RPS Planning, Transport and Environment

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Scheme Title A27 Lewes - Polegate Improvements.	Details Archaeological Walk-over Survey Results.
Road Number A27	Date
Contractor	
County East Sussex	
OS Reference TQ5205	
Single sided ✓ Double sided A3 5 Colour 5	

A27 LEWES-POLEGATE IMPROVEMENTS

Archaeological Walk-over Survey Results

1 Introduction. In September 1991 an Initial Archaeological Survey of the A27 Lewes-Polegate Improvement was carried out. It comprised a wide Study Area, with 3 main options (On-line, Railway and Northern) with a number of variations. The Initial Survey was undertaken prior to land access being available, and was based on the county council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), published records, documents and a brief site reconnaissance. A walkover survey was required to enhance and verify the information gathered for the Initial Survey, and this was carried out when access was arranged in June 1992. The Northern option was no longer being considered, and so the northern area was omitted from the walk over survey. Certain owners also refused permission to enter their land. The present report on the walkover survey should be read in conjunction with the September 1991 Initial Archaeological Survey.

2 Aims. The aim of the walkover survey was to check the terrain for visible signs of the archaeological features identified in the Initial Survey, and to observe any features which might not have been recorded in the sources consulted for the Initial Survey. No measured topographical survey was undertaken, but observations were noted on maps at a scale of 1:10,000. In places the crops or vegetation obscured the terrain too thoroughly for detailed examination, although the opportunity was taken to note any significant crop marks, albeit at ground level. The opportunity was also taken to review a recent (April 1987) vertical aerial photographic survey, although the scale was smaller than usually preferred for archaeological scrutiny.

3 Results. The results are presented on a series of A3 plans at 1:10,000 scale and a table (Table 1), which also show the relevant sites identified in the Initial Archaeological Survey. The land ownership numbers are used as reference to the parcels walked, and RPS Clouston's gazetteer nos. are used to reference sites. New sites are in bold type.

Table 1

Route	Land ownership no.	Archaeol. sites RPS no.	Comment	Land use/geol.
All routes	B01/01	46	no features north of Roman road 46. Roman road on slight causeway	pasture, Weald Clay
Folkington Link	B29/30	-	on top of ridge, no features, no finds in ploughed strip	pasture and ploughed strip. Greensand
Folkington Link	B29/30	-	running downhill, no features, no finds in ploughed strip	pasture and ploughed strop. Greensand
Eastern route 2	B03/03	-	no access, vicinity of Wootton Manor (RPS no. 74)	rape Greensand
Folkington Link	B03/03	-	no access, vicinity of Wootton Manor (RPS no. 74)	rape Greensand
Eastern Route 2a	B06/07	-	parish boundary along ditch and stream. Pool (mill pond?) on linc. Slight ridge and furrow N-S. APs show remnants of large rect. fields. Line crosses low rise between stream valleys.	cereal Greensand pasture Greensand
Eastern Route 2	B06/07	-	crosses parish boundary along stream. No features in cereal, although APs suggest ploughed out ridge and furrow	cereal Greensand
Eastern Route 3	B03/03	-	no features visible no features visible alongside railway	pasture/rough scrub cereal Gault Clay
	B06/07	-	old hedge, but no arch. features	pasture Gault Clay
Eastern Route 2 and 3	B08/09	66	no sign of features ass. with BA hoard (66)	pasture Gault Clay

Eastern Route 2a	B09/10	-	no features	cereal Head deposit
Eastern Routes 2 & 3	B07/08	78	deer farm. Mound on field corner, poss B.A. barrow	pasture Gault Clay
Eastern Route 2b Route 2a	B08/09	79	Site of cottage - date unknown Parish boundary along ditch	pasture Gault clay
Central Route 2, 2a Central routes 3, 3a All routes	B05/06 B05/06	- -	no features no features	pasture Gault clay Rape Gault Clay
Central Route 2a	B05/06	-	no features	rape, Gault Clay
Central Route 2, 3, 3a	B27/28	-	no features	rape, Gault Clay pasture, Gault Clay
All routes			Cuckmere River. Parish boundary	Alluvium
Central Route 3	B16/B17	73	Possible geological features on APs	cereals Pasture Head
Central Route 2	B16/B17	72	No features visible	cereals Gault Clay Alluvium
Central Route 3a	B16/B17	71 72	No features visible	cereals Alluvium
Central Route 2a	B16/B17 B19/B20	-	No features visible, but early field boundaries still show on APs	rough pasture, cereals Weald Clay

