



Study Tour to East Anglia



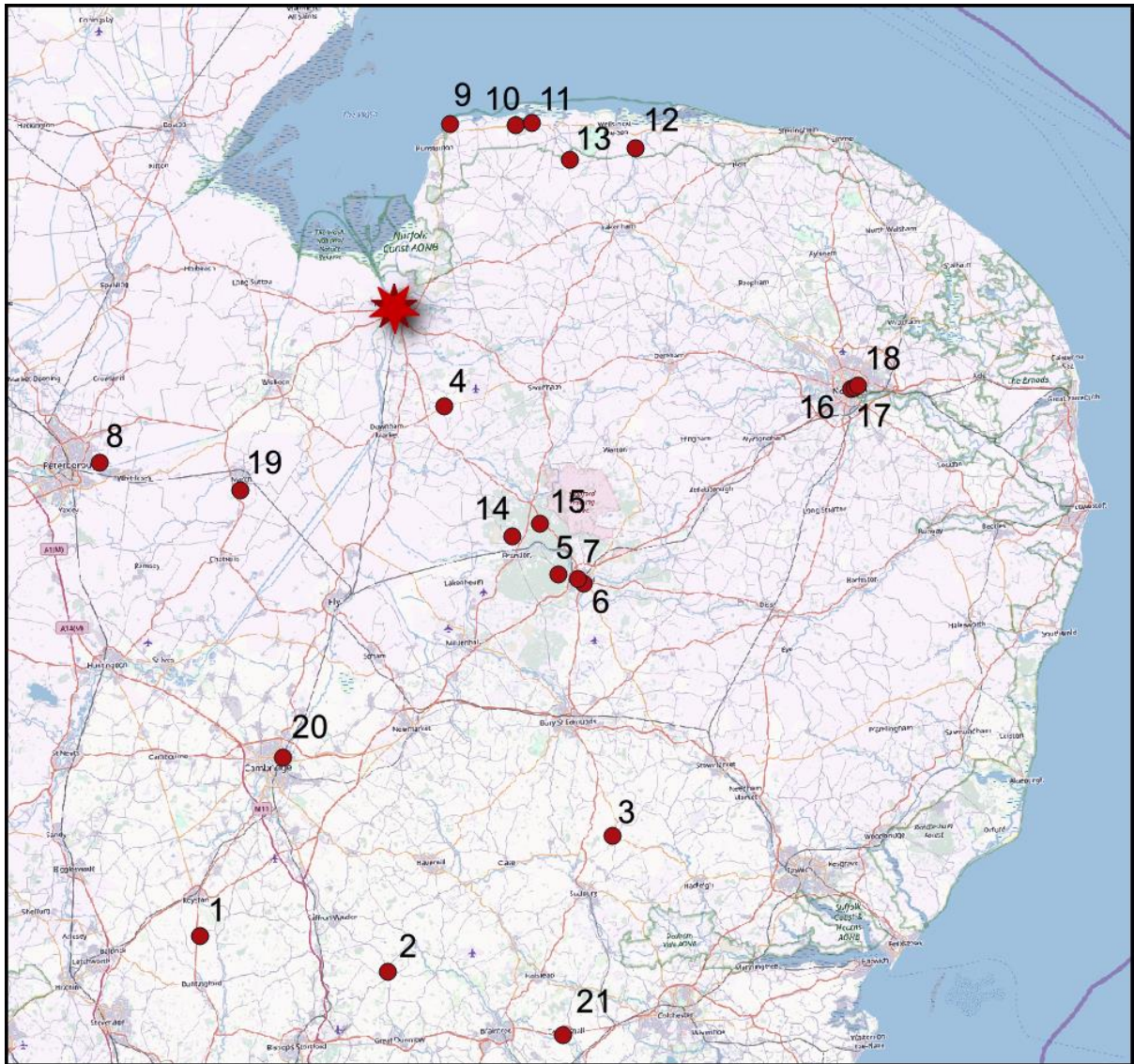
Priory of our Lady of Thetford

28 October to 1 November 2019

Study Tour to East Anglian

Itinerary

Monday, 28 October	Pick up Baker Street; St Mary's Church, Reed; Thaxted Guildhall; Church of St Peter and St Paul, Lavenham; (lunch – The Angel, Lavenham); St Martin's Church, Fincham; Kings Lynn
Tuesday, 29 October	Thetford Warren Lodge; Thetford Castle; Priory of Our Lady of Thetford; (lunch – The Blue Boar, Eye); Flag Fen Archaeological Park
Wednesday, 30 October	Kings Lynn; Kings Lynn Museum; 'Seahenge' Holme-next-the-Sea; Branodunum Fort; Brancaster; (lunch – The White Horse, Brancaster Staithe); Burnham Deepdale Church; Warham Camp; Creake Abbey
Thursday, 31 October	Weeting Castle; Grime's Graves; St Andrews Hall, Norwich; (lunch – St Andrews Brewhouse, Norwich); Norwich Cathedral; Cow Tower;
Friday, 1 November	Leave Kings Lynn; St Wendreda's Church, March; Leper Chapel of St Mary Magdalene, Cambridge; (lunch – The Lord Byron, Trumpington); Paycocke's House, Coggeshall; drop at Baker Street



Kings Lynn

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|----|--------------------------------|----|-----------------------------|
| 1 | St Mary's Church, Reed | 11 | St Mary's, Burnham Deepdale |
| 2 | Thaxted Guildhall | 12 | Warham Camp |
| 3 | SS Peter & Paul, Lavenham | 13 | Creake Abbey |
| 4 | Church of St Martin, Fincham | 14 | Weeting Castle |
| 5 | Thetford Warren Lodge | 15 | Grime's Graves |
| 6 | Thetford Castle | 16 | Blackfriars Church, Norwich |
| 7 | Priory of Our Lady of Thetford | 17 | Norwich Cathedral |
| 8 | Flag Fen Archaeological Park | 18 | Cow Tower, Norwich |
| 9 | Holme-next-the-Sea | 19 | St Wendreda, March |
| 10 | Branodunum Fort | 20 | St Mary Magdalene, Cam. |
| | | 21 | Paycocke's House |

Participants

Guide: David Beard

Balyuzi, Christine
