



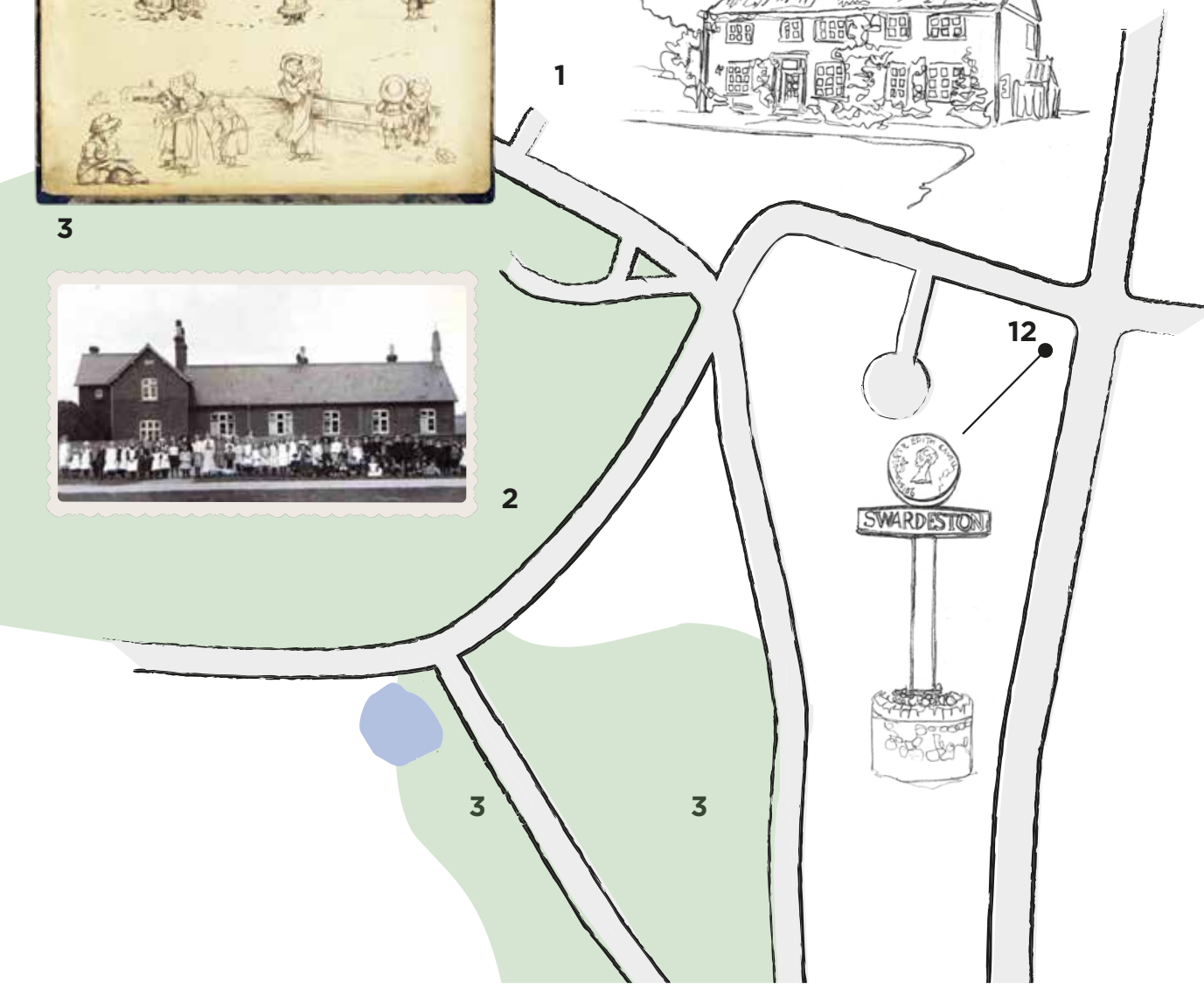
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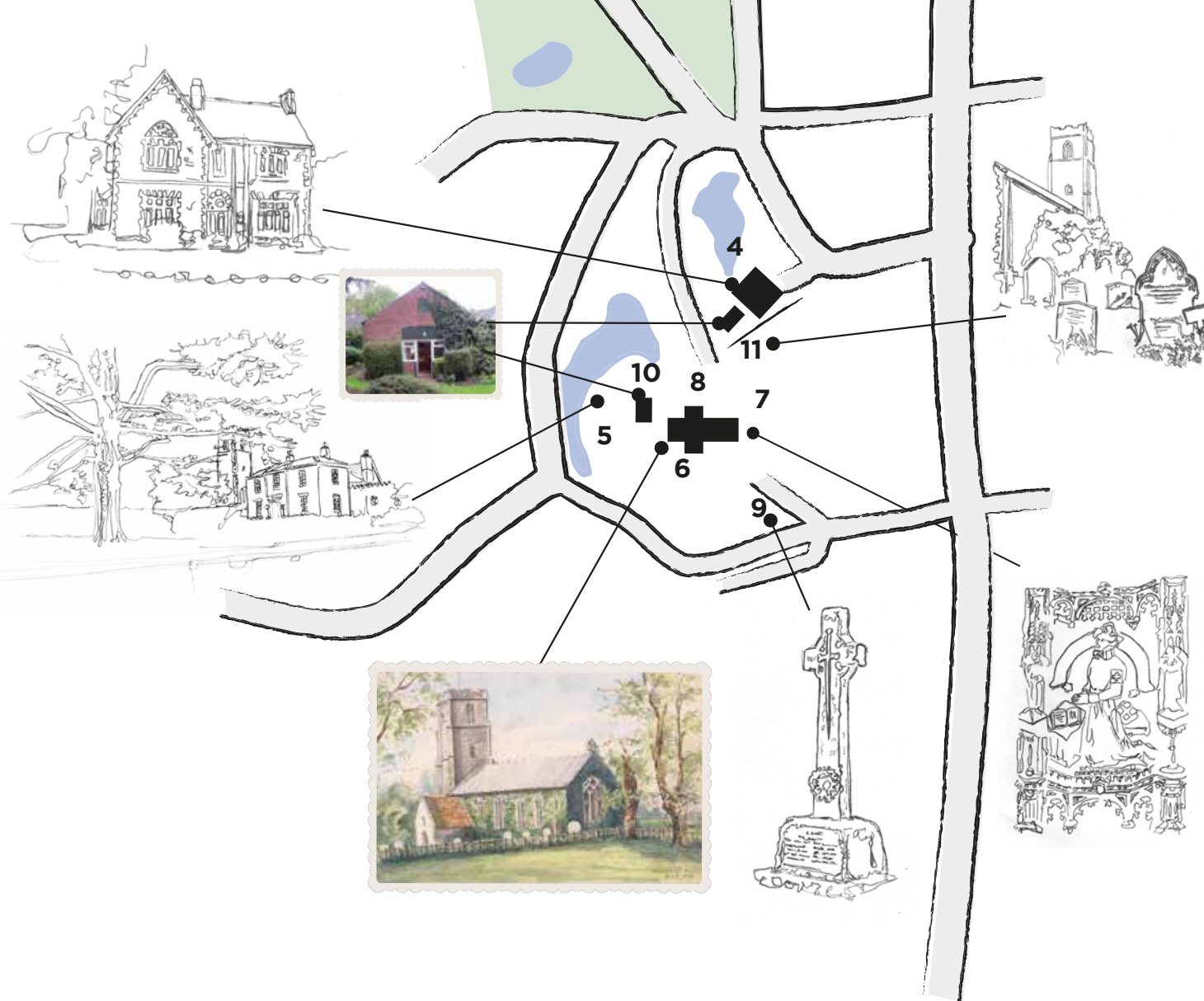


