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Archaeological Test Pit Excavations in Toft, Cambridgeshire, 2013

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1 Summary

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological excavation of 16 1m2 'test pits' in the Cambridgeshire village of Toft carried out in summer 2013. The programme was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) through its 'All Our Stories' programme and supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Connected Communities theme which funded the Cambridge Community Heritage programme at the University of Cambridge in 20012-13. Over three weekends, more than 600 residents of the village of Toft and the local area took part in the excavations in 16 different locations throughout the present village. The results provided new evidence for the development of the southern part of the village, near to the church and alongside a small stream, from the prehistoric period onwards.

Parts of the area appears to have intermittently and lightly used by humans in the prehistoric period, with possible indications of a small settlement of Neolithic date beside the stream. Pottery of Roman date clearly clustered just beyond the south-eastern limits of the present settlement show a settlement to have been present here, and there is some indication of some sort of presence in the same area sometime between the 5th and 9th centuries. The present village seems to have been founded in the late Anglo-Saxon period, with settlement clearly present in the same stream-side location as the Romano-British settlement. This continued and expanded in the high medieval period, when the settlement appears to have extended northwards, but experienced sever contraction in the late medieval period, when the stream-side area of settlement was entirely abandoned. When the settlement began to recover, possibly rather falteringly, in the post medieval period, its focus appears to have shifted north towards the Comberton Road, with the stream-side settlement remaining permanently deserted.

The project involved hundreds of members of the local community, and provided many new perspectives on the past development of this Cambridgeshire village.

2 Introduction

Throughout 2013, a program of archaeological activities comprising excavation of 16 1m^2 test pits supported by remote sensing activities was undertaken in the village of Toft, located in SW Cambridgeshire. The test pits were excavated in residential gardens, public land, and on private farmland located south of the parish church owned by Magdalene College, Cambridge. Excavations were undertaken by residents of Toft and members of the public participating in a community archaeology project, run by Toft Historical Society in partnership with Access Cambridge Archaeology (University of Cambridge). The excavation was co-funded by the Heritage Lottery fund (HLF) and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) under their All Our Stories funding stream, and was prepared and undertaken in collaboration with Access Cambridge Archaeology, based in the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge, who provided logistical support, on-site instruction and supervision and post-excavation support.

2.1 All Our Stories

The *All Our Stories* grant programme[1] was initiated jointly by the AHRC and HLF to help local communities explore and discover more about their past. The funding was specifically intended to promote contacts and interaction between local communities and academic researchers based in UK universities, with the aim of giving community groups greater access to resources and expertise that exists within universities, while creating new opportunities for academics to conduct research and gather data in a community context. Responding to this grant call, a team of researchers based in the University of Cambridge was brought together to form 'Cambridge Community Heritage' (CCH), to act as a point of contact for community groups interested in making use of this funding opportunity[2]. A series of brain-storming sessions were held in mid-late 2012 allowing interested parties to meet and discuss the potential projects. In total 500 projects were funded by the scheme nationwide, including 23 that were assisted by CCH. These projects included several test pitting projects in villages across East Anglia, including Meldreth, West Wickham, Toft, Shillington and Sharnbrook.

2.2 Test pit excavation and rural settlement studies

Rural settlement has long been a crucial area of research for medieval archaeology (Gerrard 2003: Lewis et al 2001, 5-21), notably since the pioneering work of W. G. Hoskins, Maurice Beresford and John Hurst in the 1940s and 1950s (Hoskins 1955; Beresford 1957; Beresford & Hurst 1971). Until recently, however, attention has focused largely on the minority of medieval settlements that are presently deserted or extensively shrunken. Currently occupied rural settlements (CORS), archaeological sites now overlain by domestic housing and related buildings of living secular communities – the villages, hamlets and small towns of today – were generally largely disregarded as targets for research-driven excavation. Very few regions have seen any systematic research-driven primary investigation aimed at CORS, and most

[1] http://www.hlf.org.uk/news/Pages/AllOurStories.aspx (accessed October 2013)
[2] http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/aca/cambridgecommunityheritage.html (accessed October 2013)

of that which has taken place has not involved excavation, for example those of a survey based nature (Roberts 1987; Roberts and Wrathmell 2000; Roberts and Wrathmell 2003). Recent attempts to redress this bias in favour of the majority of still-inhabited medieval rural settlements have opened up new areas for debate, which are beginning to call into question established theories about the development of rural settlement in the historic period (Aston & Gerrard 1999; Jones & Page 2007). Despite these recent advances, however, the number of CORS to have seen methodical research-orientated investigation that includes excavation remains very small.

In order to begin to resolve this problem, Access Cambridge Archaeology, working with members of the public including school pupils, has carried out test pit excavations in CORS in more than 50 parishes, most in eastern England. This new research is contributing towards developing the evidence-base upon which our knowledge and understanding of the origins and development of the medieval rural settlement pattern of eastern England is based, generating a new overall dataset that is more representative of the entire range of medieval settlements, not just on the minority of currently deserted archaeological sites (Lewis 2006; 2007a; 2007b; 2008; 2009; 2010; 2011; 2012; 2013).

3 Aims, objectives and desired outcomes

3.1 Aims

The aims of the test pit excavations in Toft were as follows:

- To engage with local communities and widen the participation of people in the heritage of the area.
- To allow local community participants to develop a wide range of practical and analytical archaeological skills.
- To increase knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the setting, origins and development of Toft and its environs.
- To inform future interpretation and presentation of the monument.
- To increase understanding of the area to support employment, sustainable tourism and encourage inward investment.

3.2 Objectives

The objectives of test pit excavations in Toft were as follows:

- To investigate the archaeology of the environs of Toft through test-pitting carried out by members of the community in properties throughout the village.
- To provide the opportunity for a minimum of 30 volunteers to learn new practical and analytical archaeological skills.
- To support and engage with members of local communities through involvement with the project.

3.3 Outcomes

The desired outcomes of the test pit excavations in Toft were as follows:

- A minimum of 60 people with new archaeological skills.
- A minimum of 100 people with an enhanced understanding and awareness of Toft local history.
- An engaged and informed local population.
- An improved knowledge and understanding of the archaeological resource of the village of Toft.

4 Location

The village of Toft is situated in the county of Cambridgeshire, 9km SWW of Cambridge, 18km SE of St Neots and 10km north of Meldreth (another village where test pitting took place as part of the All Our Stories funding scheme), centred on TL 3596 5600 (figure 1). The parish is one of several lying on the northern bank of Bourn Brook, from west to east comprising Bourn, Caldecote, Toft, Comberton, and Grantchester. Bourn Brook rises a few miles west of Toft and joins the River Cam just south of Grantchester, and forms the southern boundary of all these parishes.

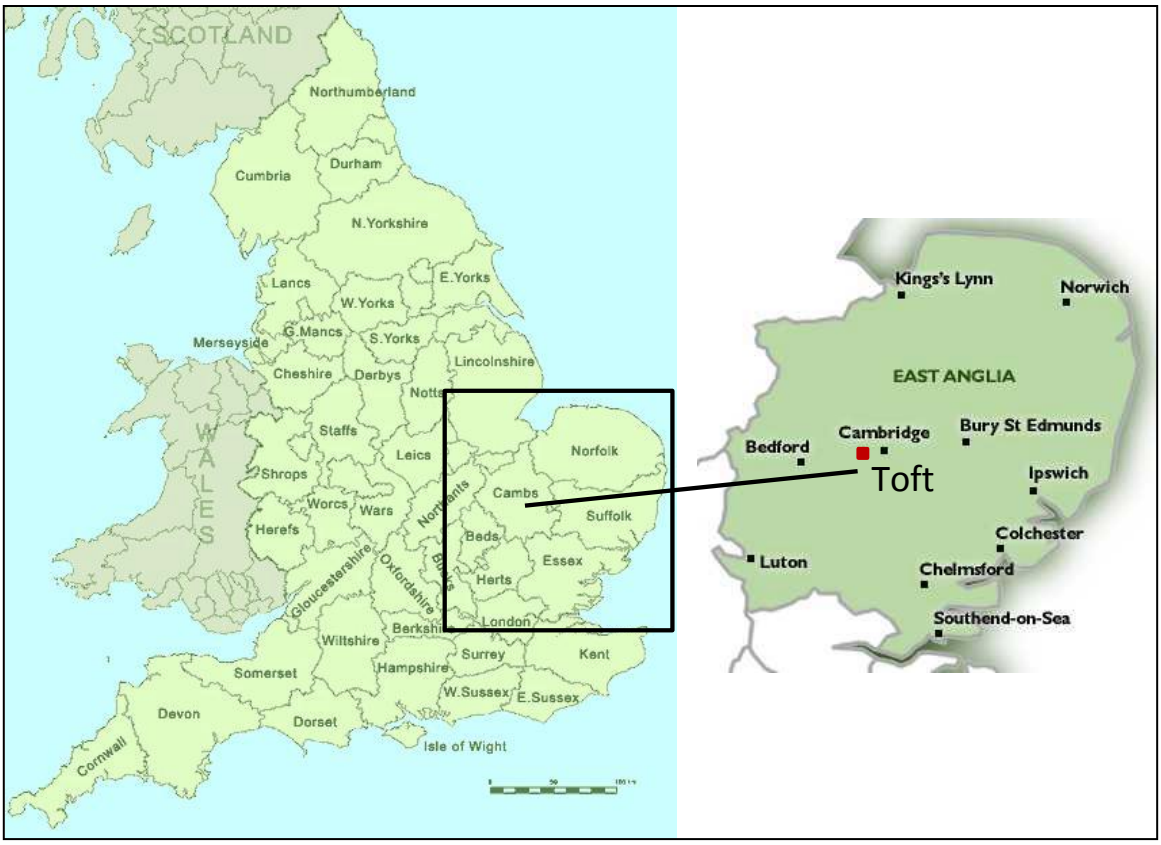

Figure 1 - The location of Toft village.

The ancient parish of Toft consisted of 1285 acres stretched all the way north to the main Cambridge-St Neots road (the modern A428), as indeed the neighbouring parishes of Comberton and Caldecote still do. In the 13th century, however, the residences of 11 people and a Benedictine monastery established by King Edgar in 970[3] in the northern part of the parish were separated to become the new parish of

[3] http://www.hardwick-cambs.org.uk/history/read/a_brief_history (accessed December 2013)

Hardwick, marked by the establishment of St. Marys church (first mentioned in 1217[4]), thus approximately halving the size of the parish of Toft. This boundary may not have been finally established until Toft was inclosed in 1815 (Elrington 2003). The modern parish is thus roughly square-shaped, with virtually all present-day settlement located in Toft village itself while 5/6ths of the parish comprises open farmland (figure 2).

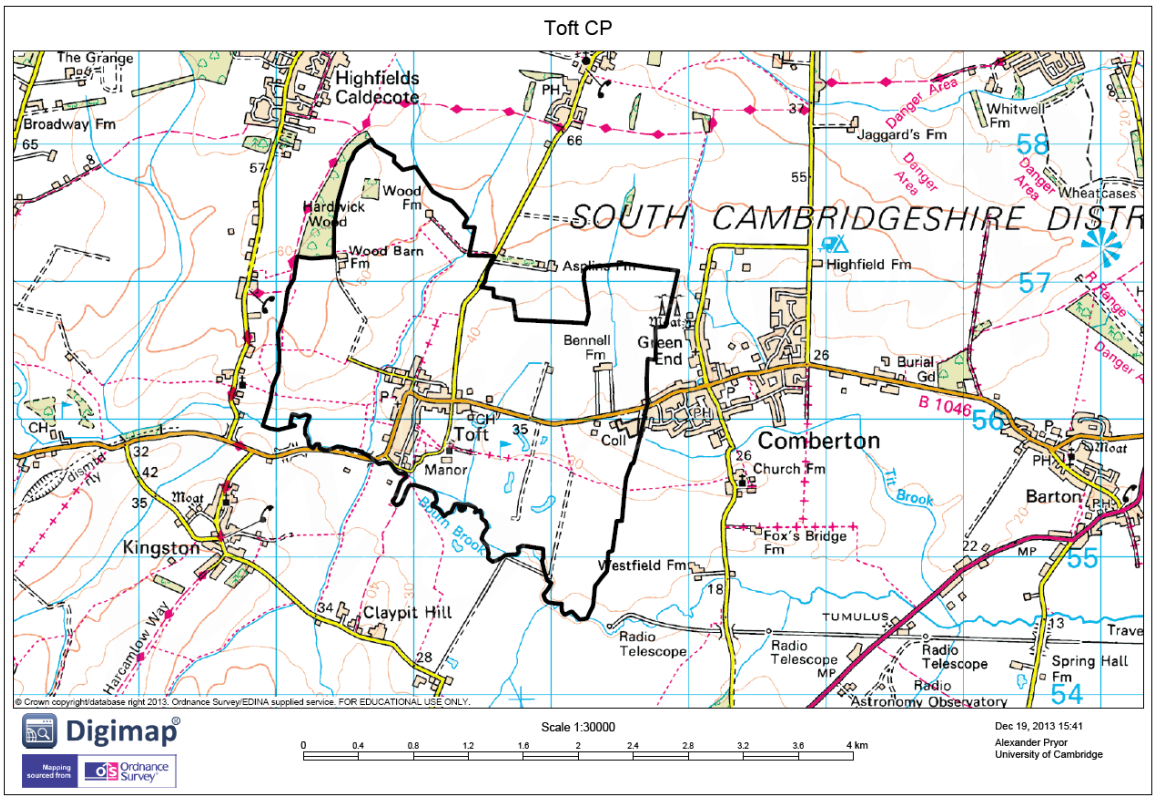

Figure 2 - The county parish of Toft

The modern village of Toft comprises a nucleated settlement arranged either side of two main axes joining around a bend in the main B1046 road. Two parallel rows of housing are located along High Street and School Lane, with another row running perpendicular to these along Comberton Road towards the top of the hill, with a further housing estate located just to the north in Miller's Road, Mill Lane and Glebe Close (figure 3). The church is largely isolated south east of the present village

The settlement in the 19th century was much smaller and more dispersed, arranged loosely around a square grid of lanes between Comberton Road and the Bourn Brook. The most compact part of the settlement then was arranged as a linear row along the Comberton Road near its junction with Church Road. Settlement along the northern end of the High Street was much more intermittent, constituting little more than a Methodist chapel and the Black Bull inn. This is separated by some 150m from a small single row of farms and cottages north of Brookside (then called Water Row), which appears to constitute a separate hamlet. The dispersed character of the settlement pattern in this area is further emphasised by the presence of just a couple of cottages along School Land and Pinford Well Lane, and by the location of St Andrews Parish church nearly half a kilometre from the settlement along Comberton Road or Water Lane, with only the Rectory and a small terrace of three cottages for company.

[4] http://www.hardwick-cambs.org.uk/history/read/the_church (accessed December 2013)

The historic parish church of Saint Andrews and associated rectory (Toft Manor) lie SE of the main residential settlement and are surrounded by fields on all sides with no evidence for previous housing near the church itself, one of the curious features of the modern village. The modern parish also includes Comberton Village College on the outskirts of Comberton.

Two churches survive in Toft today, St Andrews' Parish Church and the Methodist Church, which under a covenant between the two, means they are collectively called "the Church in Toft", sharing both social and religious events for the community. The parish church of Saint Andrews has existed since at least the 13th century[5], with the first stone-built structure likely appearing in the 14th century following the consecration of the church and surrounding graveyard by the Bishop of Ely, Thomas de Insula in 1352.

