

A tour of Kett's Heights

Kett's Heights is a public open space owned by Norwich City Council. It is steeply wooded and contains a medieval chapel, 19th century garden terraces and a fantastic view over Norwich.

Location

The entrance is on Kett's Hill. Buses on routes 23/24 (Red Line) run frequently from the City Centre: use the stop on Bishopbridge Road. Parking is mainly resident permit (not applying on Sundays), but there are some 2-hour bays for non-residents just by the entrance, on Spitalfields and on Bishopbridge Road. The site is open all hours. Please note that there are steps and steep slopes and some unsurfaced paths.

History

The oldest structure on the site is a wall that was once part of St Michael's chapel, built by the Normans in compensation for a church in Tombland destroyed to make way for the cathedral. Around that wall now are remains of greenhouses built by the gas works in the 19th century when the site was developed as a garden with the terraces and steps that you follow today. On the south side, overlooking where the gasworks were, the slopes are particularly steep as this area was quarried for chalk and flint. In 1549 this was where Robert Kett and his 10,000 followers gathered to lay siege to the city, hence today's name. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the chapel ruins, known as "Kett's Castle", were a popular destination and the subject of several works of art.

The site underwent much restoration in the 1980s after ownership was transferred to the City Council. But subsequent maintenance has been largely reactive, which is why the site became rather overgrown. Work by community payback teams in winter 2014/15 started the clearance, which is now ongoing through regular practical work by the Friends of Kett's Heights.

The entrance path

This was built in the 1980s.



The piggeries

These were created from old stables in World War II for food production by keeping pigs.

The Lower Green

The Lower Green is our event space and home to apple, pear and walnut trees. Take the path to the right.





The lower path

The path runs along the line of a gas pipeline, a link to the site's former ownership by the gas works.

Chalk workings

Where the slope gets steeper you are where chalk and flint was mined for buildings in Norwich.



Gas Works

Continue along an unmade path to a view over the flats, on the site of the former gas works. Here is a very old oak tree.

Boundary wall

Retrace your steps and keep to the right up a long flight of steps. The wall is made from recycled gas works materials.



The Upper Green

At the top turn left along an unmade path opened up by the Friends. At the end the Cathedral is framed in view.

The viewpoint

In 2016 the Friends restored the view, painted the railings and installed the panorama showing key features.

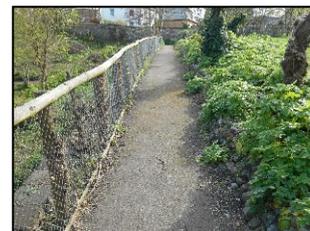


St Michael's Chapel

Behind you are the remains of the chapel built in the 12th century and used by monks from St Leonard's Priory.

The Upper Green

This part of the upper green is managed as a wildflower meadow. Walk alongside the chapel wall or on the path at the side of the green.



The orchard

Turn left at the end and follow the path down. The trees on the right are cherry plums, being restored by the Friends as an orchard.

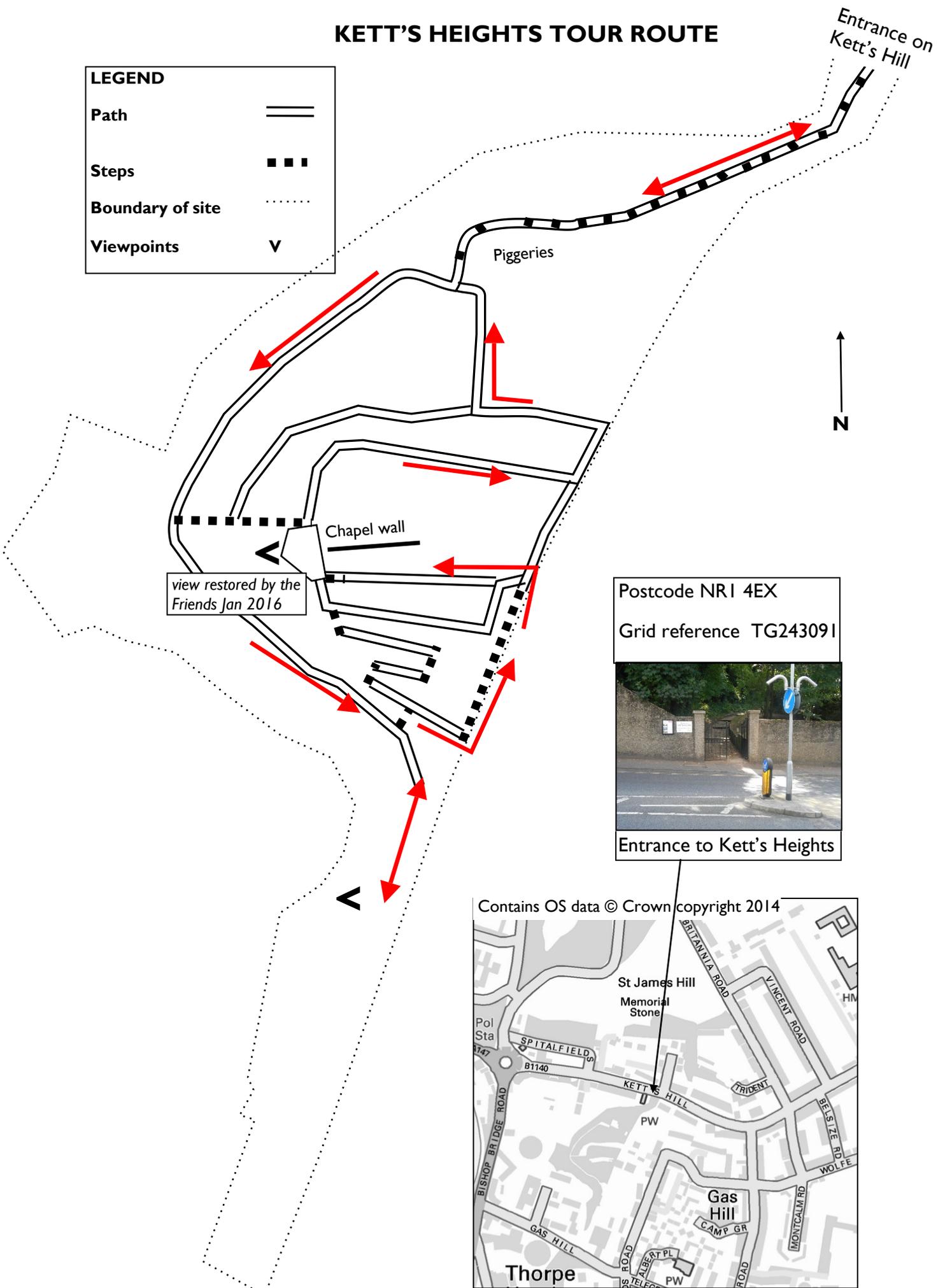
Continue to follow the path back to the entrance or explore further around the site. We hope you have enjoyed your visit.

FRIENDS OF KETT'S HEIGHTS

www.kettsheights.co.uk

KETT'S HEIGHTS TOUR ROUTE

LEGEND	
Path	==
Steps	■ ■ ■
Boundary of site
Viewpoints	v



Postcode NRI 4EX
Grid reference TG243091



Entrance to Kett's Heights