Balyuzi, Hushang
Cove, Vivienne
Daimond, Lesley
Dingle, Alan
Duck, Colin
Esden, Jane
Hogg, Annik
Hollinger, Anne
Hunt, Jennifer
Jones, Jo
Kelsey, John
Kelsey, Tonya
Mico, Dave
Mico, Gerry
Miller, Louise
Molz, Ellen
Panton, Louise
Parry, Linda
Polan, Marylin
Robins, Heather
Rowe, Graham
Russell, Anne
Rutter, Mary
Thompson, Alan
Thompson, Jan
Windsor, Yvonne
Woodford, Christine

St Mary's Church, Reed

The aisleless Anglo-Saxon church of St Mary, Reed is still discernible between the fourteenth century chancel and the fifteenth century west tower.

The long and short quoins of the nave are clearly visible, and the blocked north doorway shows late Anglo-Saxon features similar to some at Langford, Oxfordshire.

The north doorway is of special interest. Internally, its details are hidden by plaster, but externally the details are well preserved and none of them hidden by the blocking wall. The original door seems to have been rectangular beneath a plain stone tympanum, which fills the whole of the round head. Both the jambs and the round-arched head are of two orders.



Thaxted Guildhall

The Guildhall was built between 1390 and 1410 for the Guild of Cutlers. Altered and restored in early 18 century, and circa 1910 and 1978. It is timber framed and plastered with frame exposed externally and has a red plain tile, double range hipped roof. It consists of 3 storeys and a cellar.

The ground floor forms an open flagged market house with open timber ceiling, and heavy cross beams, supported on great centre post. The 2 upper storeys are jettied on 3 elevations with moulded bressumers, and curved brackets.



Church of St Peter and St Paul, Lavenham

An outstanding church mainly built during the 15 and 16 centuries, the period of Lavenham's greatest prosperity as a wool town.

The chancel with its crocketed spirelet is the only part that survives of the earlier C14 church.