[5] http://www.toft.org.uk/history.php (accessed December 2013)

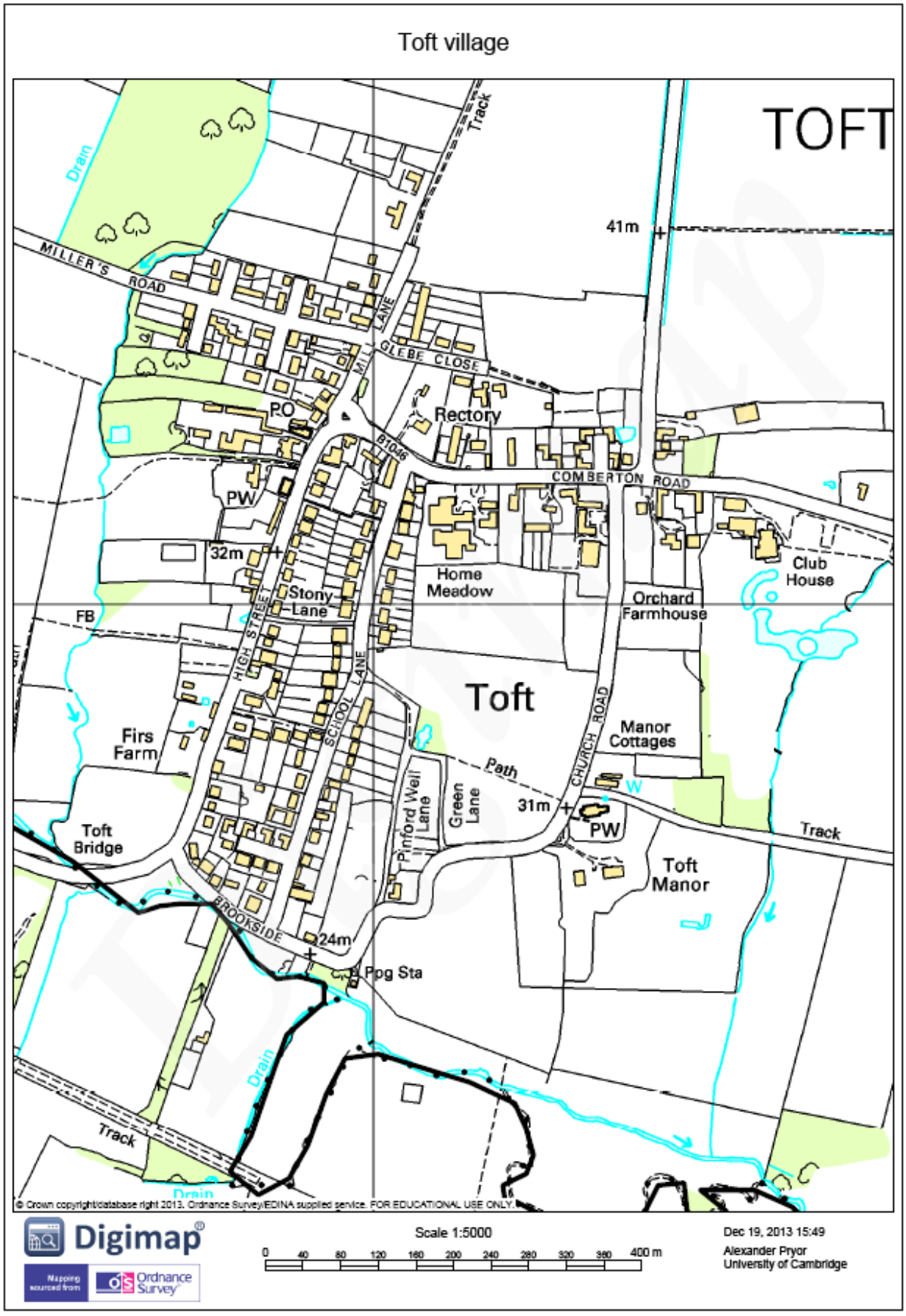

Figure 3 - Toft village, showing housing distribution along the main road, and the parish church separated off to the SE. Black line marks the parish boundary along its southern edge.

Local histories record that the post medieval period saw the destruction of many religious artefacts and art during and after the Reformation followed by a period where the upkeep of the church buildings were neglected by the incumbent rector. From the 18th century however a period of revival and rebuilding continued into the 19th century with the complete rebuilding of the chancel commencing in 1863 along with the addition of the north aisle[6].

The population of Toft has generally been small, with 21 peasants and 2 slaves in 1086 (Williams 2003, 532; 545); around 50 houses in 1279; 29 taxpayers in 1327; 76 in 1377; 33 in 1525 and 14 families in 1563. This grew to around 50 families *c*. 1630, 86 adults by 1676 and 173 people by 1793 (Elrington 1973). The population doubled to 380 by 1851, dipped in the later 19th century and early 20th century, and grown considerably since the mid-20th century to stand at 583 individuals in 2001 living in 219 households[7].

Toft has 23 listed buildings, including Toft Manor (formerly the rectory) which was built in 1844 along with several cottages. The village is serviced by a village shop and post office, two food take-away shops and a hairdressers. Two village pubs (the Black Bull and the Red Lion) and a library are now closed. It is well connected by roads, being located on the B1046 between Comberton and Longstowe, c.6km west of the M11 motorway trunk road to London and 4km south of the A428 from Cambridge to Northampton. No railway connections have ever passed through Toft.

The village hosts an active history society founded in 2001 run by the residents of Toft, who maintain a website detailing aspects of village history and engage in a program of research activities each year[8].

5 Geology and topography

Cambridgeshire is an inland county in East Anglia and is bordered by Peterborough and Lincolnshire to the north, Northamptonshire to the northwest, Bedfordshire to the southwest, Hertfordshire and Essex to the south, Suffolk to the southeast and Norfolk to the northeast. Toft parish lies on a south-facing slope above Bourn Brook that tops 50m OD in the far north of the parish and falls to about 25m OD along the course of the Bourn Brook in the south. The modern village lies between 25m and 40m OD, and rests on Cretaceous-era sedimentary mudstone bedrock of the Gault Formation that formed approximately 100 to 112 million years ago[9]. This is capped in the northern part of the parish by superficial Quaternary diamicton deposits of sands and gravels that were laid down over the last 2 million years during successive ice ages.

The surrounding landscape is broadly composed of gently rolling open arable farmland with drainage ditches and small streams and fragmented hedgerows forming field boundaries.

[6] http://www.toft.org.uk/history.php (accessed December 2013)
[7] http://www.toft.org.uk/ (accessed December 2013)
[8] http://www.tofthistoricalsociety.org.uk/index.php (accessed December 2013)
[9] http://www.bgs.ac.uk/ (accessed December 2013)

6 Methodology

6.1 Excavation strategy

The test pit excavation strategy used at Toft involved members of the public excavating 1m^2 test pits, initially under the direction of experienced archaeological supervisors who trained local volunteer supervisors for the latter stages of the project. The method of using test pit excavation to sample currently occupied rural settlements (CORS) was developed during the Shapwick Project in Somerset in the 1990s (Gerrard 2010), employed by the Whittlewood Project in Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire in the early 2000s (Jones and Page 2007) and has been used extensively by ACA in their Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) programme and in community excavations within in East Anglia since 2005 (Lewis 2005, 2006, 2007a, 2007b, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and forthcoming). These projects have shown that carrying out very small excavations within CORS (in gardens, playgrounds, driveways, greens etc) can produce archaeological data which, although largely unstratified, can be mapped to reveal meaningful patterns which allowed the development of more robust hypotheses regarding the spatial development of the settlement in question. The more sites that can be excavated, the more refined, and therefore more reliable, the resulting picture is.

Test pits locations were chosen based on wherever members of the public in Toft could offer sites for excavation, and upon an assessment of historical and survey data that suggested particular sites as worthy of investigation.

6.2 Excavation methods

Digging of the test pits in most cases took place over two days. The number of participants at each test pit varied between 2 and around 10 volunteers. Each team was provided with a standard pro-forma recording booklet into which all excavation data were entered. Excavation proceeded according to the following methodology:

- Test pits were 1m^2. Turf, if present, was removed in squares by hand. Each test pit was excavated in a series of 10cm spits or contexts, to a maximum depth of 1.2m.
- All spoil was screened for finds using sieves with a standard 10mm mesh, with the exception of any heavy clay soils which were hand-searched.
- All artefacts from test pits were retained in the first instance. Excavators were instructed to err on the side of caution by retaining everything they think may even possibly be of interest.
- Cut features, if encountered are excavated stratigraphically in the normal way.
- Masonry walls, if encountered, are carefully cleaned, planned and left in situ.
- In the unlikely event of in situ human remains being encountered, these are recorded and left in situ. The preservation state of human bone is recorded, so as to inform any future excavation.
- Recording was undertaken by excavating members of the public using a pro-forma recording system. This comprises a 16-page pro-forma *Test Pit Record* booklet which has been developed by ACA for use with members of the public with no previous archaeological experience.

- The horizontal surface of each context/spit was photographed and drawn at 1:10 scale before excavation, and the colour recorded with reference to a standardised colour chart, included in an instruction handbook issued separately to all participants. The bottom surface of the test pit was also photographed. Sections were also photographed if possible.
- All four sections were drawn at 1:10 scale with the depth of natural (if reached) clearly indicated on pre-drawn grids on page 13 of the *Test Pit Record* booklet.
- Other observations and notes were included on the context record sheet for each context or on continuation sheets at the back of the *Test Pit Record* booklet.
- A register was kept by each test pit excavation team detailing photographs taken, including context number, direction of shot and date and time of day.
- After the excavations were completed the archaeological records and finds are taken to the University of Cambridge for analysis, reporting, archiving and submission to HERs, publication and ongoing research into the origins and development of rural settlement. Finds were returned to owners after analysis is complete if requested; otherwise they were sorted for curation by the University of Cambridge, in accordance with the discard policy document.

6.3 On-site archaeological supervision

- Professional archaeologists from ACA and archaeological volunteers visited the test pits regularly. They provided advice to the excavation teams and checked that the excavation was being carried out and recorded to the required standard. Pottery and most other finds were provisionally spot-dated/identified on-site by experts.
  Additional test pits excavated in November 2013 were carried out by members of the local History Society and local residents all with previous experience who had previously received training from ACA archaeologists.

6.4 On-site finds identification and retention

- Non-metallic inorganic finds and bone (unless in very poor condition) were washed on site where possible, thoroughly dried and bagged separately for each context of the test pit or trench. Either on site or during post excavation the animal bone, pottery, burnt clay, flint and burnt stone are bagged separately, ready to be given to specialists.

6.5 Trench and test pit closing and backfilling

- A member of the archaeological team visited each test pit before it was declared finished confirming whether or not natural has been reached. A small sondage may be excavated within the bottom of the pit to examine whether or not natural has been reached. Some test pits will stop above natural or 1.2m on encountering a feature (ancient or modern) which is deemed inadvisable or impossible to remove, or have to finish at a level above natural due to time constraints.
- All test pits were backfilled and turf replaced neatly to restore the site.

6.6 Recording

- The test pit recording system used by excavating members of the public comprises a 16-page pro-forma *Test Pit Record* booklet which has been developed by ACA for use with members of the public with no previous archaeological experience.
- It is used in conjunction with the live presentation and written instruction handbook also developed and delivered by ACA. This system has been used successfully by ACA to record required archaeological data from the excavation of over 1,000 test pits since 2005.
- This pro-forma format, which includes designated spaces, prompts and pre-drawn 1:10 planning grids, is used in order to ensure that all required observations are completed and recorded.
- All photographs in the photographic archive comprise digital images.
- The site code is TOF/13.

6.7 Finds processing and recording

Previous experience of test pit excavation indicates that the most common archaeologically significant finds from test pit excavations in currently occupied rural settlements are pottery, faunal remains (including animal bone and shell), worked stone and ceramic building material. Upper layers typically yield variable quantities of predominantly modern material (post-1900), most commonly including slate, coal, plastic, Perspex, concrete, mortar, fabric, glass, bricks, tile, clay pipe, metal, slag, vitrified material, coins, flint, burnt stone, burnt clay, wood and natural objects such as shells, unworked stone/flint and fossils.

Few excavations retain all the finds that are made if they are deemed to be of little or no research value. Test pit excavations may produce significant quantities of modern material, not all of which will have research value.

6.7.1 Finds appropriate for recording, analysis, reporting, retention and curation.

- All pottery is retained.
- All faunal remains, worked and burnt stone is retained
- All finds pre-dating 1800 is retained

6.7.2 Finds appropriate for disposal after recording and reporting.

- The following finds, which are not considered to warrant any further analysis, are photographed, their weight and number recorded, and then discarded: slate, coal, plastic, Perspex, modern glass, modern metal objects (including nails), concrete, modern mortar, modern fabric, shoes and other modern items (including batteries and shotgun cartridges), naturally occurring animal shells, unworked flint and other unworked stone (including fossils).
- C20th window and vessel glass is discarded after sorting, counting and weighing.

- C19th and C20th CBM is discarded after counting and weighing, retaining one sample of any hand-made, unusual or older type of CBM.
- Most fragments of C20th metal whose use can be identified is discarded, as were any unidentifiable objects of ferrous metal, aluminium or modern alloys from contexts containing other material of post-1900 AD date. Modern nails were also discarded but handmade nails were retained.
- C20th tile (floor, roof and wall) is discarded after counting and weighing, retaining a single sample of each type of pre-modern tile. Any decorated examples were retained unless they were recovered in large quantities, in which case representative samples were retained with the remainder discarded after counting and weighing.
- Modern wood is discarded after counting and weighing.

6.7.3 Legal ownership of finds

- Ownership of objects rests in the first instance with the landowner, except where other law overrides this (e.g. Treasure Act 1996, 2006, Burials Act 1857).
- Owners of private unscheduled land where test pits have been excavated who enquire about the final destination of finds from excavation on their property will be informed that ACA prefers to retain these in the short term for analysis and ideally also in the longer term in order that the excavation archives will be as complete as possible.
- Most land-owners are not concerned about retaining ownership of the finds and are happy to donate them to ACA.
- If the landowners are unwilling, for whatever reason, to donate any or all of the finds from the excavation on their land to ACA, the requested finds are returned to them after recording and analysis is completed, safely packaged and conserved (if required), accompanied by a letter explaining how they should be cared for and asking for them to be returned to ACA/University of Cambridge if for any reason the owners no longer wish to retain them, and that if they are moved from the address to which they were returned the ACA should be informed. The location of such finds will be stated in the site archive. Requests from landowners for the return of finds may be made and will be honoured at any time.

6.7.4 Curation of Archaeological Finds

- All finds which are not discarded or returned to owners are retained and stored in conditions where they will not deteriorate. Most finds are stored in cool dry condition in sealed plastic finds bags, with small pierced holes to ventilate them. Pottery, bone and flint are bagged separately from other finds.
- Finds which are more fragile, including ancient glass or metal objects, are stored in small boxes protected by padding and where necessary, acid free paper. Metal objects are curated with silica gel packets where necessary to prevent deterioration.

- All finds bags/boxes from the same context are bagged/boxed together, and curated in a single archive containing all bags from all test pits excavated in the same settlement in the same year. All bags and boxes used for storage are clearly marked in permanent marker with the site code (which includes settlement name, site code and year of excavation), test pit number and context number.

7 Archaeological and historical background

Toft appears in the Domesday Book as *Tofth*, an old Viking word meaning "curtilage" or "homestead" or "site of a house or farm", and is recorded as having a population of about 193 at this time. Research on the parishes of Bourn Valley has identified an extended system of medieval field boundaries and trackways covering an area of around 72km^2, many of which extend for over a kilometre across the valley (figure 4; Oosthuizen 2003). The settlement at Toft can thus be situated within a broader landscape context, as part of a wider system of planned medieval settlement and organisation of the area that persisted through time and has left its mark on the present layout of the village and surrounding area.

