

THE SUFFOLK COAST DELINEATED IN THE 13TH CENTURY.

The accompanying illustration is taken from a manuscript in the British Museum, which is catalogued as the *Chronicles of St. Albans*, by Friar John de Wallingford. It contains extracts from various historical chronicles, together with notes in idiomatic English, and is illustrated by two maps of Britain. On folio 46 of the chronicles is a map of special interest as it gives the reader a notion as to the conception of the relative importance of Suffolk compared with other English counties as it appeared to a monk of the thirteenth century not residing in the county.

Evidently one of the main characteristics of Suffolk then was its flourishing seaports. First in importance was Ipswich, entered on the map as Hippewic, standing on an inlet rather than upon the river Gipping. The inlet marked as Auwelle, now, Orwell, comprised the wide estuary lying between Harwich and the Felixstowe coast. Here it was customary for the Plantagenet Kings to assemble the fleet prior to its visiting the shores of Flanders. While their fleets were collecting both Edward I. and Edward III. held their court at Walton Hall, once the seat of Roger Bigod. The residence of Edward I. in the district may have been well-known to Friar John de Wallingford, for he gives a special name to the site, describing the area of the Colneys Hundred as *Angulus Angliæ*, a Corner of Anglia. While ships were assembling in the Orwell, many also collected off the mouth of the Deben, then called the Port of Goseford. When in 1340, Edward III. invaded Flanders, the fleet first assembled between the Orwell and Goseford Haven,

while the troops collected in the Colneys Hundred before embarking. After they had entered the ships, the fleet was ordered to sail to Swinehumber, which we learn from the map here given was near Yarmouth. Having there met other ships from the north it returned to the Orwell for the king to embark.

The protection of this part of the English coast was made secure by the existence of Orford Castle. This site the cartographer has marked, enclosing the words *Castrum Orford* within lines to define its importance. The only road shewn on the map joins Orford and Grimsby *via* Norwich, Cambridge, and Peterborough. By marking the site of Dunwich Friar John de Wallingford recognised its commercial activities. The position given to St. Edmunds Bury is decidedly erroneous.

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