

repair of Caldecote church and also left to that church 'all the landes that I purchased of John Sparrow'. This will was proved in 1490 (N.R.O., N.C.C. Wills 129 Types).

Although Caldecote must have been a tiny community at this time there was intent to maintain the church, though the mention of repairs to the tower hints at serious defects. The sum of £20 was considerable and again points to extensive need — if it was spent. Kyppyng wished to be buried on the south side of Oxborough church and his other bequests concerned people in that parish. The reference to the upkeep of roads and the existence of a tenement in 1467 and of the Guild in 1420 may be read as slender evidence for a more vigorous community earlier in the century.

One other will, that of Richard Eldyn of 1599 (N.R.O., Norf. Archd. Wills 119 Wright), seems to fit the facts already given for that period. Eldyn was a husbandman and left his property to Thomasine Hunter of Caldecote 'to whom I was contracted in the Waye of marriage'. The two witnesses were not described as being of Caldecote. The house mentioned in 1603 might well have been the one which had belonged to Eldyn.

A field book of Barton Bendish which can be dated to the first decades of the seventeenth century (N.R.O., Hare MSS, Box 185 x 4, 189) records lands in the southern portion of that parish which were part of the manor of Caldecote and held by Sir Henry Bedingfield; it also mentions 'Caldecote Fen in Oxborough' as if Caldecote, though remembered, was for practical purposes considered part of Oxborough.

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¹ Glassock, R. E., 1975. *The Lay Subsidy of 1334*, pp 203-204.

² Allison, K. J., 1955. 'The Lost Villages of Norfolk' *Norfolk Archaeology* XXXI, p. 145.

³ Blomefield, F., 1769 *An essay towards a topographical history of the county of Norfolk*, 3, pp 399-402.

⁴ Wade-Martins, P., 'Village Sites in Launditch Hundred', *East Anglian Archaeology* 10, pp 78-81.

THE SITE OF DUSSINDALE

by Anne Carter

Historians have argued endlessly about the probable location of Dussindale, the site of the final battle near Mousehold Heath, Norwich, where Robert Kett and his rebels were defeated by the Earl of Warwick and his army, on 27th August 1549.

While researching the history of Postwick, four miles east of Norwich, (one of sixteen villages bordering the twenty-two mile perimeter of Mousehold in the sixteenth century),¹ the writer came across a number of references to Dussindale. These establish beyond doubt the geographical position of a valley of this name, lying two miles east of 'Mount Surrey' or 'Kett's Castle' (the rebel leader's headquarters on the heath), on the boundary of the villages of Thorpe St. Andrew, Postwick and Great Plumstead.

Thomas Harrison, Parish Clerk to the Rev. John Russell of Great Plumstead in the early eighteenth century, wrote a rambling treatise on the neighbouring parish of Postwick, (where he held land), in which² he says 'There is also in the

said parish a large tract of land, near 100 acres, called the Doles; Lying between Postwick field in part, and Great Cranley in part, on the east; and the old ditch which extends from the bottom of the valley called Dussings Dale up to the west corner of a 20 acre close of the Lords of Postwick, (but lying in Thorp bounds), on the west, and abutting north upon Great Plumstead Smeeth.'

Harrison goes on 'There hath been a Difference long subsisting between Thorp and Postwick, as to the Bounds betwixt the two towns; Thorp people taking in some part of the aforesaid Doles, and Postwick people taking in the ground between Dussing Dale, and the old ditch before mentioned. Both seem to be in the wrong. Dussing Dale seems to be a proper and natural division, and it would be more proper and expedient for both Towns to avoid contention, mutually to agree to make their Perambulation in that Dale, from the nook of the east part of Thorp Common, directly towards Drove Lane, which leads unto Mousehold Heath. This seems to be a natural and lasting Division.'

A close scrutiny of maps of Mousehold Heath, held by the Norfolk Record Office, revealed a parchment map, in colour,³ surveyed by William Cooke of Tharston in 1718, for the Dean and Chapter (See Figure 1).

