

An aerial photograph of Norwich, UK, showing the city's dense urban landscape. The central focus is Norwich Cathedral, a large, historic stone building with a prominent, tall, slender spire. The cathedral is surrounded by various city buildings, streets, and green spaces. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, red font.

Photo Walk
Thursday 3rd September 2026

Norwich Cathedral Close

**meeting at the usual time of 11am,
by the Cathedral Main Entrance**

Norwich Cathedral Close is a natural light laboratory

As a follow up on our recent talk about using Light for full affect in your photographs, it was decided that we needed somewhere to experiment our newfound knowledge.

Norwich Cathedral Close gives you all you need - *soft, hard, side, back, and shape-driven* light within a few hundred metres - no other local spot offers this density.



1. Soft light - Cloisters & shaded walls

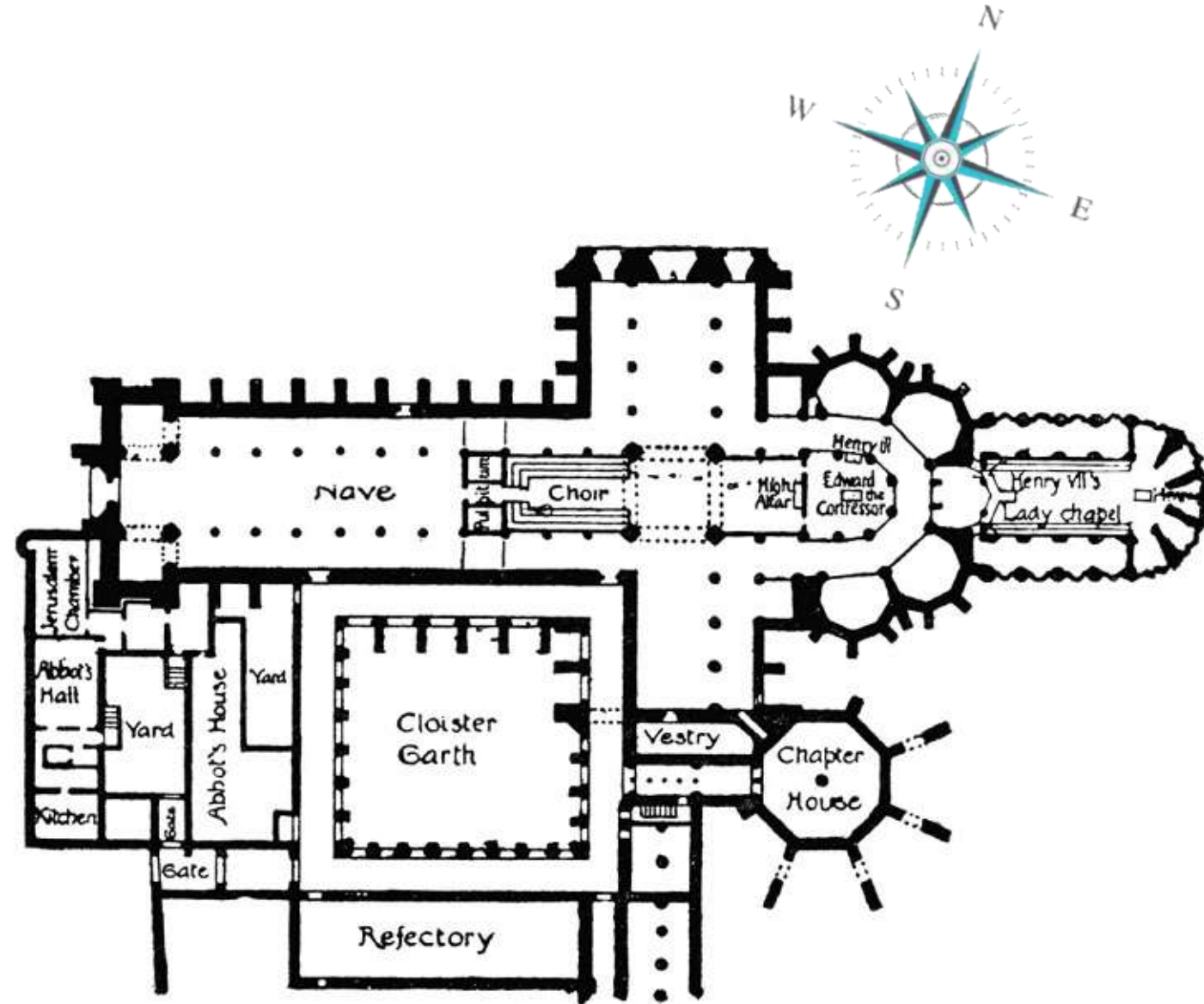
The cloisters are your built-in diffuser.