Regarding Toft village itself, remnants of medieval field systems survive today right across the village, with particularly fine examples of ridge and furrow in the central fields lying between the modern housing areas and the parish church (fields marked A and B in figure 5)(CHER: 03311, 03312, 03313). It had been noted that a middle Saxon settlement might have existed near the present parish church of Saint Andrews, but before the 2013 excavations there was no evidence to support or

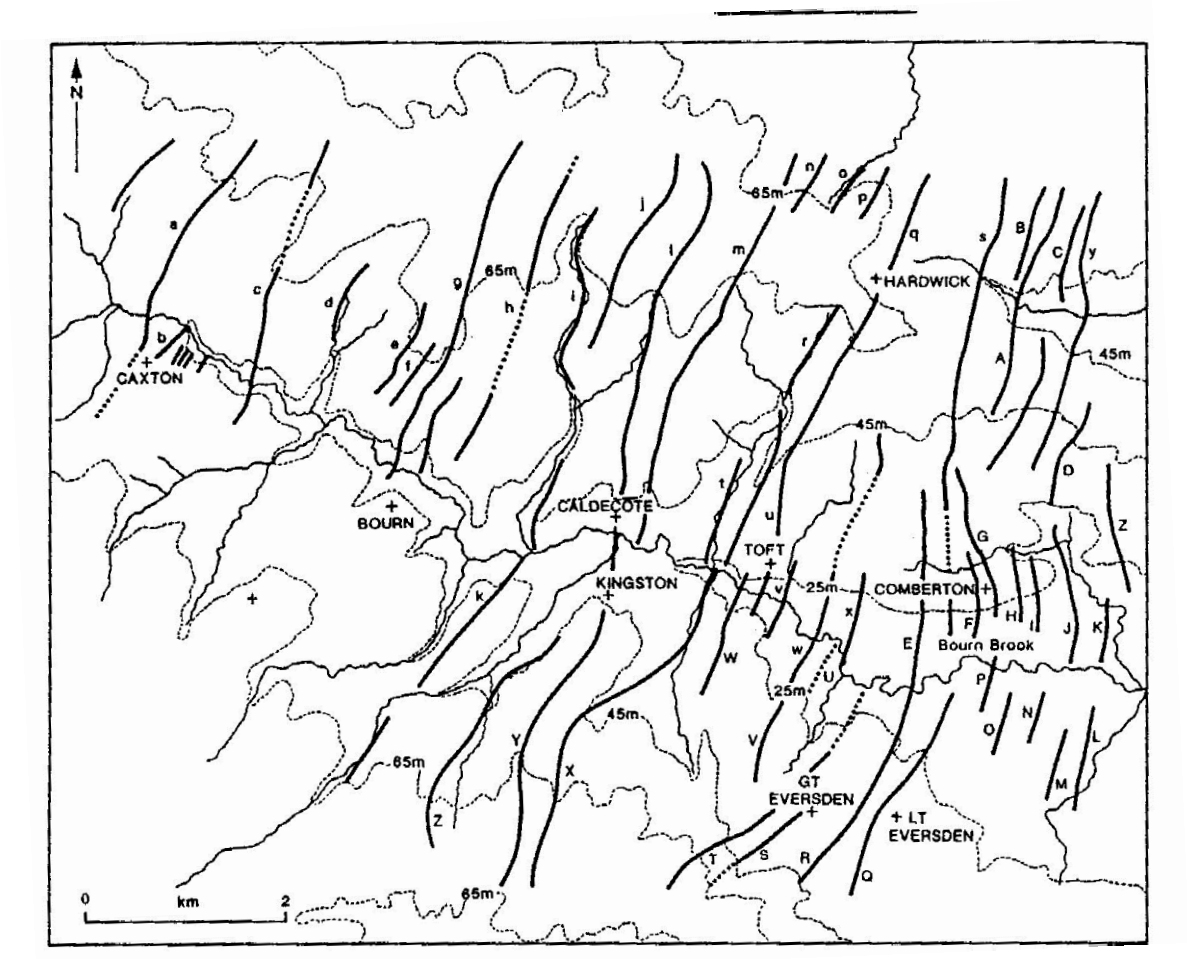

Figure 4 - Map of Bourn valley annotated with pre-enclosure alignments preserved in furlong boundaries, tracks and parish boundaries (Oosthuizen 2003, 48; Figure 2).

contradict this view (Oosthuizen 1997:47); in this context, it is an interesting aside to note that Comberton church is also located a short distance away from the centre of the modern village. Aerial photograph evidence of Toft has also previously been interpreted as indicating possible medieval settlement scattered along both sides of Bourn Brook (figure 5), including some buildings within the neighbouring Kingston parish (Oosthuizen 1997:47). Again, no archaeological evidence to corroborate or contradict this view was available at the start of the present project.

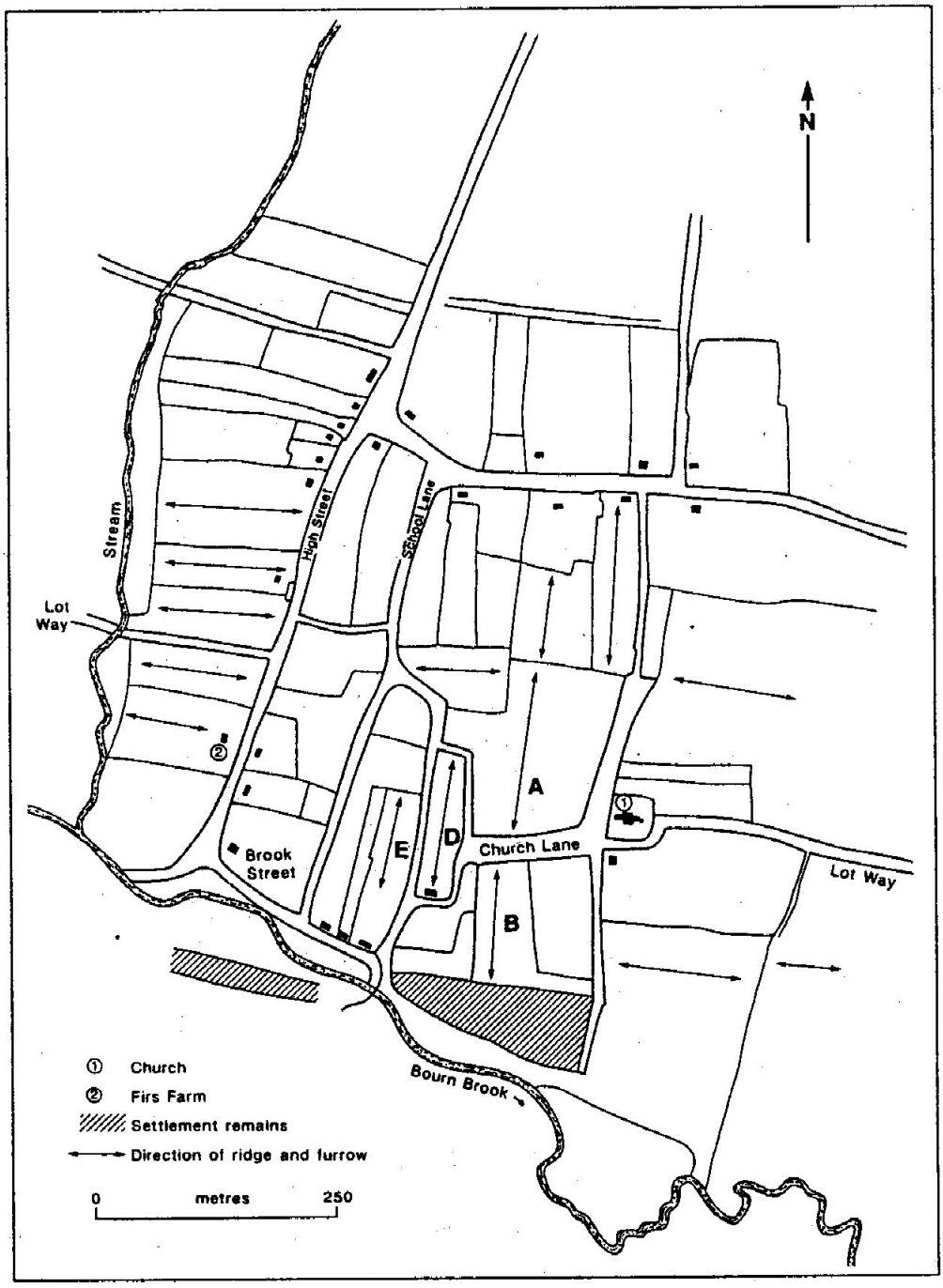

Figure 5 - Map of Toft based on an enclosure map, annotated to show areas and direction of surviving ridge and furrow (arrows). Hatching also shows areas of possible medieval settlement identified from aerial photography. Taken from Oosthuizen 1997:46 Figure 2.

The following paragraphs summarise the finds listed on the Historic Environment Record, accessed via the Heritage Gateway website[10].

7.1 Prehistoric activity

No firm evidence for prehistoric activity is recorded in the HER. Three sides of an enclosure were noted on aerial photographs and investigated during the construction of Comberton Golf Course in the east of the parish (CHER: 09569), but the feature remains undated.

7.2 Roman activity

Activity during the Roman period is indicated by the discovery of a Roman inhumation cemetery in Priory Field, adjacent to Bourn Brook and immediately SW of the Saint Andrews church (CHER: 03329). The discovery was made in December 1851 by labourers digging for gravel, who unearthed seven skeletons buried just 3 feet below the surface along with fragments of Roman pottery. The exact location is not known but traces of ridge and furrow survive in the north part of the field (CHER: 03329a) suggesting that the gravel extraction presumably took place to the south near to Bourn Brook. Other finds include a metal-detected Roman Hod Hill-type fibula (CHER: MCB16725) and two other votive finds (CHER: MCB16726) found in fields east of Priory Field. No evidence suggestive of settlement has ever been recorded.

7.3 Saxon Settlement

Although Domesday Book implies that one or more settlements of some sort were present in the lands of the Toft holdings, no archaeological evidence firmly dated to this period is recorded in the HER.

7.4 High and Later Medieval periods

Aside from the previously mentioned ridge and furrow, other presumably medieval earthwork features have been identified including trackways noted from cropmarks and aerial photography (CHER: 09568), a 13th century strap end found by metal detecting in fields east of the parish church (CHER: MCB16726), and pottery sherds west of the village (CHER: 03305A).

7.5 Post-Medieval period

Most of the listed buildings in Toft date from the 17th century, corresponding to houses located at various points across the village. Most of the fabric of the current Saint Andrews parish church also dates to the Victorian period, although some parts from as early as the 15th century also survive. Archaeological finds include a 16th century silvered bronze tag found in fields east of Priory Field (CHER: MCB16725).

[10] http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/advanced_search.aspx?reset=true

7.6 Research context for the test pit excavations at Toft (Ann Mitchell, on behalf of Toft Historical Society)

'Toft', a word meaning 'small homestead' (Reaney 1943, 164) is of Scandinavian origin and paces with the element 'toft' in their name are mostly found in the east midlands and Yorkshire (Ekwall 1936, 454). These facts provide a tantalising hint that the village of Toft in Cambridgeshire may have its origins in the Scandinavian Danelaw. Recently, Susan Oosthuizen began to explore this question. Her research (Oosthuizen 2006), and to a smaller extent that of other people, showed that the Bourn valley had been highly cultivated from probably the Iron Age. With Roman roads to the South (the present A603) and the west (Ermine Street) and evidence of Roman occupation in neighbouring Comberton, a villa and a settlement, plus a Roman burial site by the Brook in Toft, it seemed likely that the Bourn valley had been actively settled a long time before the establishment of the Danelaw, although the likelihood remained that the landholding had been renamed in the Anglo-Scandinavian period. The evidence of broad drift ways, or common land, linking Toft with the parishes to the East, the distinctive ridge and furrow still visible, the isolated church standing above the Bourn Brook, all caused the Toft Historical Society to ask questions. Had the settlement always been in a sort of grid around the 'high' road which may have had Roman origins, away from church and Brook? Or had there been settlement elsewhere, in particular further south, closer to the Brook, which might have been much larger and possibly navigable by shallow-draught boats, thus connecting Toft to Cambridge and indeed, ultimately to the sea. Or was the settlement originally near to the church? Had the lower fields been intensely cropped before the two common fields were established and into the Medieval period? Was there much woodland left? Where were the animals, in particular the sheep, grazed but, above all, where did the people of Toft, first documented in the Domesday Book, live? These were the questions to which the Historical Society wished to begin to get answers. Later village history gives no clues. The manor of Toft changed hands frequently, often passing between ecclesiastical lords. Toft seems never, until the middle of the last century, to have been more than an agricultural village with all but a few of its inhabitants gaining their living from the land or from those who worked the land: shop-keepers, blacksmiths, shoemakers etc.

For these reasons, the All Our Stories project presented a wonderful opportunity to try and find some answers.

8 Results of the test pit excavations in Toft

The approximate locations of the 16 1m^2 test pits excavated in July and November 2013 can be seen in figure 6. The data from each test pit is discussed in this section and set out in numerical order. Most excavations were undertaken in spits measuring 10cm in depth, but in cases when a change in the character of deposits indicated a change in context, a new spit was started before 10cm.

An assessment of the overall results, synthesizing the data from all the pits, including deductions about the historic development of Toft and the potential of the buried heritage resource of the village is presented in the following Discussion section (Section 9). Finds from each test pit are discussed in summary in this section, and listed in detail in the relevant appendices (Section 12). Photographs of sites under excavation and of all finds are included in the archive, but not included in this report for reasons of space.

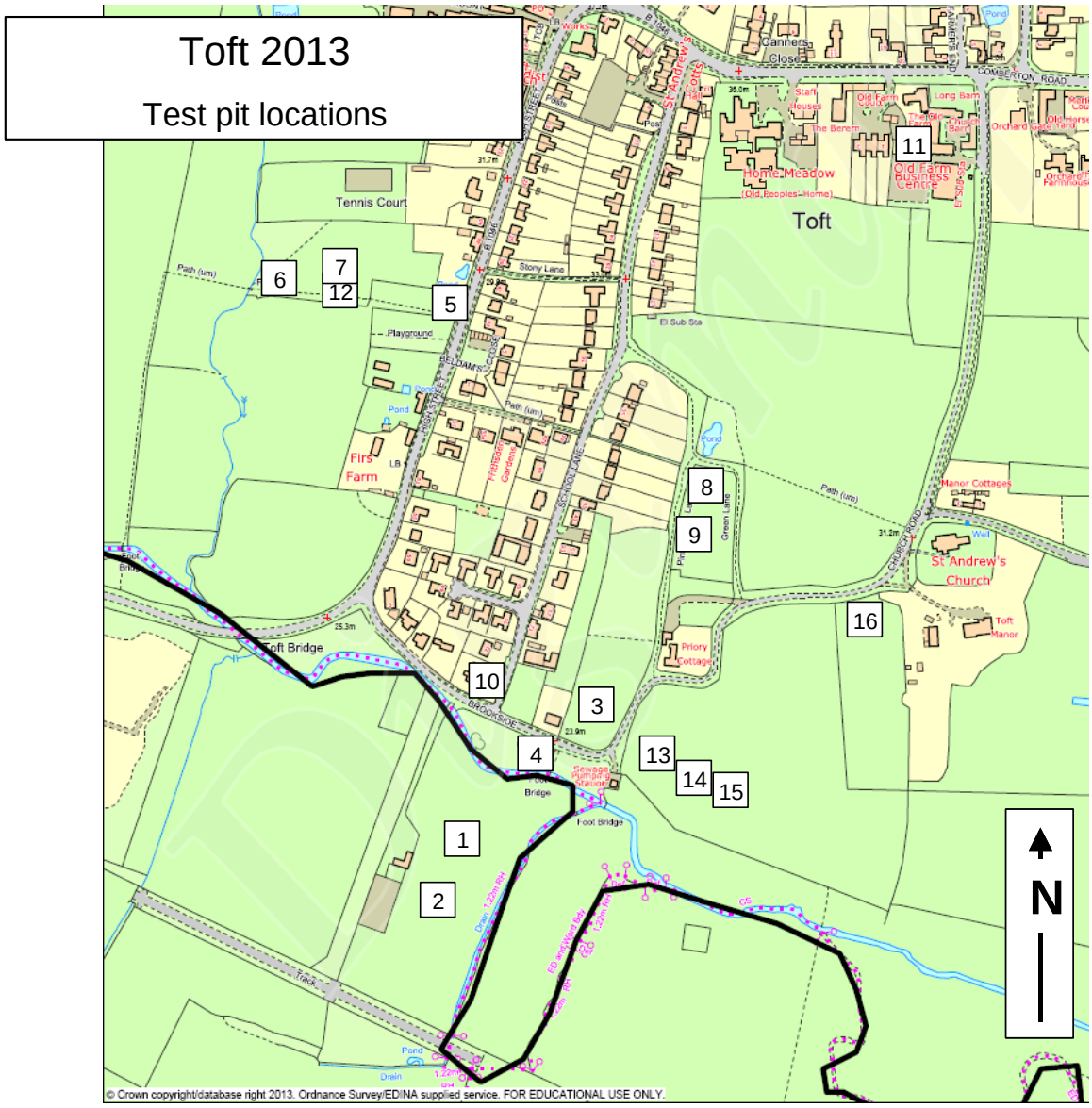

Figure 6 - *Location map for test pits excavated in Toft 2013.*

8.1 Test Pit one (TOF/13/1)

Test pit one was excavated in the middle of an open grassy field presently used as pasture land bordering Bourn Brook, 36m south of the brook in Kingston parish (approximate location TL 35875 55575). The location of the test pit was selected based on the results of geophysics survey across this area conducted by Archaeological Rheesearch, a local amateur archaeology group (see also TOF/13/2).

