



25 views from Kett's Heights

Prepared by the
Friends of Kett's Heights for
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heritage open days

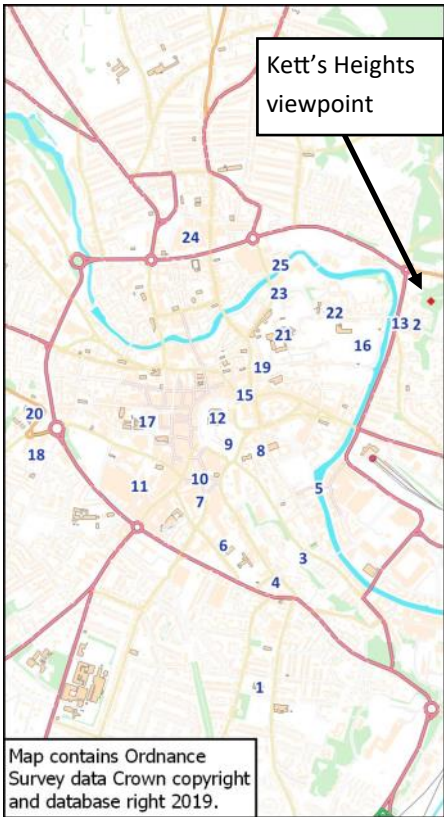
25 views from Kett's Heights

The view from Kett's Heights is one of the best views over Norwich city centre. This guide identifies 25 buildings that can be seen from the viewpoint, and seeks to help you locate their position within the city.

The Friends of Kett's Heights work with Norwich City Council, who own the site, to try to keep the view clear and unobstructed.



Kett's Heights
viewpoint



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1 : St. Mark's Church, Lakenham

The tower with four turrets is a distinctive feature on the skyline. The church, between City Road and Hall Road, was built in the 1840s to a design by John Brown, also architect of Christchurch New Catton, and later extended. It is still in use and was recently restored.



2 : Former gas works and holder sites

The tiled roofs that can be seen looking down through the trees are on flats built on the site of the former Bishopbridge gas works, first established in 1830. Beyond, on the far side of Gas Hill, is fencing marking the site of a gas holder built later in the 19th century and only demolished in 2019. The gas works owned the land that is now Kett's Heights and were responsible for the current layout of paths and steps.



3 : Normandie Tower

Residential tower block of 16 storeys, built in 1966 by Norwich City Council, just off Rouen Road.



4 : St. John de Sepulchre

The church, at the junction of Ber Street and Finkelgate, is known to have existed before 1066. It was originally dedicated to St John the Baptist, but later gained an additional dedication to the Holy Sepulchre, hence the present contraction of the name. In the Reformation its stained glass windows were replaced with plain glass and paintings whitewashed, but in the late 19th century new decorations and fittings were added. The church is in the care of the Norwich Historic Churches Trust.



5 : Julian Bridge

The river is surprisingly difficult to see from Kett's Heights, but it is just possible to get a glimpse of the structure of the Julian Bridge, linking the Riverside developments to the St. Ann's Wharf development on King Street, next to Dragon Hall. The bridge is named after Julian of Norwich, as is a nearby church. Julian was the author of the first surviving book by a woman in the English language.



6 : Norfolk Tower

The tower on Surrey Street was completed in 1974, and remains in use as offices, unlike the building behind with the pyramid-shaped domes, Sentinel House, which was also offices, but has now been converted for residential use.



7 : Pablo Fanque House

This modern block of student residences is built on the site of the former Carlton cinema, which was opened in 1932 and was the first Norwich cinema to be designed for talking pictures. The block is in All Saints Green opposite John Lewis, and is named after Pablo Fanque, real name William Darby, the first black British circus proprietor, who was born in Norwich and lived near to this site. He is immortalised in the Beatles song Being for the Benefit of Mr Kite.



8 : St. Peter Parmentergate

There is a surprisingly good view of this church in King Street. It was probably built in the 13th century, and is now in the care of the Norwich Historic Churches Trust.



9 : Castle Quarter

The mass of red-tiled roofs are on the Castle Quarter, or Castle Mall as it was formerly known. It is located between Cattle Market Street and Castle Meadow. Its construction involved a huge dig, and it was opened in 1993. There is a park, Castle Green, on top of the northern half of the site.



10 : Westlegate Tower

Behind the Castle Quarter rooftops can be seen Westlegate Tower, located on Westlegate. Opened around 1960 as an office block, it was renovated and converted to residential use and reopened in 2014.



11 : Chapelfield Centre light feature

The rocket-like feature is located on the roof of the Chapelfield Mall shopping centre, built on the site of the former Caley's chocolate factory and opened in 2005. Although constructed as a light feature, it is not used as such, but is a useful landmark when viewed from a distance.



