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**A11 ROAD IMPROVEMENT,  
GORLESTON TO HOPTON-ON-SEA  
WIDENING, NORFOLK**

**A Stage II Archaeological Desk Based  
Assessment**

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## CONTENTS

	<i>Page No.</i>
<i>S</i>	<i>Summary</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>i</i></span>
<i>1</i>	<i>Introduction</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>1</i></span>
<i>2</i>	<i>Aims and Objectives</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>2</i></span>
<i>3</i>	<i>Methodology</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>3</i></span>
<i>4</i>	<i>National and Local Planning Policy Background</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>5</i></span>
<i>5</i>	<i>Geological and topographical Background</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>9</i></span>
<i>6</i>	<i>Archaeological and Historical Background</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>10</i></span>
<i>7</i>	<i>Results of the Site Walk-Over Survey</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>17</i></span>
<i>8</i>	<i>Results of the Aerial Photographic Plot Searches</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>19</i></span>
<i>9</i>	<i>Evaluation of Archaeological Importance</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>20</i></span>
<i>10</i>	<i>Archaeological Impact of the Various Road Widening Options</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>25</i></span>
<i>11</i>	<i>Conclusions &amp; Recommendations for Stage III Fieldwork</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>26</i></span>

### APPENDICES

- 1* *Extracts from the Norfolk County Sites and Monuments Record*
- 2* *Extracts from the National Monuments Record*
- 3* *Listed Building Information from the National Monuments Record*
- 4* *Extracts from the Suffolk County Sites and Monuments Record*
- 5* *Results of the Archaeological Monitoring of the Geotechnical Trial Pits*

### FIGURES

- 1* *Site Location*
- 2* *Cultural Heritage Sites*
- 3* *Extract from Faden's Map of Norfolk (1797)*
- 4* *Tracing of Enclosure Award Map for Hopton (1813)*



- 5 *Tracing of Tithe map of Hopton (1843)*
- 6 *Composite Extract from O.S. Map 25"-1 Mile Sheet No. Suffolk 2.15, First & Second Editions, (1884-1906)*
- 7 *Extract from O.S. Map 6"-1 Mile Sheets Nos. Norfolk 78SE & Suffolk 4NE, (1928)*
- 8 *Extract from O.S. Map 6"-1 Mile Sheet Nos. Suffolk 4NE & Norfolk 78SE, (1946)*
- 9 *Extract from O.S. Map Sheet No. TG50SW (1958)*
- 10 *Extract from O.S. Map Sheet No. TG50SW (1972)*
- 11 *Map Showing Cropmark Complexes Plotted From Aerial Photographic Sources by Norfolk Archaeological Unit*
- 12 *Map Showing Area of RPS Clouston Site Walkover Survey*

- S.1 A Stage II Archaeological Study has been commissioned by RPS Clouston on behalf of the Highways Agency. The Study has included a review of the Norfolk County Sites and Monuments Record; the Suffolk County Sites and Monuments Record; the National Monuments Record; listed building information from the National Monuments Record; the published lists of scheduled monument information held by English Heritage and a site walk-over survey.
- S.2 Three potential options for the widening of the existing A12 dual carriageway are currently being considered by the Highways Agency. Option 1 involves the widening of the road on both sides, incorporating a cycle path and earthworks from Links Road, Gorleston southwards to Station Road at Hopton-on Sea. Option 2 also involves the widening of the dual carriageway on both sides (incorporating the same amount of land take as Option 1) from Links Road southwards, but only as far as Valley Farm (with an extension of the cycle path on the eastern side southwards as far as the Old Lowestoft Road. Option 3 (which is the preferred option) involves the widening of the southbound carriageway only from the Links Road southwards to the Old Lowestoft Road.
- S.3 An analysis of the available data from the various cultural heritage sources has identified possible potential constraints upon any proposal to widen the existing A12 dual carriageway. These are the various cropmark sites of the Valley Farm cropmark complex located on both sides of the road consisting of a plethora of ring ditches, enclosures, field systems, trackways etc. It is possible that any widening of the existing dual carriageway may well encroach upon some of these sites (see figure RPSC 11).
- S.4 This desk top study also incorporates the results of the archaeological monitoring of three geotechnical trial pits which were excavated on the eastern side of the A12 dual carriageway (in conjunction with the preferred Option 3). The results of the trial pit monitoring did not locate any archaeological features or deposits that could be associated with this cropmark complex. The trial pits however, were very limited in scope and may well have "missed" any evidence of these cropmark sites.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

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- 1.1 This Stage II archaeological desk based assessment was commissioned by the RPS Clouston Huddersfield Office on behalf of their clients - the Highways Agency. The procedures for Stage II studies as set out in the *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB Vol.11)* have been followed.
- 1.2 This Stage II study has been produced in response to various proposals to widen the existing A12 dual carriageway from Hopton-on-Sea northwards to Gorleston at the roundabout at the southern end of Lowestoft Road.
- 1.3 There are currently three options relating to the proposed widening of the A12 dual carriageway between Gorleston and Hopton-on Sea. Option 1 involves the widening of both the north and southbound carriageways from Links Road, Gorleston to Station Road, Hopton-on-Sea. Option 2 also involves the widening of both sides of the road, but is a "shortened" version of Option 1, in that this option only extends as far south as Valley Farm. Option 3 involves the widening of the southbound carriageway only incorporating a new cyclepath/footpath from Links Road to the Old Lowestoft Road.
- 1.4 This archaeological desk top study is an assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource at the proposed development site using written and graphic information. This study is based upon the *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk Based Assessments* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, September 1994). It outlines the results of the desk top assessment and identifies the aims and objectives of the study. Information on the planning, geological, topographical historical and archaeological background are used to assess the potential for archaeology on the site.
- 1.5 The proposed development site is located on the eastern side of the A12 dual carriageway from Hopton-on-Sea northwards to Gorleston. The Study Area comprises the following national grid squares: TG 5101; TG 5201; TG 5301; TG 5102; TG 5202; TG 5302; TG 5100; TG 5200; TG 5300; TM 5199; TM 5299 and TM 5399 for which data was obtained from The Norfolk County Sites and Monuments Record and the Suffolk County Sites and Monuments Record.

## *2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES*

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- 2.1 The general aim of the desk based assessment is to gain information about the known or potential archaeological resource within the proposed development area, including the presence or absence, character and extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and relative quality, in order to make an assessment of its worth.
- 2.2 This will provide sufficient information for highway planning purposes to enable:
- \* the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation and management of any significant archaeological material, or
  - \* the formulation of a strategy for further investigation, whether intrusive or not, where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be devised.
- 2.3 The specific aims of this desk based assessment are to identify any specific archaeological sites within the highway improvement area which may be directly affected by the various proposed road widening schemes to the existing A12 dual carriageway between Hopton-on-Sea and Gorleston.

- 3.1 This Stage II desk based assessment has been carried out using a variety of cultural heritage information which has been obtained from a variety of sources as recommended in the *DMRB Vol.11*. These comprise:
- \* the Norfolk County Sites and Monuments Record;
  - \* the Suffolk County Sites and Monuments Record;
  - \* the National Monuments Record;
  - \* aerial photographic plots from Norfolk Landscape Archaeology;
  - \* scheduled ancient monument information from English Heritage;
  - \* listed building information from the National Monuments Record Centre, Swindon;
  - \* early edition O.S. maps from the Bodleian Library, Oxford;
  - \* historical map information from the Norfolk Record Office;
  - \* extracts from the Norfolk County Council Structure Plan;
  - \* extracts from the District Authority Local Plan;
  - \* results of trial pit monitoring undertaken by Owen Williams Ltd;
  - \* a site walk-over survey by an RPS Clouston archaeologist.
- 3.2 The data and information from the Norfolk County Sites and Monuments Record was obtained for the national grid squares TG 5101; TG 5102; TG 5201; TG 5202; TG 5301 TG 5302;. TG 5200; TG 5100; TG 5300; TM 5299; TM 5199 and TM 5399. The Norfolk SMR data is summarised in Appendix 1 of this report and is shown on figure RPSC 3.
- 3.3 Cultural heritage information was similarly obtained from the National Monuments Record for the same search area. The NMR data is summarised in Appendix 2 of this report and is shown on figure RPSC 3.
- 3.4 SMR data was also obtained from the Suffolk County Sites and Monuments Record for an area at the southern end of the Study Area which is located within the County of Suffolk. The Suffolk SMR data is summarised in Appendix 4 of this report and is shown on figure RPSC 3.
- 3.5 Listed building information for the parish of Hopton-on-Sea was obtained by consultation of the Department of the Environment greenbooks and of the Listed Buildings Record database held at the National Monuments Record Centre at Swindon.

- 3.6 The published lists of scheduled monuments published by English Heritage for the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk were consulted. There are no scheduled monuments located within the Study Area.
- 3.7 Aerial photographic plots for the Study Area were obtained from Norfolk Landscape Archaeology. The results of this search are summarised in Section 8 of this report and are detailed on figure RPSC 11.
- 3.8 Historic map information was obtained from the Norfolk County Record Office. Tracings were made of the enclosure award map for the parish of Hopton of 1813 (see figure RPSC 4) and from the tithe map of 1843 for the same parish (see figure RPSC 5). Field names for the Study Area were detailed on the 1843 tithe map. The 1813 map detailed the names of the respective landowners only.
- 3.9 Various early and later editions of Ordnance Survey maps were obtained from the Bodleian Library, Oxford. This included: a composite tracing of the First and Second Edition maps of 1884 and 1906; extracts from 6" maps of 1928 and 1946 and extracts from 1:10,000 maps of 1948 and 1972. These are detailed in figures RPSC 6-10 respectively.
- 3.10 The results of the trial pit excavations carried out by Owen Williams and the accompanying archaeological monitoring of the same are summarised in Appendix 5 of this report. The locations of the trial pits are detailed on figure RPSC 11.
- 3.11 The planning and cultural heritage background including information on the geology, topography, and the archaeological and historical background to the proposed development site are described in Sections 4, 5 and 6 of this report.
- 3.12 The results of the RPS Clouston site walk-over survey are described in Section 7 of this report. The area of the survey is shown on figure RPSC 12.

### *Scheduled Monuments (SM's)*

- 4.1 Statutory protection for archaeology is principally enshrined in the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act* (1979) as amended by the *National Heritage Act* (1983). Nationally important sites are listed on a Scheduled of Monuments which is maintained by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. Scheduled Monument (SM) consent is required for any work which would affect the fabric of a scheduled monument. There are no SMs in the Study Area.

### *Listed Buildings*

- 4.2 Listed buildings are protected under the provisions of Section 54(1) of the *Town and Country Planning Act* (1971), as amended by the *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act* (1990) which empowers the Secretary of State for the Environment to maintain a list of built structures of historic or architectural significance. There are seven listed buildings within the Study Area.

### *English Heritage*

- 4.3 English Heritage (the working title of the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England) are consulted by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on SM consent applications and may be asked to advise on other archaeological matters as it is mandated to do in the *National Heritage Act* (1983) "so far as is practicable, to secure the preservation of ancient monuments and historic buildings in England". As well as carrying out a general archaeological advisory role, it also monitors the situation of archaeology in the planning process, based on the *Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16) and *Planning Policy Guidance on Planning and the Historic Environment* (PPG 15).

### *DoE Planning Policy Guidance*

- 4.4 The **Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16)**, published in November 1990 consolidates advice to planning authorities concerning the safeguarding of archaeology within the planning process. The guidance emphasises the irreplaceability of the archaeological resource, details the role of records kept in County Sites and Monuments Records (SMRs), encourages early consultation with county archaeological officers, and sets out the requirements for applicants to furnish sufficient information about the impact of their proposals for reasonable planning decisions to be made. The document also indicates the circumstances in which further archaeological evaluation to provide this information would be necessary, and outlines the use of agreements and conditions to protect the archaeology if appropriate. The Norfolk County SMR and the National Monuments Record (NMR) were consulted and entries identified (see Appendices 1 and 2 and figure RPSC 3).
- 4.5 The Highway's Agency's *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Vol.11* (August 1994), incorporates the principles of *PPG 16* and the procedures adopted for the proposed road widening scheme to the existing eastern side of the dual carriageway of the A12 road between Hopton-on-Sea and Gorleston, Norfolk are in accordance with this advice.

- 4.6 **Planning and Policy Guidance on Planning and the Historic Environment (PPG 15)** published in September 1994 deals with Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, World Heritage Sites, Historic Parks and Gardens, Historic Battlefields and the wider historic landscape. No sites of this nature and no listed buildings or their settings will be affected by the proposed road widening scheme.

*The Highways Agency*

- 4.7 Government policies for trunk roads were set out in *Trunk Roads, England: into the 1990's* published in February 1990, and the Department of Transport's Highways Policy and Environment Division issued *Trunk Roads in England 1994 Review* in March 1994. The procedures required to protect the environment are as set out in Chapter 8 of this document.
- 4.8 The requirement to carry out an environmental assessment in relation to road schemes and the composition of Environmental Statements published with Draft Orders is contained in the *Highways Act* (1980 Section 105A). The DMRB was issued in 1990 (revised August 1994) to guide the methods and procedures in developing roads.
- 4.9 This report constitutes a Stage II assessment as recommended by the *DMRB Vol.11*.