Central Route 3	B15/B16	**80**	earthworks on steep bank overlooking stream, natural? but near Shrunken Med. Village of Berwick - mill site??	rough pasture, Gault Clay
Central Route	B53/57	-	no visible features	pasture, Gault Clay
	B15/B16	**81**	earthworks on pasture above stream, no clear pattern	pasture, Gault Clay cereals, Gault Clay
Central Route 3a	B15/B17	-	no visible features	cereal Gault Clay
	B15/B17	70	no visible features tree belt with large ditch, parish boundary marked by ditch and hedge	pasture, cereal, Greensand
Route 2	B15/B17	-	no visible features	cereal, Gault Clay, west pasture, Gault Clay
Central Route 2a	B15/16	**82** 46 77	Quarry in hillside, disused Roman track, represented by mod. footpath. No other evidence no evidence of prehistoric occupation	pasture Head deposit cereal
Central Route 3, 3b	B35/36	-	no visible features New Barn Farm derelict	ploughed, Gault Clay
Central Route 3a	B35/36	-	no visible features	cereal, Head deposit
Central Route 2a	B25/26	69	No visible features. 69 is stray neolithic arrowhead	cereal, pasture, ploughed Head Deposits
"	B26/27	-	no visible features	pasture, turf, Head deposits

"	B22/23	83	area of channels and earthworks, but no clear pattern to indicate function. North-east of Selmeston village	Head deposits
"		75	no visible evidence of prehistoric activity	cereal Head deposits
"		47	Roman road may be in field, but no evidence visible	pasture, Head deposits
Central route 3	35/36	47	Roman road reputedly in field, but not visible	cereal, Gault clay
"	"	46	Alongside main Lewes-Pevensey road; no visible features	pasture, Gault clay
			no visible features parish boundary ploughed out	cereals, Gault clay
Central Route 3	B24/25	"	no visible features	cereals, Gault clay
Central route 2	B22/23	-	no visible features	cereal, Head deposits
	B24/25	-	possible ridge and furrow in N-S direction	pasture/cereal, Gault clay
	"	-	no visible features. Clear land-drains on APs	cereals, Gault clay
	"	-	no visible features	pasture (imp) Gault clay
Central Route 2	B37/38	-	no visible features	pasture, Gault clay
	"	48	possible line of Road visible on APs, but no features observed on ground	cereal, Gault clay

Central Route 3	B39/41 B35/36 B15/39	21 46/48	Cross slab stump on north west side of intersection. no other visible indications. no indication of Roman roads 46/48 except hedge lines. Wick Street place name confirms Roman road. Old field boundaries visible on APS	cereals, Head deposits
Central route 2	B15/39	-	no visible indications	cereals, Head deposits, Gault clay
Central route 2	B38/40	51	Route crosses line of Roman road 51, but no trace visible (hedgeline?)	cereals, Greensand
		2	I.A. settlement, no sign on ground	cereal, Greensand
		46	route crosses Lewes-Pevensey Roman road, but no visible sign on ground	cereal, Greensand
"	B46/48	-	no visible indications	pasture/cereal Greensand
Central route 3	B41/B43	46	no visible sign of Roman Lewes-Pevensey road. [no access, but observed from public rights of way]	Pasture, Head deposits
	B38/40	7	crop mark of ring ditch, etc. not visible in cereal field	cereal, Head deposits
		-	parish boundary, ditch and hedge	
	B42/44	-	no visible indications	pasture, Head deposits
Western route 1	B49/52	-	no visible signs	cereals, Head deposits
	"	-	Glynde flood plain, clear terrace, then drained meadows	alluvium
Western route 1	B47/49 4B37/50	-	no visible trace no visible trace	meadow, Alluvium, cereal, chalk

Western route 2	B49/52	-	no visible signs	Meadow, Alluvium
"	-	-	no visible signs	pasture, Alluvium
"	B49/52a	-	no visible signs	cereal, Alluvium
"	B37/50	-	no visible signs	cereal, Alluvium
		-	no visible signs	pasture, Chalk
Western route 1	B37/50	55	route well clear of Roman farm	cereal, chalk
	B54/58	-	Quarry	quarry, chalk

4 Conclusions

4.1 The walk over survey has not materially altered the conclusions of the Initial Archaeological Survey. The number of new sites is very few, amounting to 1 demolished house site (79), a possible burial mound (78), three earthwork sites (80, 81, 83), and a disused quarry (82), all at the eastern end of the corridor. To a certain extent this reflects the greater proportion of pasture at this end, which itself is a function of the geology. The one anomaly is the possible burial mound (78) on Gault Clay, the only example known on this geology. This identification requires verification, but if it is confirmed then this is a major site, likely to date to either to the Saxon or bronze age period.

