



WHITEBREADS FARM, HIGHCOMMON, NORTH LOPHAM, DISS, NORFOLK, IP22 2HS

DESK BASED ASSESSMENT



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NORFOLK, IP22 2HS**

DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

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Abstract

Britannia Archaeology was commissioned by Richard Pike Associates to prepare an archaeological desk based assessment on Whitebreads Farm, Highcommon, North Lopham, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 2HS (NGR: 602586, 281068). The assessment will support a planning application for the development of new solar farm and associated works.

There is little evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity in Lopham and the immediate, although two isolated findspots suggest limited Neolithic to Bronze Age activity in the wider locality. Lopham is typical of villages in the area which are characterised by a dispersed settlement pattern, usually focused on the parish church but also scattered around the numerous greens and along country lanes, which have evolved since the late Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. The assessment site lies on the periphery of this model in between three parishes and as such has undergone little in the way of development for at least the last 1500 years. The potential to encounter any archaeological remains dating to these periods is low.

There is a moderate potential to encounter post-medieval and modern archaeology, specifically former boundary ditches associated with field divisions and possibly mineral extraction.



1. INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY

1.1 Project Background

This report presents an archaeological desk based assessment undertaken by Britannia Archaeology Ltd, commissioned by Richard Pike Associates, for a proposed solar farm on land owned by Whitebreads Farm, Highcommon, North Lopham, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 2HS and located to the south of this adjacent to Mill Pond Farm (NGR: 602586, 281068). The assessment site is not located in a conservation area or an archaeological priority area (Fig.1).

This assessment will support a planning application for the proposed development of the site which will involve:

- construction of solar PV arrays arranged in rows facing south.
- associated cable trenching.

The objective of this assessment is to establish the presence of, or likely potential for, buried archaeological remains and the possible impact of the development on these remains. The assessment will also consider the setting of the new development in relation to existing listed buildings and known archaeological sites within the immediate area.

1.2 Site Description

The assessment site is located at the western extent of the parish of South Lopham in the District of Breckland, Norfolk and covers an area of 19.07 Ha (Fig. 1). The western boundary for the parish also forms the western boundary of the development area. It is worth noting that while the address for the site locates the area in North Lopham the assessment site actually falls within the parish boundaries of South Lopham. Current land usage is arable agriculture.

The site is accessed from the north by an entrance off Thetford Road. The assessment site bounds Mill Pond Farm, a residential property immediately to the north of the proposed development area.

The bedrock geology comprises a Newhaven Chalk Formation. This is a sedimentary bedrock laid down in the Cretaceous Period 72 to 93 million years ago (BGS, 2013)

The superficial geology comprises Lowestoft Formation Diamicton which was formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was dominated by ice age conditions (BGS, 2013).

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims & Scope

This report aims to assess all known information relating to subsurface and above ground archaeological remains within a 1km radius centred on the development site to identify



the potential presence of archaeological remains that will be impacted upon during the development. It will also consider the impact of the development on the setting of existing archaeological sites and listed buildings in the immediate vicinity. This report will take into consideration existing truncation from previous developments and the potential impact caused by the implementation of the proposed development plans and construction methods.

A mitigation strategy may be necessary after consultation with a Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCCCHES) archaeologist.

2.2 Research and Sources

Historic Environment Record Office

The Norfolk Historic Environment Record Office (NHER) was consulted and provided details of all data held within a 1km radius of the site. The NHER database holds records of archaeological sites, scheduled monuments, listed buildings, finds spots, registered parks and gardens, protected wreck sites and battlefields.

Documentary Sources

Primary and secondary documentary sources were consulted via the NHER, the Norfolk Record Office based in Norwich and the Archaeology Data Service (www.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk). All sources consulted are listed in the bibliography.

Cartographic Sources

A search of primary and secondary cartographic sources was undertaken at Norfolk Record Office in Norwich.

Site Visit

A site visit was undertaken on the 5th December 2013 and a photographic record compiled. The visit aimed to identify any existing earthworks or visible archaeological remains, establish the condition and character of the existing site and note its setting. Proposed site plans were consulted during the visit to assess the areas where there is the greatest potential to encounter archaeological remains.

Presentation of Results

The results of the research are presented by historical/archaeological period and are a synthesis of all data gathered that are relevant to the site. Not all of the data supplied by the NHER is referred to in the report, however Appendix 1 contains a full table and brief description of the HER search results.



3.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND

The archaeological assessment was carried out in accordance with guidance laid down by the National Planning and Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLD 2012) which replaced Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5, DCLG 2010) in March 2012. The relevant local development plan is the Breckland adopted Core Strategy (2009).

3.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLG March 2012)

The NPPF recognises that 'heritage assets' are an irreplaceable resource and planning authorities should conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance when considering development. It requires developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. The key areas for consideration are:

- The significance of the heritage asset and its setting in relation to the proposed development;
- The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance;
- Significance (of the heritage asset) can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction, or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification;
- Local planning authorities should not permit loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred; and
- Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.

The adopted Core Strategy and Development Control Policy (2009) for Breckland District Council states the following:

- The Council recognises that new development (including demolition of buildings) may be appropriate in Conservation Areas or near to historically important buildings or parks and gardens, but that the emphasis should be on the controlled and positive management of change. This reflects the need to allow historic areas to react to the changing circumstances in which we live and prosper whilst making clear that proposals for new development will be judged against their effect on the character and appearance on the area.

There are over 100 Scheduled Monuments within Breckland as well as other non-statutory sites identified in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record. These are a finite resource and can be easily damaged or destroyed when development takes place unless they are positively identified and protected. Many archaeological remains exist below ground and their extent and significance may not be known in advance. Therefore the policy seeks to put appropriate safeguards in place



where development affects a site where archaeological remains may exist, or are discovered including the need for archaeological evaluation and assessment and preservation of remains *in situ*. (4.95 & 4.97).

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH RESULTS

The following results are presented as a synthesis of all data obtained from the sources detailed above (Section 2.0) and listed in the bibliography (Figs. 2-6). Where possible the Norfolk HER preferred reference has been used.

4.1 Prehistoric (750000BC – 43AD) (Fig. 2)

Norfolk in general has a rich prehistoric past and numerous significant prehistoric archaeological sites. Light soils, well drained river valleys and an abundance of natural resources made Norfolk an attractive area for settlement to prehistoric communities.

The NHER returned two records (10867 and 10877) of prehistoric date, none of which are located within the assessment site.

The oldest record (10867) relates to a Neolithic polished flint axe head (4000-2351BC) found 1km to the east of the assessment site in 1955. This is also mentioned in a local history of the Lophams which describes, "a polished axe head of Neolithic date found in 1955 near Blo Norton Road", (Serpell, M. 1980)

The second record (10877) relates to an Early Neolithic or Bronze Age stone axe hammer, (4000– 700 BC) found (distance?) north west of the assessment site. The axe hammer is described as being made from Quartzite and perforated.

Literary sources suggest the lack of prehistoric activity in the area to be the result of either dense woodland coverage or large areas of Fenland and therefore not attractive as an immediate place of habitation unlike other parts of Norfolk. (Serpell, M. 1980)

No Iron Age sites or finds have been recorded within 1km of the assessment site.

While the wider landscape contains evidence of limited prehistoric activity, there is no record of any such activity on the assessment site.

4.2 Romano-British (43AD – c. 410AD) (Fig. 2)

The Romano-British period marked a significant change in development for East Anglia with *Camulodunum* (Colchester) becoming the Roman Capital of Britannia. While much of Britain remained virtually unchanged after the Roman invasion, East Anglia experienced significant development with city/settlement, road and villa building in evidence over a wide area.