This marked 'Dussings Deale' and Poswick Sheep Walk as one and the same, leading south from 'Lumners Great Close' just over an eighth of a mile east of 'The Great Old Dyke that goe from Lumners towards Poswick'. This is the only map as yet discovered, on which 'Dussings Deale' appears.

An earlier map of Mousehold Heath, dated 1589,⁴ (figure 2), shows the position of Great Lumners Close in relation to a number of features, for example 'Poswyck Townes Drove Way unto Mushold', Thorpe Common, Gargytt Hills, Drove Lane, Peke Herne and 'Yermouth Way'.

A third map of Mousehold, dated about the year 1600,⁵ (not illustrated here), shows Lumners Close as just over two miles due east of Bishop's Bridge, Norwich, with ease of access from the city along 'Walsham Waye' (which features in both figures 1 and 2), or across 'Thorpe Sheepes Walke' on the Heath.

The 1812 Enclosure Map of the parishes of Great Plumstead and Postwick⁶ shows Drove Lane quite clearly. (See figure 3). By correlating the Award with the Map it is possible to identify the three commons: the Heath; the Smee; and the Doles. Figure 3 also indicates the area described by Thomas Harrison⁷ above.

A Manorial Field Book of 1576, made for Thomas Warde, Lord of the Manor of Postwick and Great Plumstead,⁸ defines:

- a) Cranly Closse (or Great Cranley Close) as a 30 acre enclosure of the lord's, lying immediately south of Great Plumstead Smeeth (or Smee), (meaning 'smooth, or a level place,⁹ as indeed it still is today);
- b) Postwick Field.

These are superimposed, in capitals, on figure 3.

This same Field Book¹⁰ describes the lord's heathland (see 'Mr. Wardes Bruery' in figure 2), mentioning 'Dussinges Dale' no less than three times, and describing its geographical position in almost identical terms to those used by Harrison a hundred and sixty years later.¹¹ In 1576 there were 130 acres of doles and fold-course (roughly in the area shown as 'The Doles' in figure 3), those west of Dussinges Dale held of the Manor of Thorpe, and those east of it held of the manor of Posswick. Dussinges Dale is again described as east of the great ditch dividing Thorp and Posswick.

Another reference to Dussing Dale occurs in a report of Norfolk Sessions on 13 July 1652.¹² On this day, a petition of the inhabitants of Poswicke, Thorpe, Great and Little Plumstead 'Joint commoners for great cattell upon Mushold and in a placed called the Smee and Dussing Dale' were heard. Trespasses were being committed in Poswicke field by their cattle, for want of a gate on the Norwich – Yarmouth Road at the end of Poswicke Lane.

A look at Faden's 1797 map of Norfolk,¹³ (part of the Norwich section, see figure 5), quickly identifies:

- Peke (or Peck) Hurn, Great Plumstead, by its shape and proximity to the heath; and
- 'the great ditch' as a small watercourse leading south from high ground on Mousehold, just above Thorpe Farm (the old 'Great Lumner Close'),

