream.

Continue walking upstream along the Riverside Walk to Foundry Bridge (2).



This Grade 2 listed, wrought and cast iron bridge was constructed in 1884 on the site of an earlier bridge. It served the new Norwich Station which was opened in 1886, after the creation of the Great Eastern Railway Company. Cross Prince of Wales Road and walk over the bridge as far as the Compleat Angler pub. Then walk through the pub's terrace and down the steps onto the Riverside Walk. Note the curved spout through the upstream parapet. These were installed on several bridges around 1910 by the City Engineer to allow Norwich's fleet of steam lorries to draw water from the river.



Walk along the Riverside Path to Pull's Ferry (3).

Pull's Ferry is a 15th Century watergate and is all that remains of a canal. This was dug to help transport stone from Caen, in France, to build Norwich Cathedral.

Just north of Pull's Ferry, is Bishop Bridge (4). This stone and brick, arched bridge is the oldest in Norwich. It was built in 1337 with funds donated by Richard Spynk, a distinguished local citizen.



In the Middle Ages the donation of funds to build bridges was on a par with the donation of funds to the church and ensured the donor a speedy journey to heaven. The bridge had a gatehouse on its Cathedral side which was demolished in 1790. Although now restricted to pedestrian and cycle use the bridge was still being used daily by vehicles until the 1990s.



Continue along the Riverside Walk, past Cow Tower, part of the city's medieval defences, to Jarrold Bridge (5).

This unusual 80-metre long curved steel box-beam bridge with a cantilevered footway was designed by Ramboll UK for Jarrold and Sons Ltd., is the most recent of the city's bridges. Next to the bridge on the opposite side of the car park, is the oldest pub in Norwich, the 13th Century Adam and Eve.

Further along the Riverside Walk is Whitefriars Bridge (6), a single span reinforced concrete arch bridge built in 1924. Cross



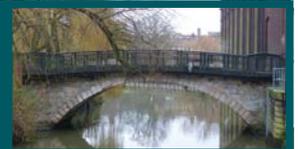
Whitefriars Road and walk along the path opposite which leads onto Quayside. In medieval times this was the main port of the city.



At its northern end is Fye Bridge (7). The present wide two-span bridge constructed of reinforced concrete, masonry and brick replaced an earlier narrower bridge in 1931. There has been a bridge on this site from Anglo Saxon times with the earliest bridges probably being made of timber.

Cross Fye Bridge Street and continue along the Riverside Walk which takes you through the remains of the Blackfriars Monastery (now the University of the Arts, Norwich) to emerge on St Georges Street.

Turn right towards the river and cross Blackfriars Bridge (8). This bridge was designed by the renowned architect Sir John Soane in 1784. The single span bridge is constructed of masonry with elegant cast iron parapets.



The Riverside Walk leaves the river at this point. Continue along St Georges Street past the Norwich Playhouse to Colegate. Turn left past the former Norwich shoe factory (now offices and a school) to Duke Street. Turn left and walk back towards the river. The present bridge dates from 1973. This was built of pre-tensioned reinforced concrete replaced a more attractive 19th century wrought and cast iron arch bridge. The design of this bridge is functional rather than inspiring.



Before crossing Duke Street Bridge take the path on the left which continues along the River Wensum. A short way along the path is St Miles Bridge (9).