*Norfolk County Council Policies*

- 4.10 In order to provide protection for archaeological sites and historic landscapes, Norfolk County Council sets out the following policies from the *Norfolk Structure Plan (1993)*:

*Policy A.1 - "Development which would affect sites of outstanding archaeological importance will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances".*

*Policy A.2 - "On other sites of archaeological importance and where there is no overriding case for preservation, development will not normally be permitted unless agreement has been reached to provide for the evaluation, recording and where desirable, the excavation of such sites".*

*Policy A.3 - "The County Council will, where necessary and practicable, seek to protect sites and field monuments by entering into voluntary agreements with the owners".*

*Policy ENV.13 - "Development which would affect sites of outstanding archaeological importance, whether scheduled or not, or their settings, will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances".*

*Policy ENV.14 - "On other sites of archaeological importance, which do not merit physical preservation, and where it is not feasible to preserve remains, development will not be permitted unless agreement has been reached for the evaluation of the site, and if necessary, for excavation and recording in advance of development, and for analysis and publication of the results".*

- 4.11 In addition, Norfolk County Council has the following policy in relation to Historic Buildings, Archaeology and the Historic Landscape which is taken from *Norfolk*



County Council, Planning & Transportation, Deposit Norfolk Structure Plan (January 1998):

*Policy ENV.12: "The quality and local distinctiveness of the historic urban and rural built environment will be maintained and improved by:*

- (i) protecting all listed buildings, sites of national archaeological importance, whether scheduled or not, and their settings against demolition, and inappropriate alterations or development;*
- (iii) ensuring that agreement is reached for appropriate evaluation, excavation, and recording in advance of development on sites of archaeological importance, which do not merit physical preservation, and where it is not feasible to preserve them in situ;*
- (v) minimising the impact of vehicular traffic on the historic environment by introducing traffic calming measures which respect the existing historic townscape; retaining or reinstating traditional floorscapes and street furniture design, and retaining and carrying out appropriate repairs to historic structures on the highway, such as bridges.*

#### *District Council Policies*

##### *Great Yarmouth Borough Council*

- 4.12 Great Yarmouth Borough Council sets out the following policy guidelines in relation to archaeology and conservation from the *Great Yarmouth Borough Wide Local Plan* (October 1995):

*Policy BNV1 - Development which would adversely affect a scheduled ancient monument or an unscheduled monument of known national importance or its setting will not be permitted.*

*Policy BNV2 - Development which adversely affects a site of outstanding archaeological importance will not be permitted. Within areas of known archaeological significance or potential, the Borough Council will require the results of an archaeological evaluation by an appropriate body to be submitted with any applications for development. Planning permission will not be given if:*

- (a) such an evaluation is not provided.*
- (b) such an evaluation is provided but it reveals that the archaeological remains are of such importance that they should not be destroyed.*

*Subject to the evaluation and in granting planning [permission, the Council may require the preservation in situ of archaeological remains. Exceptionally, where such preservation is not feasible or merited, planning permission may be granted subject to the applicant entering into a legally binding obligation under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to ensure excavation, recording and publication of finds. On other sites of archaeological interest developers may be required to allow a watching brief by an approved archaeological contractor while work is in progress.*

4.13 These policies have been considered and are followed in the current study.

## ***5 GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND***

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- 5.1 The solid geology of the proposed road improvement corridor consist of Norwich and Red Crag and Chillesford clay of the Pleistocene. Overlying this are deposits of glaciofluvial and aeolian drift comprising well drained coarse, loamy and sandy soils.
- 5.2 The topography of the Study Area is akin to that for much of eastern Norfolk, flat and gently to moderately sloping to the coast which is situated to the immediate east at heights of between 14-17 metres O.D..

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The **palaeolithic** period (500,000-9000BC) represents the period of human activity before the last ice age. This was the period when nomadic hunter gatherers followed the migratory animal herds. In situ evidence for their settlement is very rare and little remains apart from finds of their stone implements. There is no evidence for palaeolithic activity within the Study Area, which is covered with glacial drift geology.
- 6.2 The culture of the hunter gatherer continued during the **mesolithic** period (9,000-4,500BC) after the last Ice Age. Following the last retreat of the glacial ice sheets, Britain became an island. The post-glacial climate was warm and damp and the country was heavily afforested. More sophisticated flint implements were produced which reflected changes in tool technology. Evidence for mesolithic settlement is also very rare. Evidence for mesolithic activity in the Study Area consists of finds of flint implements, including axes and knives, which were found by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit on a fieldwalking survey undertaken in two fields to the north of Sidegate Lane, in a field to the north of the Hobland Plantation and in fields to the north-west and west of Wood Farm between 1997-8 (RPS 5, 4, 6). These were found within 0.5 kilometres of the proposed road widening scheme.
- 6.3 From 4,500BC onwards, the first farmers began to appear as large scale clearance of the post glacial forests took place to make way for **neolithic** agricultural activities (c4,500-2000BC). A mixture of crop growing and animal husbandry took place. The primitive ploughing techniques could only cope with the lighter upland soils. There is much evidence for fairly widespread neolithic activity throughout the Study Area. There are three fairly distinct clusters of finds of flint implements from this period. The first of these occurs in the area around the Holiday Village at Hopton-on-Sea. A single flint axe was found during excavations for an electricity trench at the holiday camp in 1973 (RPS 21). Nearby, two further axeheads and many irregular scrapers were found in 1950 (RPS 22). To the immediate south-east of this findspot, a possible flint working site has been located comprising a dense finds scatter of many flakes, spearheads, arrowheads, axes, hammers, knives, scrapers and borers (RPS 26).
- 6.4 Further evidence for neolithic activity consists of a second cluster of findspots to the south-west of Hopton-on-Sea and located to either side of the present A12 trunk road. A single flint axe was found on the conveyor belt of a potato harvester to the north of Home Farm in 1974 (RPS 27). Two axes were found to the north-west of the junction between Jay Lane and the A12 trunk road in 1972 (RPS 43). The same possible findspot is RPS 50 situated to the south of Jay Lane. To the north of Oak View Farm, a further flint scatter consisting of arrowheads, scrapers and a flake were found in 1956 (RPS 24). To the north of Jay Lane, a further flint scatter consisting of one axe and other worked flint implements have also been found (RPS 40).
- 6.5 Several assemblages of flint implements from this period occur within the boundaries of the Valley Farm cropmark complex (RPS 5) (see figure RPSC 3). To the immediate west of Valley Farm, an arrowhead, two blades and a scatter of secondary blades were found in 1970. Between 1983-5, two axeheads were found as a result of ploughing activity to the east of Masons Farm. A fieldwalking survey which took place in 1994 in two fields to the north of Sidegate Road and to the west of the A12 trunk road located a scatter of worked flints including cores and flakes. A subsequent fieldwalking survey undertaken by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit in 1997-8 in these same two fields located a greater density and quantity of flint axes and knives and identified

areas of higher density of finds in this area. A further fieldwalking survey to the north-east of Valley Farm in 1996 found six worked flints including one scraper.

- 6.6 Part of this Valley Farm cropmark complex (RPS 5) of neolithic flint scatters consists of a single flint axe was found to the north-east of Oaklea on a potato harvester in 1979 (RPS 10). To the north-west of Sidegate Farm, a polished axe was found in a ploughed field in 1968 (RPS 3).
- 6.7 The fieldwalking survey undertaken by the Cambridge Archaeology Unit in 1997-8 also took place in a further field to the north of the Hobland Plantation and in fields to the north-west and west of Wood Farm (RPS 4, 6). This survey located quantities of burnt flint and flint implements including knives, borers, scrapers, cores etc.
- 6.8 There are three further findspots of neolithic flint implements. The first of these occurs to the north of Homeless Shrubbery (RPS 41). This consisted of five arrowheads and one scraper found in 1956. To the south of Sidegate Farm, a large assemblage of knives, arrowheads, cores, scrapers and numerous flakes were found in 1972 (RPS 23). To the immediate west of the Warren Road at Bullocks Farm or Kennel Farm, a widely scattered and large assemblage consisting of arrowheads, spearheads, scrapers and rough worked flints was found by the local farmer and also by the Lowestoft Archaeology and History Society between 1950-1969 (RPS 1).
- 6.9 These finds constitute evidence for neolithic settlement activity in the vicinity.
- 6.10 During the **bronze age** (c2000-650BC) agricultural activity intensified with more extensive woodland clearance. Agricultural settlement extended to the more heavier soils as farming technology improved. The first metal working took place with the use of bronze becoming well established for weapons and fine tools. Flint continued in use for everyday items such as knives and arrowheads. A small assemblage of four leaf shaped arrowheads and a scraper were found in 1956 to the north of Homeless Shrubbery (RPS 41). In close proximity and to the south east of this findspot, the cropmark of a double concentric ring ditch has been plotted from an aerial photographs. This may be of possible bronze age date (RPS 31).
- 6.11 Located to the immediate west of the A12 trunk road and to the north of Home Farm, a cropmark comprising a ring ditch overlain by a later "disc" like feature may also be of bronze age origin (RPS 30). A fragment of a stone axe hammer was found in 1956 at Jex Farm (RPS 42). A looped palstave was found in 1952 after a cliff fall at Hopton-on-Sea (RPS 25). To the immediate west of Warren Lane, at Bullocks Farm or Kennel Farm a well scattered assemblage of scrapers, arrowheads and spearheads were found between 1950-1969 (RPS 1).
- 6.12 To the south-east of Masons Farm a fieldwalking survey conducted in 1996 found six worked flints and a scraper. To the north of Hopton-on-Sea occurs a findspot of a bronze rapier or dirk blade located by metal detection (RPS 5). A further fieldwalking survey conducted by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit in 1997-8 in two fields to the north of Sidegate Lane located quantities of bronze age flint implements including axes and knives (RPS 5). Two palstaves were found on the line of the A12 trunk road in 1941 (RPS 5).
- 6.13 The fieldwalking survey undertaken by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit in 1997-8 took place in a field to the north of the Hobland Plantation and in fields to the north-

west and west of Wood Farm. This survey located quantities of burnt flint and flint implements including cores, borers, scrapers, flakes etc. (RPS 4).

- 6.14 There is thus much evidence for bronze settlement activity occurring throughout the Study Area. There are several distinct and important clusters of evidence. The finds of flint implements from the fieldwalking surveys to the north-west (RPS 4, 5) could indicate some agricultural settlement activity in this area. Further evidence for this comes from finds of other similar implements between Masons Farm and to the west of Warren Lane (RPS 1, 5). Possibly associated with these nearby farming settlements occur several ritual burial sites of possible bronze age date to the south-west (RPS 30, 31).
- 6.15 During the iron age (650BC-AD43) iron replaced bronze as the principal metal working industry. Agricultural activity became more intensified. Increased social tensions led to the introduction of communal defensive systems such as hillforts and fortified settlements which were based upon a tribal system. The Iceni occupied this part of East Anglia. There is no evidence for iron age settlement activity within the Study Area.
- 6.16 There is one archaeological site which has been attributed by the Norfolk Sites and Monuments Record to the prehistoric period. Two flint tools were found in the grave cliffs to the south of the former Gorleston Golf Links Village between 1931-2 (RPS 2).
- 6.17 During the Roman period (AD43-AD410), a new road network was constructed and more organised rural settlement began with the establishment of the villa system. These were farmstead estates with a variety of agricultural activities which probably included animal husbandry and crop rotation. Within the boundaries of the Valley Farm cropmark complex (RPS 5), a large number of finds of Roman metal artefacts including items of personal jewellery, coins, domestic implements etc. have been found by metal detection over a period of time. This has included: a sestertius of Faustina II to the east of Sidegate Lane in 1983; three dupondii or asses to the south-east of Masons Farm in 1984; sherds of pottery, several brooches, a finger ring and 52 1st-4th century coins in a field to the immediate north of the parish church of St Margaret's in Hopton-on-Sea and to the immediate east of the A12 trunk road in 1989. One 1st century brooch found to the south-east of Masons Farm and a coin found in 1996 to the south of Masons Farm were both located by metal detector users.
- 6.18 An isolated find of a bronze *as* of Hadrian (AD117-138) was made in the garden of 5 Links Road, Gorleston in 1984. A sestertius of Trajan was found near the school at Hopton-on-Sea in 1971 (RPS 33). In 1946, during excavations for a saw-pit at the Hopton Saw Mills, a large assemblage of Roman pottery including a Samian lamp and a possible hearth or clay oven was located (RPS 36). The base of a small Roman jar was found in 1956 at Hopton-on-Sea by F.S.Banthorpe (RPS 38). Twenty nine Roman coins were found by metal detection to the immediate south of Hobland Road in 1984 (RPS 3). A bronze key handle, a toilet spoon and two coins have been found in a field to the west of the Warren Road (RPS 35). To the north of this findspot, an Antoninianus of Salonia (AD 253-68) was found by metal detection in 1989 (RPS 1).
- 6.19 There is thus widely scattered evidence for Roman occupation throughout the Study Area. The large number of metal objects such as coins, personal jewellery, domestic implements as well as pottery between Hopton-on-Sea and Gorleston strongly indicates some Roman settlement activity in the vicinity, possibly a small rural or

agricultural settlement such as a farmstead or a hamlet, though without any definite focus as to its possible location.

- 6.20 During the **Anglo-Saxon** period (AD410-AD1066) the basis of later medieval settlement pattern was established. The place name of Hopton-on-Sea has probable Anglo-Saxon origins with *tun* meaning farm, village or estate. Otherwise there is little evidence for Anglo-Saxon settlement activity within the Study Area apart from the finding of a single sherd of middle Saxon pottery from "ploughed down rectangular structure" to the north of Jay Lane (RPS 37).
- 6.21 The feudal society of the Normans set the pattern for the **medieval** period (AD1066-AD1530). The feudal system comprised manorial centres and open fields based upon nucleated villages. The settlement pattern which was established in the Anglo-Saxon period continued after the Norman Conquest of 1066. The ruins of the former parish church of St Margaret's at Hopton-on-Sea (RPS 17) provided the focus for the medieval settlement of Hopton-on-Sea. This church has possible 11th century origins, otherwise it is mostly of 14th-15th century construction. This Church is Grade II listed, but is in a ruinous condition, owing to its destruction by fire in 1865.
- 6.22 The evidence for medieval activity is widely scattered throughout the Study Area: There is evidence for a possible site of a medieval mill plotted from aerial photographs and located to the south-east of Old Oak Farm (RPS 29). There is also evidence for a possible second rectangular shaped structure which has been ploughed out and from which sherds of pottery were recovered (RPS 37). To the immediate south-east of this site and possibly associated with this site, a spread of medieval pottery has been found (RPS 40).
- 6.23 There have also been a very large number of finds of metal artefacts including coins etc which have been found as a result of metal detection within the Study Area. In 1984, a coin of Edward I was found in a field to the south of Hopton-on-Sea (RPS 32). A halfpenny of Henry II or II was found by metal detection in a field to the south of Hobland House in 1983 (RPS 3). Within the boundaries of the Valley Farm cropmark complex (RPS 5), further metal artefacts have been found. These have included a two brooches and a pin found in 1983 to the west of Valley Farm; a broken penny dated to between 1205-18, pennies of Henry III and Edward III and other metal objects including tokens, jewellery, buckles, rivets etc found in a field on the northern outskirts of Hopton-on-Sea between 1985-91. A bronze belt buckle has been found in a field to the west of the Warren Road (RPS 35).
- 6.24 The various proposed road widening schemes are located in an area which would have been in fields to the north-west of the medieval settlement of Hopton.
- 6.25 The **post medieval** period saw great changes in the landscape including the transformation from the feudal three field system with its strip cultivation to the was followed by the agrarian revolution of the 18th-19th centuries and the accompanying enclosure of the land. Elements of the pre enclosure landscape are shown in Faden's map of Norfolk (see figure RPSC 3). This map clearly shows that areas of common land were fairly extensive throughout the parish of Hopton (which was then located in Suffolk). There are three large areas of common land denoted - Gorleston Common and Hopton Common to the north and Boyton Common to the south in the area around Hopton House. The enclosure of Hopton parish took place in 1813 (see figure RPSC 4).