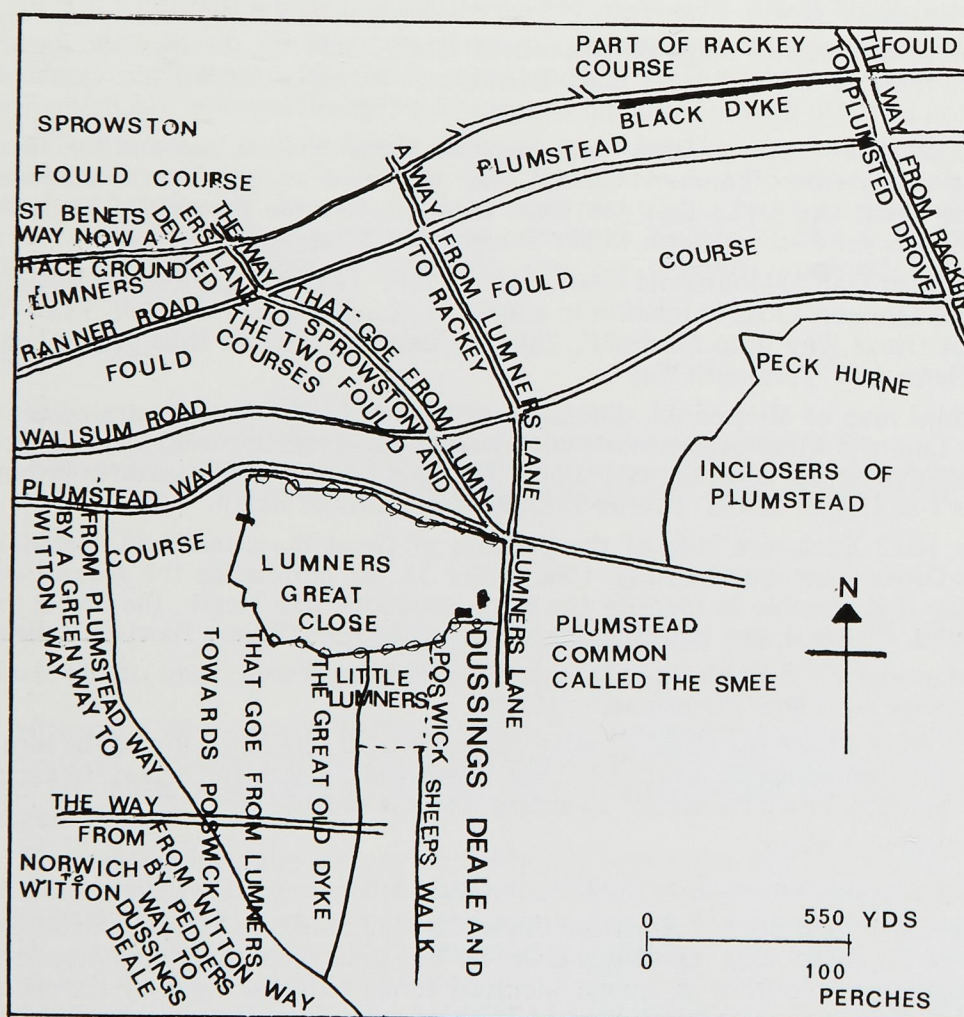


Fig. 1

Taken from a 1718 survey by William Cooke of Tharston, made for the Dean and Chapter of Norwich Cathedral; showing the Fould Courses of Plumstead, Lumners Great Close and Fold Course, lying in Plumstead, Sprowston and Thorpe. This is the only map showing Dussings Dale yet identified.

down to the River Yare. Today the ditch is a narrow road, Boundary Lane, the old 4th private road laid out in the 1812 Enclosure,¹⁴ (see figure 3), forming 'a proper and natural division' between Thorpe and Postwick.

If more proof of location is needed, the Great Plumstead Terrier of 1735¹⁵ states 'One of the said principal Roads is called Heath Gate Way, and goeth from Grimmer Green to and over the north end of the Smeeth, by Greater Lumners Messuage, and so on to Norwich.' Heath Gate Way and Grimmer Green were identifiable from the 1812 Enclosure Map and Award¹⁶ (see figure 3).