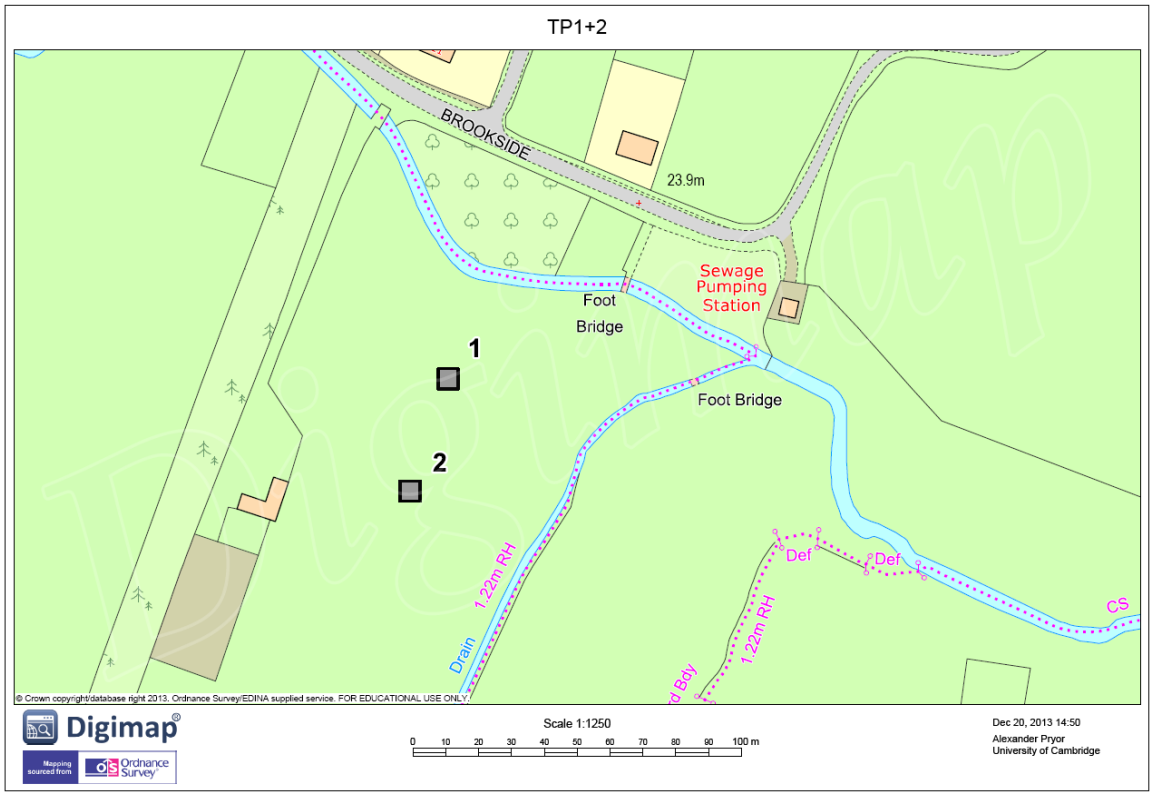

Figure 7 - *Location map of TOF/13/1*

Test pit one was excavated to a depth of 0.4m, whereupon natural gravel deposits were discovered. Excavation was halted at this stage and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

This test-pit produced a small quantity of medieval-era pottery comprising two sherds of Hertfordshire Greyware and a single sherd of Hedingham Ware.

		HG		HED		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
1	2	2	16	1	19	1150-1400

Table 1 – *Pottery excavated from TOF/13/1*

Other finds consisted of tile, CBM, fragments of glass, a square corroded iron nail, a piece of Perspex and a piece of clinker. The faunal assemblage comprised one cow bone and one unidentifiable bone. No lithic finds were recorded.

Located south of Bourn Brook and the modern village, the pottery from this test pit suggests this area was used during the medieval period but probably not for domestic housing. Most likely it was used as fields or pasture, and the lack of finds

from other periods suggests it has remained unused or only as fields at other times as well. The pottery does however fit nicely into the distribution of medieval pottery recovered from test pits near the river (TPs 2, 4, 10, 13, 14, 15), suggesting the area SW of the church was all in use at this time. The test pit finds gave no hints as to what the features detected by geophysics survey might be, however the fact that natural was reached after just 0.4m suggests that at least some of the patterning may be of natural geological origin, reflecting an uneven distribution of sands and gravels near the valley floor and river. In summary from test pits 1 and 2, the south side of Bourn Brook appears to have never been intensively occupied by humans.

8.2 Test Pit two (TOF/13/2)

Test pit two was excavated in the middle of an open grassy field presently used as pasture land south of Bourn Brook in Kingston parish (approximate location TL 35863 55541). The location of the test pit was selected based on the results of geophysics survey across this area conducted by Archaeological Rheesearch, a local amateur archaeology group (see also TOF/13/1).

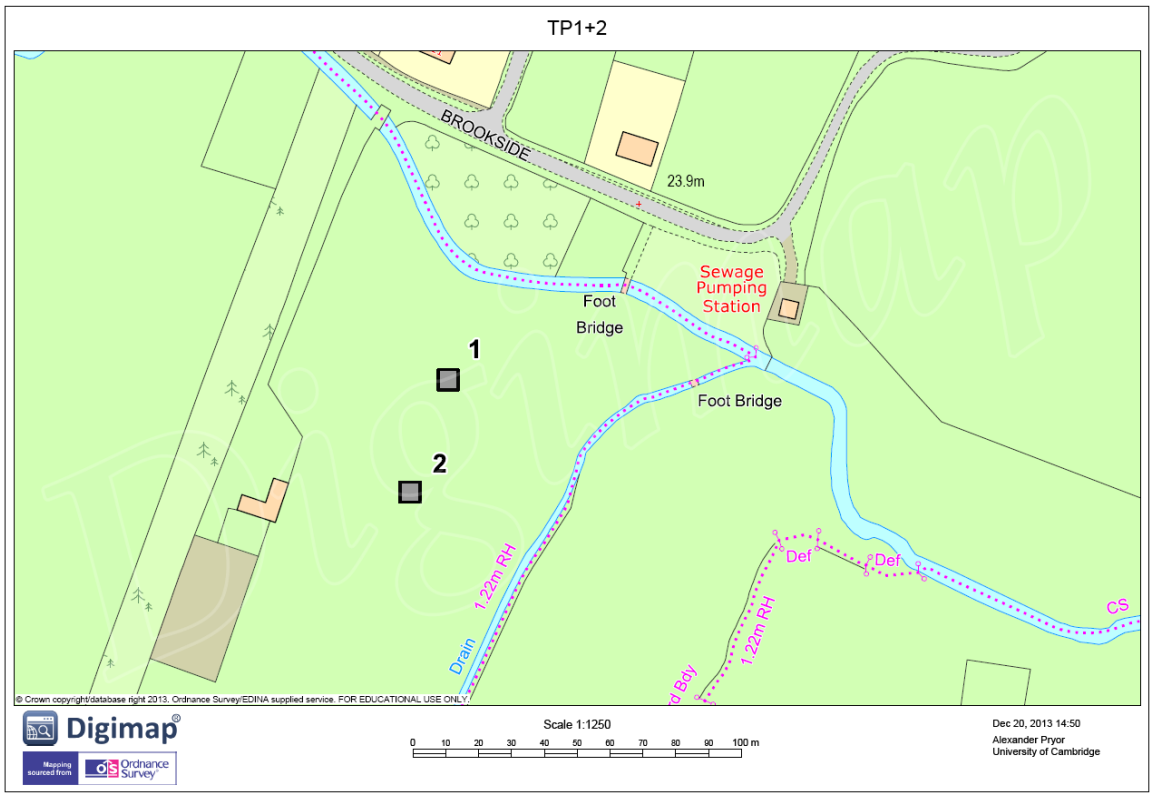

Figure 8 - *Location map of TOF/13/2*

Test pit two was excavated to a depth of 0.55m at which point a heavy gravel natural deposit was encountered across the entire area of the test pit. Excavation was ceased at this point and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

This test pit produced just two sherds of pottery, comprising one sherd of Hedingham Ware and one Victorian-era sherd. No other finds were recorded from test pit 2.

		HED		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
2	1	1	1			1200-1400
2	3			1	2	1800-1900

Table 2 – *Pottery excavated from TOF/13/2*

Located south of Bourn Brook and the modern village, the pottery from this test pit suggests this area was used ephemerally during the medieval period but not for domestic housing. Most likely it was used as fields or pasture, and the lack of finds from other periods suggests it has remained unoccupied at all other times, although it may occasionally have been used for fields or pasturing animals. The test pit gave no

hints as to what the features detected by geophysics survey might be, however together with the results from test pit 1 the lack of archaeological finds plus the variable depth of the natural gravels suggests that at least some of the patterning may be of natural geological origin, reflecting an uneven distribution of sands and gravels near the valley floor and river. In summary from test pits 1 and 2, the south side of Bourn Brook appears to have never been intensively occupied by humans.

8.3 Test Pit three (TOF/13/3)

Test pit three was excavated on an enclosed grassy lawn adjacent to a property located on the north of Brookside road and near the bend past the sewage pumping station (21 Brookside, Toft. Approximately TL 35954 55666).

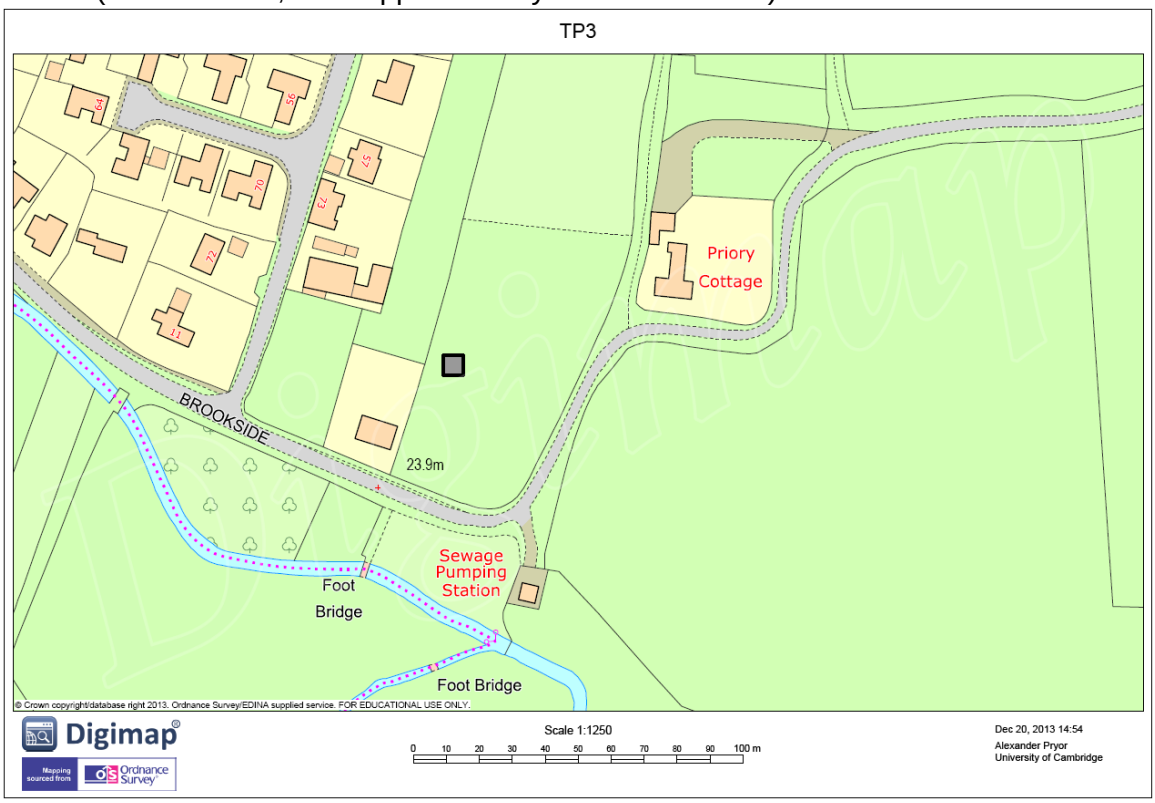

Figure 9 - *Location map of TOF/13/3*

Test pit three was excavated to a depth of 0.6m whereupon natural deposits were discovered. Excavation was halted at this stage and the test pit was recorded and backfilled

Test pit 3 produced sherds of Thetford Ware and St Neots Ware dating to the late Anglo Saxon period, a single sherd of Late Medieval Ware dating to the 15th-16th centuries and 12 Victorian-era sherds.

		THT		SN		LMT		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
3	1	1	3	1	9			3	3	900-1900
3	2	1	3	4	8	1	19	7	7	900-1900
3	3							2	5	1800-1900

Table 3 – *Pottery excavated from TOF/13/3*

Other finds consisted of CBM, brick, one piece of clay pipe stem, one piece of broken glass, slag, a corroded iron nail, and some rubble. No faunal remains were recovered. The lithic assemblage included a fine endscraper, a burnt blade-like fragment that is possibly of Mesolithic date (see Appendix 12.4), a tertiary flake and one other burnt flint piece.

The flint endscraper recovered from this pit is the only strongly diagnostic flint find from the Toft 2013 excavations. It is made on a fine tertiary flake with a distinctive finely-faceted striking platform and appears to be the product of a specialised levallois-like core reduction strategy, very characteristic of later Neolithic technologies (Ballin 2011)(see Appendix 12.4). The first evidence for actual occupation on this site dates to the late Saxon period, although curiously there is no evidence for occupation during the high medieval period when other sites close to Bourn Brook all show evidence of activity. The site is, however, one of only six test pits in Toft to contain pottery dating to the late medieval period (15th-16th centuries), showing some sort of activity in the vicinity at this time. Yet given that virtually all of these six pits contain just a single sherd it seems Toft must have been much less intensively occupied during this time, with land probably used mainly as fields or pasture land (and not for occupation and dwellings); a drop in the intensity of occupation is commonly seen during the 15th-16th centuries on test pitting projects across East Anglia, connected with the effect of the Black Death on village populations. Broadly therefore, this land appears to have been occupied briefly during the late Saxon period then abandoned until the Victorian era.