- 6.26 Technical change and innovation led to the establishment of the industrial revolution and the factory system with the accompanying revolution in transportation. Symbols of this revolution in transportation that took place in the 19th century are the turnpike road from Lowestoft to Yarmouth (much of which lies under the present A12 trunk road, see figures RPSC 3-5) and the southern branch of the Norfolk and Suffolk Joint Railway (RPS 9). This light railway was opened in 1903 and became part of the London and North Eastern Railway in 1936. By 1967, the line was closed to freight traffic and to passengers by 1970. The line has now been removed. The railway station at Hopton-on-Sea (RPS 16) was found to stand on brick arches which were 20 feet high when the surrounding topsoil was removed in 1981. The line of the former railway and the location of the railway station at Hopton are shown on figures RPSC 6-10. A wharf of a failed canal which linked the River Waveney to a newly constructed harbour at Great Yarmouth is clearly shown in the grounds of Hopton House in the tithe map for the parish of Hopton in 1843 (see figure RPSC 5). This feature was later converted into a fishpond by 1928 (see figure RPSC 7). Several tollhouses are shown on the first edition O.S. map of 1884 (see figure RPSC 6).
- 6.27 There are a number of listed buildings in the Study Area which date from the post medieval period. These include the early 18th century and Grade II barn at Manor House Farm (RPS 15); the early 19th century Hopton House, grade II listed (RPS 19) and Whitehouse Farmhouse, built in 1671 and also Grade II listed. The present Grade II\* listed parish church of St Margaret's (RPS 18) which replaced the former church which burnt down in 1865 and was replaced by the present church which was constructed between 1866-7. This newly constructed church is shown on the first edition O.S. map of 1884 (see figure RPSC 6).
- 6.28 There are a number of metal artefacts and other archaeological artefacts dating from this period which have been recovered by metal detection and fieldwalking within the Study Area. Within the Valley Farm cropmark complex (RPS 5) this has included pottery sherds, brick and tile fragments, a scatter of slag and iron ore, clay pipe fragments, a penny of George III, a halfpenny of George II, a coin of Charles I, bronze trade tokens, lead cloth seals and a jetton found in a field between 1985-1991 on the northern outskirts of Hopton-on-Sea. Similarly to the south-east of Masons Farm, pottery sherds, a bronze finger ring, an inscribed lead disc and two small lead figurines were found by metal detection and fieldwalking in 1996. A bronze mount was found by metal detection to the east of Valley Farm in 1985 (RPS 34). A further collection of coins and metal objects from metal detection have been found in a field situated in between the dismantled railway line and the Warren Road (RPS 35).
- 6.29 The Cambridge Archaeological Unit have also undertaken a fieldwalking survey in fields to the south of Gorleston Hospital, to the north-west and west of Wood Farm and to the north of Hobland Plantation (RPS 4, 5, 6). This survey located pottery and slag.
- 6.30 The Norfolk Defensive Structures Survey conducted in 1996 has identified a number of sites which date from the Second World War within the boundaries of the Valley Farm cropmark complex (RPS 5). These comprise: a type 22 pillbox to the west of valley Farm; a type 24 pillbox on the western side of the A12 trunk road Lowestoft Road at Gorleston which was demolished in 1968; three spigot mortar bases to the east of Sidegate Farm; an anti-tank block to the north-east of Hopton House; a large pillbox to the north-east of Masons Farm; a second type 22 pillbox and spigot mortar to the



south-east of Masons Farm; two further spigot mortar bases to the south of Masons Farm and tank traps on the line of the dismantled railway to the west of Warren Road.

- 6.31 Several further sites from this period were identified as a result of an archaeological desk top study undertaken by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit on an area around Wood Farm to the south-west of Gorleston in 1997. This study located four sites identified from aerial photographic sources. A radar or radio station was located to the west of Wood Farm and the site of a searchlight battery to the south-west of Wood Farm Cottages (RPS 4). A radio mast and associated buildings were located near Wood Farm. A further such site was located to the south-west of Gorleston Hospital (RPS 7). All of these sites had been demolished and ploughed out by 1951.
- 6.32 There is also documentary evidence for two further W.W.II sites at Gorleston. These are sites of anti-aircraft batteries (RPS 13, 14). A type 26 pillbox located on the coast at Corton Cliffs has since been demolished (RPS 12).
- 6.33 The emergence of this area as a holiday resort began in the early part of this century. The O.S. map of 1928 shows a holiday camp and a bungalow colony at Gorleston and a golf course established to the north of Warren or Kennel Farm and an accompanying railway station at Gorleston Links (see figure RPSC 8). By the late fifties, Hopton-on-Sea itself became a holiday destination with the founding of a holiday camp to the north of the manor house (see figure RPSC 9).
- 6.34 The present A12 trunk road and its dual carriage way were constructed in the mid-late seventies to improve the route past Hopton-on-Sea.
- 6.35 The Valley Farm cropmark complex (RPS 5) includes an extensive zig-zag shaped anti-tank ditch which formed part of a decoy airfield.
- 6.36 There are a number of archaeological sites within the Study Area for which cannot be ascribed to any particular period and may also have an uncertain function and purpose. These include individual cropmark sites and various complexes of cropmark sites which have been plotted from aerial photographs. The largest of the cropmark complexes which occur in the Study Area is the Valley Farm cropmark complex (RPS 5). This complex is shown on figure RPSC 11. This is probably a very diverse, concentrated and a multi-period complex of cropmark features which may well incorporate rind ditches, enclosures, field boundaries or field systems and other possible settlement features.
- 6.37 Within the grounds of the hospital at Gorleston are cropmarks of several large enclosures and a north-south orientated trackway discovered in 1976, though this is probably a modern feature (RPS 7). Subsequent visits to the site made during hospital extension works and associated service trenches failed to locate any archaeological finds or deposits. An archaeological evaluation comprising a geophysical survey was conducted by Stratascan on behalf of the Cambridge Archaeological Unit in a field to the west of the hospital grounds in 1998 located little evidence of archaeological activity, including several pit-like anomalies and the possible remains of agricultural activity such as ridge and furrow (RPS 6, 7).
- 6.38 To the west of Corton Cliffs occurs a long north-north-east-south-south west orientated linear cropmark extending from near the site of site of the now demolished Warren

Farm southwards to the holiday village at Hopton-on-Sea (RPS 8). This feature is in turn crossed at its northern end by the cropmarks of two parallel lines.

- 6.39 A small cropmark complex occurs to the north of Oak View Farm (RPS 28). This consists of the western end of a complex multi-ditched rectangular shaped enclosure. A possible barrow site is located to the west of Hopton House (RPS 39). This feature is represented by a circular shaped soilmark some 60 feet in diameter with a an area of fired soil at its centre.
- 6.40 A second small cropmark complex is situated at the southern end of the Study Area and to immediate west of the A12 trunk road (RPS 44). This complex consists of a field system of rectilinear form and includes at least one distinct rectilinear shaped enclosure and a possible trackway. Possibly associated with this complex and located to the west of it is a cropmark of a further rectilinear shaped enclosure with two discernible entrances to the north and east (RPS 45).
- 6.41 South of Church Lane and located in the south western corner of the Study Area is a further cropmark complex of multi-period field systems with rectilinear shaped enclosures (RPS 46). A further multi-period cropmark complex is situated to the east of Elm Farm (RPS 49). A double concentric ring ditch and linear cropmarks have been located to the immediate west of the A12 trunk road (RPS 31).
- 6.42 A cropmark complex consisting of a field system (which underlies the modern field layout), a trackway and series of rounded enclosures with possible associated pits have been located to the south of Hobland House (RPS 3).
- 6.43 To the west of Wood Farm and bounded to the south by the Hobland Plantation is a further cropmark complex which comprises two trackways, two linear features and the site of a possible causewayed ring ditch or a possible mill site (RPS 4).
- 6.44 A linear cropmark which is thought to be a field boundary and the cropmark of a possible pond barrow are located to the north-west of Wood Farm (RPS 6).
- 6.45 Two cropmarks of probable ring ditch sites occur at Elder Farm (RPS 48) and to the north of Bloodman's Corner (RPS 47). The Valley Farm cropmark complex (RPS 5) includes a double concentric circular shaped feature which is truncated to the east by the A12 trunk road.

## *7 RESULTS OF THE SITE WALK-OVER SURVEY*

- 7.1 A site visit was made by an RPS Clouston archaeologist on Friday, the 25th of September 1998. Access to the proposed development site was obtained along a grass verge and an embankment along the eastern side of the A12 trunk road and via a public footpath/cycleway on the western side. It was not considered necessary to obtain direct access to the fields beyond the roadside boundaries owing to the limited amount of land take involved in the proposed road widening scheme. The weather conditions were sunny with blue skies during the whole period of the site visit.
- 7.2 Access to Field 1 was obtained via the roadside embankment (see figure RPSC 12). This field had recently been harrowed. Some flint fragments were observed on the ground surface, but these were considered to have been produced as a result of frost or plough action. No archaeological features were observed on the ground.
- 7.3 Access to Field 2 was also obtained via the roadside embankment (see figure RPSC 12). This field had been recently ploughed. Flint fragments were also observed on the field surface and appeared to have the same origin as those encountered in Field 1. No archaeological features were observed on the ground in this field.
- 7.4 Access to Field 3 was gained from the roadside grass verge (see figure RPSC 12). This field was divided into two parts. The southern part had recently been under a crop of hay which had been mown. The northern part was under a crop of kale. The vegetation cover in both cases was very dense with no ground surface visible. No archaeological features were observed.
- 7.5 Access to Field 4 (see figure RPSC 12) was gained via the roadside grass verge. This field had recently been under crop which had been harvested. The vegetation cover in this field was also very dense allowing no observation of the ground surface. Consequently also, no archaeological features were observed.
- 7.6 Field 5 was accessed via the public cyclepath (see figure RPSC 12). This field was under a crop of kale with a very dense ground cover. No archaeological features were observed in this field.
- 7.7 Field 6 around Masons Farm had recently been under a hay crop which had been mown (see figure RPSC 12). Ground vegetation cover was very dense. No archaeological features were observed in this field.
- 7.8 Access to Field 7 was obtained from the roadside cycle path (see figure RPSC 12). The This field was identical to that of Field 6 with a very dense ground cover of recently mown hay. No archaeological features were observed.
- 7.9 Field 8 to the north of Valley Farm was accessed via the roadside cycle path (see figure RPSC 12). This field had been under crop and which had been subsequently recently harvested. The crop cover was very dense such that no archaeological features were observed.
- 7.10 Field 9 situated to the south of Valley Farm (see figure RPSC 12) was accessed via the roadside cycle path. The majority of this field had recently been harrowed except for a narrow strip adjacent to the roadside which indicated that the field had been under a

crop of hay. The vegetation cover was very dense. The harrowed area was not accessible from the roadside. No archaeological features were observed in this field.

- 7.11 Access to Field 10 (see figure RPSC 12) was gained initially by the roadside cycle path and thence by the line of the old turnpike road which deviates from the line of the present A12 dual carriageway. This field had been under a crop of hay which had recently been cut. The vegetation cover was very dense. No archaeological features were observed in this field.
- 7.12 Field 11 to the east of the former turnpike road was access from this old road (see figure RPSC 12). This field had also very recently been under a crop of hay which had been harvested. The vegetation cover in this field was very dense such that no archaeological features were observed.
- 7.13 Field 12 (see figure RPSC 12) which is situated to the west of the former turnpike road and to the east of the A12 trunk road. The field was accessed via the turnpike road. The northern part of this field was under a very dense cover of grass which had been allowed to grow to the same height as that of the field boundary fence. The southern part of the field towards the parish church of St Margaret's was similarly under grass, but which had been grazed upon. No archaeological features were observed in this field.

## 8 RESULTS OF THE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC PLOT SEARCHES

- 8.1 As a result of the cultural heritage information obtained from the Norfolk County Sites and Monuments Record, a number of crop mark complexes within the project Study Area were identified. These have been designated RPS site numbers - 3-7 respectively and are shown on figure RPSC 3. One of these - the Valley Farm cropmark complex (RPS 5) was identified as being of particular importance as it was located on either side of the A12 dual carriageway and within the area of the proposed road improvement scheme. It was also considered that the various proposals to widen the dual carriageway on both sides may have a potential impact on the cropmark features forming this complex. Detailed aerial photographic plot information relating to this particular cropmark complex was subsequently requested and received from Norfolk Landscape Archaeology.
- 8.2 As these aerial photographic plots are very detailed (please refer to figure RPSC 11), it was not considered necessary to undertake any further aerial photographic searches from the National Monuments Record or from Cambridge University.
- 8.3 The plots very clearly demonstrate that the Valley Farm cropmark complex may be multi-period and of multi-occupation in extent. Various patterns of field systems, possible trackways, individual enclosures, possible ring ditch sites and cropmark features of much more recent origin such as those associated with the last war can clearly be identified. However, without the benefit of detailed archaeological investigation techniques, these various cropmark cannot be positively defined or be definitively ascribed to any particular period.

## 9 EVALUATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

- 9.1 The assessment of the EFFECT of a proposal will depend upon the assessment of the IMPORTANCE of the features and sites affected and the degree of IMPACT of the proposals. There are occasions when insufficient is known to make informed judgements and an assessment of risk is all that can be offered. The definitions of these terms and their categories are set out below.

IMPORTANCE: the criteria set out in Annexe 4 of PPG 16, modified to take account of the whole range of site values, not just scheduled monuments, is used as a guide for judgements of importance used in cultural heritage studies, with various systems in use by different agencies. To avoid the quasi-official implication of such terms as: "National", "Major", "County" and "Local", in this report, the following categories are used:

Major:	the highest status of site e.g. scheduled monuments, Listed Buildings Grade I & II*, well preserved historic landscapes;
Average:	the bulk of sites with reasonable evidence of occupation, ritual, industry etc., Listed Buildings Grade II, reasonably preserved historic landscapes;
Minor:	sites with some evidence of human activity, but in a fragmentary or poor state, buildings of local importance, dispersed elements of historic landscapes;
Unimportant:	destroyed, non-antiquities, random stray finds, buildings of no architectural merit;
Uncertain:	insufficient evidence to judge importance.