4.2 The potential impact of the route options, as at June 1992 are set out in Table 2 as follows:-

Table 2

Route	Affected sites	Significance
Eastern Route 2	46 Roman road	slight
	66 bronze age hoard	moderate
	78 ? burial ground	major if confirmed

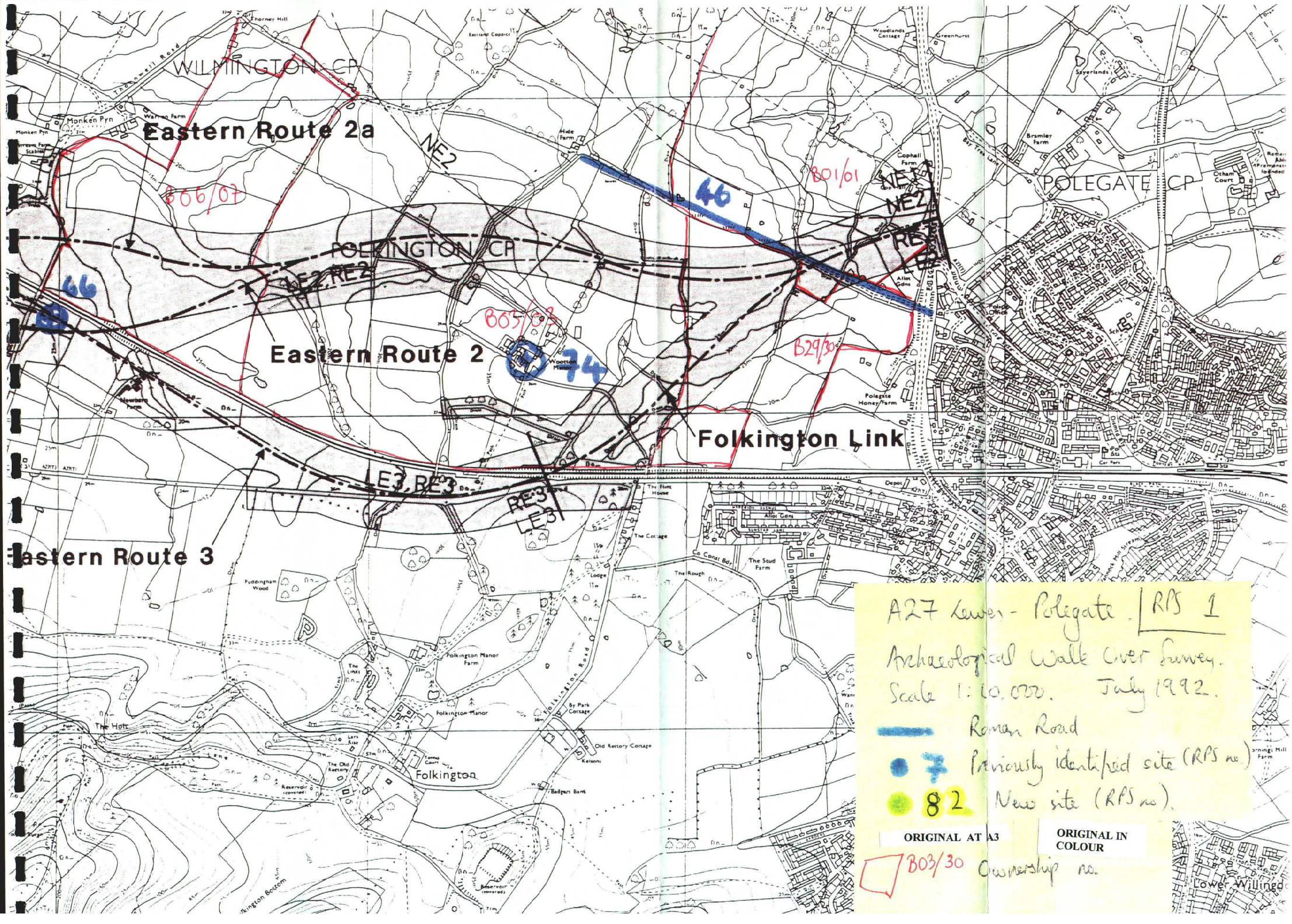
Eastern route 2a	46 Roman road 79 site of cottage	slight moderate if ancient
Eastern route 2b	46 Roman road 79 site of cottage	slight moderate if ancient
Eastern route 3	46 Roman road 66 bronze age hoard 78 ? burial mound	slight moderate major if confirmed
Central route 2	72 flint site (vicinity) 70 flint site (vicinity) 72 flint site (vicinity) 46 Roman road (Stonery Farm) 83 earthworks (vicinity) 47 Roman road 48 Roman road 51 Roman road 2 IA settlement 46 Roman road (Balcombe Pit)	moderate moderate moderate slight moderate slight slight slight major slight
Central route 2a	82 Disused quarry 46 Roman road (Stonery Farm) 69 Flint site 83 earthworks (vicinity) THEN AS CENTRAL ROUTE 2 (5 more sites)	slight slight moderate moderate

Central route 3	73 flint site	moderate
	80 earthworks	moderate
	81 earthworks	moderate
	47 Roman road	slight
	21 cross shaft (vicinity)	slight
	48 Roman road	slight
	46 Roman road	slight
	51 Roman road	slight
	7 Settlement (vicinity)	slight
Central route 3a	71 flint site (vicinity)	moderate
	72 flint site (vicinity)	moderate
	70 flint site (vicinity)	moderate
	THEN AS CENTRAL ROUTE 3 (5 more sites)	slight
Central route 3b	AS CENTRAL ROUTE 3a (total 9 sites)	
Western route 1	No known sites affected	
Western route 1	No known sites affected	