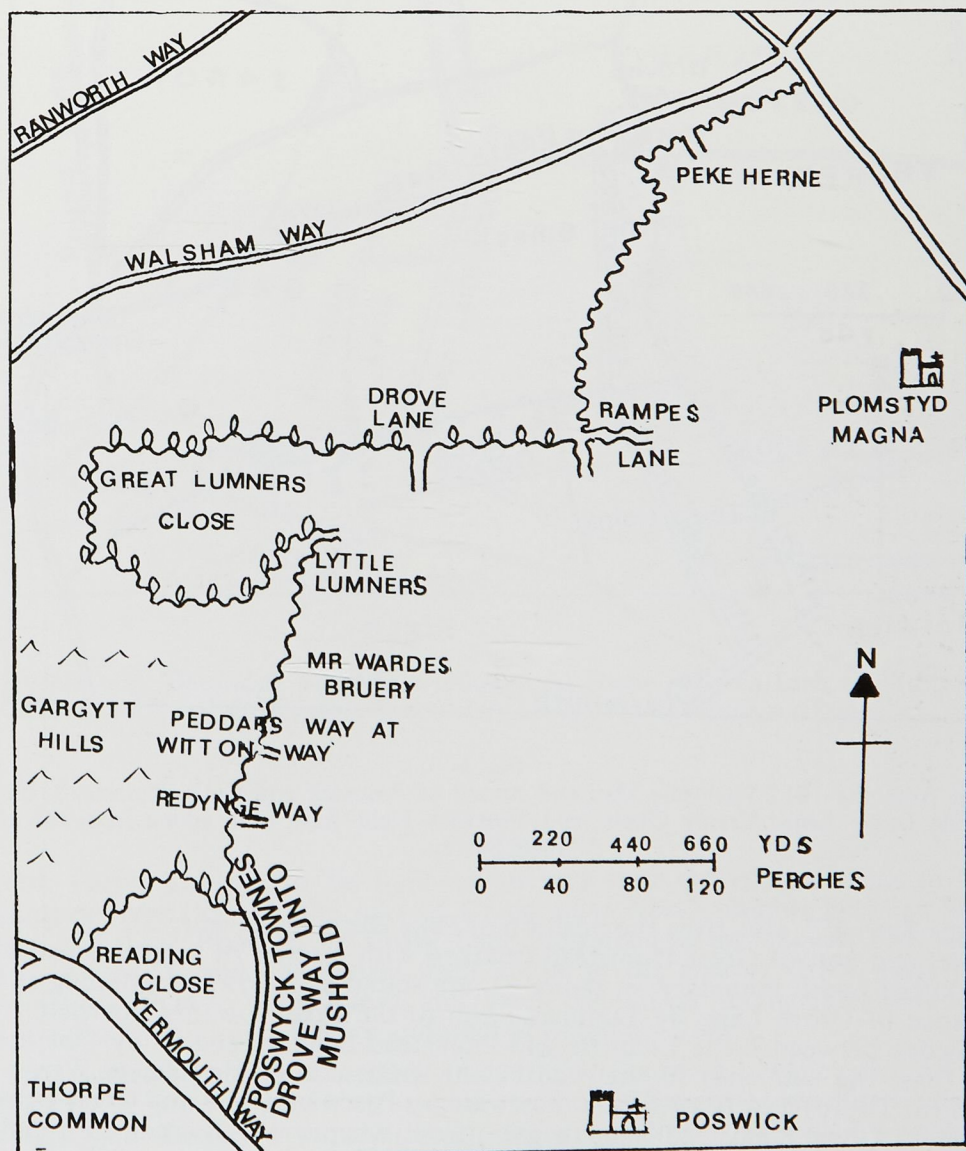


Fig. 2

Taken from a 1589 map of Mousehold Heath, showing the geographical position of Great Lumners Close and 'Poswyck Townes Drove Way unto Mushold'.