Lopham is sandwiched between two Roman roads. Around 10km to the east, the main Londinium (London) to *Venta Icenorum* (Caister St. Edmund) road runs through the village of Scole (now the A140, A14 and A12). Approximately 10km to the west, the ancient road known as Peddars Way branches off from a less well defined Road running from *Caesaromagus* (Chelmsford) to (probably) *Venta Icenorum* (Caister St. Edmund) (Antonine *Iter V & IX*).

The NHER returned two entries dating to this period (16265 and 16266) both found in 1980. Neither of these records is within the assessment site.

The first find spot (16265) relates to a Roman Denarius of Marcus Aurelius approximately 700m north of the assessment site in an agricultural field. The second find spot (16266) was found near the coin in the same field and is a Roman brooch of the Colchester derivative type.

Literary sources suggest that the first clear signs of settlement in the area of the Lophams are of Roman origin. In 1954, approximately 3km north east of the assessment site at Lodge Farm, North Lopham, the remains of a group of buildings with stone foundations, mosaic floors and associated bath houses was discovered during modern agricultural ploughing, (Serpell, M. 1980).

The sources go on to say that these remains have been accepted as traces of a prosperous landed gentry of Roman stock establishes on a "villa" estate in the area between 150 and 350 AD, (Serpell, M. 1980).

There is no direct evidence for Roman activity on the assessment site and limited evidence for more substantial settlement activity in the within the assessment area. The site is likely to have been part of a rural farming hinterland with scattered settlement activity.

4.3 Anglo-Saxon (early medieval) (c.410AD – 1066AD) (Fig. 2)

The withdrawal of Roman authority in Britain in the early 5th Century AD and the dominance of the Anglo-Saxons in the south and east of England led to significant changes in settlement distribution. Many Roman settlements, such as Colchester, waned in significance and new settlements including Ipswich became the centres of administration and authority. Settlement patterns persisting throughout Iron Age and Roman Britain did not necessarily continue into the Anglo-Saxon period.

The origins of the modern settlements at Lopham are likely routed in this period and the name has remained the same since at least the Domesday survey of 1086 which recorded it as *Lopham*. The etymology is Old English, describing a 'homestead' or village of a man called Loppa (Mills, 2003) and the above entry indicates it was established before the Norman invasion of 1066.

The NHER search returned one record dating to this period (31414) located 1km north east of the assessment site near High Common Road. The record relates to a find spot



consisting of two metal finds, the earliest being of Saxon origin while the other was an early post medieval coin. The Saxon find was the foot of a cruciform brooch and was considered to be from the early part of the period.

There is no direct evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity on the assessment site and very limited evidence for anything more substantial in the area.

4.4 Medieval (1066 AD – 1540 AD) (Fig. 2)

When the Normans arrived in 1066 AD Norfolk formed part of the earldom of Harold I of England and offered no active resistance to the invaders. The earldom was given to Ralph de Gael, who in 1075 AD was the leading figure in the Revolt of the Earls against William. Following the defeat of Ralph de Gael the lands passed to Roger Bigod who was the Tenant-in-chief in 1086 AD at the time of the Domesday survey.

The entry in Domesday Book (1086 AD) records the village under the same spelling that is used today, (Serpell, M. 1980). The manor of Lopham falls in the Guiltcross Hundred, one of the administrative subdivisions of the county of Norfolk. The total population was 19 households (medium sized) comprising two villagers, eight smallholders, four slaves and four freemen. The total tax was assessed at 2.4 geld units which was quite small. The village had two lord's plough teams and 1.3 men's plough teams, one cob, three cattle, 40 pigs, 60 sheep and 10 beehives, (Morris, J. 1985)

Development in the medieval period is evidenced by the construction of churches in both North Lopham and South Lopham. The church of St Nicholas in North Lopham dates the construction of its tower to 1526 AD (Mortlock, D.P. 2007) while the church of St Andrew in South Lopham can date its origins back to the 12th century and the original building pre dates even this. The evidence for the earlier date comes from a small circular Saxon window in the north nave a wall. The location of the church in south Lopham along the main Thetford to Diss road would have made it stand out as a landmark for any travelling this route. This is especially important as Lopham never had a market of its own, with the nearest large centres for market trade being either Diss or Garboldisham.

Apart from the construction of the churches the development of the area from the Anglo Saxon period appears to have been insubstantial.

Only one record from the NHER identifies medieval activity in the assessment area (64289) approximately 0.95km north east of the site. Metal detecting in 2012 recovered a medieval mount.

There is little evidence for medieval activity in the search area, instead, it sits on the edge of three parishes with little significant activity noted during a relatively busy time for the surrounding area.



4.5 Post-medieval and modern (1540AD – Present) (Figs. 2 & 3)

Lopham is reasonably well-documented, especially in cartographic sources, towards the latter half of the post-medieval period. The NHER search returned two monument records and eight buildings, three of which are listed.

From the later medieval period onwards, the Lophams growth appears more pronounced. The areas around Thetford and Diss became known for their linen industry from the end of the 16th century. The presence of linen production in the area has been evidenced in land transactions including 'hemplands' and 'flaxlande' and census records of the population stating the occupation of 'Linnen Weaver', (Serpell, R. 1980). The excellent quality of this local product became known as Lopham Linen.

The earliest maps of the area show very little detail of the village itself, but confirm the rough location in relation to surrounding settlements. Seller's map of Norfolk (Fig. 3) dates to 1695 and shows a pictorial representation of the towns and villages, with more significant settlements indicated with larger drawings. *Lopham* is shown as a small village located just west of Diss. Mordens map from the same year is more detailed showing roads and basic layouts of settlements. South Lopham is represented with a church, a small number of buildings and a set of small roads coming off the main road.

The size of the village increased a little from the medieval period. The earliest record from the NHER search from the post medieval period relates to Driftway Farm (25801) approximately 300m east of the assessment site. It is described as a remarkable late 16th century timber framed house with a barn adjacent. Post medieval finds have been found in the fireplace and included a knife, medieval token and a buckle. The buildings are obscured from the site by planted woodland; the same is true of the assessment site from Driftway farm due to the aforementioned trees.

Significant redevelopment took place in the 17th century with 4 of the 8 buildings dating to this time, but unusually, this also coincides with the end of the prosperity of the larger wool and textile industry in Norfolk area however the trade in the Lopham Linen appears to have continued despite this wider decline.

Fysons Farm (39442) and Willow tree Cottage (46223) are located 450m north east of the assessment site. Fysons Farm is a 17th century timber framed house. Willow Tree Cottage is described as a Grade II, mid-17th Century, Thatched Timber framed cottage, one storey high with a rendered wattle and daub infill.

Whitehouse Farm (46713) is located 800m south-east of the assessment site off of Blo Norton Road. This is a Grade II late 17th Century timber framed farmhouse with a thatched roof and a wattle and daub walls. North east along Blo Noton Road is Noodle Farmhouse (20151) which lies 500m east of the assessment site. It comprises a Grade II timber framed, two storey building with an attic.

Immediately north of the assessment site approximately 30m away is Allotment Farm, (49134). This is the smallest of all the estate farms in Norfolk and comprises a clay lump



barn from the early 19th century with a tile beam roof and a set of stables set either side of a cart porch.