Edith Cavell's Swardeston

**A walk around her village and
the places associated with her**

1. Cavell House
2. The 'new' village primary school
3. Swardeston common
4. The Cavell family home
5. The pond by the Old Rectory
6. St Mary's church
7. The East window (1917)
8. A plaque on the north wall of the church
9. The village's WWI War Memorial 1919
10. The Sunday School room and the Cavell Room and exhibition
11. Her parents' grave

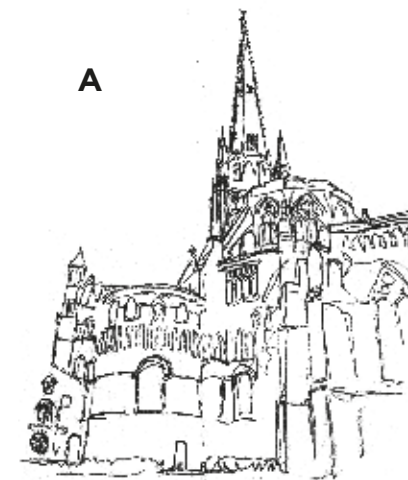
See overleaf for details of each of the 11 sites listed.



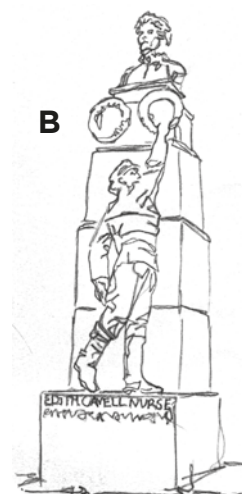
Memorials to Edith Cavell in Norwich

- A. Norwich Cathedral
- B. Tombland statue 1918
- C. Cavell Nurses Home 1918

A



B



C



See overleaf for each of the sites listed.