8.4 Test Pit four (TOF/13/4)

Test pit 4 was excavated on a small grassed area of garden located opposite house number 21, Brookside, Toft (approximately TL 35920 55634).

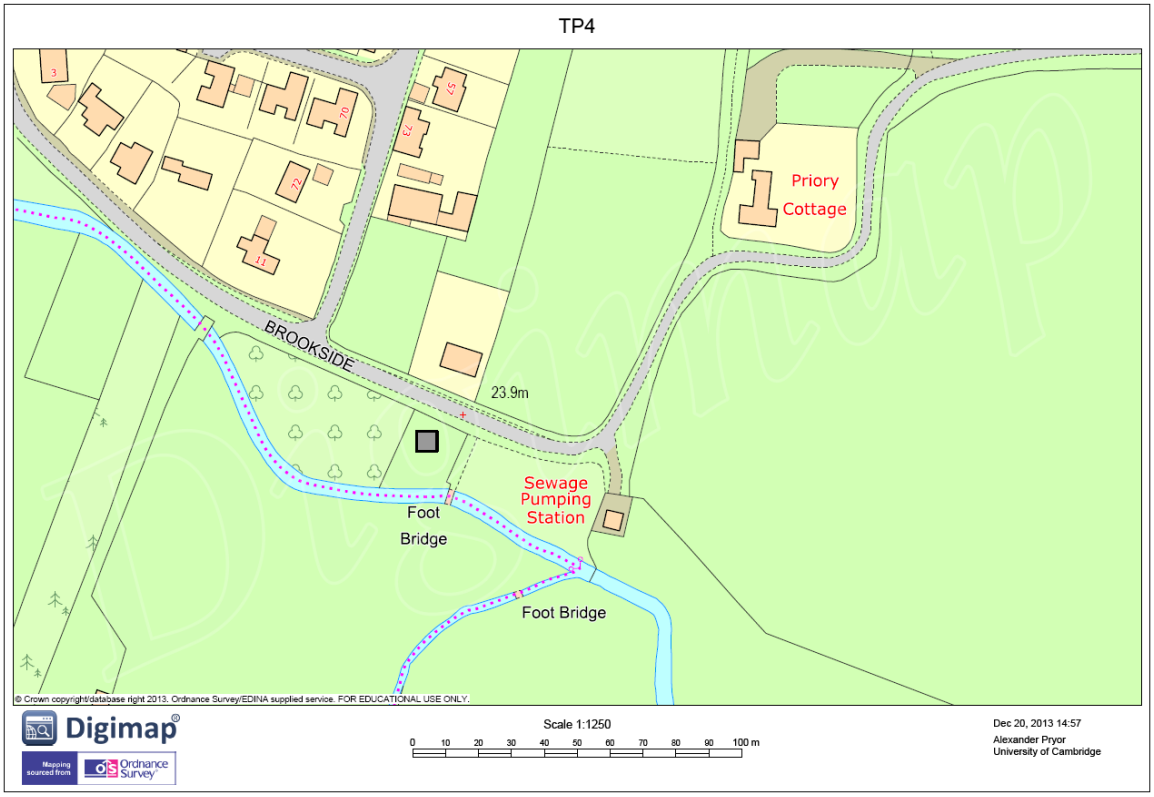

Figure 10 - *Location map of TOF/13/4*

Test pit four was excavated to a depth of 0.8m without finding natural. Due to time constraints excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

This test pit produced a pottery assemblage including: single sherds of St Neots Ware dating to the late Anglo Saxon period; Early Medieval Shelly Ware, Hedingham Ware and five sherds of Hertfordshire Greyware all dating to the 12th-14th centuries; small numbers of sherds of Late Medieval Ware and Glazed Red Earthenware from the 15th-18th centuries; and a large assemblage of 64 Victorian-era sherds.

		SN		SHC		HG		HED		LMT		GRE		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
4	1													16	17	1800-1900
4	2													16	44	1800-1900
4	3											3	12	21	21	1550-1900
4	4													9	9	1800-1900
4	5													2	2	1800-1900
4	6							1	3							1200-1400
4	7	1	4	1	4	4	8			2	13					900-1550
4	8					1	1									1150-1200

Table 4 – *Pottery excavated from TOF/13/4*

Other finds consisted of CBM, tile, brick fragments, glass, corroded iron nails and other metal lumps and objects, slag, a bullet casing from a rifle bullet, half a corroded iron horseshoe, charcoal, burned flint, mortar, fragments of oyster shell and some fragments of plastic. The faunal assemblage comprised bones of cow, sheep/goat, pig, and 47 other unidentifiable bones. The lithic assemblage included five pieces of unworked burnt flint, and two secondary flint flakes.

Located right on the banks for the Bourn Brook, the finds from this test pit indicate that the area was first used during the late Anglo Saxon period, most likely as fields. This activity expanded in the 11th-14th centuries, a pattern also observed at other test pits near the brook (TPs 1, 10, 13, 14, 15), and then declined again in the following periods with low levels of activity and dumping up until the Victorian era which witnessed a big expansion in the levels of disturbance. Similar to the results from test pits 1 and 2, this evidence suggests the land near Bourn Brook has not previously been intensively used at any time except possibly during the High Medieval period. Apart from this, the land around Bourn Brook seems to have remained peripheral to the main zone of activity for Toft village throughout most of its existence.

8.5 Test Pit five (TOF/13/5)

Test pit five was excavated on the upstanding earthwork remains of a probable house platform, set back a few metres from High Street Road (approximately TL 35857 55965). See also test pits 6 and 7 that were excavated nearby.

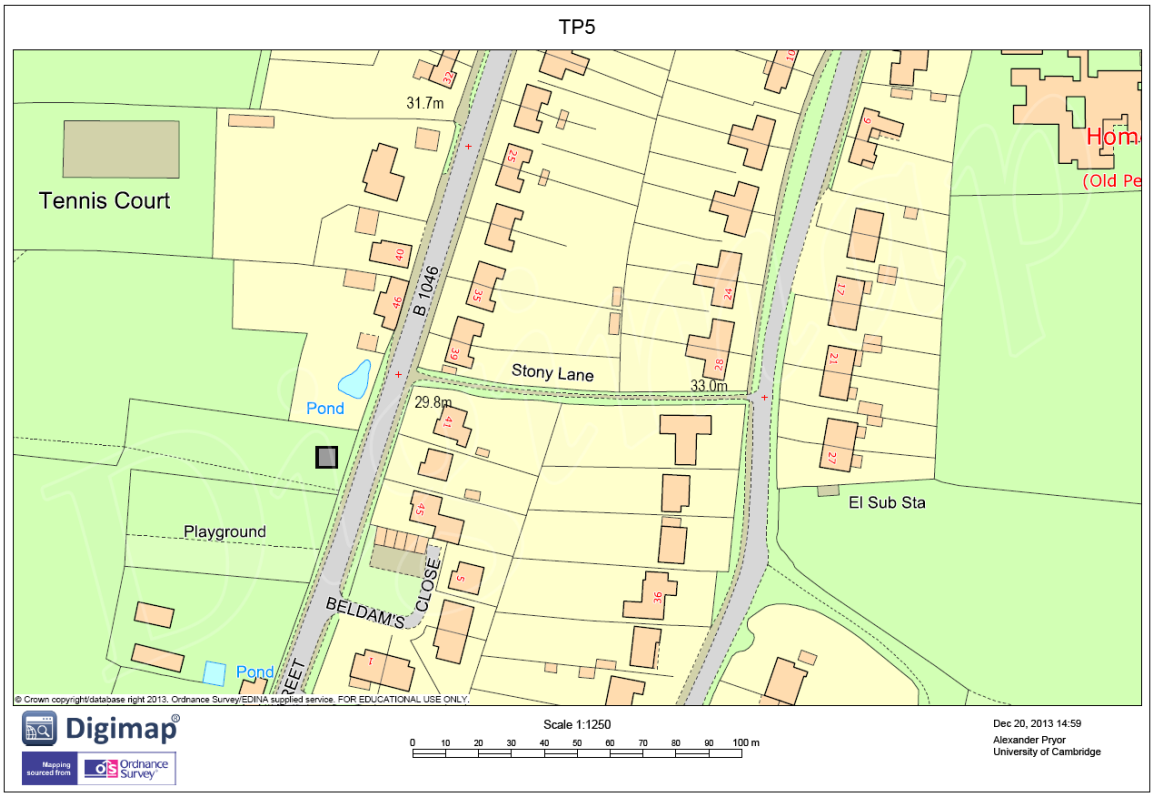

Figure 11 - *Location map of TOF/13/5*

Test Pit five was excavated to a depth of 0.9m without finding natural. Due to time constraints excavation was halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

Test Pit five produced a range of pottery types in small numbers, including single sherds of Romano-British ware, Stamford Ware and St Neots Ware dating to the 10th-11th centuries, Early Medieval Shelly Ware and Hertfordshire Greyware dating to the 12th-14th centuries, Late Medieval Ware dating to the 15th-16th centuries and a single sherd of Glazed Red Earthenware dating to the 16th-19th century.

		RB		STAM		SN		SHC		HG		LMT		GRE		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
5	1													1	9	1550-1600
5	3	1	4									4	31			100-1550
5	4			1	1					1	2					1000-1200
5	5							2	3	1	4					1100-1200
5	6									2	14					1150-1200
5	7					1	3									900-1100

Table 5 – *Pottery excavated from TOF/13/5*

Other finds included CBM, a few corroded metal objects, charcoal, burnt stone, mussel and oyster shell. The faunal assemblage comprised 18 bones, of which three were identified as sheep/goat. The lithic assemblage included a single piece of unworked burnt flint.

Test pit five was one of six pits to produce Roman era pottery at Toft (the others were TPs 9, 13, 14, 15 and 16), and test pit five provides evidence for disturbance far west of the main hub of this activity which is in the field south of the current parish church. Found in layer 3, towards the top of the earthwork feature that probably dates to the medieval period, this sherd is almost certainly redeposited from some other location. The earliest evidence for activity therefore dates to the late Saxon era, and the combined total of six sherds dating to the 12th-14th centuries may be enough to suggest occupation of the site during this time. Test pit 5 also produced the largest assemblage of late medieval pottery from the 2013 campaign, suggesting occupation may have continued into this period as well, before being abandoned some time in the late Medieval or early post-medieval period and was never occupied again. The surviving earthwork thus very likely marks the location of a medieval-era property that stood at this site.

8.6 Test Pit Six (TOF/13/6)

Test Pit six was excavated in a wild grassy meadow set back High Street, near the line of a public footpath running alongside a nearby hedge (Bull Field, High Street, Toft. Approximately TL 35718 55982). This test pit was sited in an attempt to verify the location of Lot Way, west of High Street and adjacent to Toft Playground. See also test pits 5 and 7 that were excavated nearby.

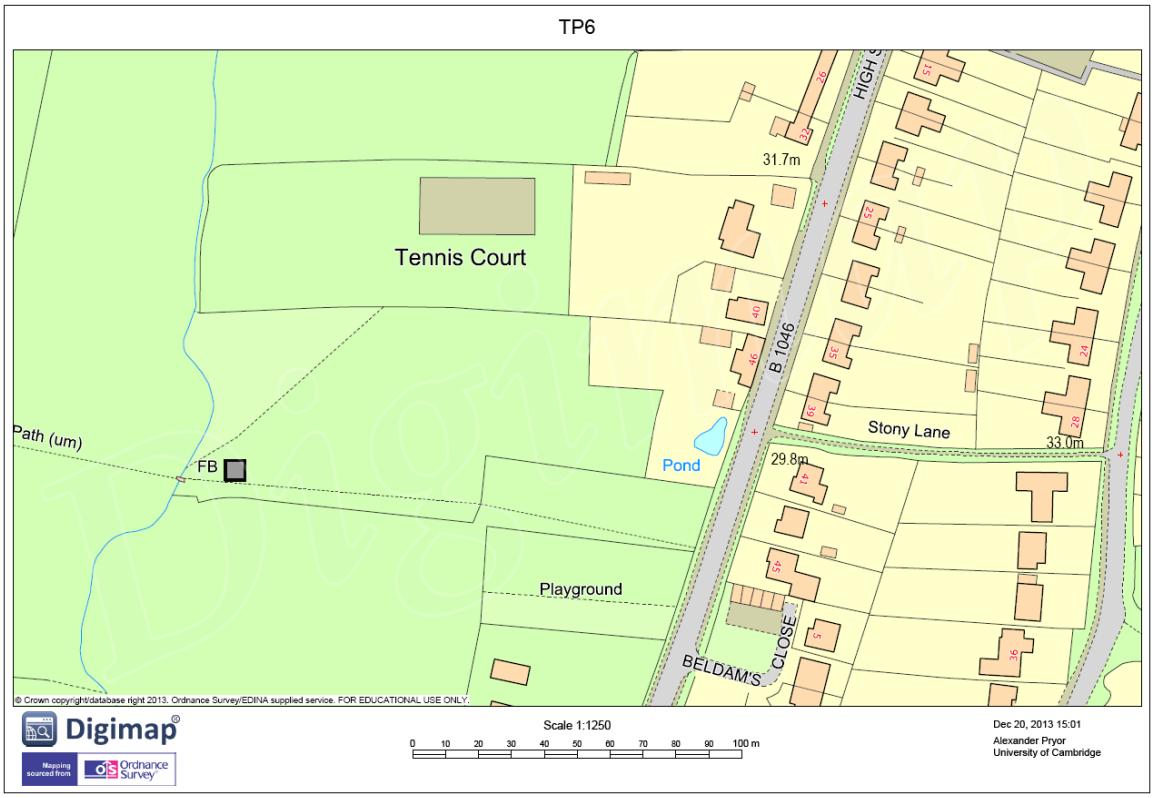

Figure 12 - *Location map of TOF/13/6*

Test pit six was excavated to a depth of 0.6m uncovering a layer of large unworked flint nodules and other unworked boulders c.10-15cm thick. Excavation continued beyond this layer to a total depth of 1.0m encountering a chalky boulder clay. Excavations were halted at this point and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

		SHC		HG		LMT		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
6	2							1	1	1800-1900
6	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	1100-1900

Table 6 – *Pottery excavated from TOF/13/6*

Test Pit 6 produced single sherds of Early Medieval Shelly Ware, Hertfordshire Greyware and Late Medieval Ware and three Victorian-era sherds.

Other finds included CBM, slate, two pieces of clay pipe stem, some bottle glass, slag, a corroded iron nail and some charcoal. No faunal remains were recovered. The lithic assemblage included a single piece of unworked burnt flint.

The finds from this test pit suggest low-intensity activity began in the medieval period, when the area was probably used ephemerally and most likely as fields. The site was then abandoned during the post-medieval era and was not used again until the Victorian period, once again as fields. One possible interpretation of this site is that the layer of flint nodules and boulders at 0.6m depth is part of a road or path construction, possibly the Lot Way. However the lack of finds associated with the layer and the total lack of pottery below 30cm depth mean such an interpretation cannot be verified or supported with the existing data. An alternative explanation is that the rocky layer has a natural origin, which at present must be considered the most likely scenario.

Overall, together with test pits 5, 7 and 12, test pit 6 shows that this area on the far western edge of the modern village of toft and furthest west from the parish church has remained in use since medieval times just as much as the river-side locations have adjacent to Bourn Brook, suggesting the modern village layout may have a very long history behind it.

8.7 Test Pit seven (TOF/13/7)

Test pit seven was excavated in a wild grassy meadow set back High Street, near the line of a public footpath running alongside a nearby hedge adjacent to Toft Playground (Bull Field, High Street, Toft. Approximately TL 35761 55982). A second test pit (TOF/13/12) was also excavated immediately adjacent to test pit 7. See also test pits 5 and 6 that were excavated nearby (see figure 13).