The church was built by the wealthy wool merchants of Lavenham, the principal benefactors being the Spring family and John de Vere, 13th Earl of Oxford.



Church of St Martin, Fincham

This church was extensively rebuilt about 1450 with all the grandeur of the Perpendicular period. It is on the exact site of the earlier St. Martin's church and partly on the original walls.

The church is famous for its Norman font which in fact came from a second church in this village, called St. Michael's Church, which was pulled down in 1744.

The east side of the bowl shows the three Magi bearing gifts. To the south are Mary, Joseph, the Baby in the manger, the heads of the donkey and an ox, and a star. The west shows the Baptism of Jesus flanked by St John the Baptist and a Bishop. The north side has Adam and Eve either side of the repaired Tree of Life containing the serpent.



Thetford Warren Lodge

The lodge, is a rectangular building of two storeys measuring c.8.5m by 5.8m, with a chimney c.1.6m wide and of two stages projecting from the west wall.

The walls, which stand for the most part to almost their full original height and are up to 1m thick at ground floor level, are constructed of mortared flint rubble with some brick and tile and with limestone dressings which include many reused architectural fragments of 12th century type.



Thetford Castle

The site consists of a medieval motte and bailey castle incorporating remains of an earlier earthwork enclosure identified as an Iron Age fort.

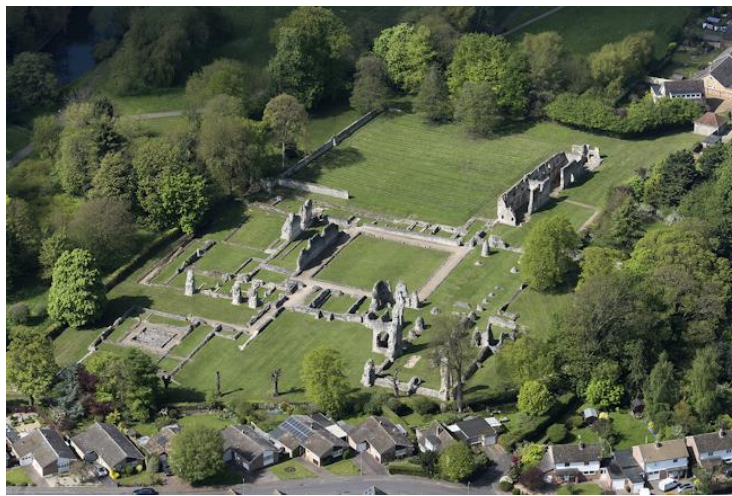
The motte and bailey castle is believed to have been constructed shortly after the Norman Conquest, either by Ralph Guader, Earl of East Anglia until his rebellion in 1076, or by Roger Bigod, his successor as Earl.



Priory of Our Lady of Thetford

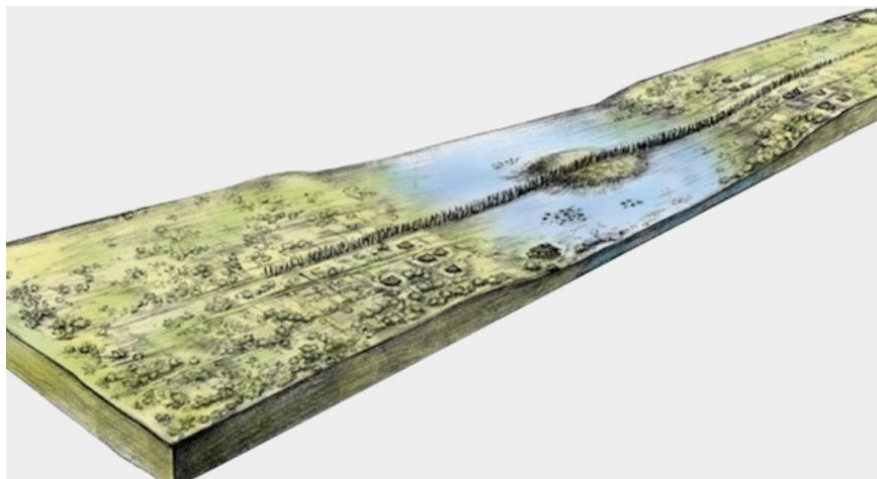
The priory, dedicated to St Mary, was established in 1104 by Roger Bigod and colonised by a prior and 12 monks from Lewes priory (the first Cluniac monastery to be established in England).

