



INDEX DATA	RPS INFORMATION
Scheme Title Hopton Roundabout	Details Stage II Archaeological Assessment
Road Number	Date October 1998
Contractor RPS	
County Norfolk	
OS Reference TG 50	
Single sided <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Double sided A3 4 Colour 2A3	

**Hopton Roundabout,
Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk**

A Stage III Archaeological Assessment

RPS Clouston

The Old Barn

Deanes Close

Steventon

Abingdon

Oxon OX13 6SY

Tel: 01235 821888

Fax: 01235 820351

Email: rpsoc@rpsplc.co.uk

October 1998

**This report has been prepared within the RPS
Group Quality Management System to British
Standard EN ISO 9001 : 1994**

STATUS: Draft

DATE: October 1998

PROJECT MANAGER: David Freke

Contents

	Page No.
Non-Technical Summary	i
1 Introduction	1
2 Aims and Objectives	2
3 Methodology	3
4 National and Local Planning Policy Background	4
5 Geological and Topographical Background	7
6 Historical and Archaeological Background	8
7 Results of the Site Walk-Over Survey	13
8 Evaluation of Archaeological Importance	15
9 Assessment of Impact and Effect on Cultural Heritage Sites	18
10 Conclusions and Recommendations for Stage III Work	20

Appendices

- 1 Extracts from the Norfolk County Sites and Monuments Record
- 2 Extracts from the National Monuments Record
- 3 Results of the Geotechnical Trial Pit Monitoring

Figures

- 1 Site Location
- 2 Proposed Location of Area Excavation
- 3 Location of Geotechnical Trial Pits
- 4 Site Walk Over Survey
- 5 Cultural Heritage Sites
- 6 Transcription of Ring Ditch RPS 15 from Norfolk SMR Map

Non-Technical Summary

- S.1 RPS Clouston on behalf of the Highways Agency has undertaken a Stage II Archaeological Study. The Study has included a review of the Norfolk County Sites and Monuments Record, the National Monuments Record and a site walkover survey.
- S.2 The Highways Agency have commissioned RPS Clouston to upgrade this initial assessment by undertaking a Stage III archaeological assessment prior to the production of the Environmental Assessment for this project.
- S.3 An analysis of the data from the Norfolk County Sites and Monuments Record revealed that the proposed improvements to the A12 trunk road near Hopton-on-Sea may directly affect the site of a bronze age ring ditch which is located to the immediate west of the road.
- S.4 The proposed road improvements may also affect possible neolithic settlement features which may be identified from individual findspots of neolithic flint implements located close to the areas of the proposed improvements from County Sites and Monuments Record and National Monuments Record data.
- S.5 The bronze age ring ditch site is considered to be of average importance, while the two findspots of neolithic flint axes although perhaps of less importance in their individual contexts, together with other nearby evidence of neolithic occupation, nevertheless may indicate that a greater potential for archaeological remains from the neolithic period may exist. The probable impact of the proposed route option on the archaeological remains is judged to be medium-high risk.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Stage III archaeological desk based assessment report was commissioned by the RPS Clouston Huddersfield Office on behalf of their clients and is to be incorporated into a Environmental Assessment which will be produced by the RPS Clouston Huddersfield Office for the Highways Agency.
- 1.2 This report has been produced in response to an application for planning permission for the construction of a new roundabout, a bus turning point and associated works on the A12 trunk road to the west of Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk.
- 1.3 This desk top study is an assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource on the proposed development site using existing written and graphic information augmented by a site walk-over survey. 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 survey, and identifies the aims and objectives of the study. Information on the planning, geological, topographical, archaeological and historical background is used to assess the potential for archaeology on the site.
- 1.4 The development site (hereafter known as the "Development Area") is located to the west of the village of Hopton-on-Sea on the route of the A12 trunk road (see RPSC figure 1). The Study Area comprises the area from which the County Sites and Monuments Record and National Monuments Record data were trawled, extends through the following grid squares TG 5100, TG 5200, TG 5300, TM 5299, TM 5199 and TM 5399.

2 Aims and Objectives

- 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 proposed development.

3 Methodology

3.1 This Stage III 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. II*. These comprise:

- The Norfolk County Sites and Monuments Record;
- The National Monuments Record;
- The National Library of Aerial Photographs;
- Listed buildings information from Great Yarmouth Borough Council;
- O.S. maps from the Norfolk County Local Studies Library;
- Department of Aerial Photography, University of Cambridge;
- Extracts from the Norfolk County Council Structure Plan;
- A walkover over survey of the site.

3.2 The data and information from the Norfolk County Sites and Monuments Record and from the National Monuments Record was obtained for the grid squares TG 5200; TG 5100; TG 5300; TM 5299; TM 5199 and TM 5399. Aerial photographs for the grid square TG 5200 only were located and examined at the National Library of Air Photographs.

3.3 A site walk over survey took place on the 12th of September 1998 to check for any visible features or artefacts of archaeological interest based on the available research data.

3.4 All of the Norfolk Sites and Monuments Record data is detailed in Appendix 1 of this report, with RPS Clouston generated numbers from RPS 1 onwards. The data from the National Monuments Record is similarly detailed in Appendix 2 with RPS Clouston generated numbers from RPS 23 onwards. All cultural heritage sites including archaeological sites and listed buildings are shown on figure RPSC 6.

3.5 Much of this information was obtained from postal/fax enquiries and from a visit to the National Monuments Record Centre.

4 National and Local Planning Policy Background

Scheduled Monuments (SMs)

- 4.1 Statutory protection for archaeology is principally enshrined in the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act* (1979) amended by the *National Heritage Act* (1983). Nationally important sites are listed in a Schedule of Monuments which is maintained by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. Scheduled Monument (SM) consent is required for any work that would affect the fabric of a scheduled monument. There are no SMs in the Study Area.
- 4.2 Listed buildings are protected under the provisions of Section 54(i) 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 two 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 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 were consulted and entries identified within a notional 1Km radius of the proposed development site (see Appendix 1 and RPSC 2).

- 4.5 The Highways Agency's *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Vol. II* (August 1994), incorporates the principles of *PPG 16* and the procedures adopted for the A12 improvements at Hopton-on-Sea are in accordance with this advice.
- 4.6 **Planning and Policy Guidance on Planning and this 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 will be affected by the development proposals.

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).

- 4.9 In 1993, the Department of Transport revised the guidelines for the treatment of environmental issues in the preparation of new roads and published *The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges*. Volume II, Section 3 considers the treatment of cultural heritage issues.

- 4.10 This report constitutes a Stage II assessment as recommended by the *DMRB, Vol. II*.

County Council Policies

- 4.11 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".

5 Geological and Topographical Background

- 5.1 The underlying solid geology of the Study Area consists of Norwich Crag and Red Crag sandstones from the Mesozoic. The drift geology comprises fine grained brown earth sandy and loamy soils that are derived from the underlying Mesozoic sandstones. These soils vary in depth and are well drained.
- 5.2 The topography of the Study area is like much of eastern Norfolk, flat and gently to moderately sloping to the coast, which is situated to the immediate east .
- 5.3 The soft deposits along the coast are subject to erosion and the coastline has receded considerably in the historic period.