The most significant NHER record in relation to the proposed development site corresponds to a post medieval windmill (15309) immediately next to the assessment site (Figs. 2 – 3). The windmill no longer stands but sources show that it was an open trestle post mill which used common sails. (Neville, J. 2007). The first time it appears on the cartographic sources is on Fadens map of Norfolk 1797 where it is clearly marked. The windmill then appears on all the cartographic sources through until it's dismantling in 1905. From 1875 the Mill was owned and run by Robert Womack who is listed in Kelly's Directory of 1904 as a Corn Merchant (Kelly. 1904). The mill was finally bought by Ambrose Stevens who had it dismantled.

Development of the area in the late post-medieval and modern periods is well documented in 19th century cartographic sources (Fig. 3). It is during the 19th century that Lopham and the aforementioned Lopham Linen industry peaked. A directory of 1864 records that there were 60 looms in North Lopham with 8 manufacturers in the same village with a further four in south Lopham, (Serpell, M. 1980). Lopham linen is something that is referred to through the sources and they indicate that it received recognition as a quality product made for the quality (Venn, J 1897). The Richard Payne Survey of 1815 clearly shows the assessment site and the presence of the Windmill adjacent. The enclosure map (Fig. 3) of the same year identifies at least 10 separate plots in the apportionment, see table 1:

ENCLOSURE	LAND OWNER	REMARK	A	R	P
184	Sir Thomas Beevor	-	7	2	4
185	Sir Thomas Beevor	-	3	1	32
186.1	John Cotton	-	-	-	-
187.2	John Cotton	-	-	-	-
188	Miss Sparrow	Copyhold of Lopham Manor	5	0	18
189	John Wharton	Copyhold of Lopham Manor	2	2	24
190	George Wharton	Copyhold of Lopham Manor	3	0	29
191	George Wharton	Copyhold of Lopham Manor	4	2	20
192	William Wharton	Copyhold of Lopham Manor	8	3	33
200	Mary Elliot	Copyhold of Lopham Manor	28	0	11
201	Mary Elliot	Copyhold of Lopham Manor	6	4	38
202	?	-	1	2	12
203	Munnings Murrel	Copyhold of Lopham Manor	6	2	19

Table 1: Enclosure Apportionments 1815

The Tithe Map dated 1847 (Fig. 3) also clearly identifies the assessment site to the east of South Lopham and shows that the modern boundary encompasses large parts of 19 separate fields or plots in the Tithe apportionment. Since 1815 the landowners changed considerably with only members of the Wharton Family still maintaining any holdings, see table 2:



TITHE NUMBER	LAND OWNER	OCCUPIER	SITE NAME	LAND USE	A	R	P	RENT
555	Duke of Norfolk	Robert Grant	Allotment	Pasture	0	1	30	0, 1, 5
556	Duke of Norfolk	Robert Grant	Allotment	Arable	0	2	32	0, 5, 7
557	Robert Grant	Himself	House mill premises	Pasture	0	3	5	0, 7, 11
558	Rev. James Barrow	Samuel Huggins	Part of allotment	Arable	6	0	36	0, 8, 8
558a	Rev. James Barrow	Samuel Huggins	Part of allotment	Arable	4	3	0	0, 19, 1
559	George Parmer	Michael Margitson	Allotment	Arable	2	1	17	0, 6, 9
560	Robert Gates	Robert Wallis	Allotment	Arable	5	0	18	1, 6, 3
561	John Wharton	Himself	Allotment	Arable	12	1	33	4, 16, 10
562	William Wharton	Himself	Allotment	Arable	8	3	33	3, 4, 5
571	Edmund Bridgman	Robert Sare	Further field	Arable	5	2	0	1, 11, 8
572	Surveyors of Highways	Themselves	Public Marl extraction pit	Arable	0	2	0	-
575	George Parmer	Michael Margitson	Part of allotment	Pasture	2	1	12	0, 2, 10
576	George Parmer	Michael Margitson	Part of allotment	Arable	2	2	26	0, 9, 2
577	George Parmer	Michael Margitson	Part of allotment	Pasture	2	1	0	0, 2, 9
578	George Parmer	Michael Margitson	Part of allotment	Arable	6	2	4	1, 10, 0
583	George Parmer	Michael Margitson	Part of allotment	Arable	1	2	11	0, 8, 1
584	George Parmer	Michael Margitson	Drift	Pasture	0	2	4	-
585	George Parmer	Michael Margitson	Part of allotment	Arable	3	0	0	0, 15, 6
586	George Parmer	Michael Margitson	Part of allotment	Arable	3	2	20	0, 18, 0

Table 2: Tithe Apportionments 1847

The majority of the plots were owned by George Parmer and farmed by the tenant Michael Margitson. The windmill was owned by Robert Grant who was the tenant of the surrounding land from the Duke of Norfolk. Plot 572 was owned by the Surveyors of Highways and contained a public Marl extraction pit. This pit is still on the site today (DP3) and has been labelled a pond by subsequent surveys and work. Indeed the assessment site has five such pits across it which could suggest that more than one was being used for Marl and other mineral extraction.

The First Edition Ordnance Survey Map dated 1892 (Fig. 3) more accurately plots the land and provides a higher degree of detail than the earlier maps. The only changes to the area since the Tithe Map are the redefining of some of the plots into larger fields (Fig. 4). All the ponds / extraction pits remain on the map.

The NHER search returned three records dating to the modern period, (35397, 16624 and 16626). The most interesting of these is World War Two Pillbox (16626) 650m north of the assessment site along high common road. It is now Partly demolished. Records 35397 and 1624 relate to Cold war Royal Observer Corps Sites.

4.7 Site Visit (Fig. 7)

A site visit was undertaken by the author on 5th December 2013 with the following aims:

- to determine the current state of the assessment area;



- to investigate the presence of any surface or potential subsurface archaeological remains; and
- to ascertain the current level of truncation.

The site is currently in use as agricultural fields. The east, south and west boundaries are formed by a tree line with a rough track running down the eastern boundary acting as access to all the fields in the immediate vicinity.

The site slopes gently steeply to the south-west. The site is bisected by a number of drainage ditches that denote the old plots of land as seen on the 1st edition OS map. All the Ponds / Extraction pits are still *in situ* though most are now filled with water and may be a suitable habitat for species such as the great crested newt so environmental protection orders may be an issue.

No obvious archaeological remains or structures were observed during the visit. There are no remains visible of the windmill that was adjacent to the site, this is likely due to it being a post mill and not something more permanent.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Archaeological Potential

Information on the archaeology in the immediate area of the assessment site is relatively sparse, due mainly to a low level of archaeological investigation in the locality. The wider area is quite well represented showing human activity within 1km from the Neolithic to the modern periods. The evidence suggests a relatively low level of activity in the area until the 17th century when substantial building development took place in Lopham with the construction of multiple farmhouses in the area.

Given the research results, there is a **low** potential for the presence of prehistoric features or finds.

The assessment site is located near Roman finds (16265 and 16266). Literary sources suggest that there could be the remains a possible villa structure 3km away. The data obtained from the NHER shows that the two find spots were isolated finds and were most likely lost rather than form part of something more substantial. Therefore the potential for Roman finds or features on the assessment site is **low**.

Anglo-Saxon Lopham was relatively insignificant compared to the larger towns such as Diss and Norwich. However, its entry in Domesday shows that at the time of the conquest Lopham was an established settlement. No finds were located on the assessment site and only a single metal find, possibly part of a brooch, was found 1km away. This suggests very limited activity in the area and therefore the potential for Anglo-Saxon features or remains on the site is **low**.

Lopham was a small, rural settlement during the medieval period. The layout of the village and the distribution of features and finds from the NHER indicate that the



assessment site was and still is on the very edge of the parish. A single isolated medieval mount (64289) was found on the very edge of the assessment area approximately 1km from the assessment site. Due to this the potential for finding features or finds of a medieval origin is **low**.