- 9.2 Using the above defined criteria of importance, an appraisal of the potential importance of the sites in the Study Area can be made and this is set out below:

- 9.3 Sites of major importance include:

RPS 18 - parish church of St Margaret's, Lowestoft Road, Hopton-on-Sea, Grade II\* listed;

- 9.4 Sites of average importance include:

RPS 1 - Very large and widely scattered assemblage of neolithic and bronze age flint implements including axes, arrowheads, scrapers, flakes and various spearheads found between 1950-1969 west of Warren Road;

RPS 3 - collection of 29 Roman coins found to south of Hobland Road;

RPS 4 - fieldwalking survey by Cambridge Archaeological Unit in 1997-8 located quantities of prehistoric flint implements & burnt flint;

RPS 5 - Multi-period finds of artefacts including Roman pottery, coins and other metal objects; prehistoric flint implements including cores, flakes etc.; medieval

coins and other metal objects and post medieval artefacts from metal detection, fieldwalking and ploughing activity;

RPS 9 - site of southern section of Norfolk & Suffolk Joint Railway;

RPS 10 - neolithic flint axe found on a potato harvester in 1979;

RPS 15 - early 18th century barn at Manor House Farm, Warren Road, Hopton-on-Sea, Grade II listed;

RPS 17 - ruins of late 14th-15th century church of St Margaret's, Lowestoft Road, Hopton-on-Sea, Grade II listed;

RPS 19 - Hopton House, Hall Road, Hopton-on-Sea, early 19th century house, Grade II listed;

RPS 20 - 17th century farmhouse at Whitehouse Farm, Grade II listed;

RPS 22 - two neolithic flint axeheads and many irregular scrapers found in 1950 at Hopton-on-Sea;

RPS 23 - finds scatter of neolithic flint knives, arrowheads, cores, scrapers and flakes found as a result of ploughing to the north-east of Oak Farm in 1972;

RPS 24 - flint scatter of neolithic arrowheads, scrapers and a flake found in 1956 to the north-east of Oak View Farm;

RPS 26 - a neolithic flint working site and a flint scatter consisting of spearheads, arrowheads and axes found to the north-east of the former Manor Farm (now site of holiday camp at Hopton-on-Sea);

RPS 29 - cropmarks of several ring ditches of possible bronze age origin and a cropmark of a further ring ditch feature which may be the site of a medieval mill to the south-east of Old Oak Farm;

RPS 30 - cropmark of a ring ditch of possible bronze age origin with a later "disc" shaped feature located to the immediate west of the A12 trunk road;

RPS 36 - large assemblage of Roman pottery, an oil lamp and the site of a possible hearth or clay oven found during excavations for a sawdust pit at Hopton-on-Sea Saw Mills in 1946;

RPS 37 - medieval and Anglo-Saxon pottery from a ploughed out rectangular shaped structure to the north of Jay Lane in 1956;

RPS 40 - finds scatter comprising one neolithic flint axe and other miscellaneous neolithic flint implements and a spread of medieval pottery located to the north of Jay Lane;

RPS 41 - four leaf shaped arrowhead, one tanged arrowhead and one scraper of the neolithic/bronze age found in 1956 to the west of Hopton-on-Sea Hall;

#### 9.5 Sites of minor importance include:

- RPS 1 - metal detection find of a Roman bronze coin west of Warren Road;
- RPS 2 - two prehistoric flint tools found in a gravel cliff to the south of Gorleston Golf Links village between 1931-2;
- RPS 3 - one prehistoric flint axe, a medieval coin and post medieval metal objects and a clay pipe bowl found to the south of Hobland Road;
- RPS 4 - four W.W.II military sites including a radar or radio station and the site of a searchlight battery;
- RPS 5 - series of W.W.II military structures located within the boundaries of the Valley Farm cropmark complex;
- RPS 11 - Roman bronze coin found in the back garden of 5 Links Road, Gorleston in 1984;
- RPS 12 - site of W.W.II pillbox, now demolished;
- RPS 16 - Hopton-on-Sea railway station;
- RPS 21 - neolithic flint axe found during the excavation of an electricity trench in 1973 at Hopton-on-Sea;
- RPS 25 - looped bronze age palstave found after a cliff fall at Hopton-on-Sea in 1952;
- RPS 27 - neolithic flint axe found on the conveyor belt of a potato harvester at Hopton-on-Sea;
- RPS 32 - medieval coin found in a field to the south of Hopton-on-Sea by metal detection in 1984;
- RPS 33 - Roman coin found near Hopton-on-Sea School in 1971;
- RPS 35 - iron age, Roman, medieval and post medieval metal objects found as a result of metal detection to the north of Hopton-on-Sea in 1990;
- RPS 38 - base of Roman jar found in 1956 to the north of Dorking Road;
- RPS 42 - fragment of a bronze age stone axe hammer found at Jex Farm in 1956;
- RPS 43 - two neolithic flint axes found to the north of Jay Lane in 1972;
- RPS 50 - two neolithic flint axes found to the south of Jay Lane (possibly same as RPS 43).

9.6 Sites of the unimportant category comprise:



RPS 34 - a medieval coin found in a field to the south of Hopton-on-Sea in 1984;

9.7 Sites of **uncertain** importance include:

RPS 3 - cropmark complex comprising a field system, a trackway and rounded enclosures containing pits to west of Sidegate Road;

RPS 4 - cropmark complex including 2 trackways, 2 linear features and a causewayed ditch or possible mill site west of Wood Farm;

RPS 5 - Valley Farm cropmark complex;

RPS 6 - Linear cropmark comprising possible field boundary and cropmark of a possible pond barrow north-west of Wood Farm, geophysical pit and ridge and furrow anomalies east of Wood Farm;

RPS 7 - cropmarks of large enclosures including a possible north-south orientated trackway in the grounds of Gorleston Hospital;

RPS 8 - linear cropmark, east of Warren Road;

RPS 13 - documentary evidence for the site of a W.W.II anti-aircraft battery at Gorleston;

RPS 14 - documentary evidence for the site of a W.W.II anti-aircraft battery at Gorleston;

RPS 28 - cropmark of the western end of a complex multi-ditched rectangular shaped enclosure north of Oak View Farm;

RPS 31 - a double concentric ring ditch and a series of linear cropmarks to the west of Hopton-on-Sea House;

RPS 39 - circular shaped soilmark with area of burnt soil at its centre, possible site of barrow to E of Elder Farm;

RPS 44 - cropmark of a rectilinear field system and associated trackway to north-west of Roe's Farm;

RPS 45 - cropmark of rectilinear enclosure with 2 entrances, located to the north-west of Roe's Farm;

RPS 46 - cropmarks of multi-period field systems and rectilinear enclosures to the west of Hall Farm;

RPS 47 - cropmark of a ring ditch at Bloodman's Corner;

RPS 48 - cropmark of a ring ditch at Elder Farm;

RPS 49 - multi-period cropmark complex, east of Elm Farm;

- 9.8 The most significant archaeological sites in relation to the proposed development area are the various cropmark sites which make up the Valley Farm cropmark complex (RPS 5). It is possible that the proposal to widen the eastern side of the dual carriageway of the A12 may possibly have an impact on individual cropmark features within this complex.

## 10 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT OF THE VARIOUS ROAD WIDENING OPTIONS

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### *Option 1*

- 10.1 This option involves the widening of both sides of the existing dual carriageway incorporating earthworks and a cycle path from Links Road, Gorleston southwards to Station Road, Hopton-on-Sea. This will involve additional land take on either side of the road. The widening of the northbound carriageway will involve some excavation and extension of the existing road cutting westwards for up to 1-2 metres in various places. The widening of the southbound carriageway will involve a greater degree of land take to the east. This will incorporate the movement of the cyclepath/footpath eastwards and the construction of a new fence line up to 5 metres to the east of the existing road boundary.
- 10.2 This option will have the most potential impact upon the Valley Farm cropmark complex sites (RPS 5) which are located on either side of the existing trunk road.

### *Option 2*

- 10.3 This option will similarly involve the widening both sides of the existing A12 dual carriageway and will incorporate the same degree of land take, but will take place over a reduced distance from Links Road, Gorleston as far south as the Old Lowestoft Road. This is in effect a "reduced Option 1" in relation to its length.
- 10.4 This option will have less potential impact upon the Valley Farm cropmark complex sites (RPS 5) because of the reduced length of this Option.

### *Option 3*

- 10.5 Option 3 will involve the widening of the southbound carriageway only from Links Road southwards to the Old Lowestoft Road. This will involve less land-take than the other Options to the east. Option 3 will incorporate the movement of the existing footpath/cycleway on the eastern side of the dual carriageway (between 2-3 metres) and the construction of a new fence line. In places, a new embankment will be created thus potentially preserving any potential below ground archaeological deposits or features. In the remainder of the proposed road widening, there will be some limited below ground excavation associated with the construction of the new footpath/cycleway and fence line.
- 10.6 Option 3 because of its more limited scope will have a lesser degree of potential impact on any below ground archaeological deposits or features associated with the Valley Farm cropmark complex (RPS 5).
- 10.7 Option 3 (which is the preferred option) will by its more limited scope have the least potential impact upon any potential archaeological features or deposits, known or otherwise.

## **11 CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STAGE III FIELDWORK**

11.1 The documentary, cartographic and aerial photographic research for this Stage II archaeological assessment has highlighted a very dense complex of cropmark sites (identified as the Valley Farm cropmark complex (RPS 5) and shown on figure RPSC 11) located to either side of the A12 dual carriageway.

11.2 The three proposals (Options 1-3) to widen the existing A12 dual carriageway will all involve some additional land-take with varying degrees of potential impact upon below ground archaeological features and/or deposits.

11.3 The preferred Option 3 which is to widen the dual carriageway on its eastern side will require a small amount of additional land take. This Option will include some preservation of potential archaeological deposits in places with the construction of an embankment. Otherwise the movement of the cyclepath/footpath to the east and the construction of a new fence line will involve a limited degree of below ground intervention.

11.4 This proposal may thus have a possible though potentially limited impact upon any of the cropmark sites such as possible field boundaries, trackways enclosures, field systems etc. which have been identified as part of the cropmark complex (which may be situated to the immediate east of the existing cycle path).

11.5 The results of the trial pit monitoring (summarised in Appendix 5 of this report, and shown on figure RPSC 11) demonstrated that no archaeological features or deposits were encountered in each of the three trial pits. Despite this, the possibility that any proposal to widen the existing dual carriageway could well have an impact upon any of these cropmark sites should not be ruled out. The possibility that unknown archaeological features or deposits may be encountered should also not be excluded.

11.6 Should the preferred Option 3 road widening scheme be adopted as the actual scheme, intermittent archaeological monitoring should take place during any construction works associated with the new cyclepath/footpath and the new fence line.

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*APPENDICES*

*Appendix 1:*  
*Extracts from the Norfolk County Sites and Monuments Record*

Appendix 1: Extracts from the Norfolk County Sites and Monuments Record

RPS No.	SMR No.	Grid Reference (TG, TD)	Description	Period	Importance
1	10580	5280 0120	(1) widely scattered assemblage of flint implements including scrapers, arrowheads, spearheads etc. found by local farmer & Lowestoft Archaeology Society between 1950-1968 (2) further finds of flint implements including scrapers., flakes & arrowhead found at Bullocks Farm in 1969 (3) metal detection find of bronze coin of Antoninianus (AD253-68) found in 1989	NE/BA/RO	Average/Minor
2	10583	5319 0138	Two flint tools found in gravel cliff to S of Gorleston Golf Links Village between 1931-2	PR	Minor
3	11551	5050 0080	Cropmark complex including field system, a trackway & rounded enclosures containing pits. Polished axe, halfpenny of Henry II or III & 16th century book clasp, bronze bell rim fragment & a clay pipe bowl found to S of Hobland Road	UN/NE/MD/PM	Uncertain /Minor
4	11787	5120 0210	Cropmark complex including 2 trackways, 2 linear features, a causewayed ring ditch or possible mill site. Documentary references to a radar station & a searchlight battery. Field survey by CAU in 1998 located quantities of flint implements & burnt flint	UN/MO/PR	Uncertain/minor/average
5	11788	5230 0120	Valley Farm cropmark complex. Multi-period finds of artefacts from metal detection, fieldwalking and ploughing activity. Fieldwalking survey by Cambridge Archaeological Unit in 1997-8 located quantities of flint implements & burnt flint. Also series of W.W.II military structures.	Multi-period	Uncertain/Average/Minor
6	12780	5142 0263	Linear cropmark, possible field boundary & cropmark of a possible pond barrow. CAU field survey & geophysical survey in 1997-8 located flint implements, burnt flint & various pit like anomalies & possible ridge & furrow	UN	Uncertain



RPS No.	SMR No.	Grid Reference (TM, TG)	Description	Period	Importance
7	13020	5190 0240 5220 0206	Cropmarks of large enclosures & a possible N-S trackway in grounds of Gorleston Hospital. Two site visits in 1982 failed to locate any archaeological features or finds.	UN	Uncertain
8	13040	5309 0116	Linear cropmark, E of Warren Road	UN	Uncertain
9	13575	Linear	Site of Norfolk & Suffolk Joint Railway (Southern Section)	MO	Average
10	16471	5204 0187	Polished flint axe found on potato harvester in 1979 NE of Oaklea (possibly part of large scatter SMR 11788)	NE	Average
11	21362	5222 0188	Isolated find of bronze as of Hadrian (AD 117-138) found in garden of 5 Links Road, Gorleston in 1984	RO	Minor
12	32664	5322 0132	Site of W.W.II type 26 pillbox, now demolished	MO	Minor
13	32668	525 025	Documentary evidence for site of W.W.II anti-aircraft artillery	MO	Uncertain
14	32670	528 028	Documentary evidence for site of W.W.II anti-aircraft battery	MO	Uncertain
21	10574	5331 0032	Flint axe found during digging of electricity trench in 1973	NE	Minor
22	10575	5330 0000	Two flint axeheads & many irregular scrapers found in 1950	NE	Average
23	10579	5130 0080	Flint scatter comprising flint knife, arrowhead, 7 cores, 31 scrapers, 2 borers & 1 flake found by ploughing to the NE of Oak Farm in 1972	NE	Average
24	10757	5270 9940	Flint scatter comprising 2 arrowheads, 5 scrapers & 1 flake found in 1956 to NE of Oak View Farm	NE	Average