The original foundation was to the south of the river, within the Saxon town and centred on the former cathedral church which had been abandoned when the see was moved to Norwich. This urban site soon proved to be too confined and building was begun on the present site in 1107, the prior and convent moving to it in 1114.



Flag Fen Archaeological Park

Flag Fen Archaeology Park is home to a unique ancient wooden monument. A kilometre long wooden causeway and platform are perfectly preserved in the wetland. 3300 years ago this was built and used by the Prehistoric fen people as a place of worship and ritual. 60,000 upright timbers and 250,000 horizontal planks are buried under the ground along with many swords and personal items given as offerings to the watery fen.



Kings Lynn

King's Lynn was one of England's foremost ports as early as the 12th century, and was perhaps as important in the Middle Ages as Liverpool was to become during the Industrial Revolution. Aptly described as 'The Warehouse on the Wash' it maintained its prominence as a port until the railways robbed it of much of its traffic in the mid-19th century.



Originally known as 'Linn', the town is thought to have derived its name from the Celtic word for a lake or pool, and it is recorded that a large tidal lake originally covered this area. By the early 13th century with the granting of the charter, the town became Bishop's Lynn.

Bishop's Lynn grew rich on trade both with Britain and abroad. The Hanseatic League, a powerful German trading organisation made up of merchants from North Germany and neighbouring countries around the Baltic Sea contributed greatly to this prosperity. The legacy of this history is still very much in evidence today. Fine late medieval merchants houses stretch back to the river between cobbled lanes.

After the Dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII, Lynn changed its name to Lynn Regis - subsequently King's Lynn, the name it has retained to this day.

Sites that we will visit include:

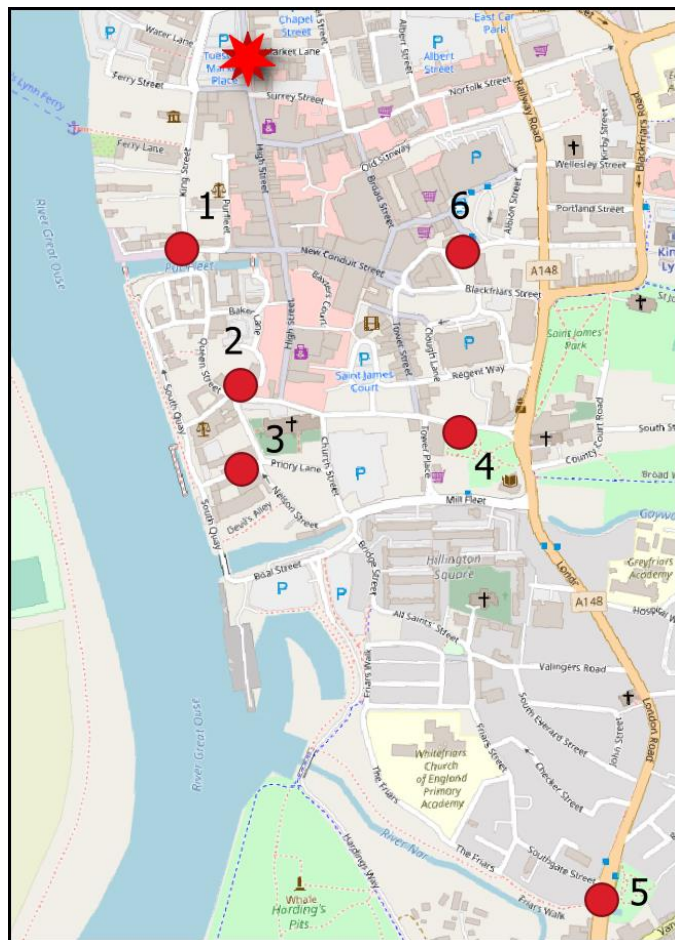


Dukes Head Hotel

- 1 Customs House
- 2 Town Hall
- 3 Hanseatic Warehouse
- 4 Greyfriars Tower
- 5 Southgate
- 6 Lynn Museum

Please note that the Southgate will only be included if there is sufficient time, as it is some distance away from the other sites.