The most substantial development in the area took place in the post-medieval period. The majority of the NHER records date from the 17th century with many of the buildings being from this period. The map regression shows that the assessment site has been used for agricultural purposes as far back as 1797 and the only structure that has been added is the extant Mill Pond Farm. The potential for post-medieval and modern features is at best **moderate**, although some residual modern finds will be present due to recent manuring. It should also be noted that the in-filled field boundary ditches present on the Tithe Map and subsequent OS Maps, will also be preserved and contain post-medieval and modern material up to the 1970's (Fig. 4)

5.2 Existing and Proposed Impact (Fig. 4)

Existing Impact

The fields have been extensively ploughed with modern, industrial agricultural equipment and it is likely that any shallow subsurface archaeological features would have been truncated.

There is no evidence of any other development on the site and consequently, should there be any buried archaeological remains, these are likely to be moderately well preserved, especially in the deeper colluvium deposits.

Proposed Impact

The proposed construction plans involve the installation of approximately 33876 solar panels (with an output of 10 MWp) arranged in parallel rows, mounted to aluminium and steel frame structures spaced 5m apart and facing south. The panels will employ frame uprights constructed on spikes to a depth that will be determined by ground conditions, but this can fluctuate.

These panel construction techniques arguably have a lower impact on subsurface archaeological remains compared with comparable options such as machine excavation and concrete foundation pads. Cable trenching will also be required to a relatively shallow depth of 0.45m and would have a destructive impact where it encounters archaeological remains. The ground is likely to be made up over the top of the cables to form linear 'beetle banks'.

In summary, the panel construction is likely to have a minimal impact on subsurface archaeology due to the limited surface area of the intrusive activity associated with construction, although this will have to be re-assessed when the final plans are submitted. The cable trenching would potentially have a significant destructive impact on



the buried remains where they are encountered, however the shallow depth of excavation will not greatly exceed the likely depth of the existing plough soil.

Impact on Setting

The construction of these solar panels will significantly change the immediate nature of the site and its setting. The closest listed building is Noodle Farm 500m to the east and the development of such a large area in close proximity would normally affect the visual and historic setting. However in this case the listed building does not have line of sight to the proposed development area being screened by a number of tree lines. The same is true of Driftway farm which is not listed but is still screened from the site by a number of trees.

Allotment farm is not listed either and is the closest property still standing that was returned on the NHER search. The developer plans to screen the northern boundary of the site along Thetford road with trees obscuring the visibility of the panels from the north.

There will therefore be a negligible to low impact on the setting of the surrounding historical listed buildings.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusions

There is little evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity in Lopham and the immediate, although two isolated findspots suggest limited Neolithic to Bronze Age activity in the wider locality. Lopham is typical of villages in the area which are characterised by a dispersed settlement pattern, usually focused on the parish church but also scattered around the numerous greens and along country lanes, which have evolved since the late Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. The assessment site lies on the periphery of this model in between three parishes and as such has undergone little in the way of development for at least the last 1500 years. The potential to encounter any archaeological remains dating to these periods is low.

There is a moderate potential to encounter post-medieval and modern archaeology, specifically former boundary ditches associated with field divisions and possibly mineral extraction (Fig. 4).

Where the development encounters the post-medieval and modern remains, the impact is likely to be high, however the structural foundations are likely to use highly localised spikes to significantly reduce the risk of damage to unknown sub-surface archaeological remains. The cable trenching connecting the panels to the internal substation and national grid is likely to present a greater risk to archaeological deposits, although this has been reduced by plans to make up the ground over the top of them rather than excavate deeper trenches.



There is a low to negligible impact on the setting of existing listed building and archaeology sites.

The assessment site is not located within a Conservation Area or Archaeological Priority Area as defined by the Breckland Adopted Core Strategy.

6.2 Recommendations

Although there is some potential to encounter post-medieval field remains associated with the former field boundaries, it is unlikely that further archaeological work would substantially add to our understanding of the site or local area.

7.0 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Britannia Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Richard Pike Associates for commissioning the project and providing access for the assessment.

8.0 PROJECT ARCHIVE & DEPOSITION

A full archive will be prepared for all work undertaken in accordance with guidance from the *Selection, Retention and Dispersion of Archaeological Collections*, Archaeological Society for Museum Archaeologists, 1993. Arrangements will be made for the archive to be deposited with the relevant museum or the NHER Office.



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Cartographic Sources

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Sellers map of Norfolk 1695

Faden's map of Norfolk 1797

John Cary 1807

Enclosure Map 1815

Richard Payne Survey of 1815

Tithe Map 1847



Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1860

Websites:

The British Geological Survey (Natural Environment Research Council) – Geology of Britain Viewer - www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/home.html?Accordion2=1#maps

English Heritage PastScape www.pastscape.org.uk

Archaeological Data Service (ADS) www.ads.ahds.ac.uk

English Heritage National List for England
www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england

DEFRA Magic <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/website/magic>

Norfolk Windmills (Neville, J. 2007) www.norfolk Mills.co.uk/windmills.html



APPENDIX 1 – SHER DATA

Monument Records

PREFERRED REF	MONUMENT ID	DESIGNATION / TYPE	NAME	SUMMARY	DATE RANGE	PERIOD
10867	MNF10867	Findspot	Neolithic flint find	Neolithic flint find	4000 – 2200 BC	Neolithic
10877	MNF10877	Findspot	Neolithic or Bronze Age stone axe hammer	Neolithic or Bronze Age stone axe hammer	4000 – 700 BC	Neolithic – Bronze Age
16265	MNF16265	Findspot	Roman metal find	Roman metal find	43 – 410 AD	Roman
16266	MNF16266	Findspot	Roman metal find	Roman metal find	43 – 410 AD	Roman
31414	MNF31414	Findspot	Saxon and post medieval metal finds	Saxon and post medieval metal finds	410 – 1901 AD	Saxon – post medieval
64289	MNF64289	Findspot	Medieval mount	Medieval mount	1066 – 1540 AD	Medieval
15309	MNF15309	Monument	Site of post medieval windmill	Site of post medieval windmill	1540 – 1910 AD	Post medieval
39442	MNF42890	Building	Fysons Farm, Thetford Road	Timber framed house	1540 – 1910 AD	Post medieval
25801	MNF25801	Building	Driftway Farm	Barn, timber framed building, house	1540 – 1910 AD	Post medieval
49134	MNF46717	Building	Allotment Farm	Farmstead, barn, stable, house, granary	1540 – 1910 AD	Post medieval
46223	MNF51259	Building	Willow Tree Cottage, Garboldisham Road	House	1540 AD - Present	Post medieval – Modern
46713	MNF51749	Building	Whitehouse Farmhouse	Farmhouse, timber framed house	1540 AD - Present	Post medieval – Modern



Whitebreads Farm, Highcommon, North Lopham, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 2HS
Archaeological Desk Based Assessment
Project Number 1048

20151	MNF20151	Building	Noodle farmhouse	House, timber framed building	1540AD - Present	Post medieval - Modern
16626	MNF16626	Monument	World War Two Pillbox	Pillbox	1939 - 1945 AD	Modern
35397	MNF39524	Building	Cold War Royal Observer Corps site	Royal Observer Corps site	1950 AD - present	Modern
16624	MNF16624	Building	Cold War Royal Observer Corps site and Orlit Post	Royal Observer Corps Site, Orlit Post	1950 AD - Present	Modern



APPENDIX 2 OASIS SHEET

OASIS ID: britanni1-166999

Project details
Project name

Whitebreads Farm, Highcommon, North Lopham, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 2HS

Short description of the project

Britannia Archaeology was commissioned by Richard Pike Associates to prepare an archaeological desk based assessment on Whitebreads Farm, Highcommon, North Lopham, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 2HS (NGR: 602586, 281068). The assessment will support a planning application for the development of new solar farm and associated works. There is little evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity in Lopham and the immediate, although two isolated findspots suggest limited Neolithic to Bronze Age activity in the wider locality. Lopham is typical of villages in the area which are characterised by a dispersed settlement pattern, usually focused on the parish church but also scattered around the numerous greens and along country lanes, which have evolved since the late Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. The assessment site lies on the periphery of this model in between three parishes and as such has undergone little in the way of development for at least the last 1500 years. The potential to encounter any archaeological remains dating to these periods is low. There is a moderate potential to encounter post-medieval and modern archaeology, specifically former boundary ditches associated with field divisions and possibly mineral extraction.