RPS No.	SMR No.	Grid Reference (EG, TD)	Description	Period	Importance
25	10758	5360 9976	Looped palstave found after cliff fall in 1952	BA	Minor
26	10759	5145 0075	Flint finds scatter comprising 1 flint knife, 1 arrowhead, 7 cores, 31 scrapers, 2 borers & 1 flake at Hopton-on-Sea	NE	Average
27	12074	5243 9978	Flint axe found on the conveyor belt of a potato harvester	NE	Minor
28	16166	5305 9960	Cropmark comprising W end of a complex multi-ditched enclosure, N of Oak View Farm	UN	Uncertain
29	16167	5263 9980	Cropmarks comprising ring ditches & site of possible mill SE of Old Oak Farm	BA/MD	Average
30	16168	5234 9990	Cropmark comprising a ring ditch overlain by a "disc" W of A12 trunk road	BA	Average
31	17475	5180 9990	Double concentric ring ditch & linear cropmarks, W of Hopton House	BA/UN	Uncertain
32	21166	5347 9936	Penny of Edward I, found in a field to S of Hopton-on-Sea by metal detection in 1984	MD	Minor
33	22928	5305 9992	Coin found near Hopton-on-Sea School in 1971	RO	Minor
34	24810	5272 0078	Bronze object	PM	Unimportant
35	25088	5290 0090	Metal detection finds including iron age, Roman, medieval & post medieval artefacts	Multi-period	Minor
36	31947	515 004	Large assemblage of pottery & hearth or clay oven found during excavations for a sawdust pit at Hopton-on-Sea Saw Mills in 1946	RO	Average

#### ABBREVIATIONS

PR - prehistoric  
PA - palaeolithic  
ME - mesolithic  
NE - neolithic  
BA - bronze age  
IA - iron age

RO - Roman  
EM - Anglo-Saxon  
MD - Medieval  
PM - post medieval  
MO - modern  
UN - uncertain

*Appendix 2:*  
*Extracts from the National Monuments Record*

*Appendix 2: Extracts from the National Monuments Record*

RPS No.	NMR No.	Grid Reference (TG)	Description	Period	Importance
15	TG 50 SW 47 (SMR No. 33421)	5319 0025	17th-18th century barn at Manor House Farm. Grade II listed.	PM	Average
16	TG 50 SW (NBR No. 8155)	528 002	Hopton-on-Sea railway station	PM	Minor
37	TM 59 NW 5	519 994	Pottery sherds ploughed out from a rectangular shaped structure to the N of Jay Lane in 1956	EM/MD	Average
38	TM 59 NW 7	518 997	Base of jar found to N of Dorking Lane in 1956	RO	Minor
39	TM 59 NW 8	517 995	Circular shaped soilmark with fired soil at centre, possible barrow R of Elder Farm	UN	Uncertain
40	TM 59 NW 9	520 993	Flint axehead & flint implements & spread of medieval pottery to N of Jay Lane	NE/MD	Average
41	TM 59 NW 14	518 996	4 arrowheads & 1 scraper found in 1956 to W of Hopton- House	NE/BA	Average
42	TM 59 NW 15	529 990	Stone axe hammer found in 1956 at Jex Farm	BA	Minor
43	TM 59 NW 23	525 994	2 flint axes found to N of Jay Lane in 1972	NE	Minor

ABBREVIATIONS

PR - prehistoric  
 PA - palaeolithic  
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 MD - medieval  
 PM - post medieval  
 MO - modern  
 UN - uncertain

*Appendix 3:*  
*Listed Building Information from the National Monuments Record Centre*

*Appendix 3: Listed Building Information from the National Monuments Record*

RPS No.	Grid Reference (TG, TM)	Description	Listing	Period	Importance
15	5319 0025	Barn at Manor House Farm, Warren Road, Hopton-on-Sea. Early 18th century	II	PM	Average
17	5300 9996	Ruins of Old St Margaret's Church, Lowestoft Road, Hopton-on-Sea. Late 13th-14th century construction	II	MD	Average
18	5241 0004	Parish church of St Margaret's, Lowestoft Road, Hopton-on-Sea. Constructed 1866-7.	II*	PM	Major
19	5145 0055	Hopton House, Hall Road, Hopton-on-Sea. House constructed c1825	II	PM	Average
20	518 003	Whitehouse Farmhouse, Hall Road, Hopton-on-Sea. Dated 1671 on E gable.	II	PM	Average

ABBREVIATIONS

MD - medieval  
 PM - post medieval  
 MO - modern

*Appendix 4:*

*Extracts from the Suffolk County Sites & Monuments Record*

*Appendix 4: Extracts from the Suffolk County Sites and Monuments Record*

RPS No.	SMR No.	Grid Reference (TM, TG)	Description	Period	Importance
37	07532 01782	519 994	Medieval pottery recovered in 1956 including 1 sherd of early medieval pottery "from a ploughed down rectangular structure" to the N of Jay Lane	FM/MD	Average
38	01778	518 997	Base of a small jar found by F.S.Banthorpe in 1956	RO	Minor
39	01813	517 995	Circular soilmark with area of burnt soil in centre, possible barrow to E of Elder Farm	UN	Uncertain
40	01814 13924	520 993	Finds scatter comprising a flint axe & other flint implements. Also spread of medieval pottery	NE/MD	Average
41	01779 07531	518 996	Four leaf shaped arrowheads, 1 tanged arrowhead & 1 scraper found by F.S.Banthorpe in 1956	NE/BA	Average
42	01743	529 990	Fragment of a stone axe hammer found by J.R.Watson at Jex Farm in 1956	BA	Minor
43	01788	525 994	Two polished flint axes found in 1972 to the N of Jay Lane	NE	Minor
44	03463	5300 9900	Cropmarks of a rectilinear field system with associated trackway NW of Roe's Farm	UN	Uncertain
45	03464	5296 9898	Cropmark of rectilinear enclosure with entrances to N & E. Possibly associated with RPS 44, NW of Roe's Farm	UN	Uncertain
46	01786	513 991	Cropmarks of multi-period field systems, including rectilinear enclosures W of Hall Farm	UN	Uncertain
47	01787	5118 9995	Cropmark of a ring ditch at Bloodman's Corner	UN	Uncertain
48	01791	5156 9934	Cropmark of a ring ditch at Elder Farm	UN	Uncertain
49	01812	518 990	Multi-period cropmark complex E of Elm Farm	UN	Uncertain
50	15158	525 993	Two flint axes found to S of Jay Lane. Possibly same as RPS 43	NE	Minor

ABBREVIATIONS

PA - palaeolithic  
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EM - Anglo-Saxon  
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PM - post medieval  
MO - modern  
UN - uncertain



*Appendix 5:*  
*Results of the Archaeological Monitoring of the Geotechnical Trial Pits*

### *Results of the Archaeological Monitoring of the Geotechnical Trial Pits*

Three trial pits (8, 9 and 10) were excavated by Owen Williams on the 24th of September 1998, utilising a JCB mechanical excavator. The trial pits were located to the east of the A12 dual carriageway and to the north of Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk (see figure RPSC 11 for the location of the trial pits). The trial pits were 0.6 metres in width and between 2 and 2.8 metres in length and were excavated to a maximum depth of 3.8 metres.

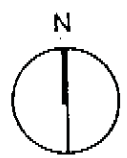
The excavation of these three trial pits were monitored by an RPS Clouston archaeologist. It was considered that the location of the trial pits and their excavation would a potential impact on various cropmark sites within the Valley Farm cropmark complex which had been identified as a result of the previous Stage II desk based archaeological assessment as site number RPS 5. The location of these cropmark features in relation to the location of the trial pits has been plotted on figure RPSC 11.

Test pit 8 was located within a ploughed field to the south of Masons Farm (see figure RPSC 11). A 0.4 metre thick silty ploughsoil contained a single sherd of modern bottle glass. Below the ploughsoil, a 0.6 metre thick light grey-brown silty subsoil was observed. No finds were recovered from this deposit. The silt deposit directly overlay yellow sand to the full depth of the test pit.

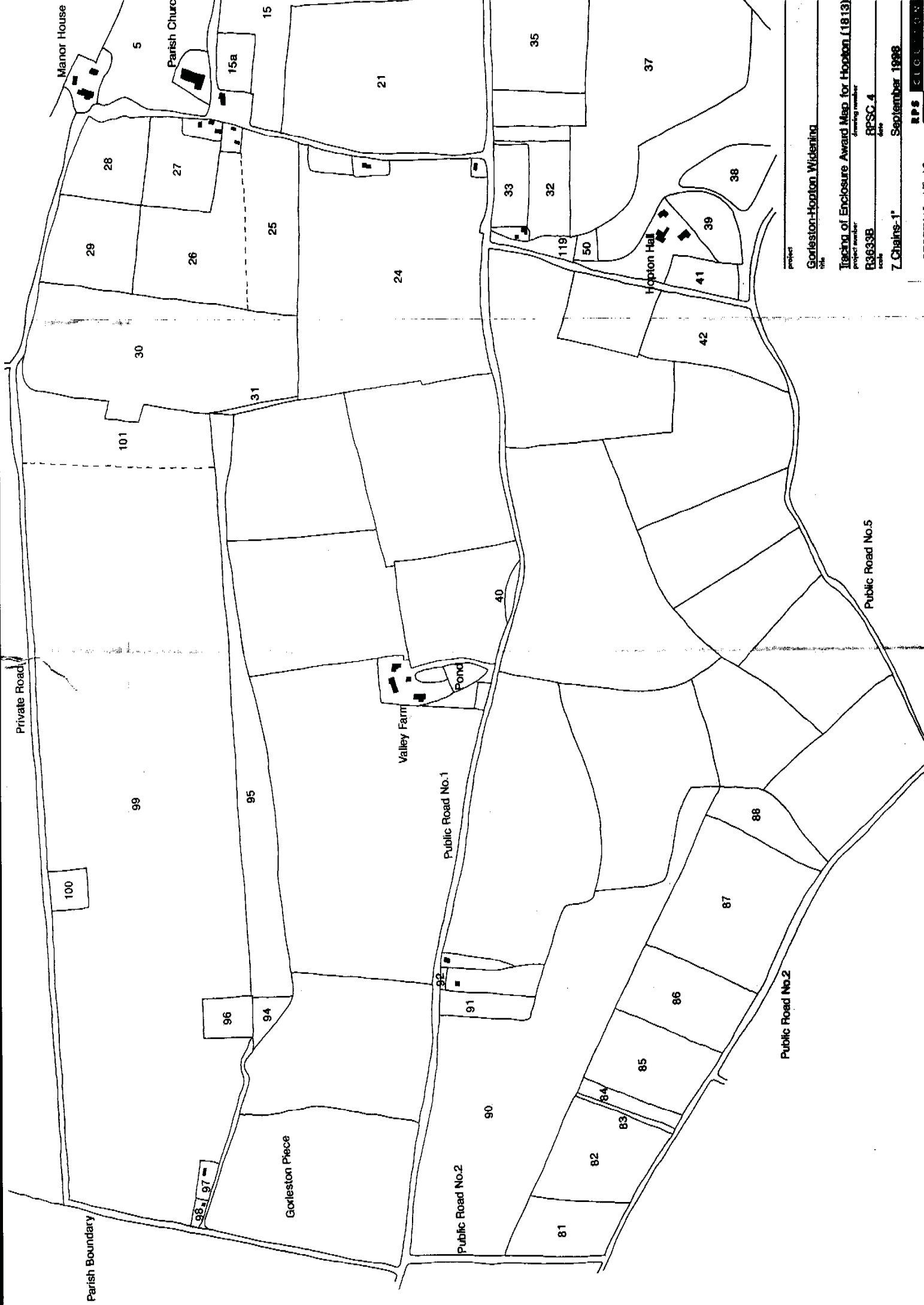
Test pit 9 was situated to the immediate north-east of Masons Farm (see figure RPSC 11). Similarly, a 0.4 metre thick plough spoil layer overlay a 0.3 metre thick subsoil deposit of light yellow-brown fine sandy silt. This deposit in turn overlay the natural sand with some clay mixing. No finds were recovered from this test pit.

Test pit 10 was located to the north of Masons Farm and on the roadside embankment (see figure RPSC 11). Modern embankment fills consisting of upcast from the construction of the dual carriageway in the 1970's were observed to a depth of 2.3 metres at which level, a mid-brown clayey silt was encountered. This in turn overlay the natural yellow sand at the base of the test pit. No finds, other than modern debris from the embankment were recovered.