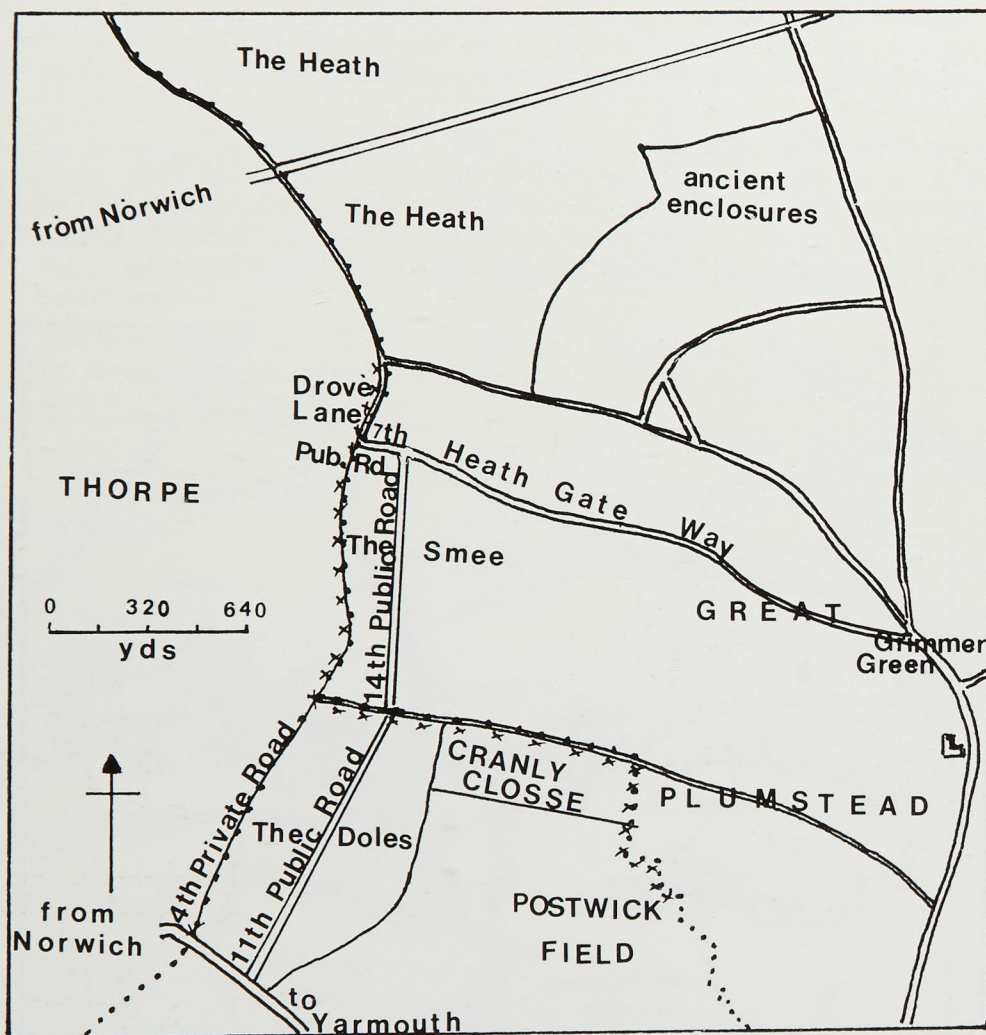


Fig. 3

Taken from the 1812 Enclosure Map and Award of Postwick and Great Plumstead, clearly showing Drove Lane. 'Cranly Close' and 'Postwick Field' have been added from the 1576 Field Survey.

This Terrier¹⁷ also gives the position of Peke Hurn, (see Figure 2). The bounds of the west part of Great Plumstead (marked with a series of small crosses along the dotted parish boundary, in figure 3), are stated as follows: 'beginning at the entrance of Drove Lane by Lunnars Farm to the Road towards Norwich, unto the hedge between Little Lunnars and Plumstead Smee, and so by that hedge side (past the east end) to the road by the south side of Sir Edward Ward's 20 acres (in Thorp) and from thence Eastward by Postwick Doles and Great Cranly Closes to Great Plumstead Smee gate, from whence the Bounds turn and go along through Great Cranly lane to Postwick field, to the corner of Mr. Mosse's pigtle etc.'