Project dates
Previous/future work
Any associated project reference codes

Start: 05-12-2013 End: 17-12-2013
No / Not known
P1048 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project
Site status
Monument type
Significant Finds
Methods & techniques
Development type
Prompt

Desk based assessment
None
FIELD BOUNDARIES Post Medieval
NONE None
"Documentary Search"
Landowner pre-sale planning application (outline)
Voluntary/self-interest

Project location
Country
Site location

England
NORFOLK BRECKLAND SOUTH LOPHAM Whitebreads Farm,
Highcommon, North Lopham, Diss, Norfolk

Postcode
Study area
Site coordinates

IP22 2HS
19.07 Hectares
TM 602586 681068 52.2488156684 1.81333291581 52 14 55 N 001
48 48 E Point

Lat/Long Datum
Project creators
Name of Organisation
Project brief originator
Project design originator
Project director/manager
Project supervisor
Type of sponsor/funding body

Unknown
Britannia Archaeology Ltd
Self (i.e. landowner, developer, etc.)
Pike Solar Ltd
Martin Brook
Martin Brook
Developer

Physical Archive Exists?
Digital Archive recipient

No
Norfolk HER



Whitebreads Farm, Highcommon, North Lopham, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 2HS
Archaeological Desk Based Assessment
Project Number 1048

Digital Contents
Digital Media available

"none"

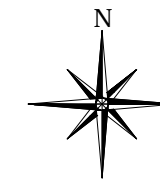
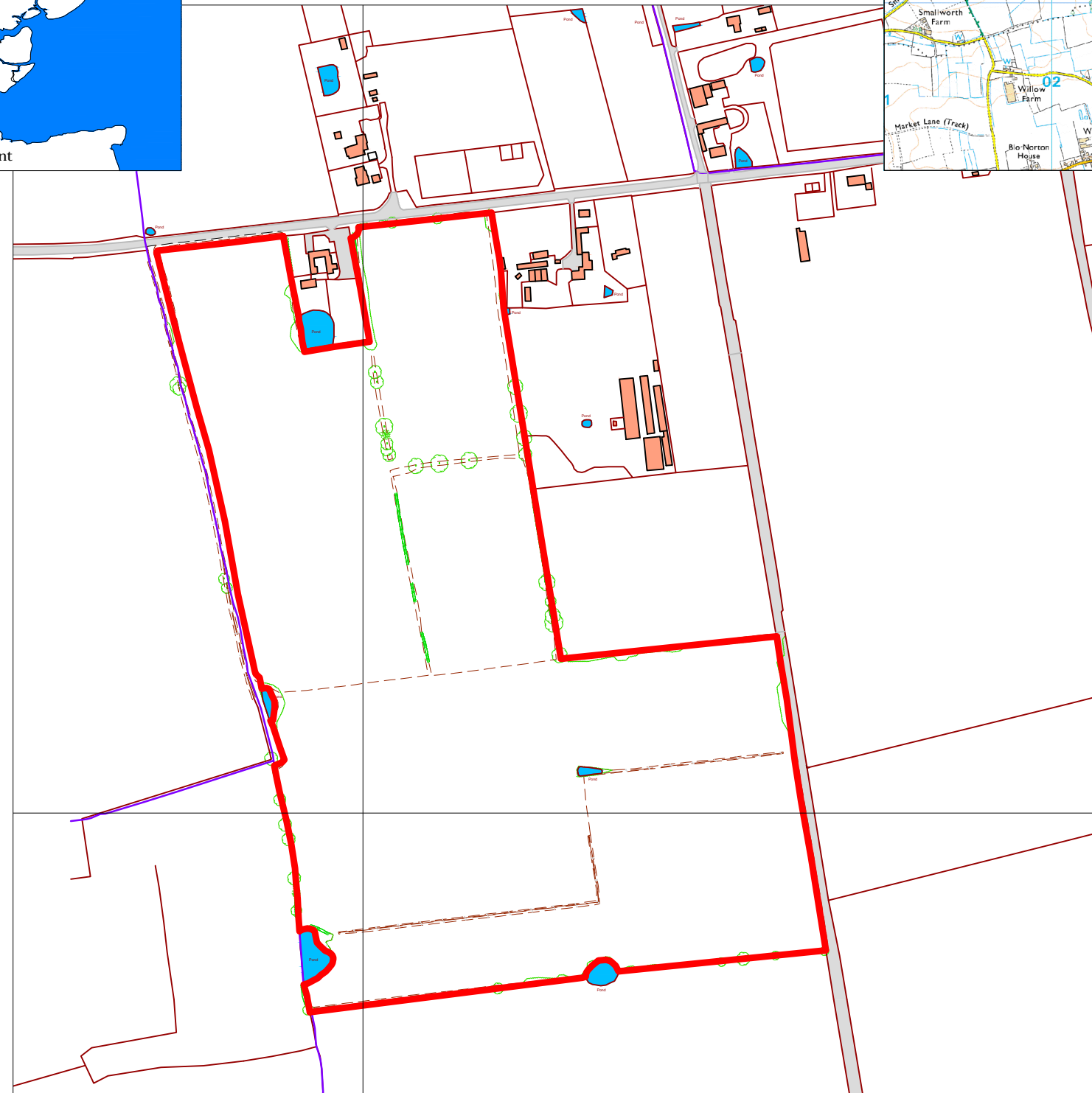
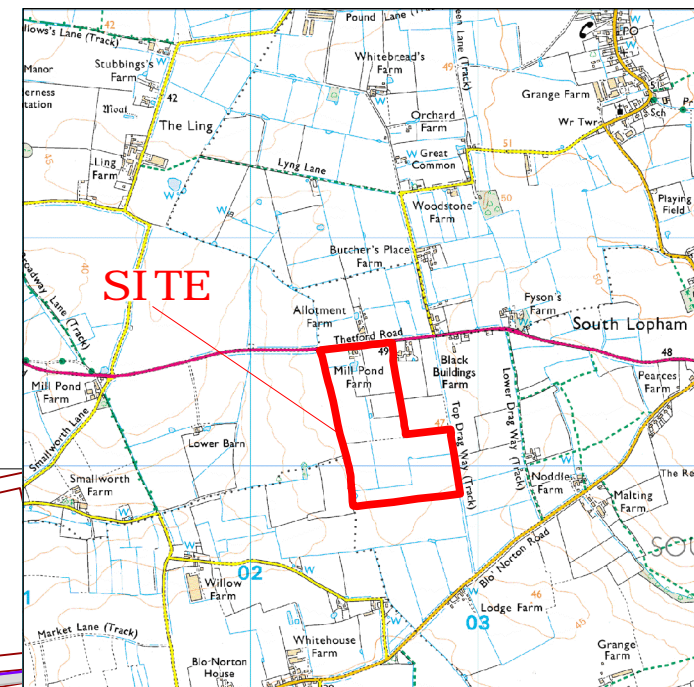
"Database","GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Images
vector","Spreadsheets","Text"