*FIGURES*

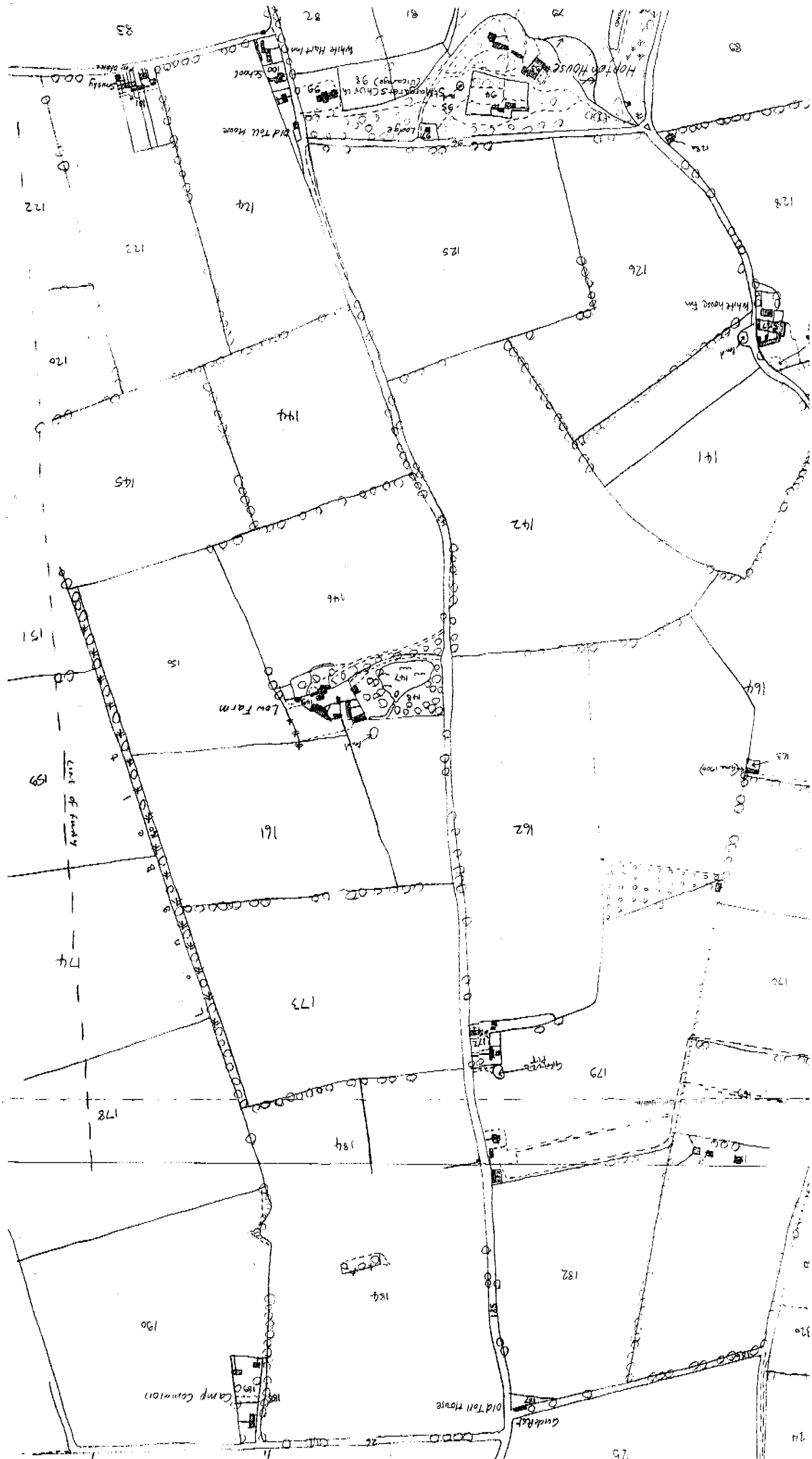


project \_\_\_\_\_  
**Gorleston-Hopton Widening**  
 title \_\_\_\_\_  
**Extract From Faden's Map of Norfolk (1797)**  
 project number \_\_\_\_\_ drawing number \_\_\_\_\_  
**R3633B** **RPSC 3**  
 scale \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
**NTS** **September 1998**



project  
 Gorleston-Hopton Widening  
 title  
 Tackling of Enclosure Award Map for Hopton (1813)  
 project number  
 R3633B  
 drawing number  
 RPSC 4  
 scale  
 7 Chains 1"  
 date  
 September 1998





project  
**Galveston-Horton Wickham**  
 the Composite Extract From O.S. Map 25"-1 Mile Sheet  
 No. Suffolk 2.15, 1st & 2nd Editions, 1884-1906  
 project number  
**R3639B**  
 scale  
**25"-1 Mile**  
 drawing number  
**R3639B**  
 date  
**September 1998**  
**RR4 GLOUSTON**  
 THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

ORIGINAL AT A3



project

Gorleston-Hopton Widening  
 1:10,000 Scale Extract from O.S. Map 6"-1 Mile Sheet Nos.  
 Norfolk 78SE & Suffolk 4NE (1928)

project number

R3633B

scale

6"-1 Mile

drawing number

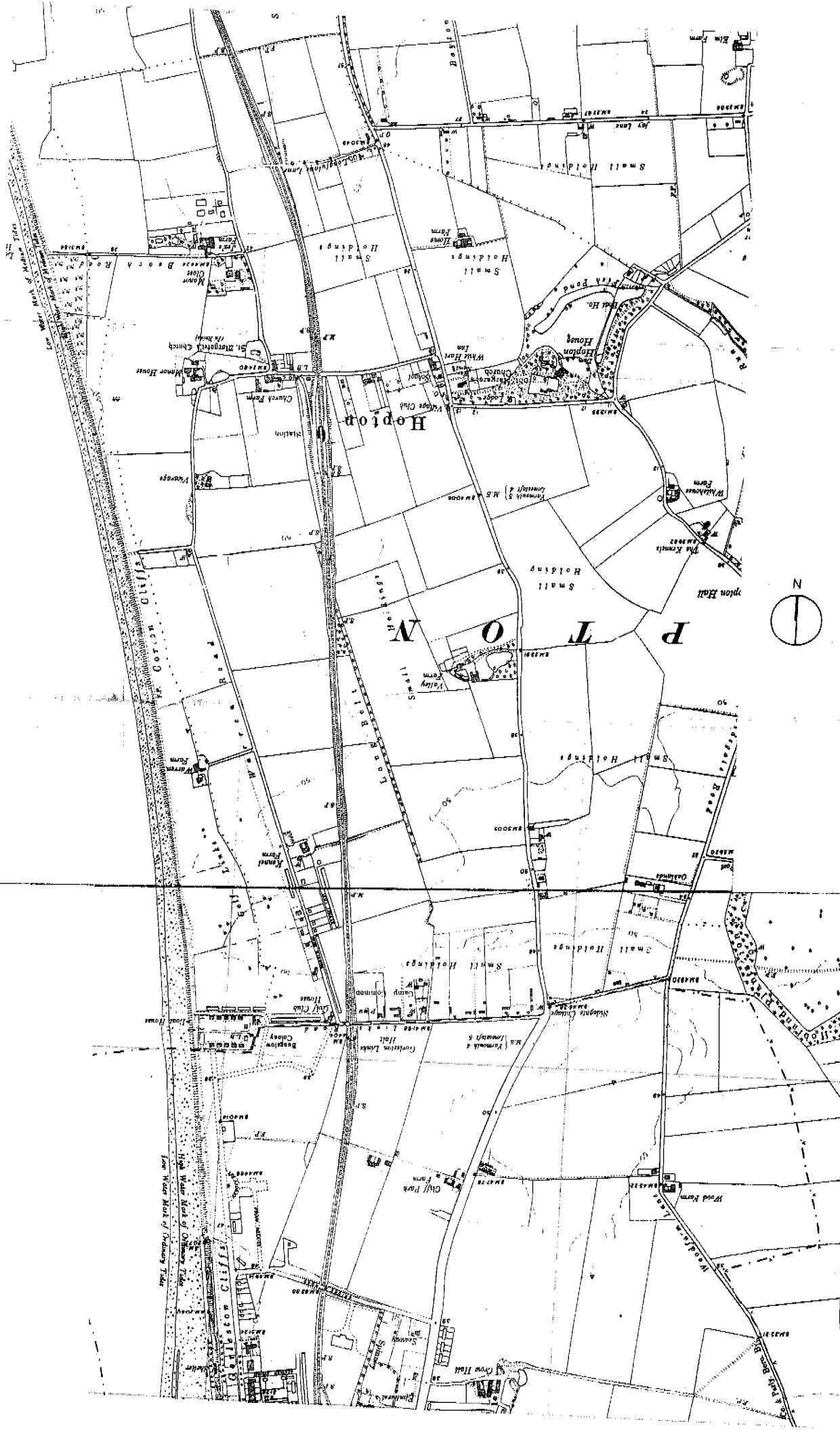
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date

September 1998

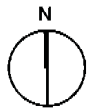
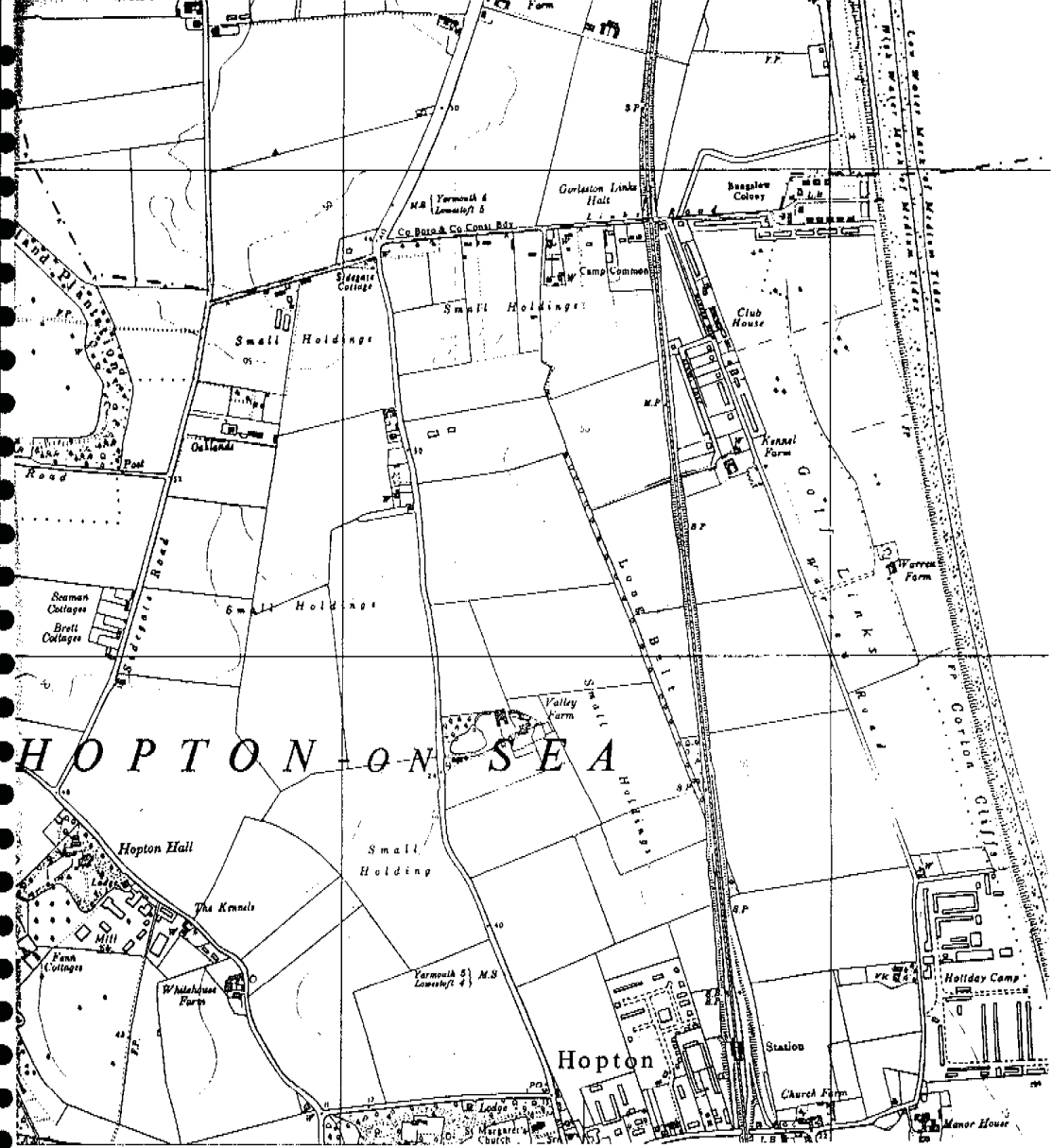
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**Garleston-Hopton Widening**  
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 & Norfolk 78SE (1946)  
 Project number  
**R3633B**  
 drawing number  
**RPSC 8**  
 scale  
**6" = 1 Mile**  
 date  
**September 1988**  
 RPS CONSULTANTS





project

**Gorleston-Hopton Widening**

title **Extract From O.S. Map Sheet No. TG50SW**  
(1958)

project number

**R3633B**

scale

**1:10,050**

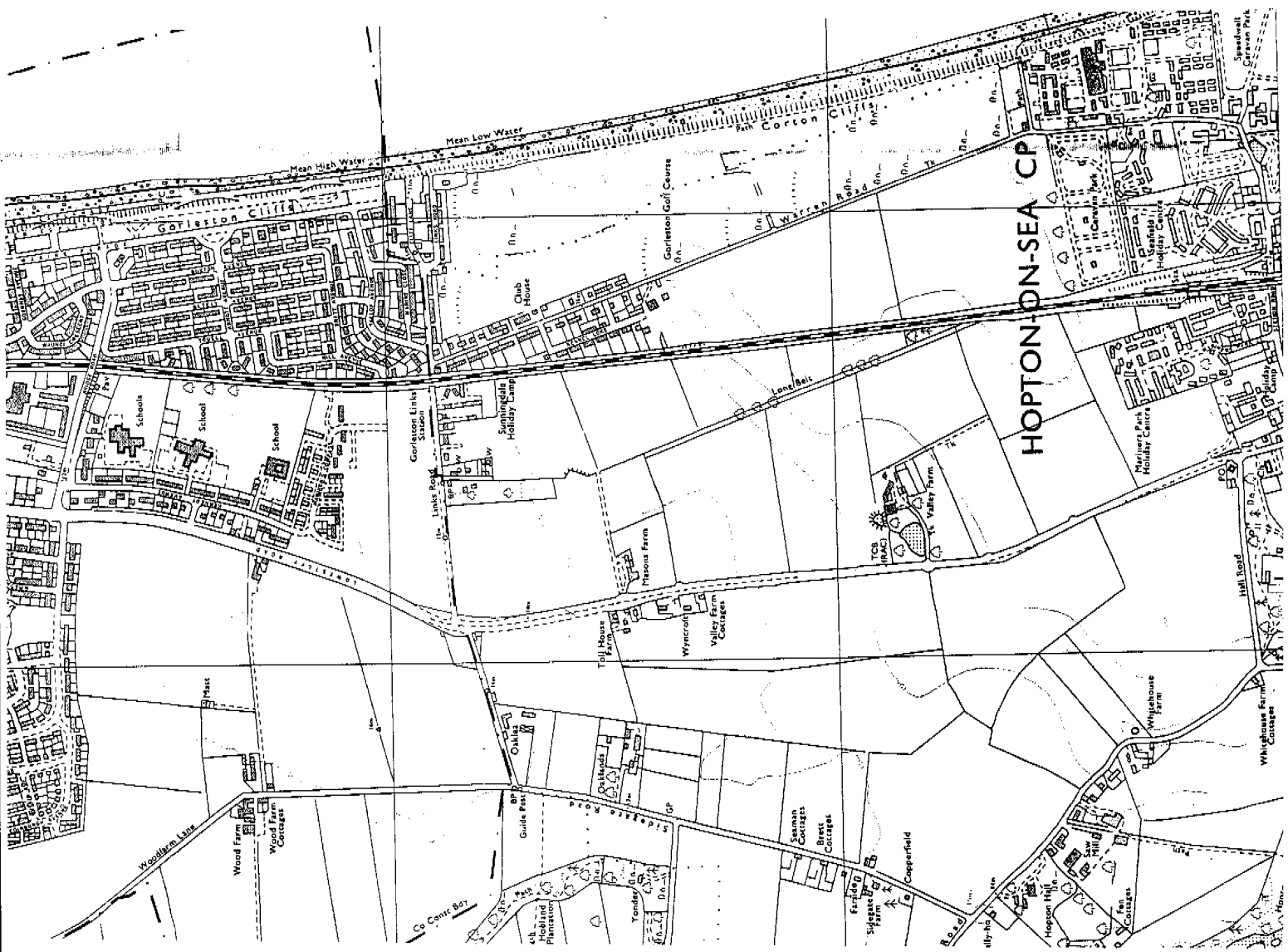
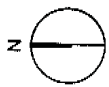
drawing number