6 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 6.1 The **palaeolithic** period (500,000-9000BC) represents the earliest period of human activity. This was the period when nomadic hunter gatherers followed the migratory animal herds. Evidence for their settlement is very rare so little evidence for their existence remains apart from individual finds of their flint implements such as hand axes, flint cores and flint flakes. There is no evidence for this period within the Study Area.
- 6.2 The culture of the hunter gatherer continued during the **mesolithic** period (9000-4500BC). More sophisticated flint implements were produced which reflected improvements in tool technology. Evidence of mesolithic settlement is also very rare. There is no evidence also for this period within the Study Area.
- 6.3 From 3500BC onwards, the first farms began to appear as the first large scale clearance of the post glacial forests took place to make way for the first **neolithic** agricultural settlements (4500-2000BC). A mixture of crop growing and animal husbandry took place. There is much evidence for neolithic settlement in this area.

Several finds of flint implements and a site indicating a concentrated area of neolithic settlement have been found within the area of the holiday camp at Hopton-on-Sea. During 1973, a chipped flint axe was found during excavations for an electricity trench (RPS 1) and a finds scatter comprising two chipped flint axeheads and a large quantity of flint scrapers were found in 1950 (RPS 2). To the north-east of the former Manor Farm, and now situated within the holiday camp, a flint working site and associated artefacts including arrowheads, spearheads and axes were found (RPS 7).

To the north-east of Oak Farm, a finds scatter comprising flint knives, arrowheads, cores, scrapers and flakes were located during ploughing in 1972 (RPS 3).

To the north-east of Oak View Farm, a further finds scatter comprising flint arrowheads, scrapers and a flint flake were found in 1956 (RPS 5).

Within the Study Area, and to the immediate west of the A12 trunk road, a stray find comprising a flint axe was found on a conveyor belt during potato harvesting in 1974 (RPS 10).

At Valley Farm, a scatter of flint flakes, an arrowhead and blades were found (RPS 9).

To the immediate north of Jay Lane a findspot of an axehead and other flint implements were found in 1957 (RPS 27).

To the south of Dorking Road, Lound, several arrowheads and a scraper have been found (RPS 28).

To the east of the A12 trunk road at Jex Farm, Corton, part of a stone axe hammer was found during ploughing in 1955 (RPS 29).

To the south of Home Farm, two flint axes were found in 1972 (RPS 30).

6.4 During the **bronze age** (2000-650BC) agricultural activity intensified with more extensive woodland clearance. Agricultural settlement extended to the heavier soils as farming technology improved. The first metal working took place during the bronze age with the use of bronze becoming well established for weapons and fine tools. Flint continued in use for everyday disposable items such as knives and arrowheads. Burial rites became more sophisticated with the dead being buried in barrows.

In 1952, following a cliff fall to the east of the holiday camp at Hopton-on-Sea, a stray find of a looped palstave axe was found (RPS 6).

As part of the Valley Farm cropmark complex and situated to the immediate north of Hopton-on-Sea, a circular shaped concentric ring ditch feature of possible bronze age date has been located from aerial photographs (RPS 9) and a middle bronze age rapier or dirk blade was found as a result of metal detection in 1985 (RPS 9).

At Valley Farm, a scatter of flint flakes and blades were found in 1970 (RPS 9)

To the south-east of Old Oak Farm, a single ring ditch with two smaller ring ditches partially overlying the larger feature have been located from aerial photographs taken in 1976, and are of possible bronze age origin (RPS 14).

To the west of Hopton House, a concentric ring ditch which represents the possible ploughed remains of a barrow site with a possible associated linear feature have also been located from aerial photographs and may also be of bronze age origin (RPS 16).

To the east of Elder Farm, a circular shaped soil mark some 60 feet in diameter with fired soil at its centre has been located. This may mark the site of a barrow of possible bronze age origin (RPS 26).

At Lound, several flint arrowheads and one scraper also of possible bronze age date have been found (RPS 28).

To the immediate west of the A12 trunk road and detected on an aerial photograph, a cropmark of a ring ditch has been located (RPS 15). The ring ditch appears to be truncated by a later infilled pit of unknown date and purpose.

6.5 During the iron age (650BC-AD43) iron replace bronze as the principal metal industry. Agricultural activity became more intensified. Increased social tensions led to the introduction of communal defensive structures such as hillforts and fortified settlements that were based upon a tribal system. The only evidence for iron age occupation in this area is that of a coin of Cunobeline which was found as a result of metal detection to the north of Hopton-on-Sea in 1990 (RPS 20).

6.6 During the Roman period, a road network was constructed and more organised rural settlement and intensive agricultural activity began with the establishment of the villa system. These were farmstead estates with a variety of agricultural activities that included crop rotation and animal husbandry.

In 1971, a coin of the Emperor Trajan was found near to Hopton School (RPS 18). While to the north of Hopton-on-Sea, several Roman artefacts have been located as a result of metal detection in 1990, including two coins, a key handle and a toilet spoon (RPS 20).

During excavations for a sawdust pit at Hopton Saw Mills in 1946, a large assemblage of pottery including an oil lamp and a possible hearth or clay oven were also found (RPS 22).

To the north of the Dorking Road, the base of a small jar was found at Lound in 1956 (RPS 25).

Several finds of a bronze figurine and a coin of Maximinus I have been found by metal detection to the north of Hopton-on-Sea in 1989 (RPS 9).

Further finds have been located by metal detection to the north of Hopton -on-Sea and to the immediate east of the A12 trunk road. This includes pottery, coins and brooches (RPS 9).

6.7 During the Anglo-Saxon period, (AD410-AD1066) the basis of the later medieval settlement pattern was established. The place name of Hopton perhaps originated from

this period. There is little evidence of occupation from this period except for some pottery sherds that were ploughed out from a rectangular structure in 1956 at Lound (RPS 24).

- 6.8 The feudal society of the Normans after the invasions set the pattern for the **medieval** period (AD1066-AD1530). The feudal system comprised manorial centres and open field systems based on nucleated villages such as Hopton-on-Sea. The settlement pattern that was established in the Anglo-Saxon period continued after the Norman Conquest of 1066. Evidence for the medieval settlement at Hopton are the ruins of the former St Margaret's parish church (RPS 8) which would have formed the focal point for the medieval village. This church has possible 11th century origins, otherwise it is of mostly of 14th-15th century construction. This church is Grade II* listed, but is in a very poor condition, owing to its destruction by fire in 1865.

In a field to the south of Hopton-on-Sea, a coin of Edward I (1272-1307) was found as a result of metal detection in 1984 (RPS 17).

A metal belt buckle has also been found as a result of metal detection to the north of Hopton-on-Sea (RPS 20).

A spread of medieval pottery has been found to the north of Jay Lane in 1957 (RPS 27).