The visit to the Lynn Museum is only to see the Seahenge exhibition. There will not be enough time to visit the other galleries.



Holme-next-the-Sea

This is the location of Seahenge (Holme 1) a timber circle with an upturned tree root in the centre, Holme 1 was apparently built in the 21st century BC, during the early Bronze Age in Britain, most likely for ritual purposes.

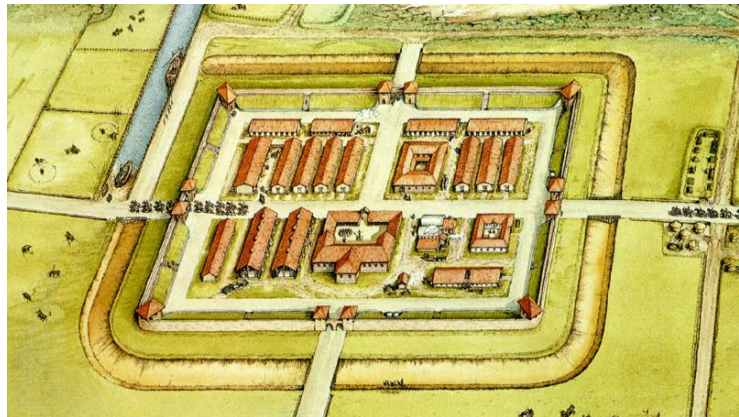


One hundred metres east, another older ring has been found, consisting of two concentric timber circles surrounding a hurdle lined pit containing two oak logs. Known as Holme II, it dates to the centuries before Holme I (c. 2400-2030 BC) although the two sites may have been in use together.

Although also threatened with destruction by the sea, this site has been left in situ and exposed to the tidal actions of the sea. Archaeologists have suggested that this decision by English Heritage relates to the controversy over digging Holme I.

Branodunum Fort

This Roman 'Saxon Shore' fort was probably constructed 225 to 250 AD, replacing an earlier fort on the same site. It was one of a chain of eleven forts between Brancaster on The Wash and Portchester in Hampshire which were under the command of the 'Count of the Saxon Shore', a military commander whose forts and units are listed in the 'Notitia Dignitatum', a document compiled around AD 395.



These forts were built at different times, and the earliest forts (Brancaster, Caister-on-Sea and Reculver) may have been more to do with trade than defence. In the late 200s, further forts were built (e.g. Burgh Castle) and these probably had a more defensive role, protecting the coastline against barbarian raiders. The garrison at Brancaster included units from Gaul (France) and Dalmatia (Croatia/Bosnia).

The fort originally had stone walls which were demolished in the 18th century. Cropmarks indicate the locations of internal buildings, whilst finds indicate occupation during the 3rd and 4th centuries AD. These finds include a finger ring featuring early Christian symbols. Excavations were carried out here in 1846, 1935 and 1985. The name 'Branodunum' may mean 'Fort of the crow'.

Church of St Mary, Burnham Deepdale

St Mary's Church is a round-tower church, the earliest parts of which date to the 11th century. The church underwent additions and rebuilding in the medieval period. It fell into disrepair by the early 18th century, and much of the current building's appearance dates from an 1870 renovation by Frederick Preedy.

The famous Norman font has scenes depicting the Labours of the Months.



Warham Camp

Warham Camp is a large and very well-preserved Iron Age fort sitting within agricultural land, and is a scheduled monument. It is arguably the best earthwork of this period in the region. It has been repeatedly surveyed by aerial photography, and is a circular structure with an overall diameter of 212m.

The course of a channel of the River Stiffkey cuts across the south western edge of the earthworks, but this is an 18th century alteration and the original river ran in a curve to the west.



There are outer and inner ditches and banks, and excavation in 1914 and 1959 produced evidence for a timber palisade and platform at the rear and timber revetment on the inner face. Iron Age and Roman pottery sherds have been recovered, including a greyware sherd, as stray finds between 2009 and 2014.