12 : Norwich Castle

The main part of the castle that can be seen is the keep, the most elaborate Norman keep to be constructed in England. It was completed in the early 12th century, and after use as a royal castle, was used as a prison for many years until converted to its present use as a museum and art gallery in the 19th century.



13 : Lollards Pit pub

Kett and his followers chose this location with a good view of the river crossing at Bishop Bridge, and with no city wall to be breached. Although it is not possible today because of trees to see Bishop Bridge, you can glimpse the roof of the Lollards Pit pub, across the road from Bishop Bridge. The pub's current name comes from the site, in its grounds, of the pit where Lollards, religious heretics, were burnt after being brought over the bridge from the city.



14 : St. Peter Mancroft

St. Peter Mancroft church, rebuilt in the 15th century, is a dominant presence in the city centre, opposite the Forum, and remains in use as a church. The fleche, stone parapet and pinnacles on the tower were added in 1895. The curved roof visible to the left of the tower is that of the Theatre Royal on Theatre Street.



15 : former Royal Hotel

At the top of Prince of Wales Road, between Bank Plain and Upper King Street, is the former Royal Hotel, since used as offices and entertainment venues. It was designed by Edward Boardman and opened in 1897.



16 : Norwich School playing fields

South of Bishopgate and west of the river are the playing fields for Norwich School, a large expanse of green in the view from Kett's Heights.



17 : City Hall

Prominent in the view are City Hall and its clocktower, immediately west of the market place. Opened in 1938 to replace unsuitable municipal offices, it has the longest balcony in England.



18 : Winchester Tower

Residential tower block of 16 storeys, built in 1966 by Norwich City Council, just off Vauxhall Street near the roundabout at the top of Grapes Hill.



19 : St. Ethelbert's Gate

The more southerly of the two gates leading from the Cathedral Close into Tombland, the gate dates from the 14th century. All four sides are decorated in flushwork, in which freestone is used to edge panels of knapped flint.



20 : Catholic cathedral & St. Giles

There are two churches to be seen in this view. The nearer one is the tower of St. Giles Church. But because it is directly in line of sight with the Catholic cathedral, it is surprisingly hard to distinguish, even though the tower is the tallest of any Norwich church and was completed in the 15th century. The cathedral was completed in 1910 as a very grand parish church, and became a cathedral in 1976.



21 : Anglican cathedral

Kett's Heights is due east of the cathedral. The cathedral was completed in the 12th century. The spire was rebuilt in the 15th century and is the second highest cathedral spire in England. The cathedral close is very extensive, running all the way down to the river.



21a : St. George and St. Gregory

To the left of the Cathedral can be seen the towers of two of Norwich's medieval churches. The nearer one is St. George Tombland, still in use as a church; the one behind and slightly to the left is St. Gregory Pottergate, in St. Gregory's Alley between Pottergate and St. Benedict's Street. It is in the care of the Norwich Historic Churches Trust and run as an antique centre. It contains important wall paintings.



21b : St. Lawrence and St. Margaret

To the right of the cathedral spire can be seen two more medieval church towers. The larger is St. Lawrence, in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust and not normally open; the smaller St. Margaret de Westwick, in the care of the Historic Churches Trust and open for occasional exhibitions. Both are in St. Benedict's Street.



22 : St. Helen - Great Hospital

You may need to go to the left of the information panel to see the tower of the church of St. Helen in Bishopgate, part of the Great Hospital complex. Both the church and the hospital were established in 1249 by Bishop Walter de Suffield. The church is still in use for worship.



23 : St. Martin at Palace Plain

This redundant church is now used as the offices of the Norwich Historic Churches Trust. It lies at the western end of Bishopgate, opposite the entrance to the Bishop's Palace. A church on the site was noted in Domesday Book.



24 : Anglia Square

The shopping and office complex to the west of Magdalen Street is a prominent feature on the northern side of the city centre.

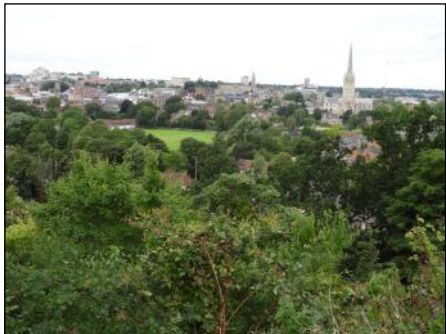
Proposals for a major redevelopment, including a 25-storey tower, are awaiting determination by central government.



25 : St. James Mill

One of Norwich's more prominent industrial monuments, it was built in 1839 as a textile mill next to the river by Whitefriars Bridge, named after the priory that once stood on the site. It is today in use as offices.





For more information about Kett's Heights and other guides to the site, and for information about the work of the Friends of Kett's Heights, visit our website

www.kettsheights.co.uk