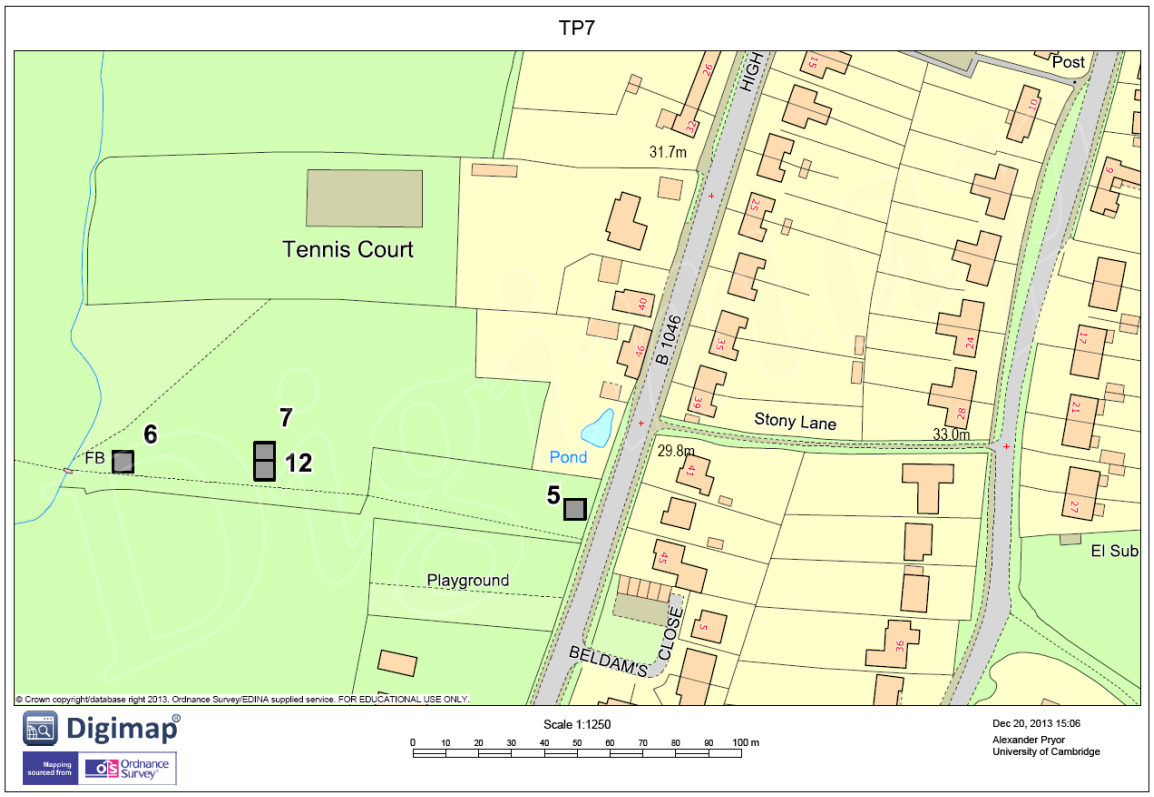

Figure 13 - *Location map of TOF/13/7*

Test pit seven was excavated to a depth of 0.3m, without finding natural. Excavation ceased at this point due to constraints of time and manpower, the test pit was recorded and backfilled. A second pit (test pit 12) was then started on the southern edge of test pit 7.

Test pit seven produced small quantities of Early Medieval Shelly Ware and Grimstone Ware dating to the 12th-14th centuries, Glazed Red Earthenware dating to the post-medieval period and 16 Victorian-era sherds.

		SHC		GRIM		GRE		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
7	2	1	10	1	1	4	9	9	10	1100-1900
7	3					1	3	7	12	1550-1900
7	4	2	4							1100-1200

Table 7 – *Pottery excavated from TOF/13/7*

The other finds from test pit seven included fragments of clay pipe, CBM, glass, corroded iron lumps, bolts, tacks and nails, slate, coal, and a chocolate coin, uneaten

and still in its gold foil wrapper! No faunal remains or lithic finds were recorded from this pit.

The finds from this test pit suggest low-level activity began in the high medieval period, when the area was used ephemerally and most likely as fields. The site was then abandoned during the late medieval era as were most of the areas investigated by test pitting in toft before being reoccupied in the post-medieval era when it was once again used as fields. Together with test pits 5, 6 and 12, test pit 7 shows that this area on the far western edge of the modern village of toft and furthest west from the parish church has remained in use since medieval times just as much as the river-side locations have adjacent to Bourn Brook, suggesting the modern village may have a very long history.

8.8 Test Pit eight (TOF/13/8)

Test pit eight was excavated in the northern part of a grassy meadow enclosed by a tall hedge and fence-line, located between modern housing to the west and fields preserving medieval ridge and furrow systems to the north and east (Pinfold Lane Field, Toft. Approximately TL 36044 55834). See also test pit 9 that was excavated nearby (figure 14).

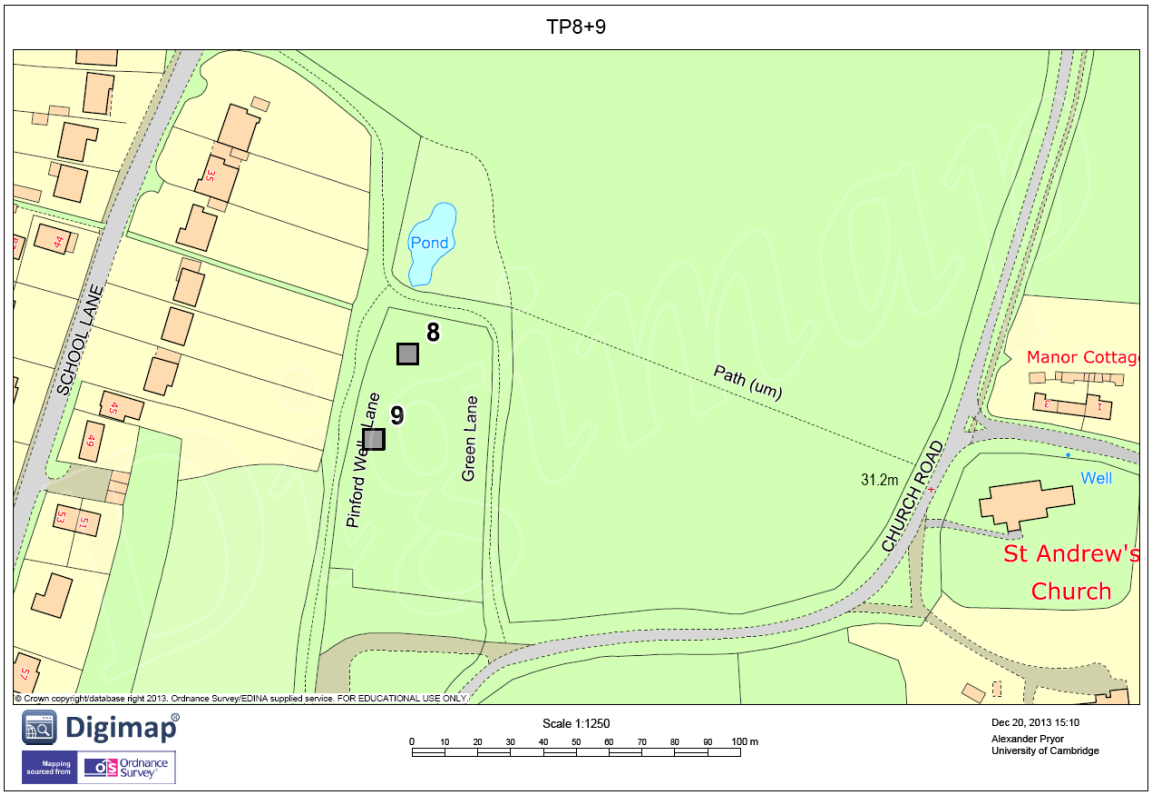

Figure 14 - *Location map of TOF/13/8*

Test pit eight was excavated to a depth of 1.2m encountering a yellow sandy natural deposit. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The pottery from TOF/13/8 comprised single sherds of Hertfordshire Greyware dating to the 12th-14th centuries, Glazed Red Earthenware and English Stoneware dating to the post-medieval period and six Victorian-era sherds.

		HG		GRE		EST		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
8	1							1	4	1800-1900
8	2			1	4					1550-1600
8	3					1	8	2	5	1680-1900
8	6	1	11							1150-1200
8	7							1	2	1800-1900
8	9							2	10	1800-1900

Table 8 – *Pottery excavated from TOF/13/8*

The other finds from test pit eight included CBM, tile, brick fragments, pieces of clay pipe, glass, corroded iron nails, charcoal burnt stone and some black plastic fragments of a seed tray. The faunal assemblage included single bones each of rabbit and cat, and seven unidentifiable bones. The lithic assemblage included a single secondary flint flake.

The test pitting evidence suggests this part of the field has only ever been used as fields, commencing in the high medieval period some time after the 12th century AD. Disturbance and human modification of the land appears to have been only very minor, with minimal deposition of pottery and other artefacts. This use-pattern has continued right to the present day, and overall it seems likely that this land (to the north of the present enclosed field) should be thought of as belonging more to the fields to the north and east of the test pit than with any potential residential areas that probably lay to the south and west.

8.9 Test Pit nine (TOF/13/9)

Test pit nine was excavated in the central part of a grassy meadow enclosed by a tall hedge and fence line located between modern housing to the west and fields preserving medieval ridge and furrow systems to the north and east (Pinfold Lane Field, Toft. Approximately TL 36033 55801). See also test pit 8 that was excavated nearby (figure 15).

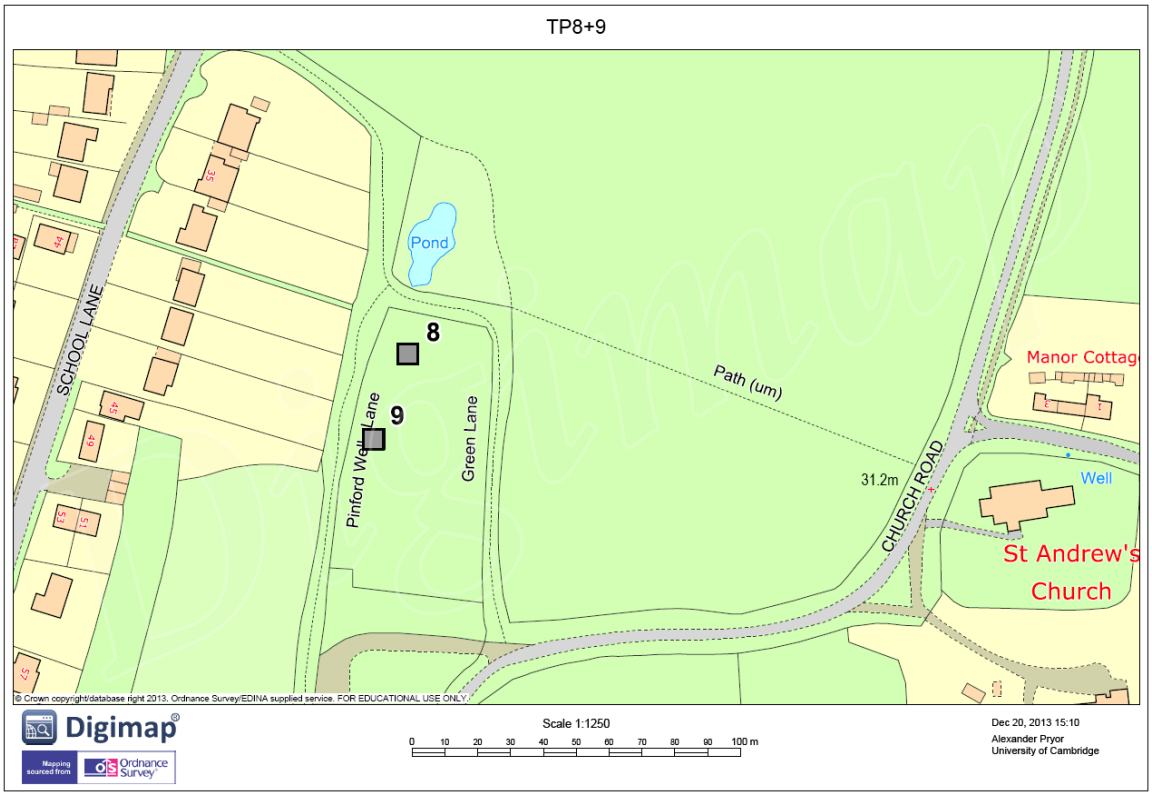

Figure 15 - *Location map of TOF/13/9*

Test pit nine was excavated to a depth of between 1.0-1.2m encountering natural sandy gravels across the whole area of the test pit. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

		RB		SN		THT		SHC		ELY		HG		POTT		GRE		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
9	1											2	5					6	86	1150-1900
9	2													1	6			10	117	1250-1900
9	3																	8	62	1800-1900
9	5									1	8					3	42	14	198	1150-1900
9	7			1	6															900-1100
9	8	1	2					1	12	1	8									100-1200
9	9			1	2	3	35													900-1100
9	10			1	5															900-1100

Table 9 – *Pottery excavated from TOF/13/9*

Test pit nine produced the largest pottery assemblage of the Toft 2013 excavations including a single Romano-British sherd, St Neots Ware and Thetford Ware dating to

the late Saxon era, Early Medieval Shelly Ware, Ely Ware, Hertfordshire Greyware and Potterspury Ware dating to the 12th-16th centuries, Glazed Red Earthenware dating to the 16th-19th century and 38 Victorian-era sherds.

Other finds included a stone bead, glass, fragments of clay pipes, brick, coal and charcoal, slate, concrete, asbestos, metal objects including nails and a corroded iron wedge or tool, oyster shell fragments. The faunal assemblage comprised single bones each of cow and sheep/goat, and six unidentifiable remains. The lithic assemblage comprised a single secondary flint flake.

Test pit 9 is one of six test pits in Toft to produce Roman-era pottery (see also TPs 5, 13, 14, 15, 16), and contributes towards an overall clustering in the fields to the SE of the modern village. This single sherd suggests the area, lying above the flood-line of the river, may have been used as fields during this period. The area then seems to have been abandoned, then reoccupied again during the late Saxon era with sufficient pottery discovered to suggest the presence of a dwelling nearby. This contrasts sharply with the pottery from the test pit in the north of the field, and suggests the dwelling probably lies in the southern half, close to Church Road. This dwelling was likely occupied during the High Medieval period as well, with pottery distributions showing a higher concentration of 12th-14th century sherds in this southern half of the field compared to the north. This was followed by a period of abandonment in the late medieval period, when the land likely reverted to fields. Disturbance and dumping then increased significantly in the Victorian era, seen in the pottery and also in the large quantities of rubble and other building materials found in the upper half-metre of the test pit.

8.10 Test Pit 10 (TOF/13/10)

Test pit 10 was excavated on the front lawn of a detached property located on the southern edge of the modern village close to Bourn Brook (11 Brookside, Toft. TL 35882 55677).