Creake Abbey

The remains of the Abbey Church of St. Mary. The earliest religious foundation on the site was a chapel, which was established in 1206 by Lady Alice de Nerford and her husband Sir Robert.

In or soon after 1217, Sir Robert used the chapel to found a hospital dedicated to St Bartholomew.

In 1227 the hospital decided to adopt the Augustinian rule and became a priory.



Weeting Castle

The castle was built by Hugh de Plais in about 1180. It was the home of the de Plais family until the late 14th century, when the property passed by marriage to the Howards, Earls of Norfolk and was subsequently abandoned.



Hugh de Plais was a tenant of William de Warenne, the Earl of Surrey. The Warennes' Norfolk stronghold at Castle Acre had a similar building to Weeting Castle in the outer bailey, and it is thought that Hugh de Plais copied the design of this building for his own residence.

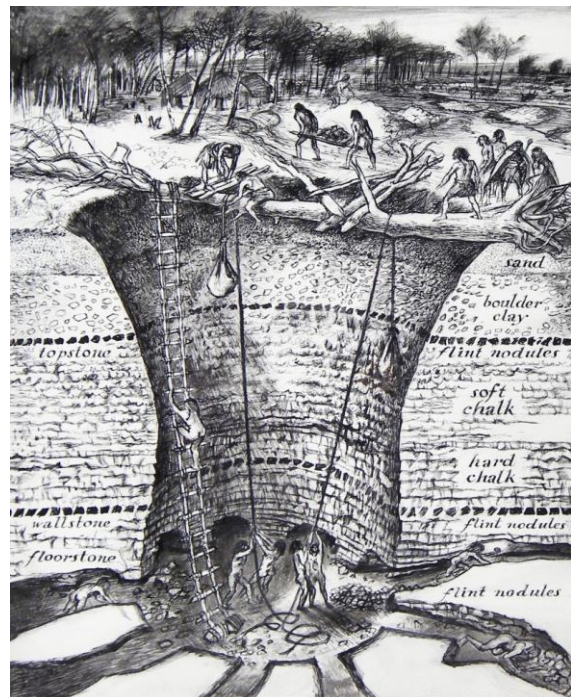
Despite its name, Weeting Castle was never fortified. The rectangular moat that surrounds the building was added in the mid-13th century. Its primary purpose was not defensive, however; it was built to demonstrate the wealth and power of the de Plais family.

The site has a long history of use, from the 10th century until the late 18th century. Archaeological excavations at the southern end of the hall have discovered ditches, burnt daub, post-holes and pottery dating to the Saxon period, suggesting that a Saxon settlement existed here before the stone hall was built.

Grime's Graves

Grime's Graves is the only Neolithic flint mine open to visitors in Britain. This grassy lunar landscape of 400 pits was first named Grim's Graves by the Anglo-Saxons. It was not until one of them was excavated in 1870 that they were identified as flint mines dug over 5,000 years ago.

Grime's Graves is sited on chalk bedrock of Turonian age, laid down about 90 million years ago in the Cretaceous period. Several flint horizons occur in the chalk at this level, and the richest are known as the Brandon Series. With some effort, miners could access the flint here and in other places in the Brecks where the Brandon Series lies close to the surface. The fact that the prehistoric miners knew where to dig suggests they may have had a practical understanding of the local geology.



Each pit could yield up to 60 tons of flint.

Blackfriars Church, Norwich

St. Andrew's Hall and Blackfriars' Hall are a Grade I listed set of friary church and convent buildings dating back to the 14th century.

The friary was originally constructed by the Friars Penitential in the 13th century, but largely rebuilt by the Dominicans in the 14th and 15th centuries. The church was converted into municipal halls in c. 1540, and the buildings restored and altered in 1861 and 1863.



These buildings make up the most complete friary complex surviving in England.

Norwich Cathedral

The cathedral and cloisters were begun in 1096 by Herbert de Losinga. He bought land to found a Benedictine monastery in 1094.

In the 15th and early 16th centuries, the cathedral's flat timber ceilings were replaced with stone vaults: the nave was vaulted under Walter Hart (bishop, 1446–72), the choir under James Goldwell (bishop, 1472–99) and the transepts after 1520.