Figure 4 is based on field walking with an area map in hand,¹⁸ and shows

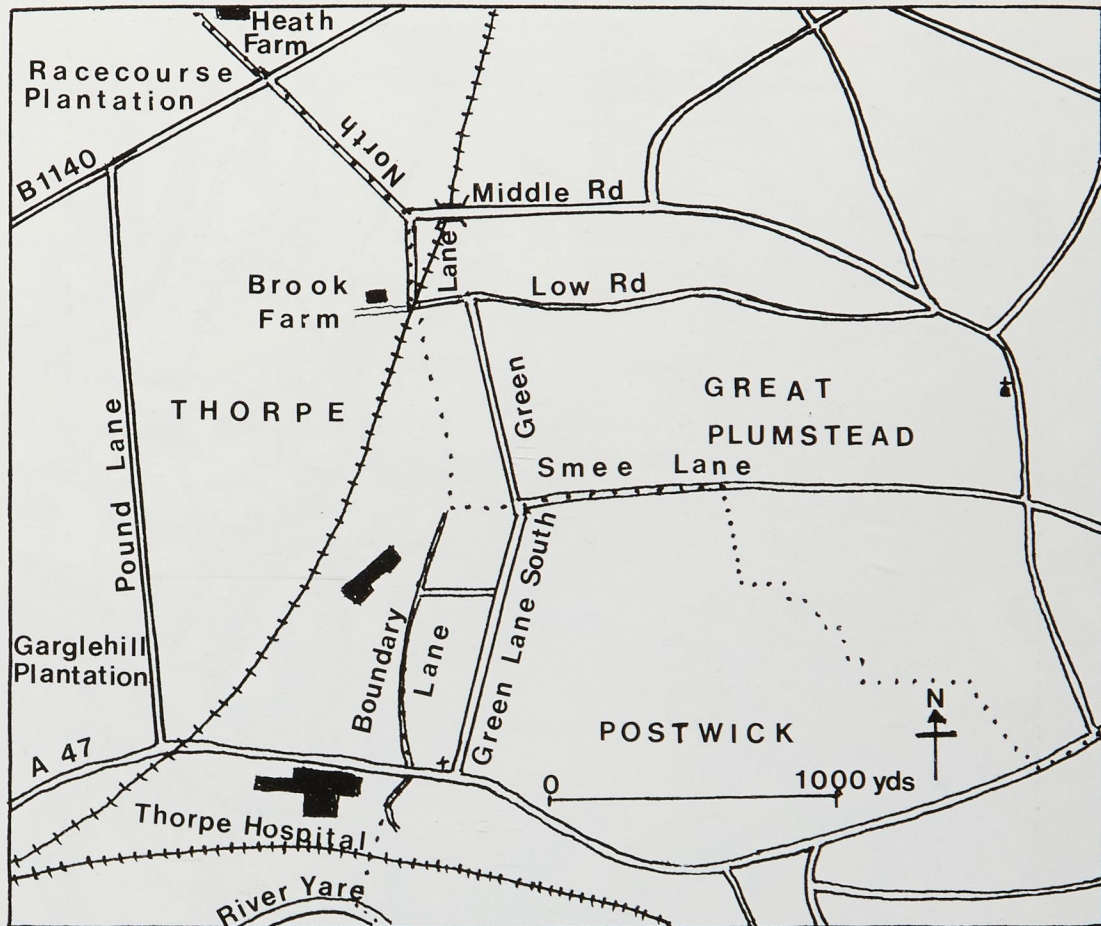


Fig. 4

A modern map. Dussindale would have followed the course of Green Lane, south from Low Road to the A47, as it shelves towards Boundary Lane, dividing Thorpe and Postwick.

Brook Farm, Thorpe, to be built on or very near the old message in Great Lumners Close (fig. 1); the part of Green Lane North running between Middle Road and Low Road to be Drove Lane, described as an 'ancient road' in the 1812 Award;¹⁹ and Dussindale itself to be in the area of Green Lane North (from Low Road to Smee Lane), and Green Lane South, as the valley side lowers to 'the old ditch', today known and used as Boundary Lane.

It is interesting that 'Garglehill Plantation' (figure 4) between the A47 and Pound Lane, (now largely built over in the area of Laundry Lane, the Recreation Ground and Eastern Avenue, though there is still a road called Gargle Hill, Thorpe)²⁰ is a corruption of 'Gargytt Hills' (figure 2); and that the old 1718 map²¹ (figure 1), shows 'St Benets Way now a Race Ground' in the same position as today's 'Racecourse Plantation' (figure 4).²¹



Fig. 5

Part of Faden's Map of Norfolk dated 1797, with a scale of one inch to one statute mile; showing a distance of approximately two miles from Kett's Castle Ruin to Thorpe Farm, thence south through the site of Dussindale.

Can this be the Dussindale to which Blomefield refers in the following verse?^{2 2}

'The country gnoffes, Hob, Dick and Hick,
With clubs and clowted shoon,
Shall fill the vale,
of Dussin's Dale,
With slaughter'd bodies soon.'