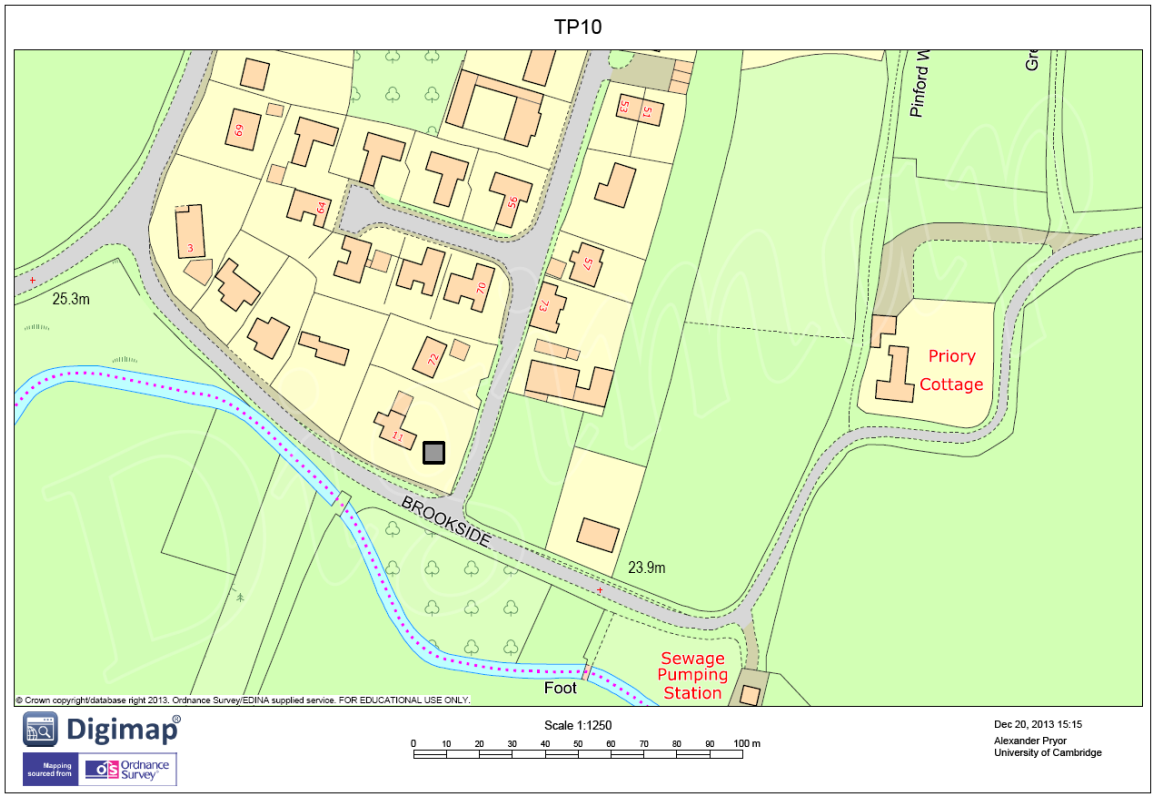

Figure 16 - *Location map of TOF/13/10*

Test pit 10 was excavated to a depth of 0.7m, reaching a sandy gravel natural across most of the pi with a cut feature surviving in the SW corner of the pit. This feature was excavated to a total depth of 0.9m (contexts 8 and 9), and the test pit was then recorded and backfilled.

This test pit produced a single sherd of Early Medieval Shelly Ware dating to the 12th-14th centuries, 12 sherds of Glazed Red Earthenware dating from the 16th-19th centuries and a large collection of 77 Victorian-era sherds.

		SHC		GRE		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
10	1			1	2	15	38	1550-1900
10	2					25	59	1800-1900
10	3					15	26	1800-1900
10	5			9	213	14	44	1550-1900
10	6			1	5	5	8	1550-1900
10	7	1	14			2	2	1100-1900
10	9			1	1	1	3	1550-1900

Table 10 – *Pottery excavated from TOF/13/10*

Other finds included a bone button, CBM, clay pipe fragments, several different types of glass, corroded iron nails, iron bars, some slag and other unidentified iron lumps, slate, coal, a corroded battery, concrete, a fragment of oyster shell and a fragment of plastic tag. The faunal assemblage comprised three bones, of which one was identified as cow. No lithic finds were recorded from this pit.

The interpretation of test pit 10 is dominated by the cut feature at the bottom of the pit, which is clearly a recent occurrence from the finds of post-medieval and Victorian pottery towards the bottom of the fill. This shows the area has clearly been recently disturbed which may have erased evidence for earlier activity at the site. Lying close the Bourn Brook, this area appears to be a locus of medieval occupation and activity which is indeed seen in nearby test pits (TPs 1, 2, 4, 13, 14, 15). That said, it is also possible that test pit 10 lies on the edge of the medieval activity, which was centred further east along the brook; further test pitting and investigation is required to determine which interpretation is accurate.

8.11 Test Pit 11 (TOF/13/11)

Test pit 11 was excavated in the rear grounds of a large detached property at the NE edge of the modern village (The Old Farm, Toft. Approximately TL 36206 56081).

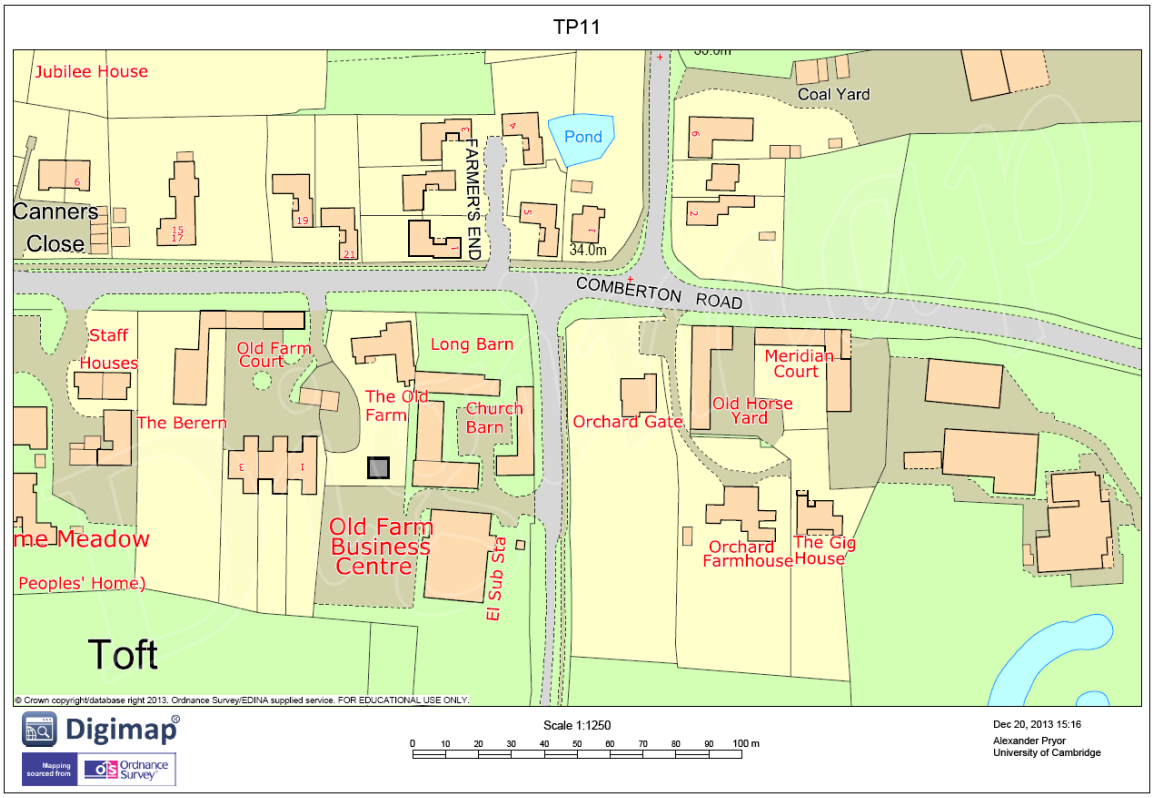

Figure 17 - *Location map of TOF/13/11*

Test pit 11 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.75m without finding natural. Due to time constraints excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The pottery from this test pit was all post-medieval in date, comprising small quantities of Glazed Red Earthenware, English Stoneware and 22 Victorian-era sherds.

		GRE		EST		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
11	1	1	5	1	10	3	12	1550-1900
11	2		1	1	4	15	16	1800-1900
11	3					2	14	1800-1900
11	6					2	5	1800-1900

Table 11 – *Pottery excavated from TOF/13/11*

Other finds from test pit 11 included CBM, tile, brick, glass and very large quantities of other building rubble, fragments of clay pipe, corroded iron nails, slag and other unidentified lumps, huge quantities of coal and cinder, charcoal, plastic fragments, and a few fragments of oyster shell. The faunal assemblage included a fragment of a

rabbit pelvis and two sheep-sized bone splinters. No lithic finds were recorded from this pit.

The huge quantities of rubble and cinder from test pit 11 almost certainly come from a barn or large farm building which apparently once stood near the site but burned down some time in the 20th century (pers comm., from the present landowners). It is possible that this event and subsequent clearance to move away the debris has significantly disturbed the nearby ground and removed any evidence for earlier occupation at the site. Based on current evidence, however, the finds from test pit 11 indicate that this area remained unused by humans until the post-medieval period. Located on the present main road through the village at the north eastern edge of the modern settlement this suggests that the earlier medieval core of the village was restricted to the lower slopes of the hill in Toft. The sphere of human activity clearly expanded north at some point, although there is no evidence for actual occupation of the site until the Victorian era.

8.12 Test Pit 12 (TOF/13/12)

Test pit twelve was excavated in a grassy meadow set back from High Street, near the line of a public footpath running alongside a nearby hedge adjacent to Toft Playground (Bull Field, High Street, Toft. Approximately TL 35761 55982). A second test pit (TOF/13/7) was also excavated immediately adjacent to test pit 12. See also test pits 5 and 6 that were excavated nearby (see figure 18).

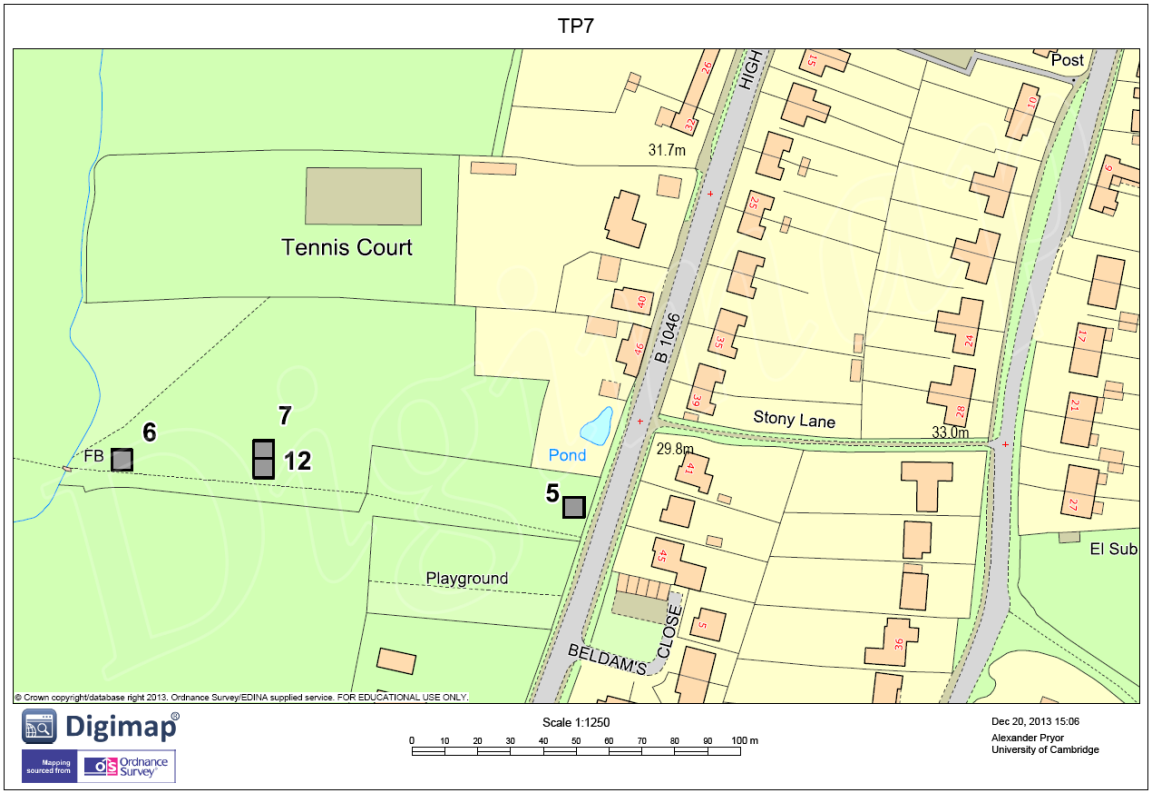

Figure 18 - *Location map of TOF/13/12*

Test pit 12 was excavated to a depth of 0.3m without finding natural. Excavations were halted at this level due to constraints of time and manpower and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The pottery from TOF/13/12 included a single sherd of Hertfordshire Greyware dating to the 12th-14th centuries, Glazed Red Earthenware dating to the post-medieval period and eight Victorian-era sherds.

		HG		GRE		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
12	1	1	1	3	8	7	14	1150-1900
12	2					1	2	1800-1900

Table 12 – *Pottery excavated from TOF/13/12*

Other finds from test pit 12 included a large metal coin dated 1799, CBM, brick, many fragments of clay pipe, glass, cinder, corroded iron nails and a piece of slag. The faunal assemblage comprised 4 unidentifiable bones. No lithic finds were recorded from this pit.

Test pit 12 was excavated immediately alongside test pit 7 and thus provides an opportunity to gauge the effectiveness of the test pitting method for assessing the history of a vicinity or place. A comparison between the results from the two pits shows the results are very similar, each showing small quantities of pottery from the same historic periods. The densities recorded are also similar, once it is taken into account that TP7 was excavated nearly twice as deep as test pit 12. This experiment therefore suggests that the density of pottery finds in this area are fairly uniformly distributed, and shows that repeatable results can be obtained from test pitting activities when this is the case.

Together with test pits 5, 6 and 12, test pit 7 shows that this area on the far western edge of the modern village of toft and furthest west from the parish church has remained in use since medieval times just as much as the river-side locations have adjacent to Bourn Brook, suggesting the modern village layout may have a very long history behind it.

The Toft copper penny coin measuring 30mm diameter is badly affected by verdigris and corrosion. The date stands proud in the border rather than incised as in the 'cartwheel' versions of the coinage. The obverse side of the coin, much corroded, appears to bear the finely modelled features of King George III facing right, although any inscription has been lost. The reverse side of the coin shows a seated Britannia, facing left, holding an olive branch and trident. The date of 1799 is unusual. It places it immediately after a period form 1775-97 when no copper coins were issued by the crown (Seaby 1990, 141-143), but (in attempt to counter the resulting acute lack of small change) large numbers of ‘token’ coins were issued by private companies. Forgery of copper coins was also rife, especially in the early years of the reign of George III (1760-1801). In 1797 Matthew Boulton was authorised by the government to make strike copper pennies and twopences at his Soho Mint, in Birmingham. These were of sufficiently good quality to make forgery very difficult, and the manufacture of forged coins and tokens declined rapidly. The large size of Boulton’s onepenny and twopenny coins was noteworthy, with twopence coins weighing exactly two ounces and this, combined with the thick rim where the inscription was punched into the metal rather than standing proud of it, led to the coins being nicknamed ‘Cartwheels’. Cartwheels were minted for two years from 1797, but all were dated 1797 (Bradley1984, 17). The coin found at Toft may be an attempted forgery of a cartwheel coin, or a company token.

8.13 Test Pit 13 (TOF/13/13)

Test pit 13 was one of three pits excavated along the southern edge of a large field southwest of the parish church and Priory Cottage, close to Bourn Brook and owned by Magdalene College of Cambridge (Priory Field, Toft). The test pit location was chosen on the basis of a geophysics survey that was carried out in the field by the recreational/interest archaeology group Archaeology Rheesearch.