Need lunch? Try the village Fruit Cakes Bakery on the Main Road 01508 570297 for delicious fresh baking.

Visiting in a group and interested in a guided tour of the village?
Contact enquiry@edithcavell.org.uk



Learn more about the places in Swardeston which Edith Cavell would have known...

NOTE – none of the private properties marked** are open to the public

1. Cavell House**, Intwood Lane (NR14 8DZ)

Edith Cavell was born here on December 4th 1865 in a room on the first floor. She was the first child of Rev Frederick and Mrs Louisa Cavell (married 1863). Her father had been vicar of Swardeston since 1863 and was in the process of building the Cavell vicarage by St Mary's church (location 4 on your map).

2. The 'new' village primary school** (NR14 8EB)

Swardeston's first primary school was built in 1877-8 and opened in May 1878 (when Edith was 13). It closed in summer 1982. Edith Cavell would have known its first headmaster Mr Taylor and his family, who lived in the section at the west end of the building. Many of its pupils attended the Sunday School held in the village church (see 6 and 10). The Cavell children were educated at home with a governess.

3. Swardeston Common

In Edith's day this large gated common had much less housing around it than now and far fewer trees. It was grazed by local farmers' horses, cattle and sheep. Most of the roads which are tarred were rough tracks, used mainly by people on foot or on horseback or by horse-drawn carts or traps. Edith Cavell and her three siblings roamed widely over it, gathering wild flowers and blackberries. (The drawing of children at play is by Edith Cavell – from a book of drawings Edith gave to her mother for her birthday in 1883).

4. The old Vicarage Browne's Lane NR14 8UG** (the Cavell family home) (*Best seen from the churchyard*)

Rev Cavell commissioned this large home in 1865 before Edith was born. He clearly anticipated a 'tribe' of young Cavells. Edith's first sister Florence was born here in June 1867: a third girl Lilian in September 1870. A son, John, completed the family, born 1873 (9 years Edith Cavell's junior).

Edith learnt from an early age to look after others – before the family sat down to Sunday lunch she and her siblings would take helpings round to local households about whom the vicar was concerned. In her teens she wrote: *'Some day I am going to do something useful. It must be something for people. They are, most of them, so helpless, so hurt and so unhappy'.*

She always had fond memories of Swardeston: she wrote from occupied Brussels in 1914: *'I like to look back on the days when we were young and life was fresh and beautiful and the country so desirable and sweet.'*

Edith lived here till she was 16: thereafter she would return when on breaks from being a governess and (from 1895) from nursing. When Edith was nearly 45 her parents moved to 24 College Road in Norwich in 1909. Her father died there in 1910.

5. The pond by the Old Rectory** NR14 8DG (*Best seen from the church or the lode running north from it*)

When she was a young girl, Edith Cavell skated on the pond here with her siblings. She may also have been having tea on the lawn overlooking the pond on August 1st 1914 when a telegram came warning her of the imminent invasion of Belgium.

12. The village sign on the B1113 at the north end of the village

This was erected on the 70th anniversary of Edith's death in 1985. It was made with help from Lotus in nearby Hethel and paid for by public subscription. It is surrounded by Cavell roses (grown by Peter Beales Roses of Attleborough).

Other local places linked to Edith Cavell:

The Edith Cavell Day Centre

Based in the Lakenham Rugby Club at the top of the hill to the north of village on the B1113 (NR14 8DU). This was set up in 1986 and is open 3 days a week. Around 20 older/disabled people attend each day – see its website: <http://www.ecav.co.uk/>

Keswick Hall – west of the B1113 road from Swardeston to Norwich.

Edith was governess here for the three children of the Gurney family in the summer of 1888, when she was 23. She continued working as a governess until 1895, having spent five years with a family in Brussels, before she enrolled for nursing training in London at the age of 30.

Cavell Court Cringleford NR4 7SW

This Care UK nursing home for 80 residents was opened in 2014.

The University of East Anglia's School of Health Sciences Edith Cavell Building

This was opened around 2008. It has a plaque of Edith Cavell commissioned for the centenary of her death in October 2015.

In Norwich

A. The Cathedral

Edith Cavell was buried outside the East end after a national memorial service at Westminster Abbey on 15th May 1919. A new memorial stone was installed in 2016 – the original cross is nearby.

B. Tombland statue

A statue of Edith Cavell by Henry Pegram was unveiled by Queen Alexandra on 12th October 1918. A new interpretation board next to the statue was unveiled a century later.