- The stone corridors block direct sun, giving you **gentle, even illumination**.
- Perfect for portraits, textures, and architectural detail.

Midday works beautifully because the overhead sun is softened by the vaulting.

Where to stand:

Inside the cloister walkway, facing the inner garth. The light wraps around subjects without harsh edges.



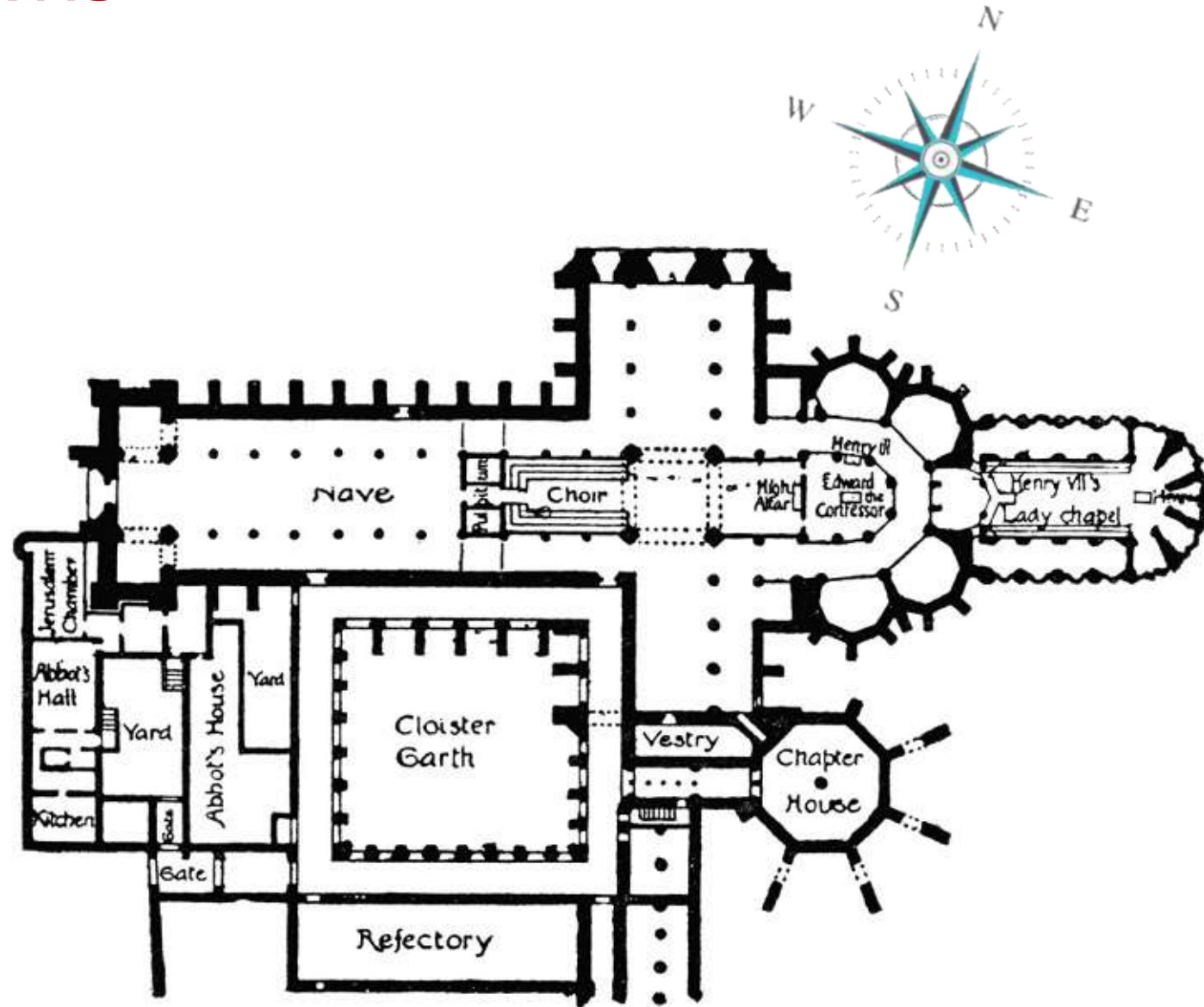
2. Hard light - Open lawns & south-facing walls