**RPSC 9**

date

**September 1998**

**RPS CLOUSTON**  
THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANCY



Project: Gorleston-Hopton Widening  
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(1972)

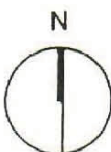
Drawing number: R3633B  
Scale: 1:10,050  
Date: September 1988

RPS CLOUSTON





VEHICLE FERRY FROM GREAT YARMOUTH TO Scheveningen 9 hours



Key:

**—** Site Location

ORIGINAL IN COLOUR

project

**Gorleston-Hopton Widening**

title

**Site Location**

project number

drawing number

**R3633B**

**RPSC 1**

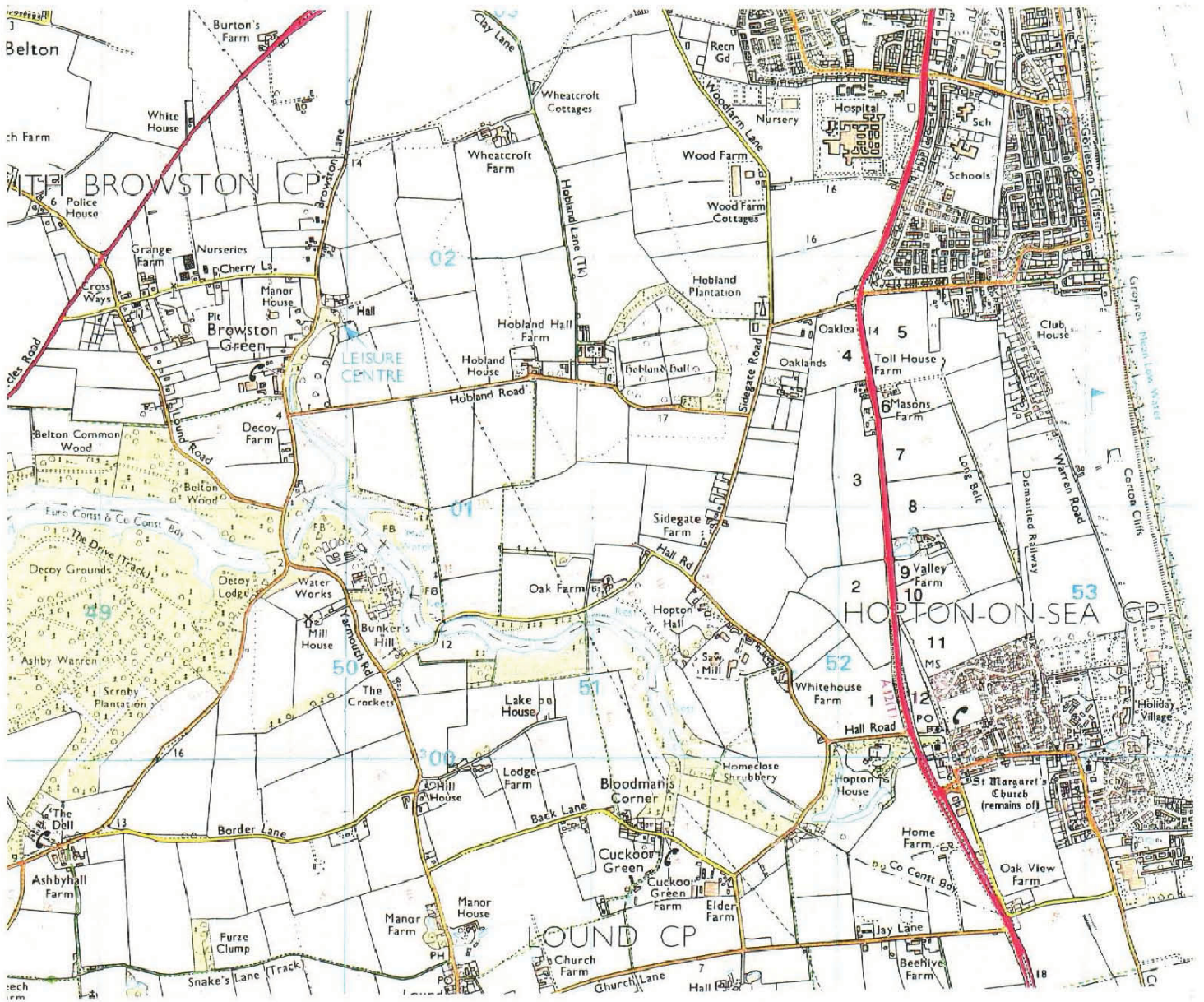
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**September 1998**





project

Gorleston-Hopton Widening

title

Map Showing Area of RPS Clouston Walkover Survey

project number

drawing number

R3633B

RPSC 12

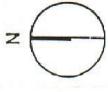
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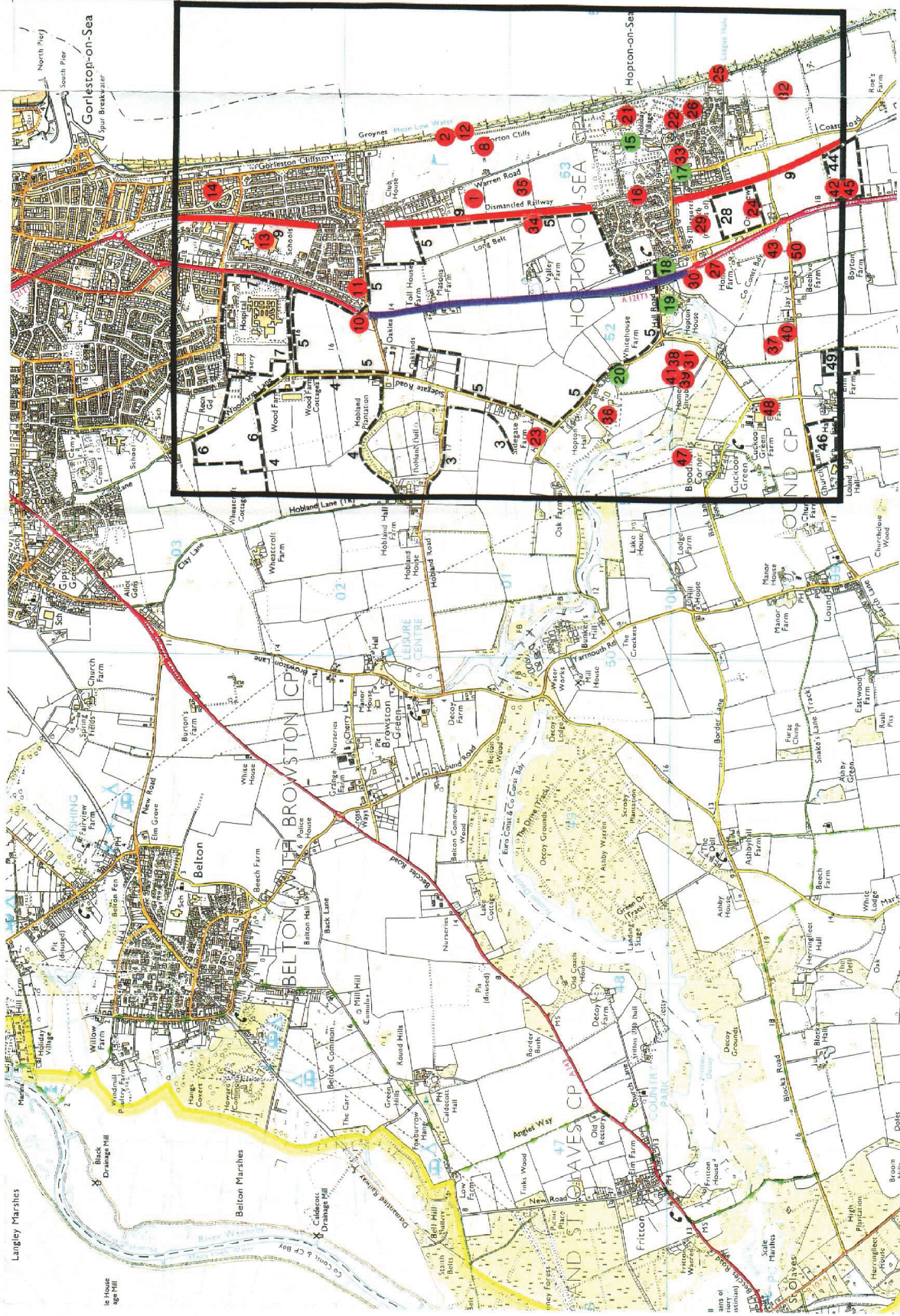
September 1998





Key:

-  Boundary of Study Area
-  Corridor of Proposed Road Improvement
-  Archaeological Site
-  Listed Building
-  Linear Site
-  Boundaries of Cropmark Complexes

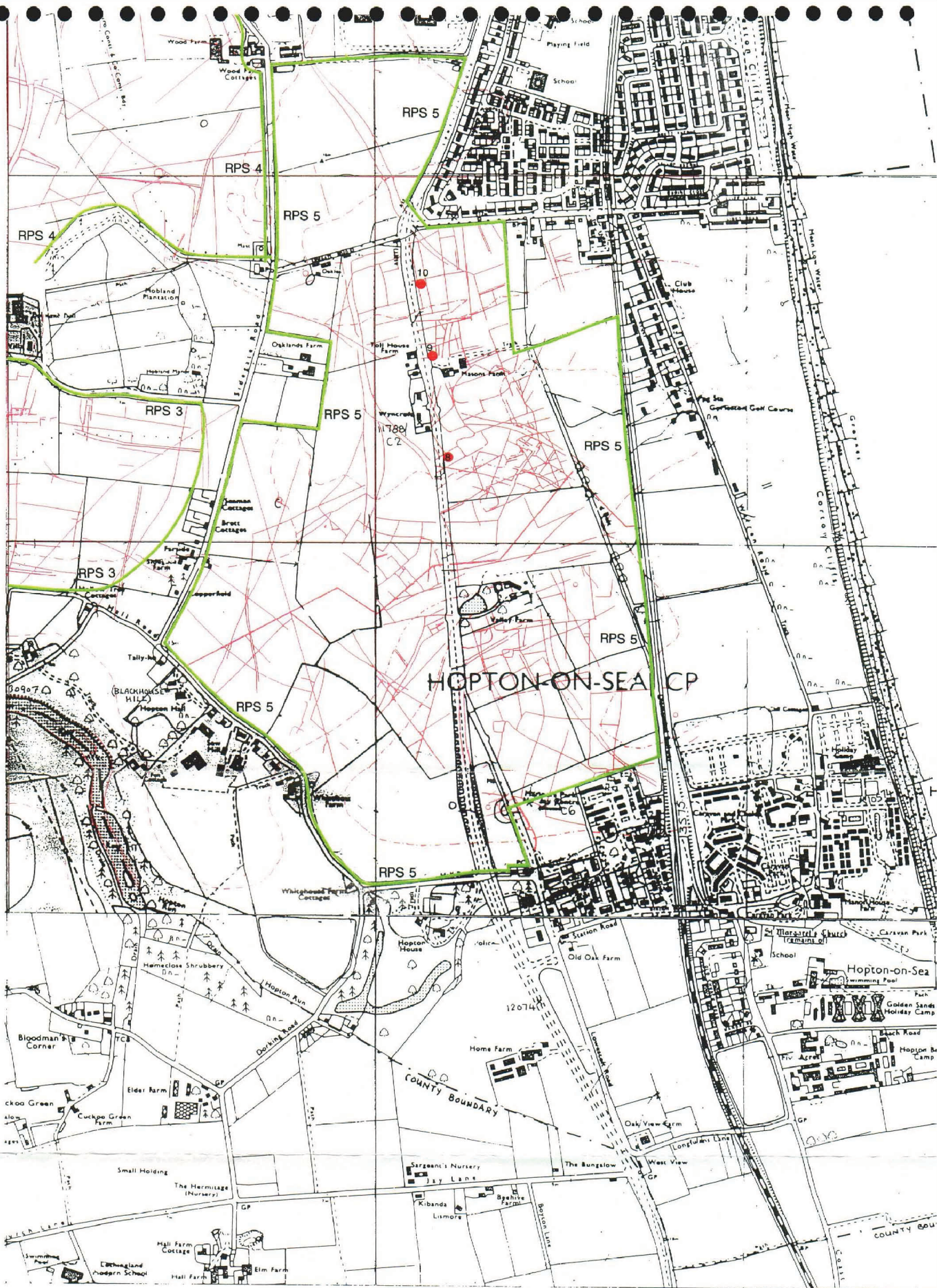


ORIGINAL AT A3



ORIGINAL IN  
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Project  
Gorleston-Hopton Widening  
file  
Cultural Heritage Sites  
project number  
R3633B  
scale  
1:25,000  
drawing number  
RPSC.2  
date  
September 1998





Key:

-  Crop marks
-  Trial pit location

project

**Gorleston-Hopton Widening**  
 title Map Showing Cropmark Complexes & Features  
 From Norfolk Archaeological Unit Aerial Plotting

project number

drawing number

R3633B

RPSC 11

scale

date

1:10,050

September 1998

ORIGINAL AT A3

**RPS CLOUSTON**  
 THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANCY

ORIGINAL IN  
 COLOUR





Tracing of Tithe Map of Hopton (1843)

project number  
 drawing number  
 RPSC 5

scale  
 6 Chains-1 Mile

date  
 September 1998

ORIGINAL AT A3  
 RPS CLOUSTON  
 THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

project  
 (Gorleston-Hopton Widening  
 mile

170

Hill Piece  
 92

Cartshed Piece  
 94

Common Close  
 95

The Allotment  
 96

97

Wall Piece  
 83

Porters Twenty Three Acres  
 87

Barley Croft  
 85

Cottage & Garden  
 85

87

Magazine  
 79

Porters Sixteen Acres  
 78

Barn Piece  
 76

Horne Field  
 71

Sixteen Acres  
 70

Twelve Acres  
 69

Garden Piece  
 72

First Warren Allotment  
 41

Second Warren Allotment  
 40

Third Warren Allotment  
 39

Fourth Warren Allotment  
 38

34

North Field Piece  
 42

Stackyard Piece  
 50

Homestall  
 51

18

Church  
 19

47

48

49

52

Home Pightle  
 53

Church Pightle  
 54

5

Queen Pier  
 56

Taylor's Piece  
 62

6

North Field  
 68

Hart Piece  
 67

Hart Piece  
 183

Tollgate  
 Tubby's Piece  
 181

180

Weather Cock Piece  
 Middle Seven Acres  
 184

Fen Piece  
 185

The Four Acres  
 91

Twenty Three Acres  
 89

Hill Piece  
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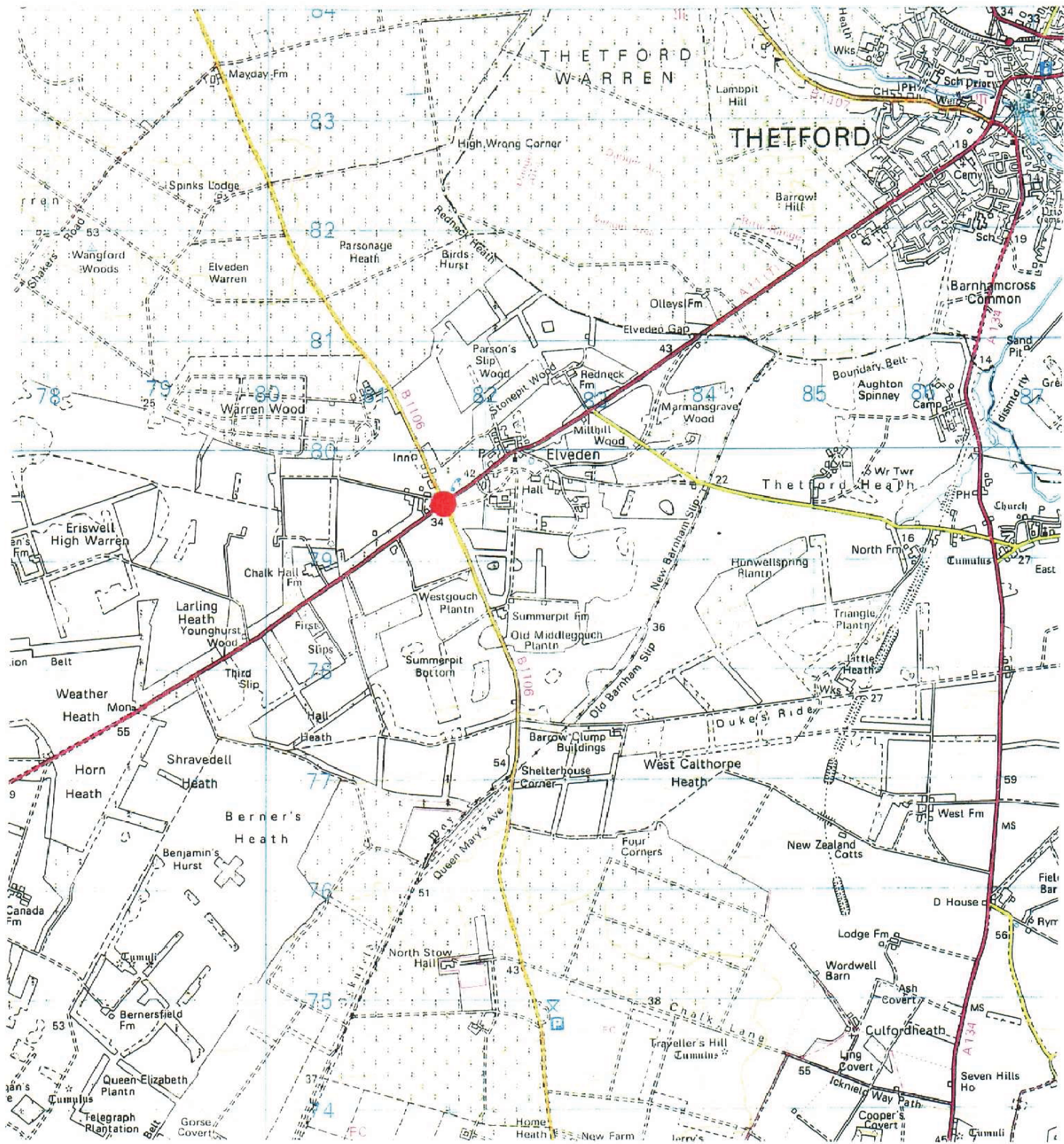
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Key:

● Site Location

project

**Elveden Crossroads**  
title

**Site Location**

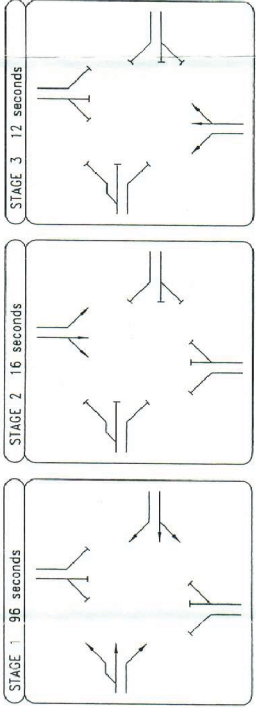
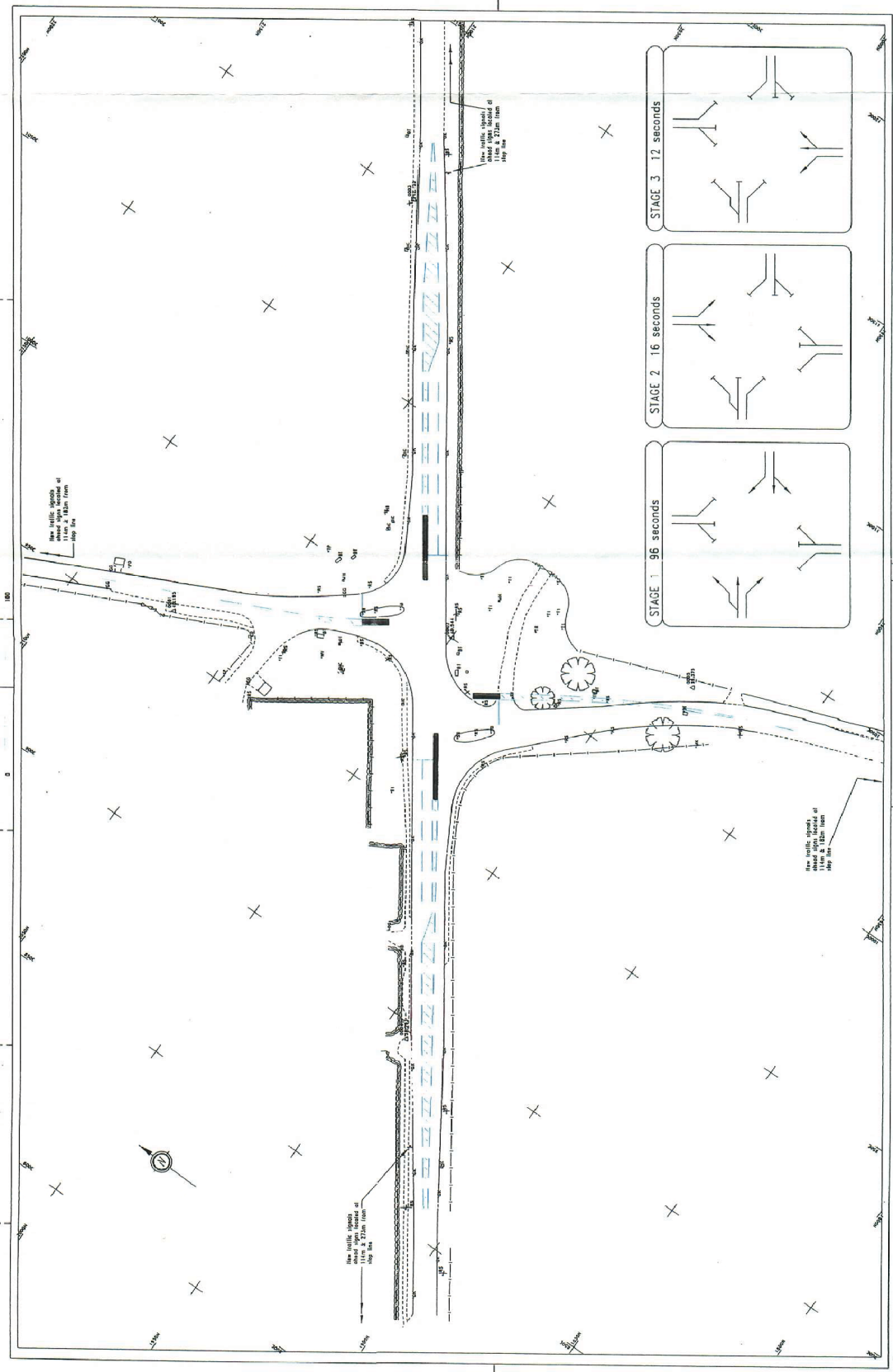
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**R3634B**                                      **RPSC 1**

scale    date

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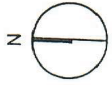
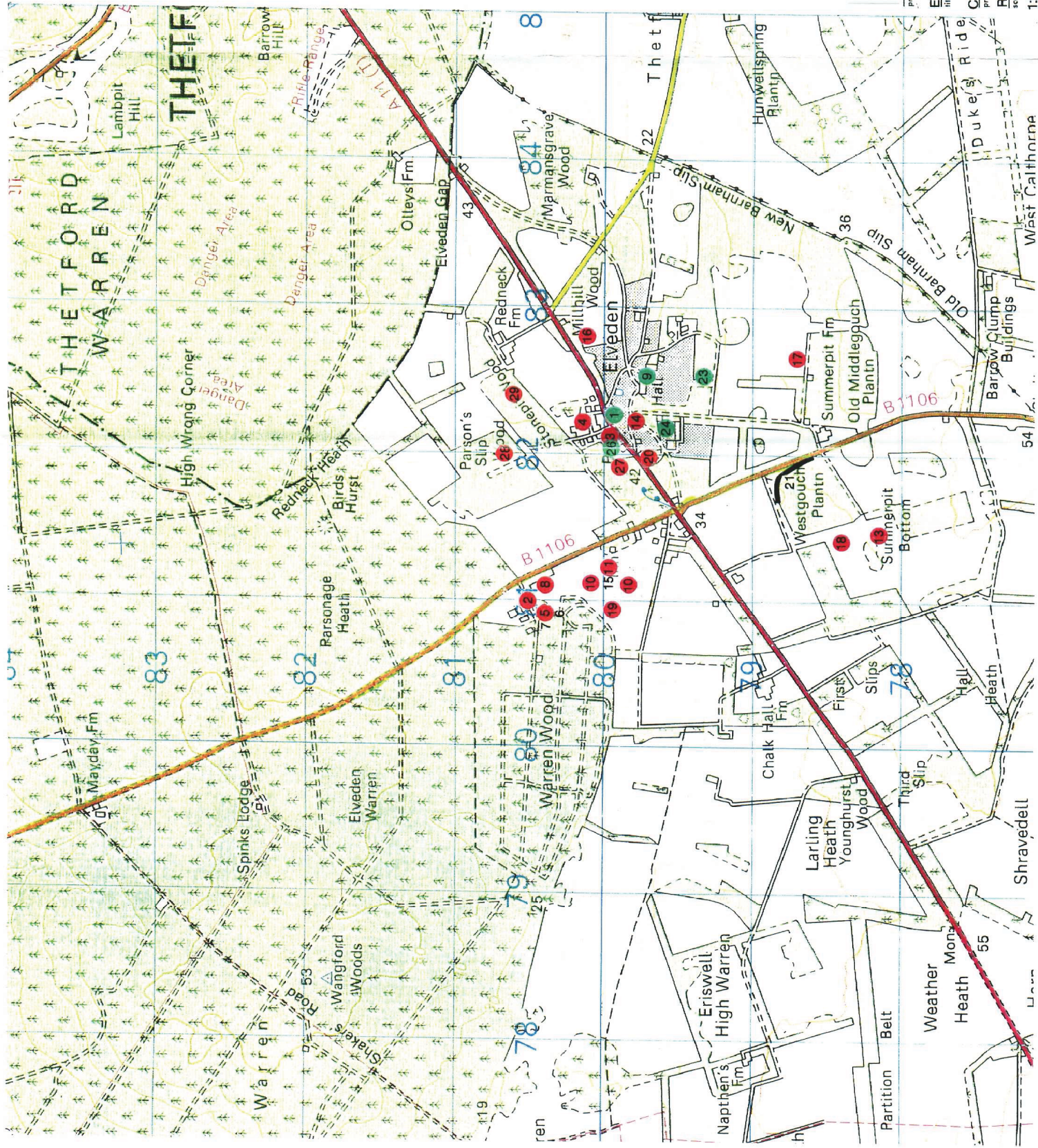


ORIGINAL AT A3

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 title  
 Proposed Preliminary Traffic Controlled Junction  
 Layout  
 project number  
 R3634B  
 drawing number  
 RPSC 3  
 date  
 NTS  
 September 1998

RPS CLOUSTON  
 THE ENGINEERS





Key:

- Archaeological Site
- Listed Building
- Sites of Uncertain Location
- RPS 12 RPS 22 RPS 25
- Linear Site

ORIGINAL IN COLOUR

ORIGINAL AT A3

Project  
Elveden Cross-Roads  
Site

Cultural Heritage Sites

project number  
R3634B  
drawing number  
RPSC 2  
scale  
1:25,000  
date  
September 1998