To the south-east of Old Oak Farm, a possible ring ditched shaped feature that may indicate the site of a possible medieval mill, has been plotted from aerial photographs (RPS 14).

A coin dating to the reign of King John (1199-1216) was found to the north of Hopton-on-Sea by metal detection (RPS 9).

A medieval brooch was found by metal detection to the west of Sidegate Farm in 1982 (RPS 9).

Further finds have been located by metal detection to the north of Hopton-on-Sea and in a field to the immediate east of the A12 trunk road. This includes pendants, coins and brooches (RPS 9).

- 6.9 The **post medieval** period has seen substantial changes to the landscape including the enclosure of the 18th and 19th centuries. The medieval church of St Margaret was relocated and rebuilt in the 19th century that is located to the immediate west of the A12 trunk road (RPS 4). The 19th century also saw the coming of the railways and with it a

revolution in transportation. This area was not unaffected by this development. The line of the southern section of the Norfolk and Suffolk Joint Railway (which runs parallel to the A12 trunk road) was opened in 1903 was closed to freight traffic in 1967 and to passenger traffic in 1970. This railway also included a station at Hopton (RPS 23).

Hopton Hall which is Grade II listed was constructed in brick in c1825 (RPS 20).

A lead cloth seal was found by metal detection to the north of Hopton-on-Sea (RPS 9).

A number of cropmark features associated with W.W.II are located to the west of Valley Farm and the A12 trunk road. These include an anti-glider ditch that formed part of a decoy airfield and a polygonal shaped pillbox, both of which have been detected from aerial photographs (RPS 9).

- 6.10 There are in addition, several sites which have been plotted from aerial photographs, but which cannot be ascribed to any period with any degree of certainty or can be interpreted as to their original function and purpose. This includes a linear cropmark which extends from the former parish boundary near Warren Farm (now demolished) to the holiday cap in the south, which obscures its possible southern continuation. This feature is also criss-crossed by two parallel linear feature, also of uncertain origin at its northern end (RPS 11); the west end of a complex multi-ditched rectangular shaped enclosure located to the west of Oak View Farm and the disused railway line (RPS 13).

7 Results of the Site Walk-Over Survey

The results of the site walk over survey were as follows:

Land to the West of the A12 Trunk Road

- 7.1 The land to the west of the A12 trunk road was entered by means of a gap in the hedgerow (field 1, Fig 4). This field sloped to the north and was under a heavy crop with a heavy ground cover. No topographical features or surface artefacts were visible.
- 7.2 To the south, There was no access available to Hopton House. This is a private house with private grounds and is obscured from the A12 road by heavy tree cover.
- 7.3 The field to the south of Hopton House and to the north of Home Farm (field 2, Fig 4) was under grass which had been recently cut. There was heavy ground cover, although a recently cut tractor trail was followed along the roadside edge of this field. Occasional flint flakes were visible on the surface, but were not diagnostic. No topographical features were visible in this field.
- 7.4 The field to the south of Home Farm and to the north of Jay Lane (field 3, Fig 4) was along accessible along its roadside edge. this field had been under a crop of hay, but had been recently ploughed . Very occasional flint flakes, tile and modern pottery were visible on the ploughed surface. No topographical features were visible in this field.
- 7.5 The field to the south of Jay Lane (field 4, Fig 4) were accessible from a gap in the hedgerow. This field was under a heavy grass crop and was under plough at the time of the site visit. At the edge of the field along Jay Lane, where the grass cover was less intense, there was much evidence of modern brick and tile on the ground surface. No topographical features were visible in this field.

Land to the East of the A12 Trunk Road

- 7.6 The field to the east of the A12 trunk road (field 5, Fig 4) was only accessible from a public footpath to the south. This field was under a very heavy grass crop and sloped to the north. No topographical surface features or artefacts were visible.
- 7.7 The roadside access along the eastern edge of the A12 trunk road was under heavy tree cover which was inaccessible.

- 7.8 The 19th century church of St Margaret was accessible from the eastern side of the A12 trunk road.
- 7.9 To the south of Station Road, access was made along the old Lowestoft road which runs parallel to the A12 trunk road. A garden centre presently occupies the land in between the two roads.
- 7.10 The field to the south of the village of Hopton-on-Sea (field 5, Fig 4) had been recently harrowed. Access was gained from a roadside gap in the hedgerow from the Lowestoft Road. No surface artefacts or ground features were visible.
- 7.11 The field to the south of field 5 (field 6, Fig 4) had also recently been harrowed. Access to this field was not possible, except from the roadside verge from the Lowestoft Road. Although the soil was stony in consistency, no surface artefacts or surface features were visible from the roadside verge.
- 7.12 The field to the north of Oak View Farm (field 7, Fig 4) was similarly not accessible, but was viewed from the roadside verge of the Lowestoft Road. This field was under a heavy grass crop, such that no surface features or artefacts were discerned.
- 7.13 The field to the south of Oak View Farm (field 8, Fig 4) had been under crop, but had been recently ploughed. Similarly, access was not available. No surface features or artefacts were visible from the roadside verge of the A12 trunk road.

Aerial Photographs

- 7.14 Two copies of aerial photographs were obtained from the National Library of Aerial Photographs at Swindon for grid square TG 5200. These are of the two northernmost fields within the Study Area to either side of the A12 trunk road (Fig 4). Both of these photographs clearly show much evidence of cropmark features that could be interpreted as field boundaries but of an uncertain period. Unfortunately, no other aerial photographs were available for the grid square to the south - TM 5299. It is reasonable to conclude that further cropmark features may be visible in these fields such as the ring ditch (RPS 15).

8 Evaluation of Archaeological Importance

Assessment Model

- 8.1 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 official implications 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 1 & 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 merit
Uncertain:	insufficient evidence available to judge importance.

- 8.2 Under the above defined criteria of importance, there are a number of sites (summarised in Appendices 1-2) derived from SMR and NMR sources that may be affected by development proposals in the development site. Only an appraisal of the potential importance can be made with the available data and this is set out below:

Sites of **major** importance include:

The ruins of the medieval parish church of St Margaret's which is Grade II* listed (RPS 8).

Sites of **average** importance include:

A neolithic flint scatter to the north-east of Oak Farm (RPS 3).

A neolithic flint scatter to the north-east of Oak View Farm (RPS 5).

A neolithic flint working site and associated flint finds scatter, now occupied by the site of the holiday Camp at Hopton-on-Sea (RPS 7).

The Valley Farm multi-period cropmark complex (see Fig.....) and metal detector finds of various periods (RPS 9).

The southern section of the disused Norfolk and Suffolk Joint Railway (RPS 12).

The bronze age ring ditch located to the immediate west of the A12 trunk road (RPS 15).

Bronze age ring ditches located to the south-east of Old Oak Farm (RPS 14).

The Grade II listed Hopton Hall and associated grounds (RPS 21).

The Roman pottery assemblage and possible hearth or clay pit located at Hopton Saw Mills (RPS 22).

The bronze age enclosure located to the east of Elder farm (RPS 26).