Step out into the Close and everything changes.

- Strong, directional sunlight creates **crisp shadows** and high contrast.
- Ideal for graphic compositions: arches, buttresses, repeating stone patterns.
- The south side of the Cathedral gives you the most reliable hard light.

Where to stand:

Near the Bishop's Gate side, shooting toward the sunlit stone.



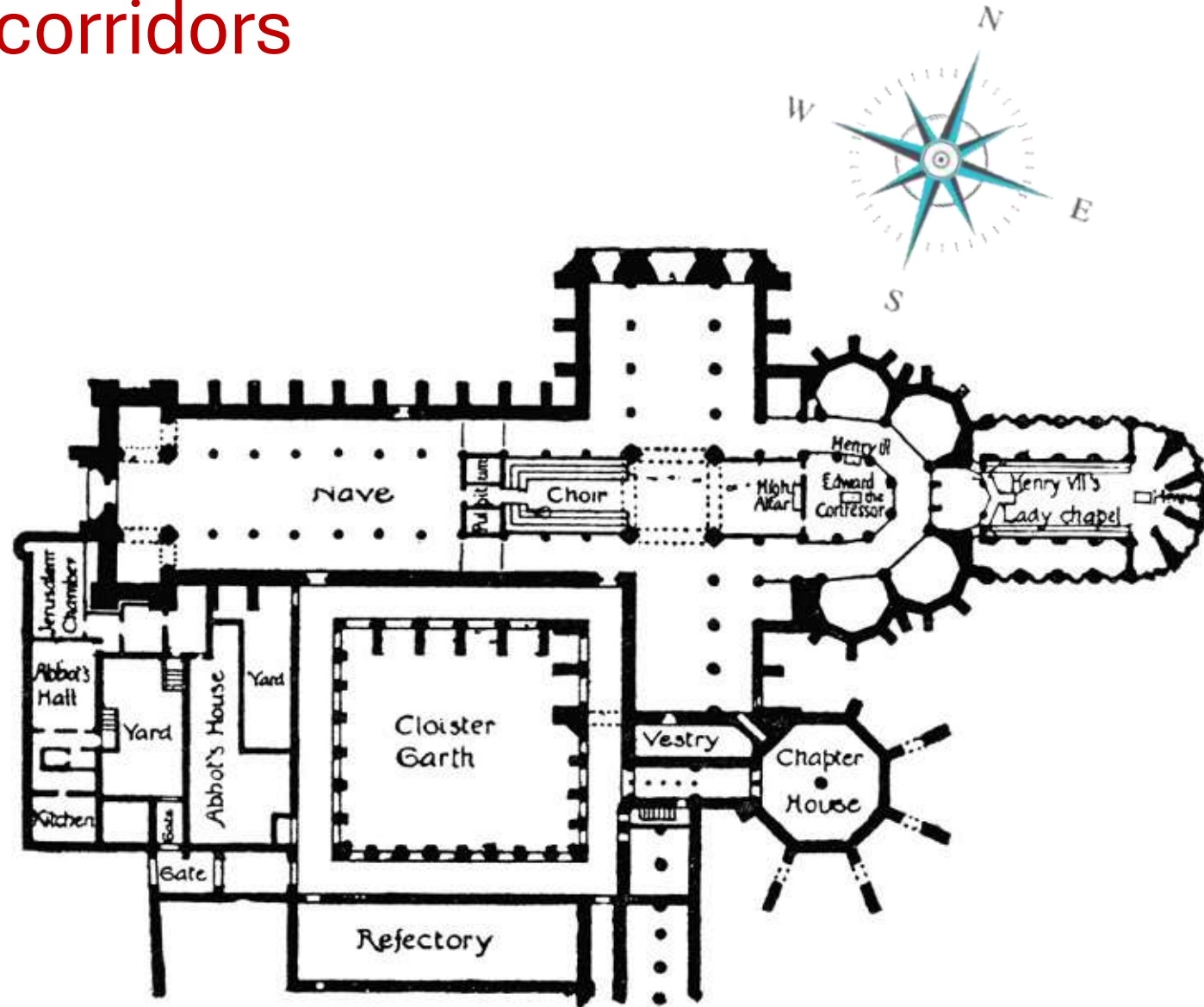
3. Side light - Long cloister corridors

Side light is where the Close really shines.

- The cloister corridors run long and straight, catching sunlight at an angle.
- This gives you **modelling light** - perfect for revealing texture and depth.
- The rhythm of columns creates natural leading lines.

Where to stand:

Halfway down a corridor, shooting along the line of columns.