Paper Archive Exists?
Entered by
Entered on

No

Martin Brook (martin@britannia-archaeology.com)

31 January 2014



	Parish/Ward Boundary
	Site Boundary

NGR:	602586 281068	REPORT NUMBER:	1044
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PROJECT:
**WHITEBREADS FARM, HIGH COMMON,
 NORTH LOPHAM, DISS, NORFOLK**

CLIENT:

 Richard Pike Associates
 Building, Design and Planning Specialists

DESCRIPTION:
SITE LOCATION PLAN

BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD



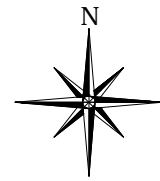
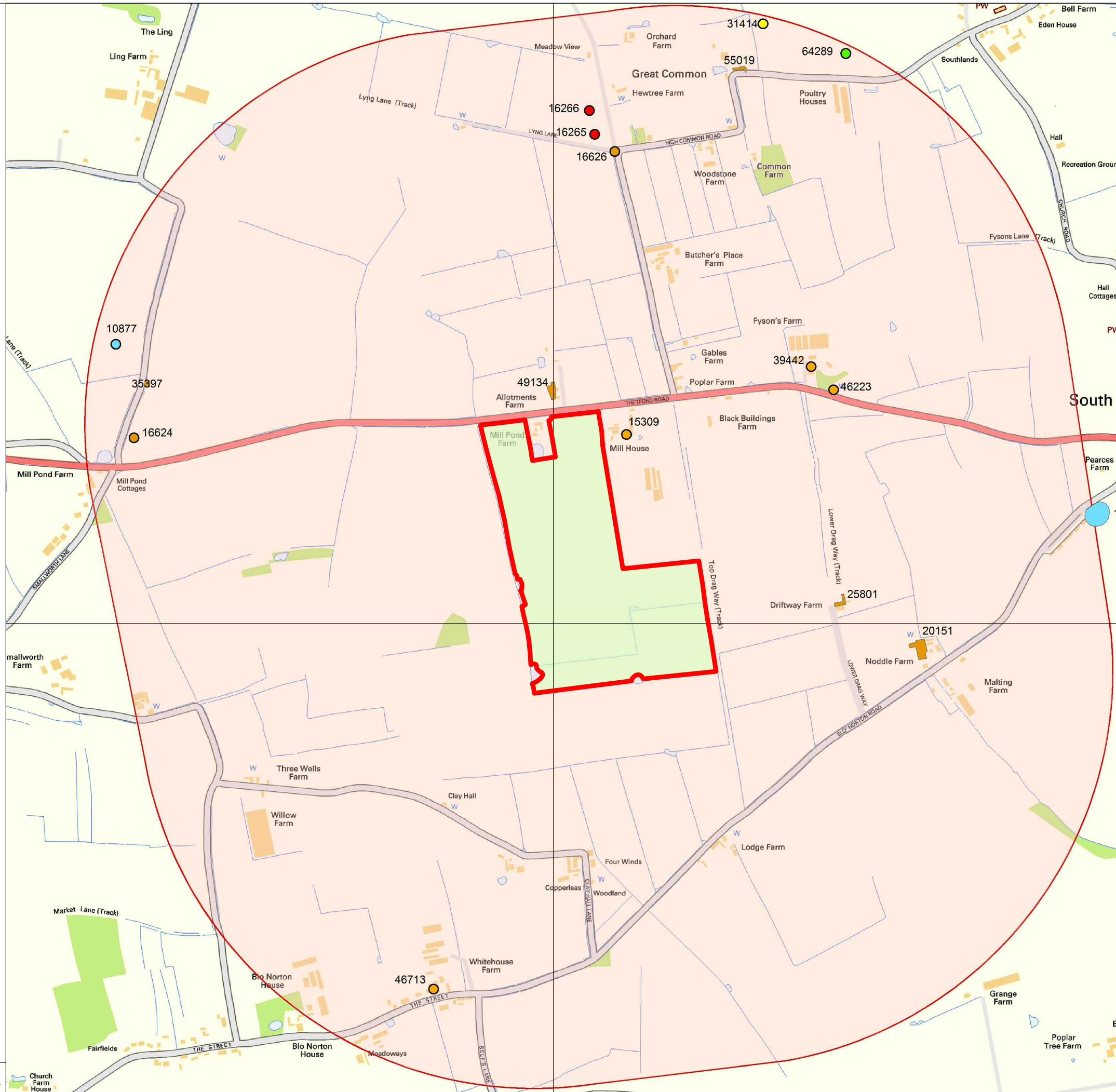
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



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PLOT:	A3	APPROVED:	MCA	VERSION:	01
DATE:	DEC 2013	AUTHOR:	MB	FIGURE:	01

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	Neolithic - Bronze Age
	Neolithic Monument Record
	Roman
	Early Saxon - Post-medieval
	Medieval
	Post-medieval - Modern
	Post-medieval - Modern Monument Record
	Site Boundary

NGR:	602586 281068	REPORT NUMBER:	1044
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PROJECT:
**WHITEBREADS FARM, HIGH COMMON,
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CLIENT:

 Richard Pike Associates
 Building, Design and Planning Specialists

DESCRIPTION:
HER DATA PLAN

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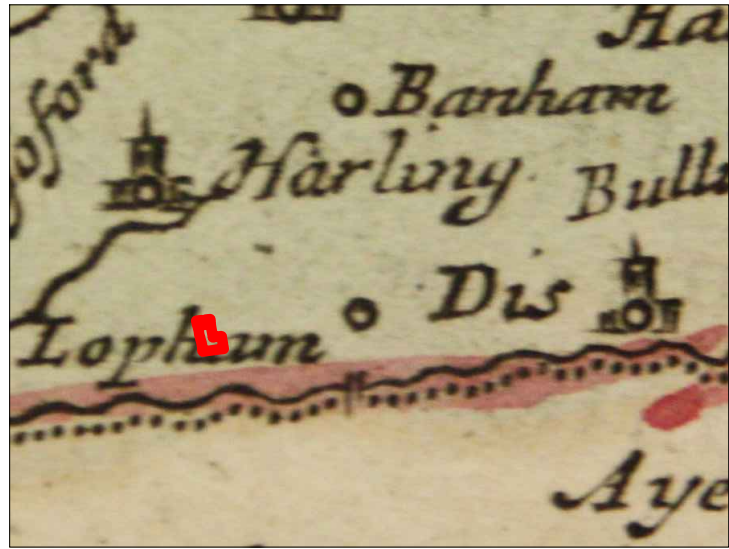
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DATE:	DEC 2013	AUTHOR:	MB	FIGURE:	02
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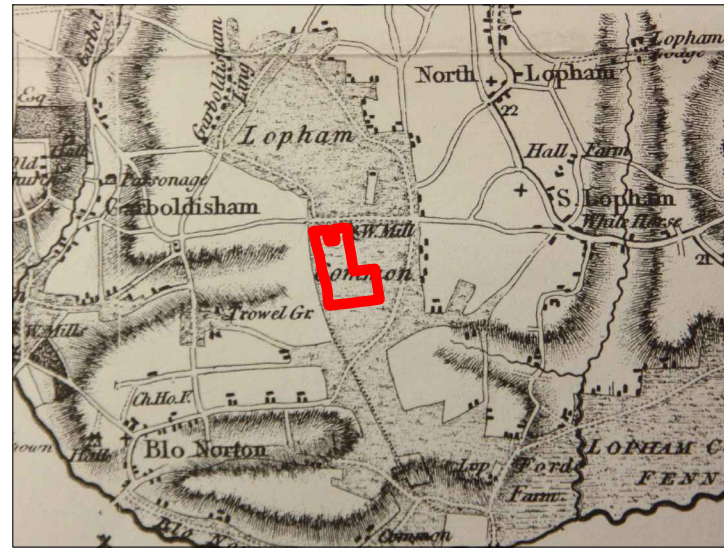
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Seller's Map - 1695



