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Yards

From Tudor times onwards many of the gardens behind large merchants' houses were filled in with tiny cottages or tenements, providing cheap housing for low paid workers: first weavers, then shoemakers.

The 19th century saw the city's population expand from 37,000 to 112,000, and many more one-up one-downs were shoe-horned into the seven hundred or so yards. Despite appalling conditions, some were home to thriving, close-knit communities with their own fishing and football clubs. Entered by a narrow passage, they lacked light, ventilation and sanitation. It became a public health crisis.

In the early 20th century the City Corporation began a huge clearance operation, rehousing thousands of people on new estates outside the city walls, leaving only remnants of the yards today. Many of these can still be seen on Magdalen Street.

**Yards under Anglia Square
demolished for 'slum' clearance:**

Cat and Fiddle Yard • Chapel Yard
Cossey's Yard • Fountain Yard
Globe Yard • Grimes Yard
Howlett Court • Sultzzer's Court
White Horse Yard

see: www.norwich-yards.co.uk