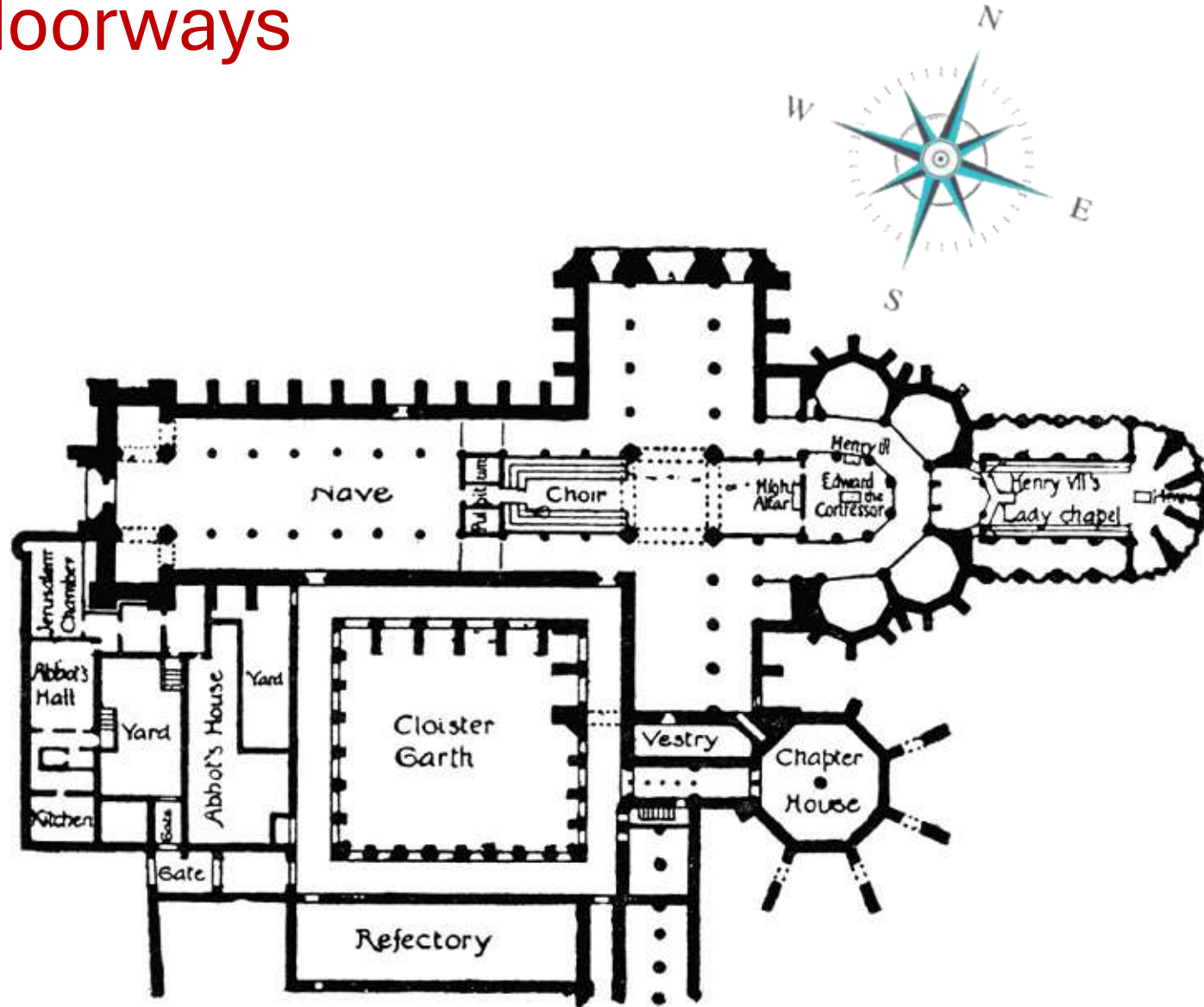
4. Backlight - Archways & doorways

Backlight is easy to find here because of the many archways.

- Stand inside a shaded arch and shoot outward into bright light.
- You get silhouettes, rim-light, and atmospheric flare.
- Works beautifully for people walking through the Close.

Where to stand:

Under the arch near the Refectory, facing the open lawn.