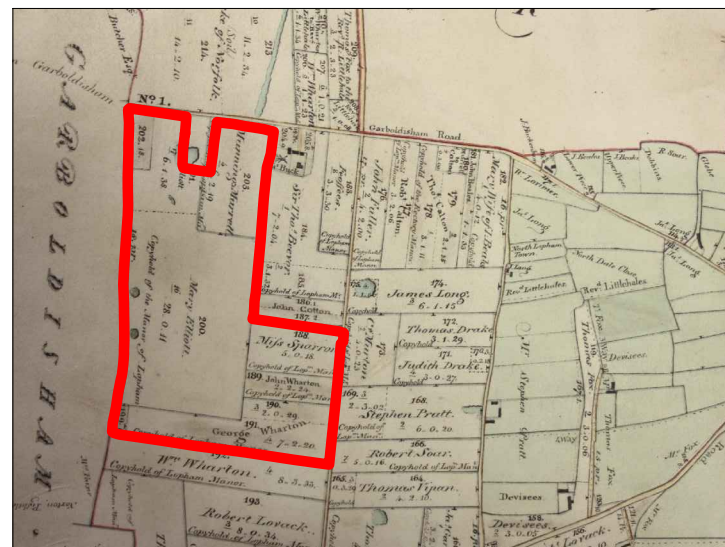
Morden's Map of Norfolk - 1695



Faden's Map of Norfolk - 1797



John Cary's Map - 1807



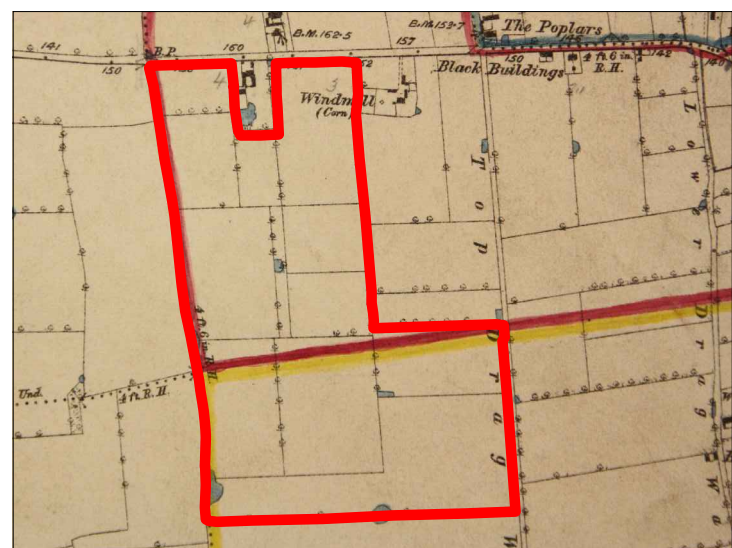
Enclosure Map - 1815



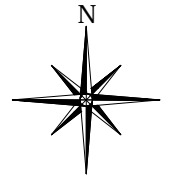
Richard Payne Survey of Norfolk - 1815






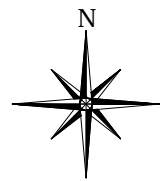
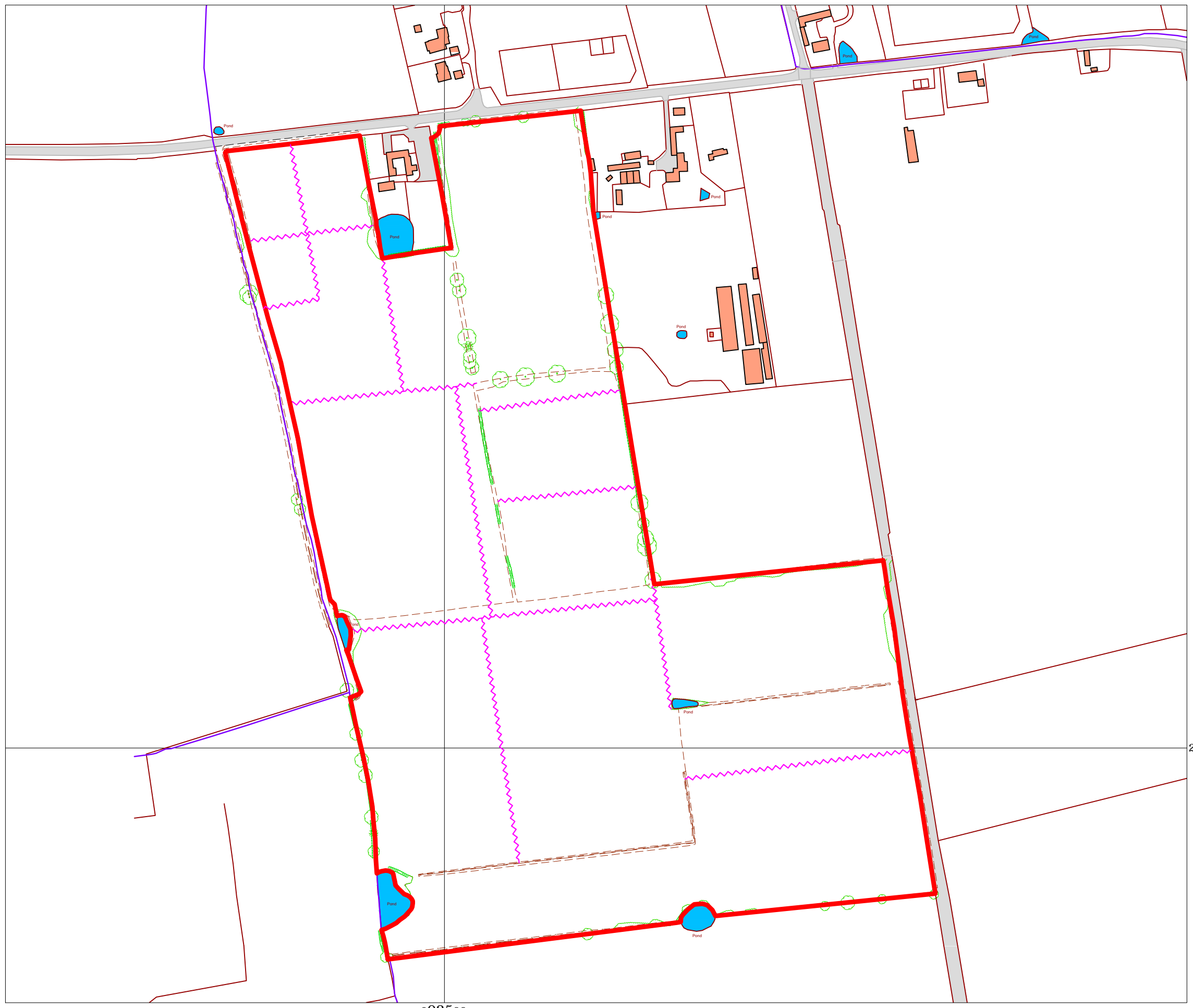
Tithe Map - 1847