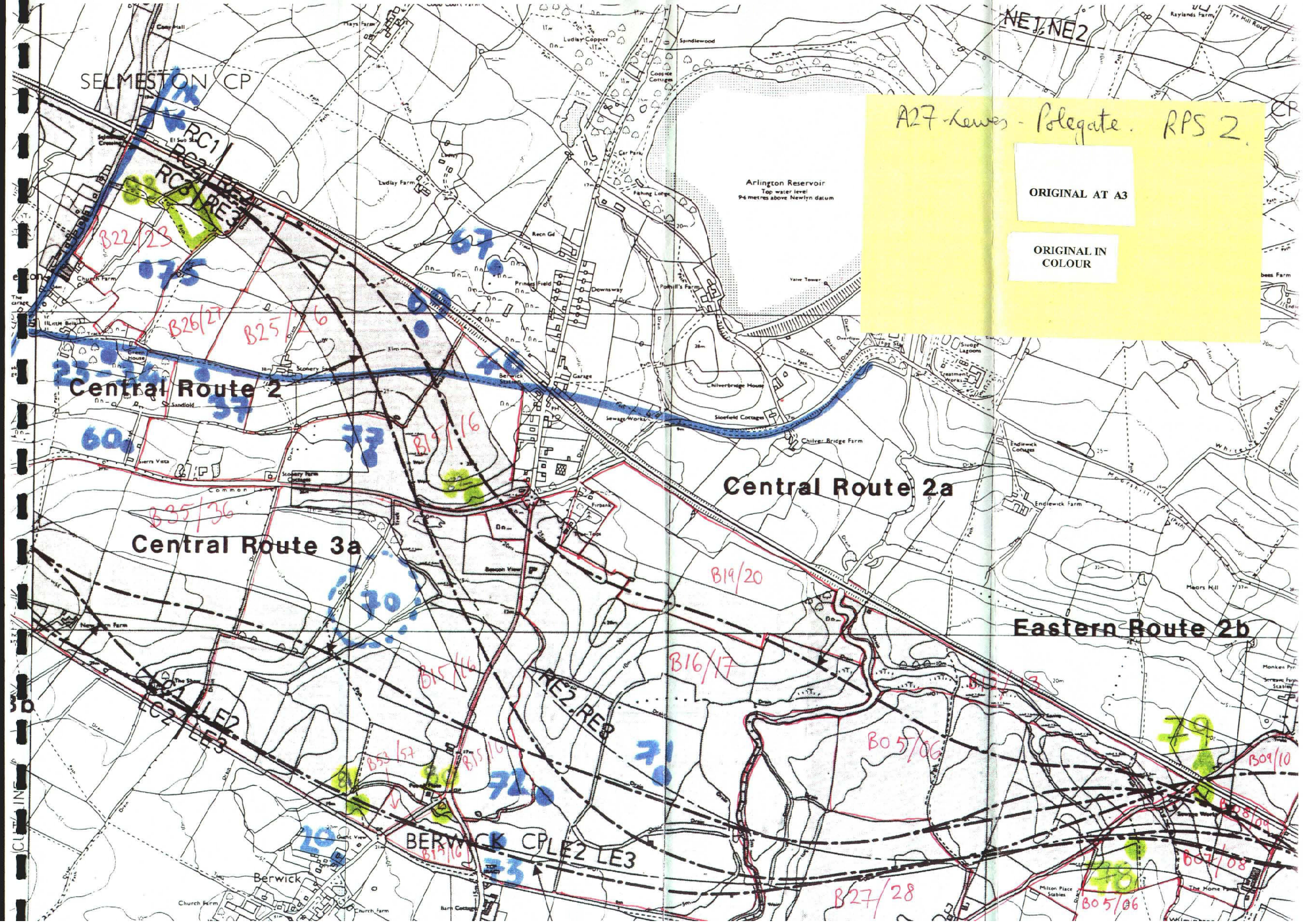
4.3 From table 2 it can be seen that Eastern routes 2a and 2b have less impact than Eastern routes 2 and 3. The burial mound (RPS 78), if confirmed, would be a major constraint.