Sites of **minor** importance include:

Neolithic flint axe found at Hopton-on-Sea Holiday Camp (RPS 1).

A neolithic flint implement scatter also located at the holiday camp (RPS 2).

The post medieval church of St Margaret's (RPS 4).

Multi-period metal detection finds located to the north of Hopton-on-Sea (RPS 20).

Hopton-on-Sea railway station (RPS 23).

Finds of neolithic flint implements and medieval pottery to the north of Jay Lane (RPS 27).

Finds of neolithic and bronze age flint implements to the south of Dorking Lane, Lound (RPS 28).

Finds of two neolithic flint axes to the south of Home Farm (RPS 30).

Sites of uncertain importance include:

A linear cropmark to the located to the north of Hopton-on-Sea (RPS 11).

A rectangular shaped complex enclosure located to the west of Oak View Farm (RPS 13).

9 Assessment of Impact and Effect on Cultural Heritage Sites

9.1 ~~The preferred route Option E will have an impact on at least one archaeological site.~~
There is also potential for other sites which through fragmentary evidence such as the findspots of neolithic flint implements may indicate the potential for associated neolithic settlement and could suggest a much wider archaeological potential, but which may possibly be affected by the groundworks for this Option.

9.2 The impact of a proposed development on an archaeological site can be assessed using a scale that takes into account the degree of encroachment and other factors. IMPACT: as with importance there is no agreed terminology or definitions concerning the degree of impact. It cannot be a simple percentage calculation of the proportion of a feature etc. Which could be destroyed, because some parts of a site may be more important than others, or partial destruction may lead to a loss of all significance, The assessment of the degree of impact must be as qualitative as the judgement of importance. The following terms are used in this report:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| High: | loss of all or majority of significant features, such that the site, building or historic landscape is effectively destroyed or seriously damaged. |
| Medium: | loss of sufficient part of sites or encroachment on their setting such that that their integrity is compromised, or enough damage to the fabric or ambience of buildings or landscapes to impair their enjoyment, understanding of academic potential. |
| Low: | slight damage or encroachment such that sites or buildings and their settings are largely retained. |
| None: | no discernible impact. |
| Unknown: | there is insufficient evidence regarding the design of the proposal or the extent/location/or layout of the feature to be able to make a judgement. |

9.3 There is only one site upon which the preferred Option E will have a direct impact - RPS 15, bronze age ring ditch, this will be a **medium** impact. The findspots of neolithic flint axes - RPS 10 and RPS 30 and the likelihood of cropmark features in fields 2-4 may indicate a wider archaeological potential for neolithic settlement features and features from other periods such as field boundaries etc. The impact of the preferred Option E will have an **unknown** impact on any potential archaeological sites in this category.

9.4 **EFFECT:** the effect of a proposal is a combination of the impact and importance. The effect of a high impact on a minor site is obviously different to that of a high impact on a major site. As with Importance and Impact, there is no standardised terminology to categorise these judgements; this report uses the following terms:

Maximum: high impact on a major site

Severe: medium impact on a major site, or high impact on an average site

Moderate: low/medium impact on a major/average site, high/medium impact on minor/average site, low impact on a major site

Slight: low/medium impact on average/minor site

Zero: no impact or non-site.

9.5 The preferred Option E will have a **moderate-severe** effect on the bronze age ring ditch site (RPS 15). The effect of this Option on other potential archaeological features that may come within the proposed development area must remain **zero** until there is definite evidence as to their existence.

10 Conclusions and Recommendations for Stage III Work

- 10.1 The cultural heritage information obtained from the Stage II archaeological assessment provided comprehensive data concerning the preferred Route E's impact on the known archaeological remains. This was highlighted as:
- (a) a bronze age ring ditch (RPS 15) which represents the remains of a ploughed out barrow may be directly affected by the ground works required for the proposed improvements to the A12 trunk road.
 - (b) findspots of neolithic flint axes (RPS 30, RPS 10) located to the immediate west of the A12 trunk road, although perhaps unimportant by themselves and although they will not be affected by this development may represent evidence of neolithic settlement in this area. There is a concentration of neolithic occupation to the east centred on the holiday camp at Hopton-on-Sea. While other neolithic finds have been found to the north east of Oak View Farm (RPS 5) and to the south at Jex Farm, Corton (RPS 29). It is reasonable to conclude that this neolithic settlement may have extended westwards to include the western side of the A12 trunk road.
- 10.2 The aerial photographic evidence from the fields to the north of the proposed development area (fields 1 & 5, Fig 4) indicate a greater concentration of archaeological activity. Despite the lack of photographic evidence of the fields to the south and the lack of evidence on the ground from the walk-over survey, it is also reasonable to assume that there may be a greater concentration of archaeological activity in fields 2-4 (see Fig 4).
- 10.3 The views of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology as the advisors to the Local Planning Authority were sought in response to the Stage II assessment. They recommended that no further archaeological field survey or any pre-excavation archaeological evaluation was necessary. The ring ditch (RPS 15) should be excavated. Given the potential for possible neolithic settlement features or further cropmark features, archaeological monitoring and recording should take place during topsoil removal during the groundworks for the construction of the roundabout and widening of the A12 trunk road to the west. Should any archaeological features be located during the monitoring stage,

they should also be excavated as necessary. We would agree with these
~~recommendations.~~

Appendices

Appendix 1

Extracts from the Norfolk County Sites and Monuments Record

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

No.	OS No.	Grid Reference	Description	Period	Importance
1	10574	5331 0032	Flint axe found during digging of electricity trench in 1973	NE	Minor
2	10575	5330 0000	Two flint axeheads and many irregular scrapers found in 1950	NE	Minor
3	10579	5130 0080	Flint finds scatter comprising flint knife, arrowhead, 7 cores, 31 scrapers, 2 borers & 1 flake	NE	Average
4	10592	5241 0004	St Margaret's Church	PM	Minor
5	10757	5270 9940	Flint finds scatter comprising 2 arrowheads, 5 scrapers and 1 flake	NE	Average
6	10758	5360 9976	Looped palstave found after cliff fall in 1952	BA	Unimportant
7	10759	5336 9989	Flint working site & flint finds scatter comprising 2 spearheads, 6 arrowhead & 3 axes.	NE	Average
8	10760	5300 9996	Ruins of St Margaret's Church, Grade II* listed	MD/PM	Major
9	11788	5230 0120	Valley Farm cropmark complex	Multi-period	Average
10	12074	5243 9978	Flint axe found on the conveyor belt of a potato harvester	NE	Unimportant
11	13040	5309 0116	Linear cropmark	UN	Uncertain
12	13575	Linear	Southern section of Norfolk & Suffolk Joint Railway	PM	Average
13	16166	5305 9960	Cropmark comprising west end of a complex multi-ditched enclosure	UN	Uncertain
14	16167	5263 9980	Cropmarks comprising ring ditches & site of possible mill	BA	Average
15	16168	5234 9990	Cropmark comprising a ring ditch overlain by a "disc"	BA	Average
16	17475	5180 9990	Double concentric ring ditch & linear cropmarks	BA/UN	Uncertain
17	21166	5347 9936	Penny of Edward I	MD	Unimportant
18	22928	5305 9992	Roman coin found near Hopton School in 1971	RO	Unimportant