Because the forces of the Crown 'marched out at Coslany, now St. Martin's at the Oak gates'^{2 3} when they left Norwich in pursuit, it has always been assumed that the prophetic valley lay to the north or northeast of the city.

Nicholas Sotherton, who wrote the first account of the battle, (probably within a decade of 1549, though his work is undated),^{2 4} said that 'Dussens Dale . . . was not past a myle of and somewhat more . . . from Surrey Place'. (See figure 5, showing a road of under two miles linking Kett's Castle Ruins and Thorpe Farm).

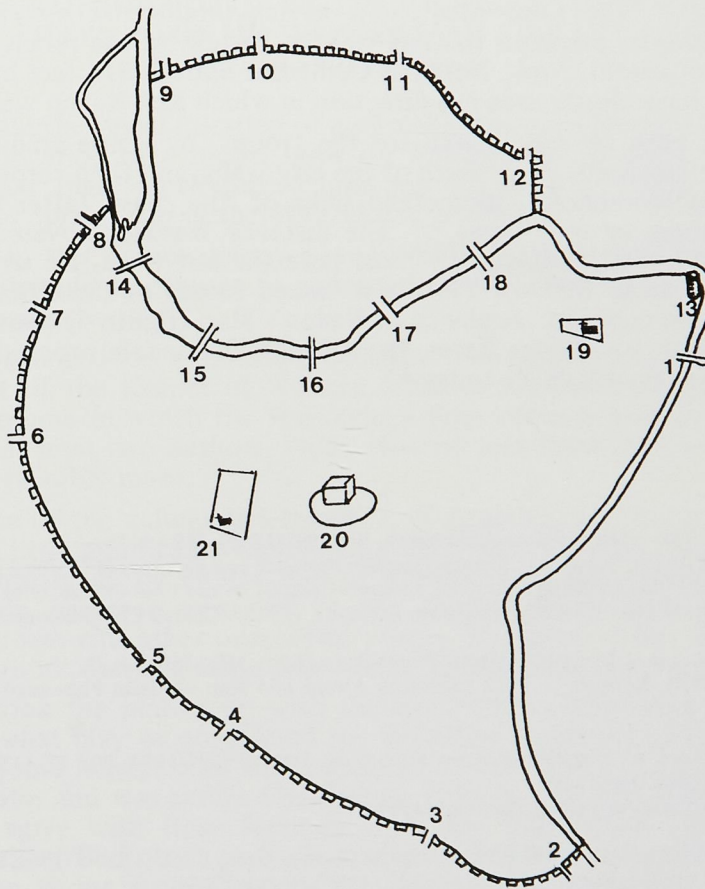


Fig. 6

Taken from Blomefield's Plan of the City of Norwich, showing Coselany or St. Martin at the Oak's Gate, by which Warwick and his troops left Norwich on 27th August 1549.

Key to numbers: 1 Bishops Bridge; 2 South or Conisford Gate; 3 Berstreet Gates; 4 Brasen Doors; 5 St. Stephens Gate; 6 St. Giles Gate; 7 St. Bennets Gate; 8 Heyham or Helle-gate; 9 Coslany or St. Martin at Oak Gate; 10 St. Austins Gate; 11 Fibridge or Magdalen Gate; 12 Pockthorpe; 13 Cow Tower; 14 New Mills Bridge; 15 Coslany Bridge; 16 Black Friars Bridge; 17 Five Bridge or Fibridge; 18 White Friars Bridge; 19 Cathedral; 20 Castle; 21 Market Place.

Holinshed, writing in 1577,²⁵ said that the Earl of Warwick had had White Friars Bridge broken down, and added that the rebels had earlier 'burned and fowlie defaced with fire' Bishop's Gate, Pockthorpe Gate, Magdalen Gate and Bearestreet Gate, and at a later date had also burnt Conisford with its warehouses of wheat. (See plan of the City Gates of Norwich, taken from Blomefield,²⁶ figure 6). Although passable, some gates were probably no longer suitable for the passage of large numbers of cavalry and foot-soldiers. Military tactics, too, may well have had something to do with this northerly exit; Warwick was taking no chances after previous failures by the King's army.