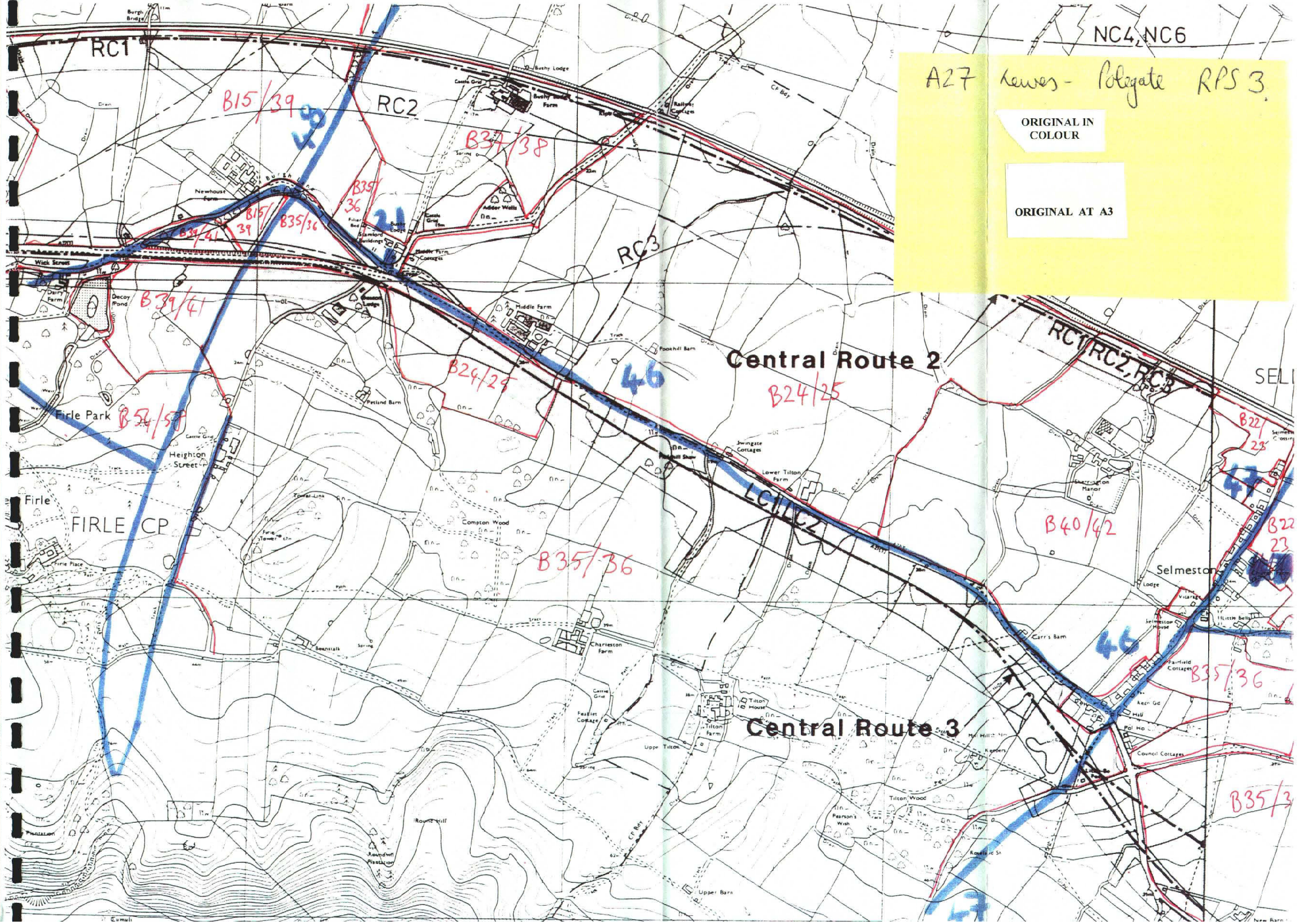
4.4 All the central routes affect a major settlement site (RPS 2 for routes 2, 2a, and RPS 7 for routes 3, 3a, 3b), but 2, 3a and 3b also pass close to several prehistoric flint sites (RPS 72, 70, 77) whereas Central routes 3 and 2a avoid these areas. On balance, Central route 3 is likely to affect fewer significant sites than the other central routes.