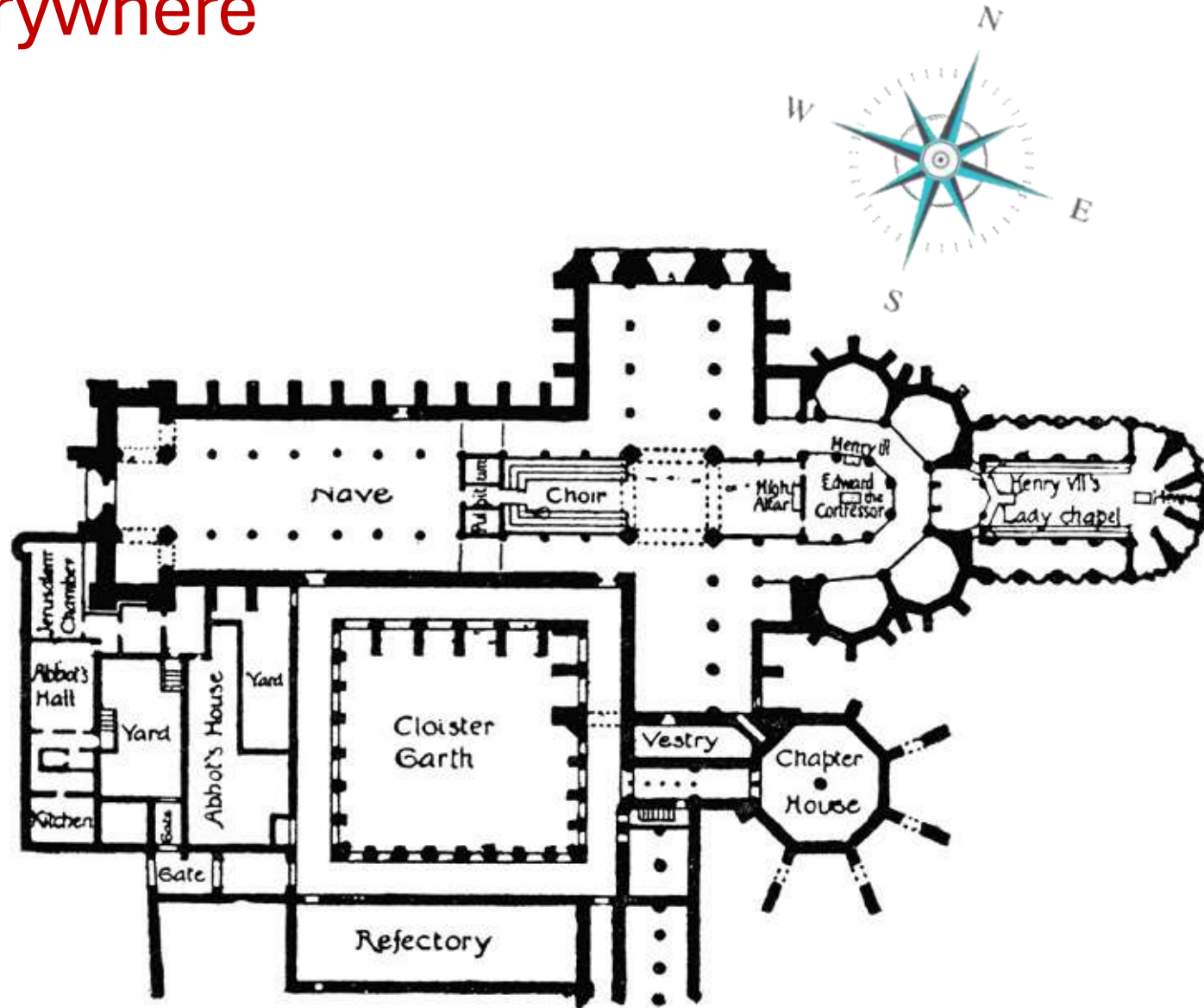
5. Shape & synthesis - Everywhere

This is the Close's secret strength.

- Arches, vaults, columns, flint walls, carved stone, ironwork.
- You can combine light direction with architectural geometry to create **structured, intentional compositions**.
- It's a perfect teaching environment because every corner offers a new “problem” to solve.

Where to stand:

Try the flint-walled lanes leading toward Tombland - superb for shape-driven frames.