Sotherton says^{2 7} 'The Lord Lieutenant having intelligence by ye watch in Christ Church Steeple, prepared himself to give battell' as the rebels were seen pulling out of Mousehold. Now, Norwich Cathedral Spire is 313 feet high,^{2 8} and look-outs would have clearly seen the direction in which Kett's men were moving.

It would have been an easy march for the troops, by gentle gradients, from St. Martin's Gate eastwards, just north of the city walls, and then across the open stretches of 'Free Mousehold'. Blomefield talks of 'the chase' (after the rebels) 'continuing for three or four miles.'^{2 9} The distance Warwick covered here was well within these limits. Holinshed^{3 0} must have the last word. He wrote of the Earl of Warwick's army that on 27 Aug it 'issued foorth of the citie; marching streight towards the enemies.' A glance at Faden's Map (figure 5) shows a direct route from Norwich to Thorpe Farm, from which Dussindale proceeded South. The picturesque valley still exists today.^{3 1}

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- ¹ Norfolk Record Office – Map of Mousehold Heath, Norwich (1589). MS 4547.
- ² Colman and Rye Library, Norwich – Thomas Harrison *Postwick and Relatives* (1735/6) 23-24.
- ³ N.R.O. – Survey of Fold Courses of Plumstead, Lumners Great Close and Fold Course, lying in Plumstead, Sprowston and Thorpe. William Cooke of Tharston, Surveyor, (1718). Church Commissioners' Map 11913.
- ⁴ N.R.O. – MS 4547.
- ⁵ N.R.O. – Undated map of Mousehold Heath, Norwich, (c.1600). MS 4460 Cab. II.
- ⁶ Norfolk County Hall, Norwich – 1812 Enclosure Award and Map of Great Plumstead and Postwick (following 1810 Act).
- ⁷ Harrison 23-24.
- ⁸ N.R.O. – Court Book of Postwick & Great Plumstead, Hansell 12/1/1971, No. 12, (1576) R 187 B.
- ⁹ Shorter Oxford English Dictionary.
- ¹⁰ Court Book of Postwick and Great Plumstead (1576).
- ¹¹ Harrison 23-24.
- ¹² Norfolk Record Society Vol. XXVI (1955), Norfolk Sessions Order Book (1650-57) No. 338.
- ¹³ N.R.S. Vol. XLII (1975), Faden's map of Norfolk (1797) Norwich sheet.
- ¹⁴ 1812 Enclosure Award and Map.
- ¹⁵ N.R.O. – Terrier of Great Plumstead, PD123/25 (1735).
- ¹⁶ 1812 Enclosure Award and Map.
- ¹⁷ PD123/25.
- ¹⁸ Based on field walking, with copies in hand of the Ordnance Survey Map, 1:25,000 sheets TG 21, TG 30, TG 31; 1958 edition.
- ¹⁹ 1812 Enclosure Award and Map.
- ²⁰ Jarrold's Map of the City of Norwich 1982.
- ²¹ Church Commissioners' Map 11913.
- ²² F. Blomefield, *History of Norfolk*, Vol. III (1806) 252.
- ²³ Blomefield, Vol. III, 252.
- ²⁴ Colman and Rye Library, C942.053 – Nicholas Sotherton 'The Commoysen in Norfolk 1549' (undated, but probably written before 1559), from *Journal of Medieval & Renaissance Studies* Vol. 6, No. 1, (1976) with introduction by Barrett L. Beer. 98.
- ²⁵ Holinshed's Chronicles, Vol. III (pub. 1807-8) (written 1577) 975, 980-81.
- ²⁶ Blomefield, Vol. III, taken from plan of City of Norwich, facing page 1.
- ²⁷ Sotherton, 98.
- ²⁸ P. Thoresby Jones, *The Story of the Cathedral Church of Norwich* (undated) 11.
- ²⁹ Blomefield, Vol. III, 253.
- ³⁰ Holinshed, Vol. III, 982.
- ³¹ Map reference TG 284103–284085.