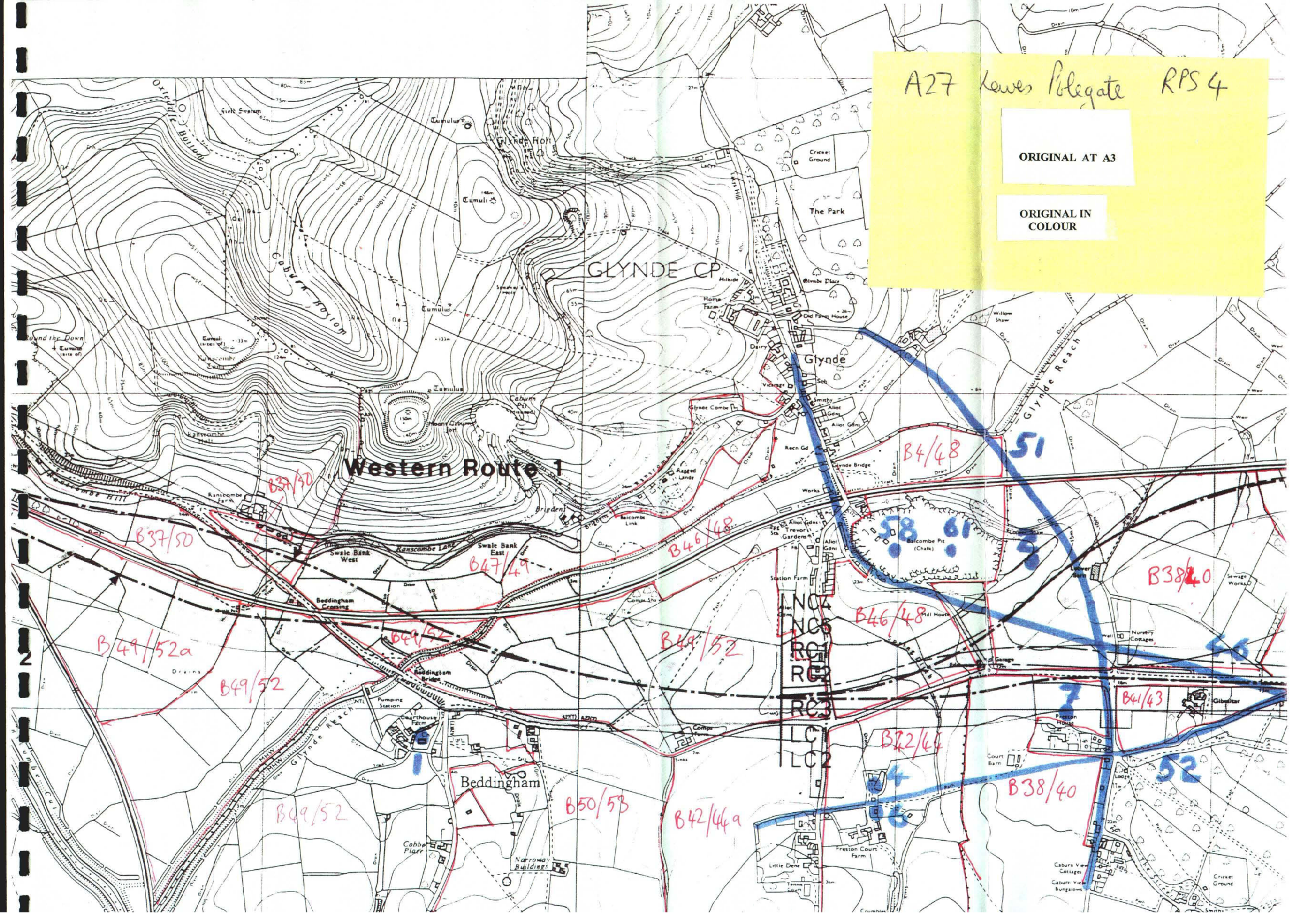
4.5 The western route has no impact on known sites, as it passes north of the Beddingham DMV (RPS 1) and Preston villa (RPS 5) and south of the Ranscombe Roman farm (RPS 55). However, it crosses the Glynde and Ouse flood plain, where in situ waterlogged material may be encountered, particularly close to the foot of the Caburn and Ranscombe Hill. There is a preference for western route 1 over route 2, because although the probability of occupation on the Chalk is not negligible, it is considerably easier to detect, assess and mitigate than potential waterlogged sites under the alluvium.