No.	Site	Reference	Description	Period	Importance
19	24810	5272 0078	Bronze object	PM	Unimportant
20	25088	5290 0090	Metal detection finds, including iron age, roman,, medieval & post medieval artefacts	Multi- period	Minor
21	31710	5145 0055	Hopton Hall & grounds. Grade II listed	PM	Average
22	31947	515 004	Hopton sawmills, pottery, hearth or clay oven	RO	Average

ABBREVIATIONS:

PA - palaeolithic

ME - mesolithic

NE - neolithic

BA - bronze age

IA - iron age

BK - beaker

PR - prehistoric

RO - Roman

EM - Anglo-Saxon

MD - medieval

PM - post medieval

UN - uncertain

MO - modern

Appendix 2: Extracts from the National Monuments Record

No.	Grid Reference	OS Grid Reference	Description	Period	Importance
23	TG 50 SW (NBR number 8155)	528 002	Hopton-on-Sea railway station	PM	Minor
24	TM 59 NW 5	519 994	Pottery sherds	EM	Unimportant
25	TM 59 NW 7	518 997	Jar	RO	Unimportant
26	TM 59 NW 8	517 995	Enclosure	BA	Average
27	TM 59 NW 9	520 993	Flint axehead & implements & pottery sherds	NE/MD	Minor
28	TM 59 NW 14	TM 518996	4 arrowheads & 1 scraper	NE/BA	Minor
29	TM 59 NW 15	TM 529990	Stone axe hammer	NE	Unimportant
30	TM 59 NW 23	TM 525994	2 flint axes	NE	Minor

ABBREVIATIONS

PA - palaeolithic
 ME - mesolithic
 NE - neolithic
 BA - bronze age
 IA - iron age
 PR - prehistoric
 R● - Roman
 EM - Anglo-Saxon
 MD - medieval
 PM - post medieval
 UN - uncertain
 M● - modern

Appendix 3

Results of the Geotechnical Trial Pit Monitoring Report

Results of the Geotechnical Trial Pit Monitoring Report

Owen Williams excavated a Total of ten trial pits on the 24th-25th of September 1998, utilising a JCB mechanical excavator. The trial pits were located on both sides of the A12 dual carriageway and to the south of Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk (see figure RPSC 3) 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.

Trial pits 1 and 2 were located within a ploughed field to the north-west of the junction of Jay lane with the A12 dual carriageway. Trial pit 1 demonstrated a 0.38 metres thick dark grey-brown, fine clayey sandy silt. This was a modern plough soil with no finds. Below this, a 0.14 metre thick deposit of orange-brown slightly compacted clayey silt with occasional angular flint fragments was encountered. This layer also produced no finds. Although this deposit may represent an old ploughsoil, it may alternatively represent a natural layer. Below these layers, an unbottomed deposit of fine yellow sand with occasional water worn pebbles was observed to the full 3.8 metres depth of the trial pit.

Trial pit 2 was located adjacent to the hedgeline to the immediate west of the A12 dual carriageway (see figure RPSC 3). A similar sequence of deposits encountered in trial pit 1 were found in this trial pit. A 0.44 metre thick ploughsoil, overlying an orange-brown clayey silt which in turn overlay natural yellow sand were observed. However, the depth of the buried layer was considerably greater than the corresponding deposit within trial pit 1, with a maximum depth of 0.85 metres. The base of this deposit was uneven within the trial pit with an increase in depth towards the northern and southern ends of the trial pit. The depth of this deposit may indicate that the trial pit may have intersected a negative archaeological feature(s). Alternatively, this deposit may simply represent a natural, perhaps glacial subsoil variation. No artefacts were recovered from within the 0.6 metre width trial pit.

Trial pit 2A was also situated to the north of Jay Lane, but on this occasion to the east of the field boundary on the A12 roadside embankment (see figure RPSC 3). A 0.4 metre thick topsoil of compact brown silt exposed disturbed deposits associated with the creation of the modern embankment, to a depth of 1.3 metres. At this point, a modern pipe encased in concrete was encountered and the trial pit was terminated.

Trial pit 3 was located on the eastern A 12 roadside embankment and to the north-west of Oak View Farm (see figure RPSC 3). The deposits within in comprised redeposited bands of mixed sand and clayey silt that formed the embankment.

Trial pit 4 was located on the western side of the A12 dual carriageway to the south-west of Hopton-on-Sea and adjacent to the buildings of Home Farm (see figure RPSC 3). A 0.4 metre thick grey-brown silty loam topsoil with occasional modern brick fragments overlay a 2 metre thick deposit of light brown sandy silt subsoil. The subsoil contained no finds. The deposits depth might indicate human disturbance, however as with trial pit 2 it is likely to be of natural origin. The subsoil in turn overlay natural sand to the full depth of the trial pit of 3.1 metres.

Trial pit 4A was situated within the roadside embankment and adjacent to trial pit 4 (see figure RPSC 3). The upper layers within this trial pit consisted of redeposited modern roadside embankment deposits. At a depth of c1 metre, the original topsoil was identified. This topsoil overlay a yellow sandy silt subsoil at the full depth of this trial pit of 1.5 metres.

Trial pit 5 was situated within a ploughed field on the eastern side of the A12 dual carriageway and to the north of Home Farm (see figure RPSC 3). The ploughsoil here overlay a 0.3 metre thick deposit of grey-brown silty clay and contained undecayed wood and plastic. This deposit is likely to be the fill of a recent pond or backfilled pit, although no edges were found. Below this deposit, a thick deposits of blue gleyed boulder clay was recorded to the full depth of the trial pit at c2 metres.

Trial pit 6 was located to the immediate north-west of trial pit 5 (see figure RPSC 3). Below the ploughsoil layer a yellow sandy subsoil was recorded above natural yellow clay. Below this, a blue gleyed boulder clay was observed to the full depth of the trial pit of c3 metres.

Trial pit 7 was situated on a grass verge on the eastern side of the A12 dual carriageway and to the north-east of trial pits 5 and 6 (see figure RPSC 3). A 0.24 metre thick mixed clayey silt and sandy topsoil overlay a 0.35 metre thick grey-brown clay. This deposit contained coal fragments, a fragment of brick and a sherd of sand tempered pottery with an oxidised exterior surface, of medieval date. The location of trial pit 7 suggests that the deposit may be disturbed ground associated with the construction of the modern A12 dual carriageway in the 1970's. The medieval sherd is abraded and is likely to have been derived from deposition of rubbish with manure on the farmland around the medieval settlement of Hopton. Below the disturbed horizon, a 1.1 metre thick layer of yellow-brown boulder clay was observed. This in turn overlay yellow sand.