First Edition Ordnance Survey Map - 1860



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NGR: 602586 281068	REPORT NUMBER: 1044
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CLIENT:  Richard Pike Associates Building, Design and Planning Specialists	
DESCRIPTION: CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES	
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PLOT: A3	APPROVED: MCA
DATE: DEC 2013	AUTHOR: MB
VERSION: 01	
FIGURE: 03	



	Disused Post-Medieval Field Boundaries
	Site Boundary

NGR: 602586 281068	REPORT NUMBER: 1044
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PROJECT:
**WHITEBREADS FARM, HIGH COMMON,
 NORTH LOPHAM, DISS, NORFOLK**

CLIENT:

 Richard Pike Associates
 Building, Design and Planning Specialists


DESCRIPTION:
DISUSED POST-MEDIEVAL FIELD BOUNDARIES

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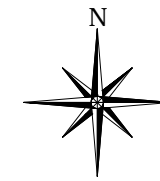
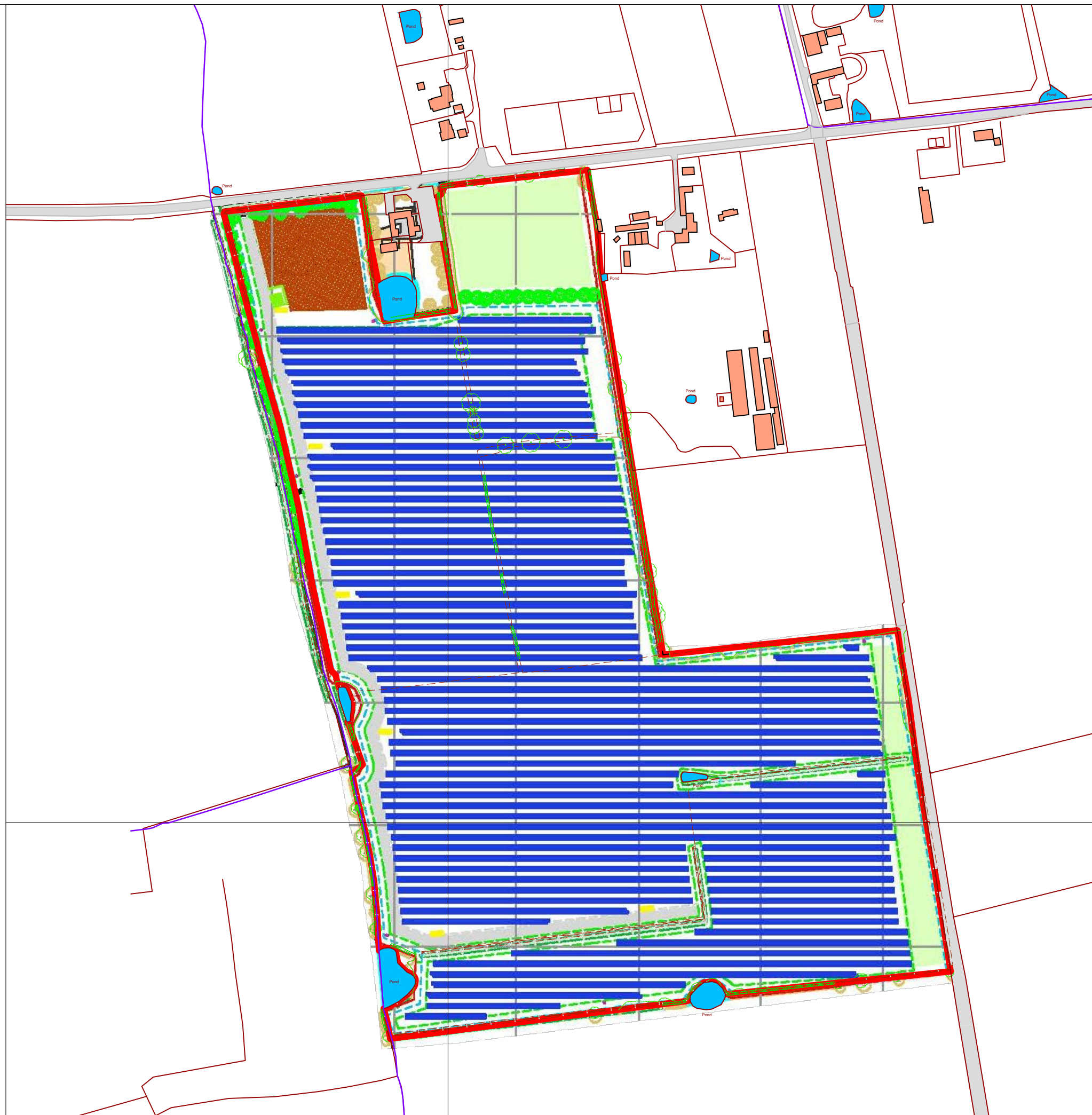
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SCALE: 1:3000 

PLOT: A3	APPROVED: MCA	VERSION: 01
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DATE: DEC 2013	AUTHOR: MB	FIGURE: 04
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	PV Array Location
	PV Box
	DNO/Customer Substation
	CCTV Thermal Camera
	Site Boundary

NGR: 602586 281068	REPORT NUMBER: 1044
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PROJECT:
WHITEBREADS FARM, HIGH COMMON,
NORTH LOPHAM, DISS, NORFOLK

CLIENT:

Richard Pike Associates
Building, Design and Planning Specialists

DESCRIPTION:
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PLANS

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DP1 - Southern Boundary, Looking SW



DP2- Pond / Possible Extraction Pit, Looking S



DP3 - Former Marl Extraction pit, Looking W



DP4 - Old Enclosure line and Drainage Ditch, Looking E



DP5 - Western Boundary and Possible Extraction Pit / Pond, Looking NW



DP6 - View Across Site towards Mill Pond Farm, Looking NE



DP7 - View from Assessment Site to Allotment Farm, Looking NE



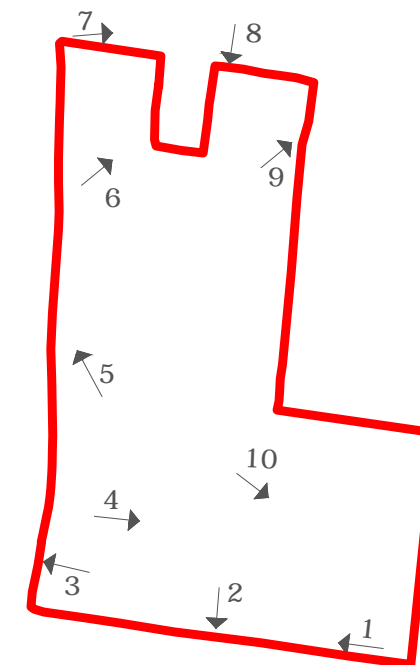
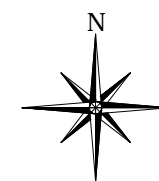
DP8- View from Allotment farm to Assessment Site, Looking S



DP9 - Eastern Boundary with former site of Windmill in the Center Right, Looking NE



DP10 - Possible Extraction Pit Extraction, Looking SE



Photograph Location

	Photo Direction & Number	
	Site Boundary	
NGR: 602586 281068	REPORT NUMBER: 1044	
PROJECT: WHITEBREADS FARM, HIGH COMMON, NORTH LOPHAM, DISS, NORFOLK		
CLIENT: Richard Pike Associates <small>Building, Design and Planning Specialists</small>		
DESCRIPTION: SITE PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD		
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PLOT: A3	APPROVED: MCA	VERSION: 01
DATE: DEC 2013	AUTHOR: MB	FIGURE: 06