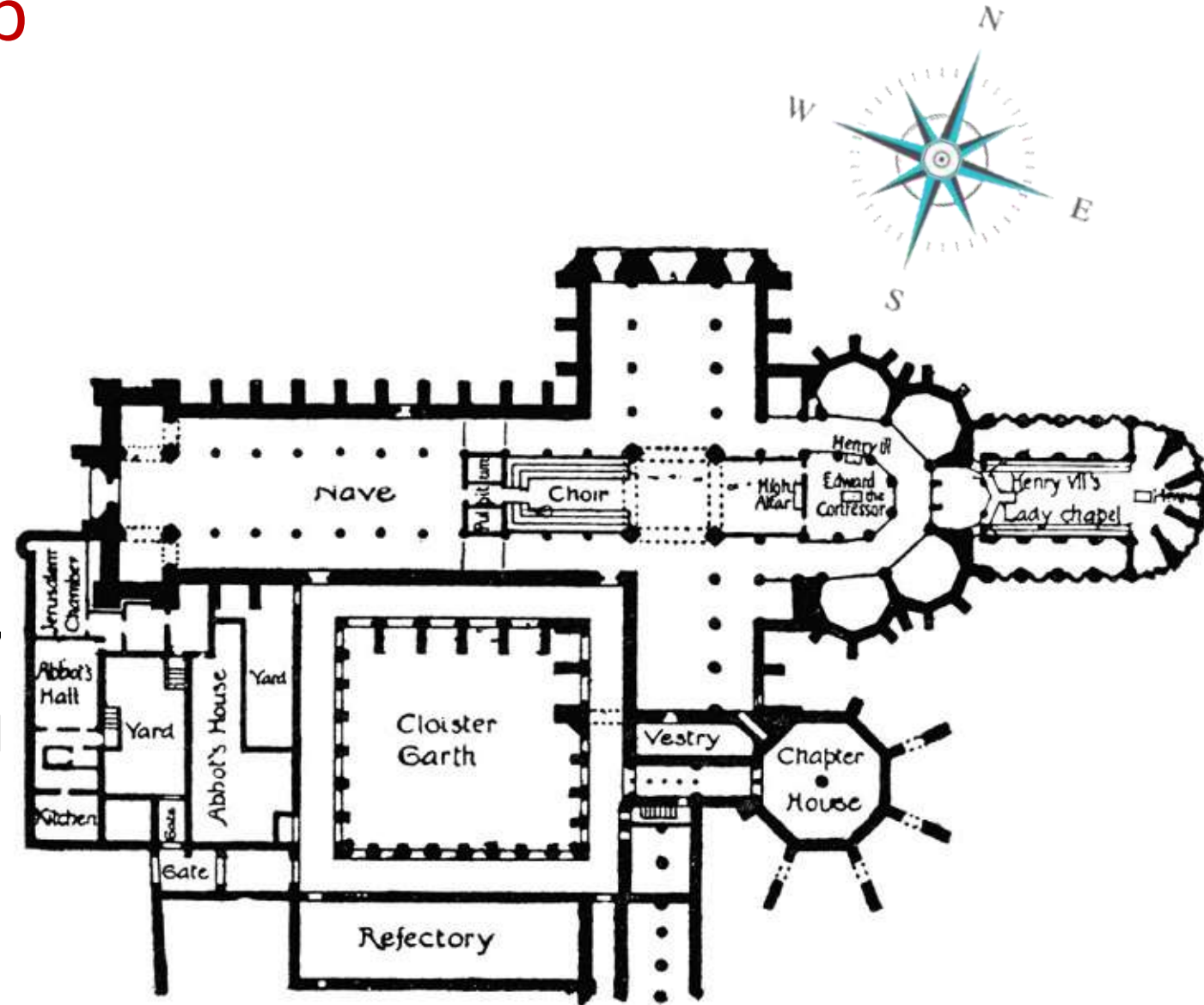


A practical 45-minute loop

If you want a simple walk that hits all lighting types:

1. Soft light - Cloisters (start here)
2. Side light - Cloister corridors
3. Hard light - South lawn
4. Backlight - Archway by the Refectory
5. Shape - Flint lanes toward Tombland

This loop is structured, purposeful, and visually grounded.



Cathedral Close Photo Challenge Sheet

This challenge sheet is designed to help photographers explore the diverse lighting conditions and architectural features of Norwich Cathedral Close. Participants can **submit up to five images** that best capture the themes outlined below.

Challenge Categories

- 1. Soft Light** - Capture the gentle, diffused light found in shaded areas or cloisters. Look for even illumination and subtle textures.
- 2. Hard Light** - Photograph scenes with strong, direct sunlight that creates sharp shadows and high contrast. Ideal for graphic compositions.
- 3. Side Light** - Use angled light to highlight textures and depth. Cloister corridors and long walls are perfect for this category.
- 4. Backlight** - Experiment with shooting towards the light source to create silhouettes, rim-light, or atmospheric effects.
- 5. Architectural Details** - Focus on the intricate stonework, arches, and carvings that define the Cathedral Close.
- 6. Shapes and Patterns** - Find repeating shapes, lines, and patterns in the architecture or natural surroundings.
- 7. People in the Close** - Capture candid or posed shots of people interacting with the space, emphasizing scale and atmosphere.
- 8. Seasonal Atmosphere** - Showcase how the Close changes with the seasons - whether it's lush greenery, autumn leaves, or winter light.

Submission Guidelines -- Submit up to five images. Ensure each image corresponds to one of the categories above.