The vaulting was carried out in a spectacular manner with over 1,000 ornately carved, painted and gilded bosses.

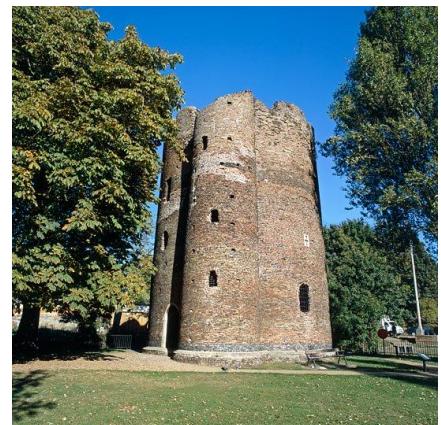
The priory was dissolved in 1539. Some of the monastic buildings were destroyed but the church became a Reformation cathedral. It had a dean, six prebendaries and 16 canons, most of them were former monks from the priory.



Cow Tower, Norwich

The Cow Tower is one of the earliest purpose-built artillery blockhouses in England. It was built in 1398-9 to control a strategic point in Norwich's city defences. It was intended to house guns and a garrison of gunners to defend the approach to the city across the River Wensum.

The tower was built with widely splayed gun ports so that it was suitable for the recently developed cannon, while the 'arrow loops' could still be used for crossbows and small guns.



Church of St Wendreda, March

St Wendreda's Church has a mix of 13th, 14th, 16th and 19th century architecture, although most of the church dates from the 14th century onwards.

The double hammer beam roof was built during the early 16th century. It features 118 beautifully carved angels, most of which are attached to the hammer beams and appear to be flying but others are in relief and it is believed to be one of the finest timber roofs in Britain.

Some of the angels are made up of figures depicting martyrs and saints with emblems, whilst the lower tier consists of angels holding medieval musical instruments.



Leper Chapel of St Mary Magdalene

St Mary Magdalene is a rare example of a substantially complete 12th century chapel. It is a small, two-cell church with a square-ended ashlar chancel, originally vaulted, and a pebble nave with brick repairs.

The outer angles of both nave and chancel have stone quoin shafts. The roof was renewed in the 15th century. The chapel fell into disrepair and when Cotman illustrated it in 1819 it was in use as a stable.



Sir George Gilbert Scott restored it in 1867, and he was responsible for the main west window.

The 12th century sculpture includes the lavish N and S doorways and nave and chancel windows, external and internal decorative friezes, the quoin shafts mentioned above, and the chancel arch.

The earliest documentary evidence for the chapel is in the Pipe Roll for 1169, although the chapel was built at the beginning of the 12th century as part of the nearby Leper hospital of St Mary Magdalene. In 1211 King John granted the lepers the right to hold a three-day fair on the Vigil of Holy Cross. Stourbridge Fair became one of the great fairs of Europe, and survived until 1933.

In 1751 the Chapel ceased to be a place of worship, instead being used to store stalls between fairs. In 1783 it was advertised for sale as a store shed. After changing hands several times, in 1816 it was bought and restored by Thomas Kerrich, who then gave it to the University, who in turn gave it the Cambridge Preservation Society in 1951.

Paycocke's House, Coggeshall

The house was built for Thomas Paycocke, a wealthy cloth merchant in Coggeshall. It was built onto an existing medieval building, which was owned by Thomas Paycocke's father, John Paycocke, who had died in 1506.

The house was built as a wedding present for his son Thomas and daughter-in-law Margaret. The initials T.P. and M.P. appear in the wood carvings that decorate the house. The land was left to his children, and Thomas Paycocke used the land to build the house in 1509. Records show that Thomas Paycocke remained a wealthy man. His will shows £1500 was left in cash bequests, not including goods or property. This is equivalent to roughly £570,000 in modern prices.

The house stayed in the Paycocke's family until the last male heir died in 1584. The house was subsequently sold to the Buxton family. In 1746, whilst it was still owned by the Buxton family, the house was divided into three smaller cottages and sold off. The houses fell into a state of disrepair but was saved from demolition by the historian G F Beaumont in 1906.