Trial pit 11 was located to the immediate west of trial pit 5 (see figure RPSC 3). This was an additional test pit to investigate a slightly waterlogged area on the ground surface. The topsoil of grey-brown sandy silt overlay a yellow-brown silty sand. This deposit in turn overlay a former topsoil of grey-brown silty sand. This was a fairly compact deposit, which extended to the full depth of c 3 metres of the trial pit. This deposit was also organic in content with root

fibres evident and also contained lumps of concrete, linoleum, glass fragments and brick fragments. The edge of this large backfilled feature was located on the western side of the trial pit and may represent a pond or pit of very recent date. Part of this feature may have been encountered in trial pit 5.

Figures

A12(T) TO GREAT YARMOUTH

Hopton III
title

RPS Clouston Site Walk Over Survey
project number drawing number

E3774B
scale

RPSC 4
date

NTS

October 1998

RPS CLOUSTON
THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANCY

Norfolk County Council
& Great Yarmouth
Porough Council

HOPTON ON SEA

North Sea

Noel Close

HALL ROAD

Hopton House

STATION ROAD
CB00

Home Farm

LOWESTOFT
ROAD

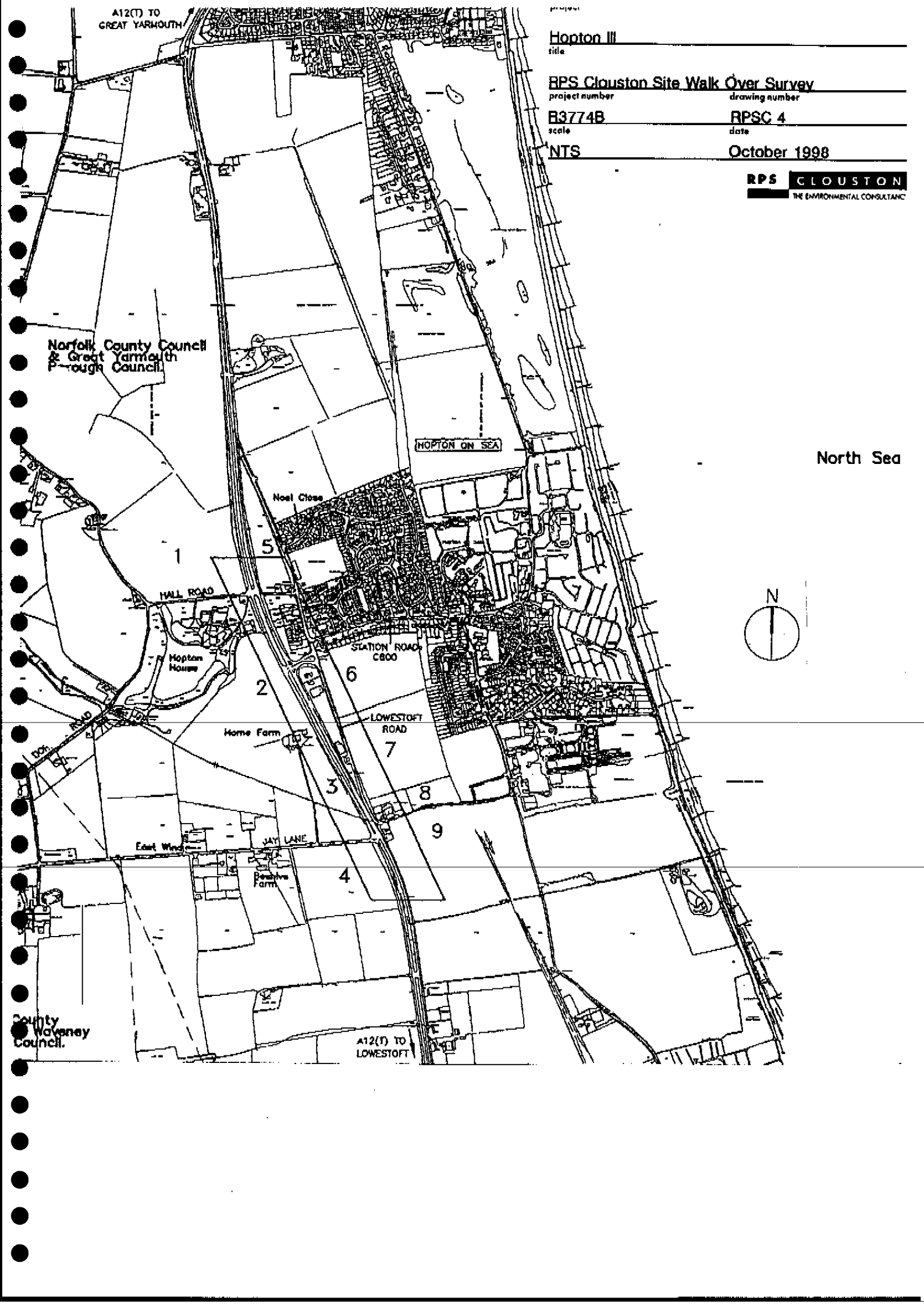
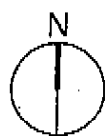
East Wind