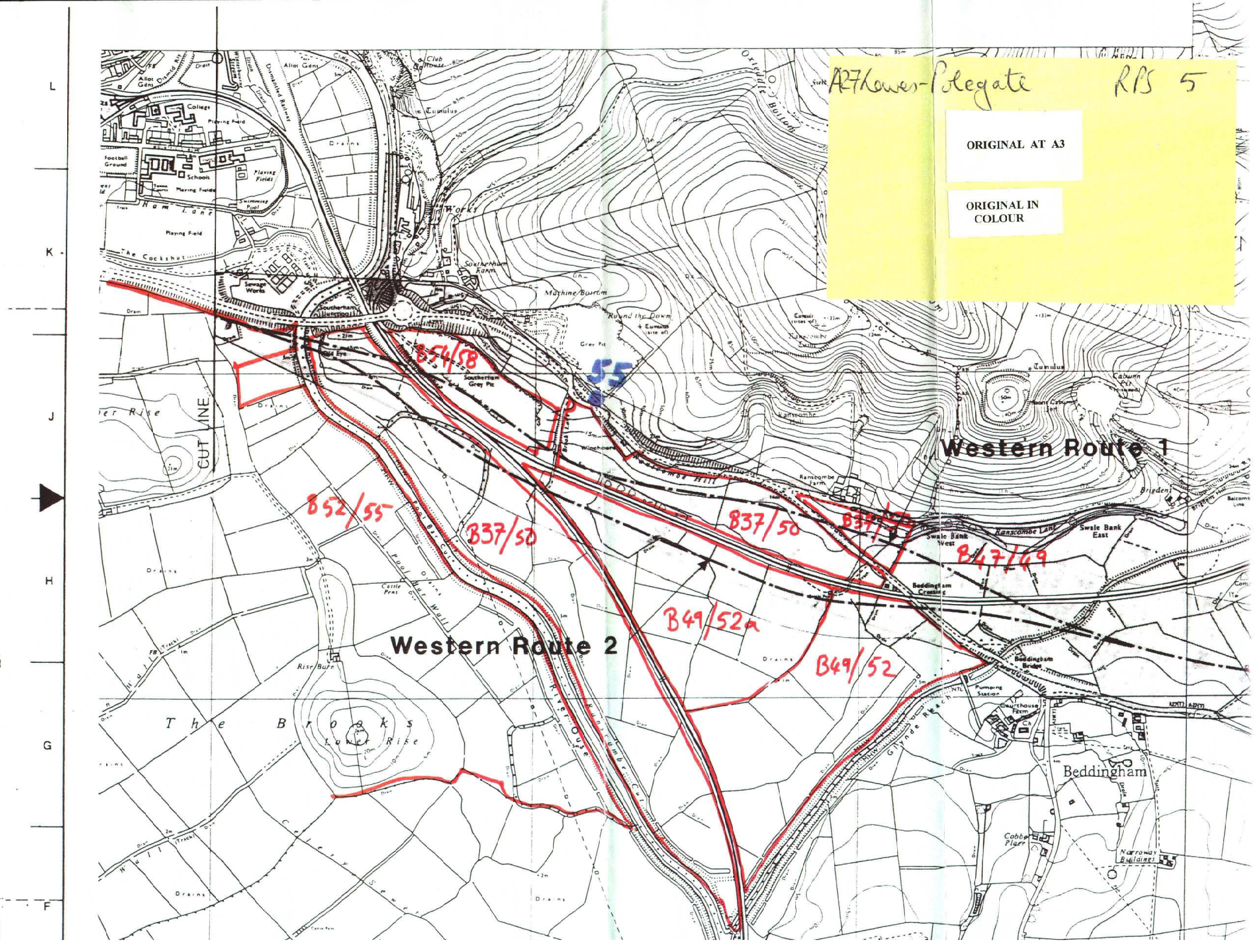


Eastern Route 2a
Eastern Route 2
Eastern Route 3
Folkington Link
WILMINGTON CP
POLEGATE CP
FOLKINGTON CP
NE2
LE2,RE2
LE3,RE3
RE3
LE3
B06/07
B05/08
B01/01
B29/30
46
66
69
74
Monken Pyn
Warren Farm
Thorner Hill
Eastland Coppice
Hide Farm
Woodlands Cottage
Greenhurst
Sayerlands
Bramley Farm
Cophall Farm
Otham Court
Allot Gdns
Police Office
Polegate Honey Farm
Wootton Manor
Newbarn Farm
The Flint House
The Cottage
Co Const Bdy
The Stud Farm
The Rough
Puddingham Wood
Folkington Manor Farm
Folkington Manor
The Links
The Holt
The Old Rectory
Reservoir (covered)
Folkington
Folkington Road
By Park Cottage
Old Rectory Cottage
Kelsons
Badgers Bank
Lower Willingd
A27 Lewes - Polegate | RPS 1
Archaeological Walk Over Survey.
Scale 1:10,000. July 1992.
Roman Road
7 Previously identified site (RPS no)
82 New site (RPS no).
ORIGINAL AT A3
ORIGINAL IN COLOUR
B03/30 Ownership no.


A27 - Lewes - Polegate. RPS 2.
ORIGINAL AT A3
ORIGINAL IN COLOUR
SELMESTON CP
NE1, NE2
Central Route 2
Central Route 2a
Central Route 3a
Eastern Route 2b
RC1
RC2
RC3
RE1
RE2
RE3
LE1
LE2
LE3
BERWICK CP
Arlington Reservoir
Top water level
96 metres above Newlyn datum
B22/23
B25/26
B26/27
B35/36
B15/16
B19/20
B16/17
B05/06
B09/10
B27/28
Berwick
Church Farm
Chilver Bridge Farm
Endlewick Farm
Moors Hill
Ludley Farm
Downsway
Sloefield Cottages
Stoneham Farm
Stoneham Farm Cottages
Berwick Station
Sewage Works
Treatment Works
Lagoon (Path)
Monkes Pyr
Stream Farm Stables
Milton Place Stables
The Home Farm
Church Farm Barn Cottages
Nap Hill
Ludley Coppice
Spindlewood
Coopers Cottages
Raylands Farm
The Hill Road
Car Park
Fishing Lodge
Recn Gd
Valve Tower
Pothill's Farm
Princes Field
Chilverbridge House
Sludge Lagoons
Firbank
Tops
Beacon View
Sierra Vista
Common
Newham Farm
Grant View
Maze Farm
Ludley Farm
Green House
Stoneham Farm
St Sandhold
Garage
Pond
Drain
Path
Track
Fence
Hedge
Wall
Ditch
Overflow
Pipe
Slope
Bridge
Footbridge
Gate
Stile
Tree
Trees
Scrub
Rough Ground
Orchard
Quarry
Tank
Pylon
Telegraph Line
Electricity Line
Boundary
Parish Boundary
Footpath
Bridleway
Byway
Road
Lane
Car Park
Fishing Lodge
Recreation Ground
Valve Tower
Sewage Works
Treatment Works
Sludge Lagoons
Overflow
Pipe
Slope
Bridge
Footbridge
Gate
Stile
Tree
Trees
Scrub
Rough Ground
Orchard
Quarry
Tank
Pylon
Telegraph Line
Electricity Line
Boundary
Parish Boundary
Footpath
Bridleway
Byway
Road
Lane
Car Park
Fishing Lodge
Recreation Ground
Valve Tower
Sewage Works
Treatment Works
Sludge Lagoons
Overflow
Pipe
Slope
Bridge
Footbridge
Gate
Stile
Tree
Trees
Scrub
Rough Ground
Orchard
Quarry
Tank
Pylon
Telegraph Line
Electricity Line
Boundary
Parish Boundary
Footpath
Bridleway
Byway
Road
Lane