C. Cavell Nurses Home

Adjacent to the Maids Head Hotel Tombland NR3 1LB. The right hand building now incorporated into the hotel was a home for nurses working in Norwich. Today the Hotel has a Cavell Room for receptions and meetings.

6. St Mary's church, Swardeston NR14 8EB

Rev Cavell was rector here for 46 years. In his day there were no pews but probably wooden chairs with rush seats. He preached each Sunday (sermons of up to an hour) from a pulpit on the south side. Edith wrote in her teens to her cousin Eddy *'I'd love to have you to visit but not on a Sunday. It's too dreadful: Sunday School [still at that time held in church], church services, family devotions morning and evening. And Father's sermons are so dull.'* The Cavell family would walk behind the vicar from the Vicarage to the church on a well-trodden path by the east end of church which is still evident to this day. The picture of the church is a watercolour by Edith painted in 1893.

7. The East window in St Mary's church (1917)

This was set in place in 1917 in memory of Edith. The figure of Christ above Edith is framed by these words *'Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends'*. On each side of her Edith has books: a prayer book and a copy of *'The Imitation of Christ'* (Thomas a Kempis c 1420) which she read daily while in solitary confinement for the ten weeks preceding her trial and execution.

8. A plaque on the north wall of the church (no picture)

All those from Swardeston who served in the armed forces in WW I are recorded here – many of the men and their families were known to Edith.

9. The village's WWI War Memorial 1919

This simple war memorial was funded by public subscription. Edith's is the first name in alphabetical order, along with the ten men from the village who died.

10. The Original Sunday School** room and the Cavell Room and exhibition (Best seen from the churchyard)

In the Vicarage garden to the west of the stables is a brick building with a corrugated iron roof. This was built with funds raised in part by Edith. She and others were committed to providing a Sunday school for village children, rather than have them sitting in church for long *'adult'* services (see 6 above). She sold her drawings and paintings and sought donations from local people, including Bishop Pelham of Norwich.

The room was opened in 1888. When the Cavell vicarage was sold in 1970 along with the Sunday schoolroom, a new wooden Cavell Room was erected by the church community. Work with village children continues here today. In 2015 an exhibition about Edith Cavell was set up with DVDs about her: this is open in daylight hours.

11. Her parents' grave (By the gate to the Cavell Vicarage garden)

This commemorates Rev Frederick Cavell who died aged 86 in 1910 and his wife Louisa (died aged 82). She last saw Edith in July 1914 just before Edith left for Brussels. Edith had offered a home to Mrs Cavell with her in Brussels but she had opted to remain in Norwich. In 1916 Louisa moved from Norwich to live with her daughter Lilian in Henley on Thames where she died in June 1918.

Other Norwich sites

The Cavells' retirement house, 24 College Rd – NR12 3JJ**

Holy Trinity church, Norwich NR2 2BJ

Edith Cavell's parents worshipped here 1909 – 1917: Edith herself will have attended when home on her summer holidays between 1910 and 1914. There is a memorial to Edith Cavell in the church – a carving of the Last Supper behind the communion table. For opening times see: <https://www.trinitynorwich.org>

Koblenz Way (by Norwich railway station) NR1 1WT

Sustrans, the UK charity encouraging sustainable journeys, asked Norfolk children to nominate famous Norfolk people to be remembered. Effigies of Norfolk figures Lord Horatio Nelson, Edith Cavell and Stephen Fry were inaugurated here in May 2013.

This guide was prepared in winter 2018-9 by Andrew Mcfadyen (concept and artwork), Georgie Harris of Production Bureau (design and layout) and Nick Miller (Cavell archivist). Much of the text above draws on the most comprehensive biography on Edith's childhood and youth by local historian Rowland Ryder Edith Cavell (1975) Hamish Hamilton.

This map is available at Swardeston church and Cavell exhibition and in Norwich Cathedral bookshop. It is also accessible on St Mary's church and Cavell and Norwich Cathedral websites – see weblinks below.

Another guide detailing a 5-mile signposted walk and an 11-mile signposted cycle trail from Norwich Cathedral to Swardeston was produced in 2015.

Leaflets are available via the same websites and in the locations above.

Websites:

Edith Cavell: www.edithcavell.org.uk

St Mary's Church Swardeston: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6121

Norwich Cathedral: www.cathedral.org.uk/visit/things-to-see-and-do/edith-cavell

The Cavell Nursing Trust supports health workers today

www.cavellnursestrust.org

The development of this leaflet was funded by a Heritage Lottery Fund World War I grant in 2018. This has also funded signage in the village and the creation and storage of the archive of the Cavell material held by St Mary's church (accessible from April 2019 via enquiry@edithcavell.org.uk) and signage in the village.