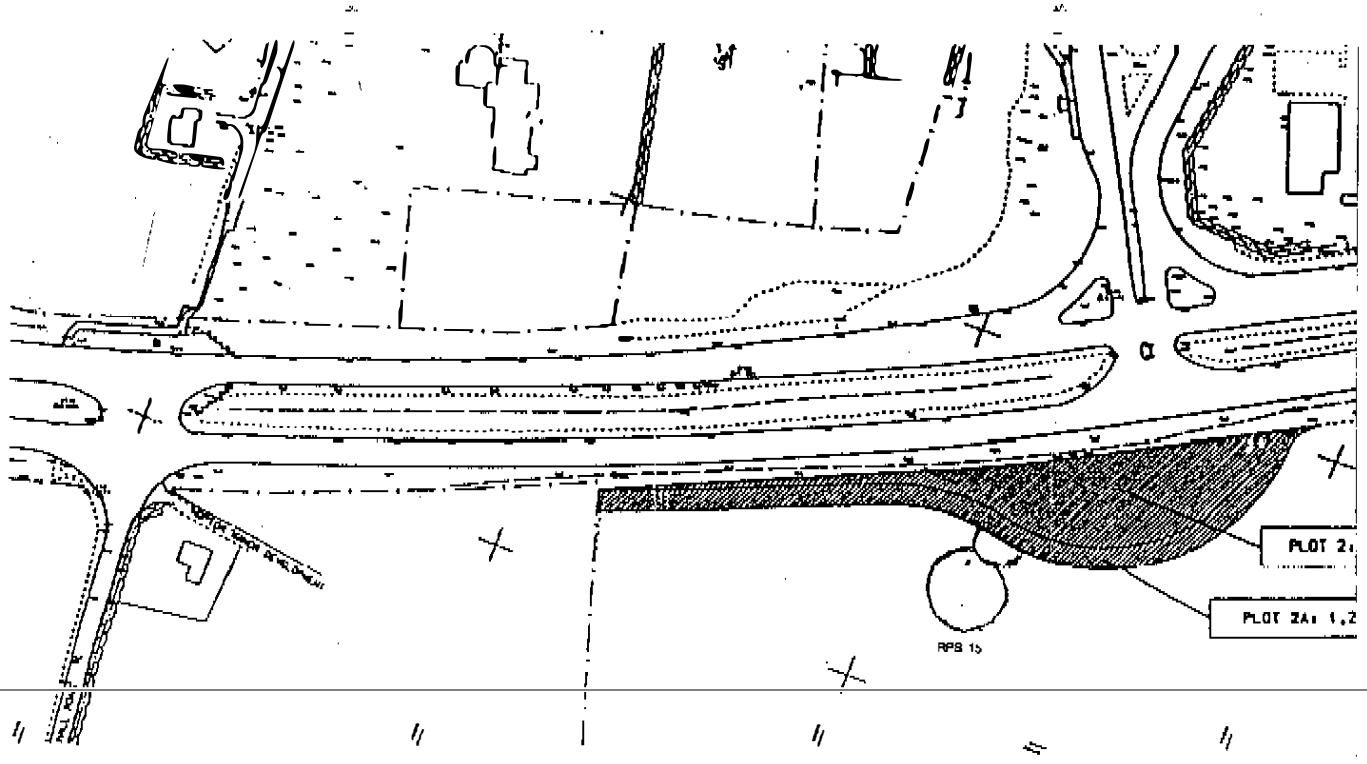
JAY LANE

Reserve
Farm

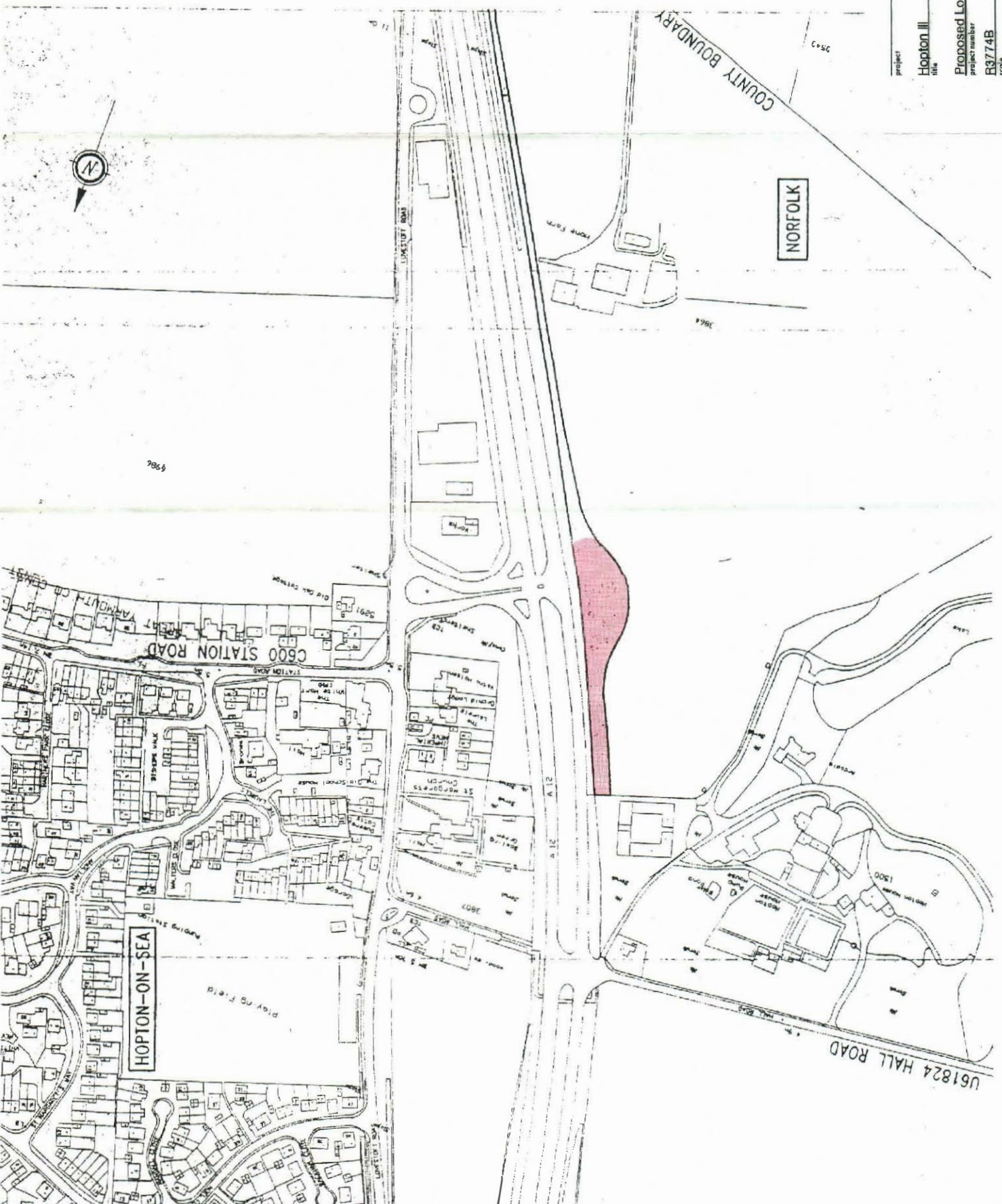
A12(T) TO
LOWESTOFT

County
Waveney
Council.