A27 Lewes - Polegate RPS 3
ORIGINAL IN COLOUR
ORIGINAL AT A3
NC4, NC6
RC1
RC2
RC3
RC1, RC2, RC3
Central Route 2
Central Route 3
LC1, LC2
B15/39
B37/38
B35/36
B39/41
B24/25
B54/58
B40/42
B22/23
48
46
47
Firle Park
Firle
FIRLE CP
Heighton Street
Selmeston
Newhouse Farm
Middle Farm
Pookhill Barn
Petland Barn
Swingate Cottages
Lower Tilton Farm
Compton Wood
Charleston Farm
Tilton House
Tilton Farm
Upper Tilton
Tilton Wood
Pearson's Wish
Round Hill
Roundhill Plantation
Upper Barn
Carr's Barn
Fairfield Cottages
Council Cottages
Sherrington Manor
Wick Street
Decoy Pond
Dairy Farm
Burgh Bridge
Bushy Lodge
Railway Cottages
Adder Wells
Stamford Buildings
Middle Farm Cottages
Beanstalk
Cattle Grid
Tower Link
Firle Place
Pol Ho
Kegn Gd
Hall
Little Bells
Lodge
Selmeston House
Cumuli
Plantation


A27 Lewes Polegate RPS 4
ORIGINAL AT A3
ORIGINAL IN COLOUR
Western Route 1
GLYNDE CP
Glynde
Glynde Reach
Beddingham
Swale Bank West
Swale Bank East
Ranscombe Lane
Beddingham Crossing
Beddingham Bridge
Pumping Station
Courthouse Farm
Cobbe Place
Narroway Buildings
Preston Court Farm
Little Dene
Station Farm
Balcombe Pit (Chalk)
Glynde Combe
Glynde Place
Old Farm House
The Park
Cricket Ground
Willow Shaw
Nursery Cottages
Gibraltar
Preston House
Court Barn
Caburn View Cottages
Caburn View Bungalows
Cricket Ground
Sewage Works
Lower Barn
Hill House
Garage
Trevor Gardens
Allot Gdns
Works
Ragged Lands
Balcombe Link
Brigden
Ranscombe Farm
Ranscombe Hill
Round the Down
Tumulus
Cumuli
Field System
Oxteddle Bottom
Caburn Bottom
Glynde Holt
Home Farm
Dairy
Vicarage
Smithy
Recn Gd
Glynde Bridge
Hillside
Lacys
Drains
B37/50
B47/49
B46/48
B4/48
B49/52
B49/52a
B50/53
B42/44a
B42/44
B41/43
B38/40
NC4
NC6
RC1
RC2
RC3
LC1
LC2
1
4
6
7
8
9
51
52
58
61
46


A27 Lewes-Polegate RPS 5
ORIGINAL AT A3
ORIGINAL IN COLOUR
Western Route 1
Western Route 2
B54/58
55
B52/55
B37/50
B37/50
B47/49
B49/52a
B49/52
CUT LINE
Beddingham
Southerham Grey Pit
Southerham Farm
Machine Bottom
Round the Down
Ranscombe Farm
Swale Bank West
Swale Bank East
Beddingham Crossing
Beddingham Bridge
Pumping Station
Courthouse Farm
Glynde Reach
Cobbe Place
Narroway Buildings
The Brooks
Lower Rise
Rise Barn
Cattle Pens
Pool Bar Wall
Pool Bar Cut
Ranscombe Cut
River Ouse
Celery Sewer
Drains
Tumulus
Oxteddle Bottom
Ham Lane
Playing Field
Football Ground
Schools
College
Swimming Pool
Sewage Works
Works
Club House
Cabburn Pit
Brigdens
Balcombe Link
Ranscombe Lane
Wingshiners
Grey Pit
Allot Gdns
Dismantled Railway
Cliffe Cut
Drain
L
K
J
H
G
F

The Thames Estuary, 7000-6500 BC, showing current and ancient coastlines (after Wilkinson & Murphy 1995, fig.126)

Fig. 2

Relief map of Sheppey, showing boundary of the alluvia and extant and recorded salterns (filled and hollow squares)

Fig. 3