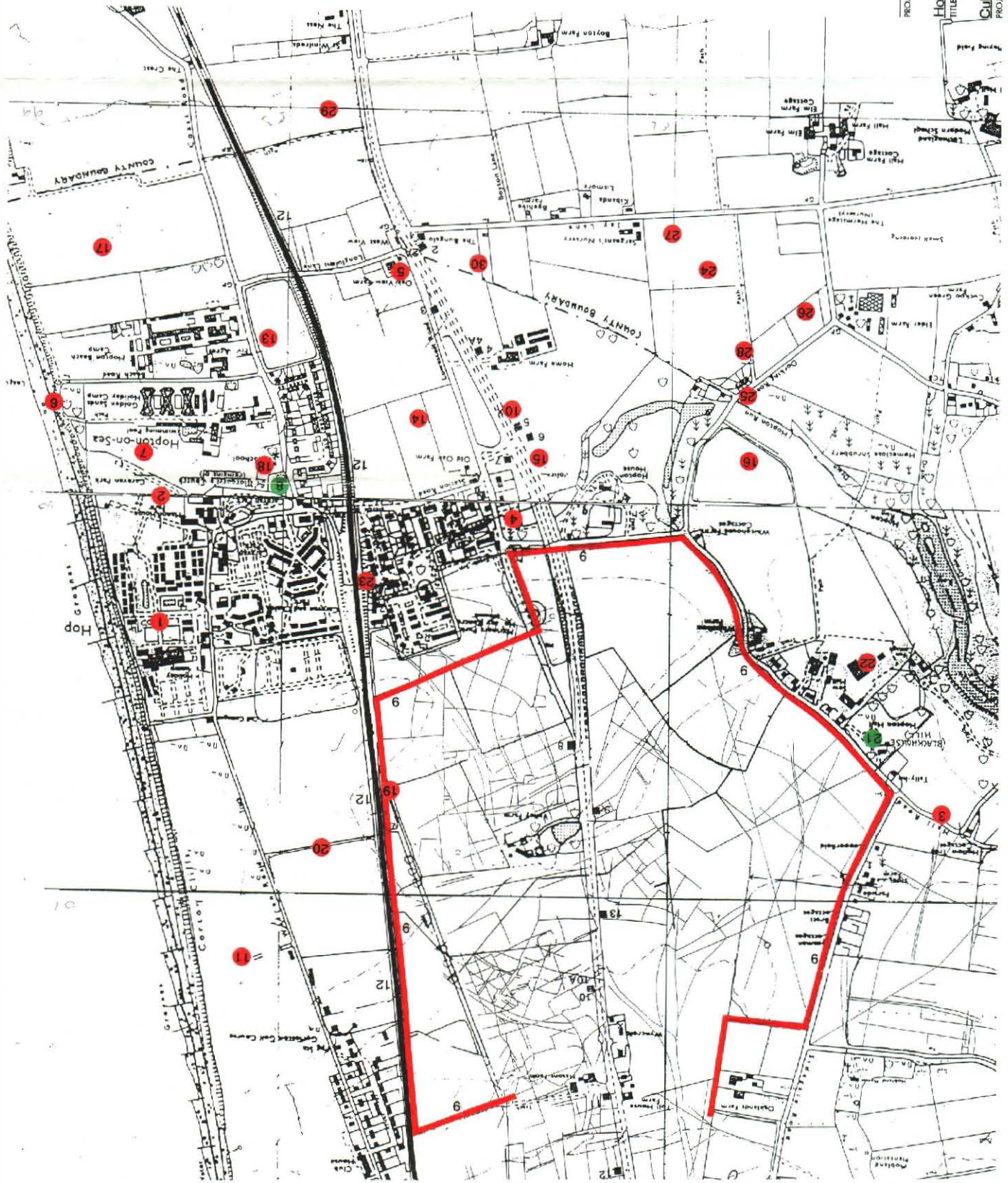
PROJECT	
Location: The Prescription of Ring Ditch RPS 15 from North's BMV Map	
PROJECT NUMBER	CLIENT NAME
637748	RPRC S
SCALE	DATE
1:100	August 1988



project
Hopton III
file
Proposed Location of Area Excavation
project number
drawing number
RPSC 2
R3774B
scale
date
1:1250 March 1999
ORIGINAL AT A3 RPS CONSULTING

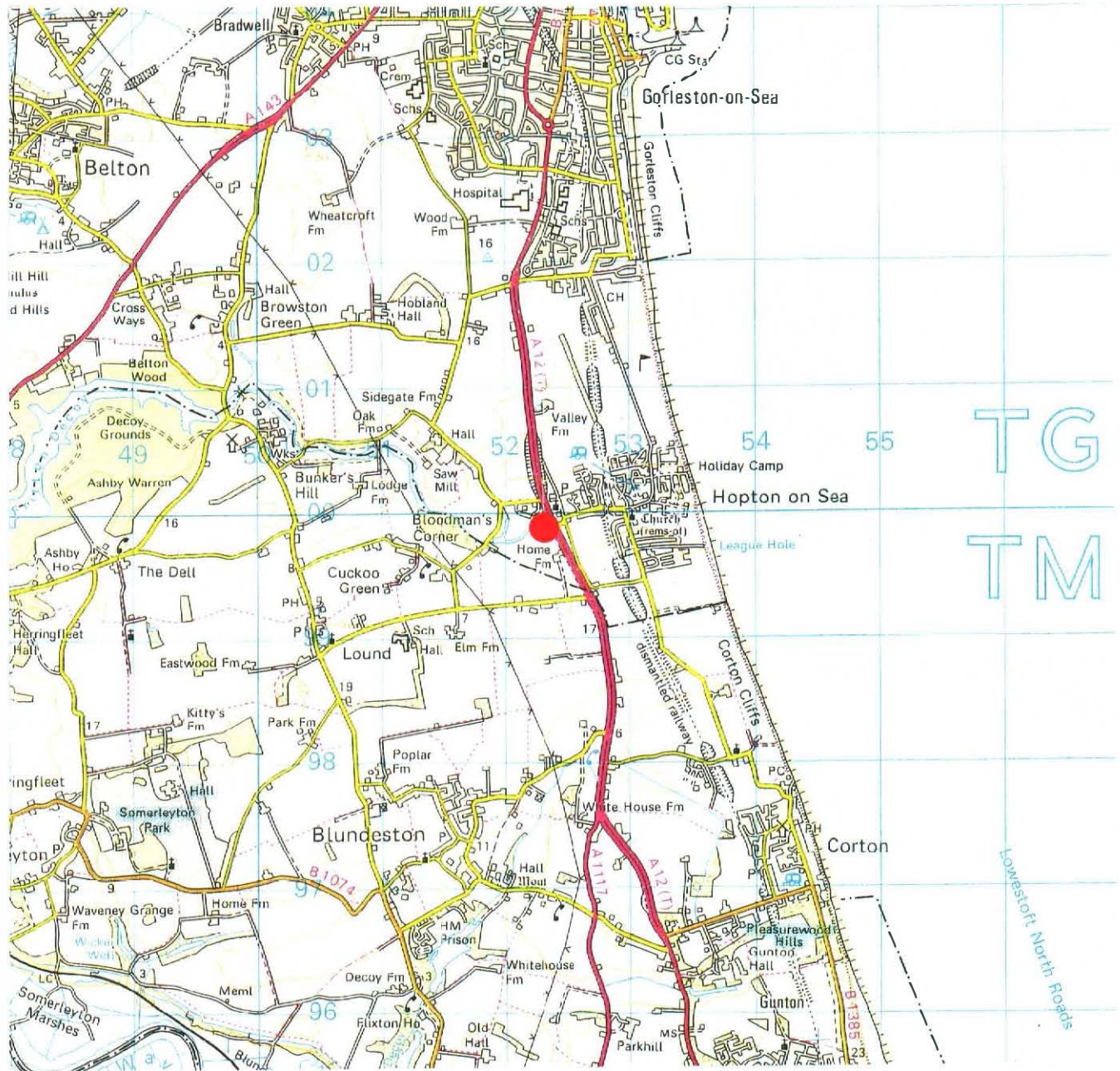


Key:
● Archaeological Site
● Listed Building



ORIGINAL AT A3
ORIGINAL IN
COLOUR

PROJECT: Hopton III
TITLE: Hopton III
Cultural Heritage Sites
PROJECT NUMBER: E3774B
DRAWING NUMBER: RPSC 6
DATE: October 1998
SCALE: 1:10,000
RPS CONSULTANT
THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS



Key:
 Site Location



project

Hopton III
 title

Site Location

project number

drawing number

R3774B

RPSC 1

scale

date

1:50,000

March 1999