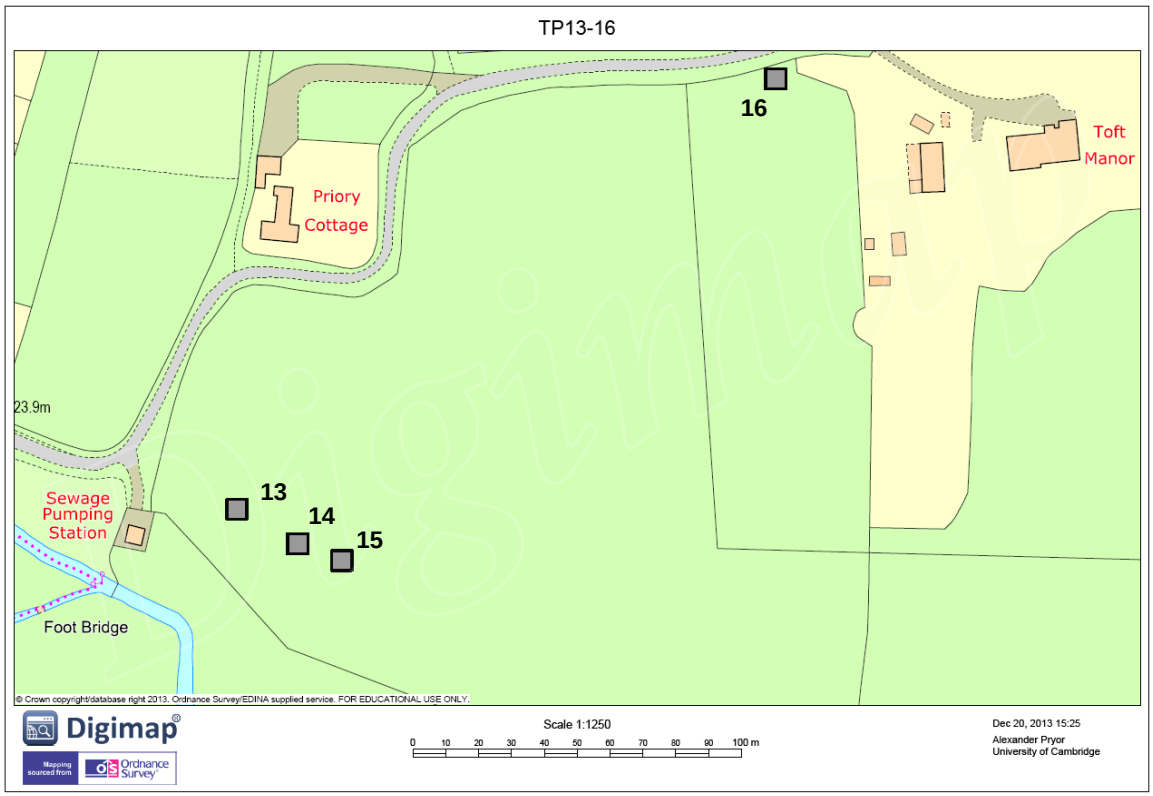

Figure 19 - *Location map of TOF/13/13*

Test pit 13 was excavated to a depth of 0.9m upon which natural-looking deposits were found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

		RB		E/MS		SN		SHC		ELY		HG		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
13	1													1	1	1800-1900
13	2									3	26					1150-1200
13	3	1	5			1	2			2	9					100-1200
13	4	1	6			1	1	3	35	8	47	1	10			100-1200
13	5											3	18			1150-1200
13	6			1	4											900-1100

Table 13 – *Pottery excavated from TOF/13/13*

The pottery from Test Pit 13 included two sherds of Romano-British ware, a single sherd of Early-Middle Saxon Ware dating to between 450-850AD, 2 sherds of St Neot's Ware dating to the 9th-11th century, Early Medieval Shelly Ware, Ely Ware

and Hertfordshire Greyware dating to the 12th-15th centuries, and a single Victorian-era sherd.

Other finds from this test pit included small quantities of CBM and tile, glass, a bent square metal nail, slag and a modern plastic object. The faunal assemblage included bones of cow, sheep, a single cat bone and 14 other unidentifiable bones. The lithic assemblage comprised a single secondary flint flake.

Test pit 13 contributes towards the consistent pattern of evidence for Roman occupation and activity centred on the field SW of the parish church (see also test pits 14,,15 and 16). It is also the only test pit in the village to have any early-middle Saxon ware, which is a rare find in test pits across East Anglia and hints at some continuity of settlement in the post-Roman era. This is observed much more clearly in the late Saxon pottery that maps almost exactly onto the Roman pottery distribution in the village, including test pit 13. The SE corner of the village seems to have remained occupied into the 12th-14th centuries as well, before being abandoned in the 15th century and the area was never reoccupied, reverting to farmland in the Victorian period.

8.14 Test Pit 14 (TOF/13/14)

Test pit 14 was one of three pits excavated along the southern edge of a large field southwest of the parish church and Priory Cottage, close to Bourn Brook and owned by Magdalene College of Cambridge (Priory Field, Toft). The test pit location was chosen on the basis of a geophysics survey that was carried out in the field by the recreational/interest archaeology group Archaeology Rheesearch.

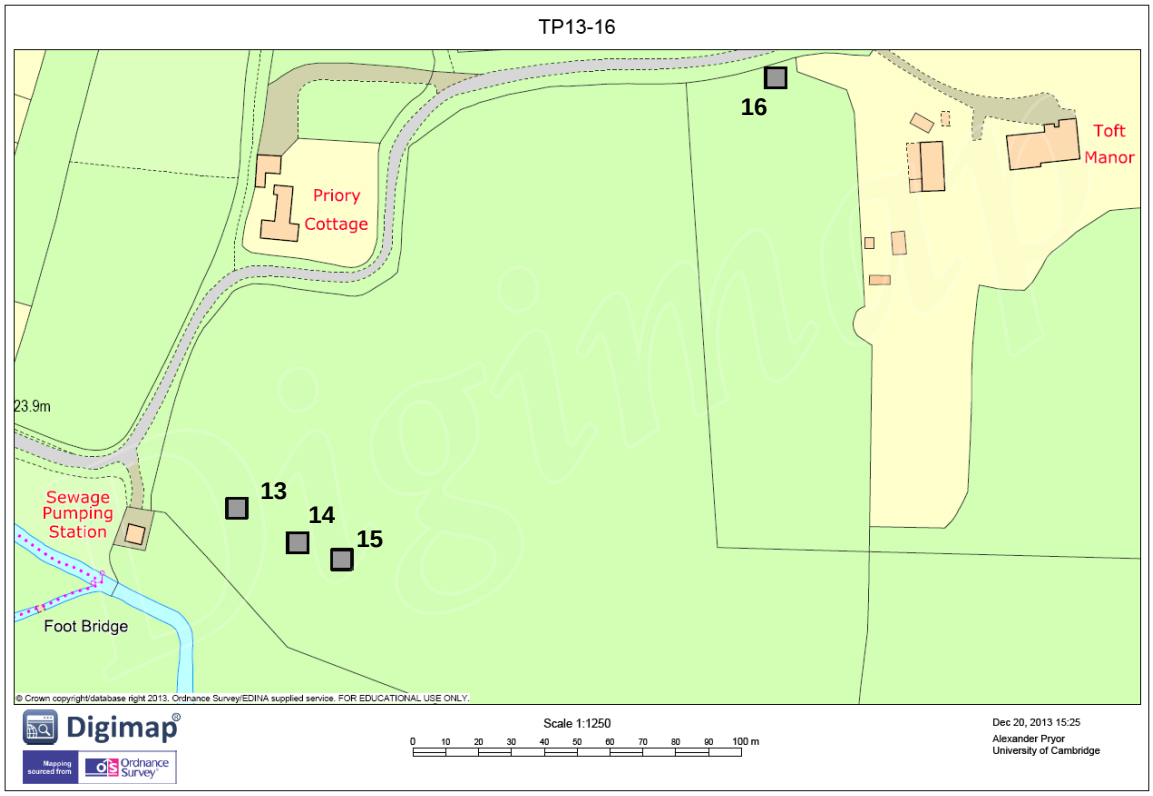

Figure 20 - *Location map of TOF/13/14*

Test pit 14 was excavated to a depth of 1.0m without discovering natural. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

		RB		SN		SHC		ELY		HG		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
14	2	1	2									10	19	100-1900
14	3	3	15			5	17	5	38			1	1	100-1900
14	4	5	34			1	2	4	7					100-1200
14	5	3	5	1	3	3	7							100-1150
14	6					1	2	1	1	4	11			1100-1200
14	7	1	3			2	14			7	30			100-1200
14	8			2	5	1	7	4	30					900-1200
14	9			3	9									900-1100
14	10							1	23					1150-1200

Table 14 – *Pottery excavated from TOF/13/14*

The pottery from Test Pit 14 included a large collection of Roman-British Ware, St Neot's Ware dating to the late Anglo Saxon period, Early Medieval Shelly Ware, Ely Ware and Hertfordshire Greyware dating to the 12th-15th centuries, and 11 Victorian-era sherds.

Other finds from this test pit included a lead strip, corroded iron nails, charcoal and burnt daub. The faunal assemblage included bones of cow, sheep/goat, a single duck bone and a further 27 unidentifiable bones. A small lithic assemblage comprised one unworked burnt flint and the distal portion of one fine prismatic blade typical of the Mesolithic period (Appendix 12.4).

Test pit 14 contributes towards the strong evidence for Roman occupation and activity centred on the field SW of the parish church (see also test pits 13, 15 and 16). As with many sites across the UK this is followed by a dearth of pottery finds suggestive of abandonment in the early Saxon period, with pottery finds picking up again in the late Saxon period. The pottery finds here give clear evidence for some continuity in the location (although not necessarily continuity of occupation) of settlement at Toft, as the late Saxon pottery maps almost exactly onto the distribution of Roman pottery in the village, including test pit 14. The SE corner of the village seems to have remained occupied into the 12th-14th centuries as well, before being abandoned in the 15th century and after that the area was never reoccupied, although may have reverted to farmland in the Victorian era. The lack of finds of brick, tile and CBM is interesting, and suggests any dwellings constructed near test pit 14 were probably constructed primarily of less durable materials, of wood and daub.

8.15 Test Pit 15 (TOF/13/15)

Test pit 15 was one of three pits excavated along the southern edge of a large field southwest of the parish church and Priory Cottage, close to Bourn Brook and owned by Magdalene College of Cambridge (Priory Field, Toft). The test pit location was chosen on the basis of a geophysics survey that was carried out in the field by the recreational/interest archaeology group Archaeology Rheesearch.

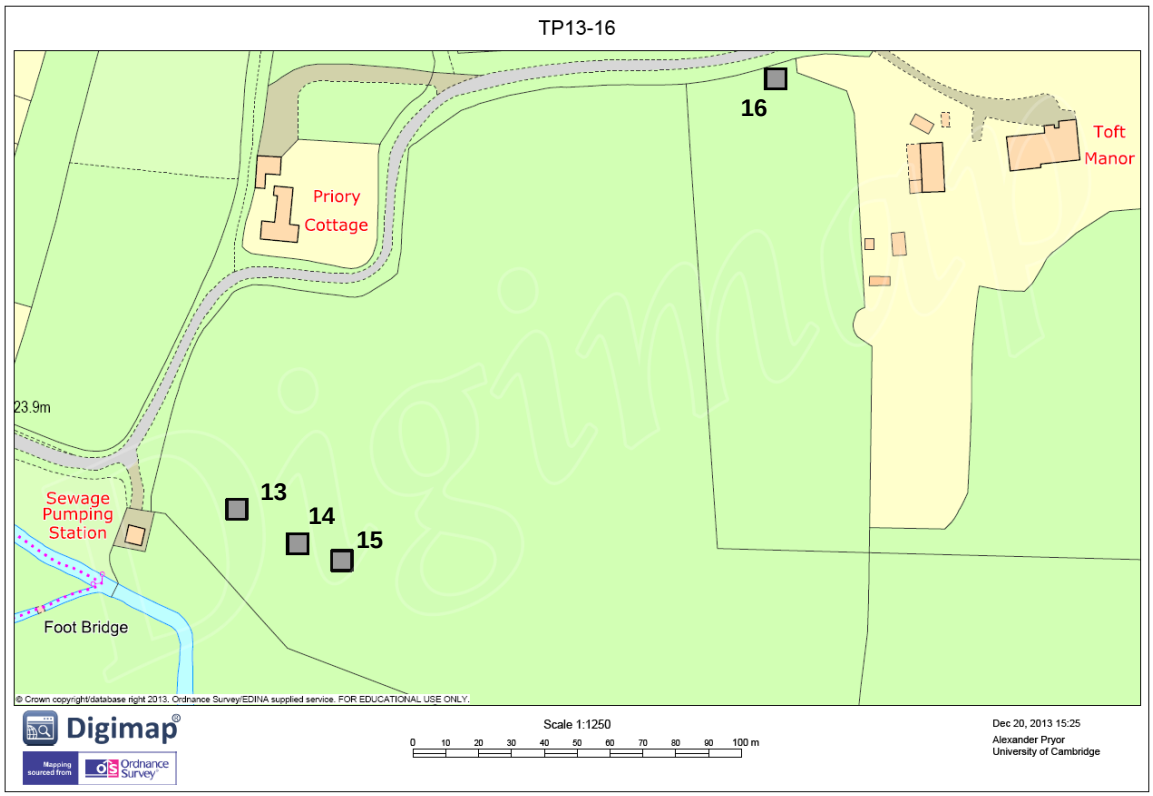

Figure 21 - *Location map of TOF/13/15*

Test pit 15 was excavated to a depth of 1.1m without discovering natural. The excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

		RB		SN		STAM		SHC		ELY		HG		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
15	2													2	2	1800-1900
15	3	5	20					1	5	1	2	2	12	1	2	100-1900
15	4							2	2	2	13	2	18			1100-1200
15	5							4	12			6	20			1100-1200
15	6							1	1	1	7					1100-1200
15	7	1	1			1	4					8	32			100-1200
15	8	1	11	1	3			1	5	1	1					100-1200
15	9					1	5					1	4			900-1200
3	10							5	36			1	1			1100-1200

Table 15 – *Pottery excavated from TOF/13/15*

The pottery from this test pit included seven sherds of Romano-British Ware, small quantities of St Neot's Ware and Stamford Ware dating to the 9th-11th centuries, Early Medieval Shelly Ware, Ely Ware and Hertfordshire Greyware dating to the 12th-15th centuries and three Victorian-era sherds.

Other finds from test pit 15 included a tiny piece of CBM, glass, charcoal and some fragments of marine shell. The faunal assemblage included bones of cow, sheep/goat, pig and 21 unidentifiable bones. No worked lithics were recovered from test pit 15.

Test pit 15 contributes towards the strong evidence for Roman occupation and activity centred on the field SW of the parish church (see also test pits 13, 14 and 16). As with many sites across the UK this is followed by a dearth of pottery finds suggestive of abandonment in the early Saxon period, with pottery finds picking up again in the late Saxon period. The pottery finds here give clear evidence for some continuity in the location of settlement at Toft, as the late Saxon pottery maps almost exactly onto the distribution of Roman pottery in the village, including test pit 15. The SE corner of the village seems to have remained occupied into the 12th-14th centuries as well, before being abandoned in the 15th century and after that the area was never reoccupied, although it appears to have reverted to farmland in the Victorian era. The lack of finds of brick, tile and CBM is interesting, and suggests any dwellings constructed near test pit 14 were probably constructed primarily of less durable materials, of wood and daub.

8.16 Test Pit 16 (TOF/13/16)

Test pit 16 was excavated on the upper slope in the NE corner of a large field southwest of the parish church, close to Bourn Brook and owned by Magdalene College of Cambridge (Priory Field, Toft). The test pit location was chosen on the basis of a geophysics survey that was carried out in the field by the recreational/interest archaeology group Archaeology Rheesearch.

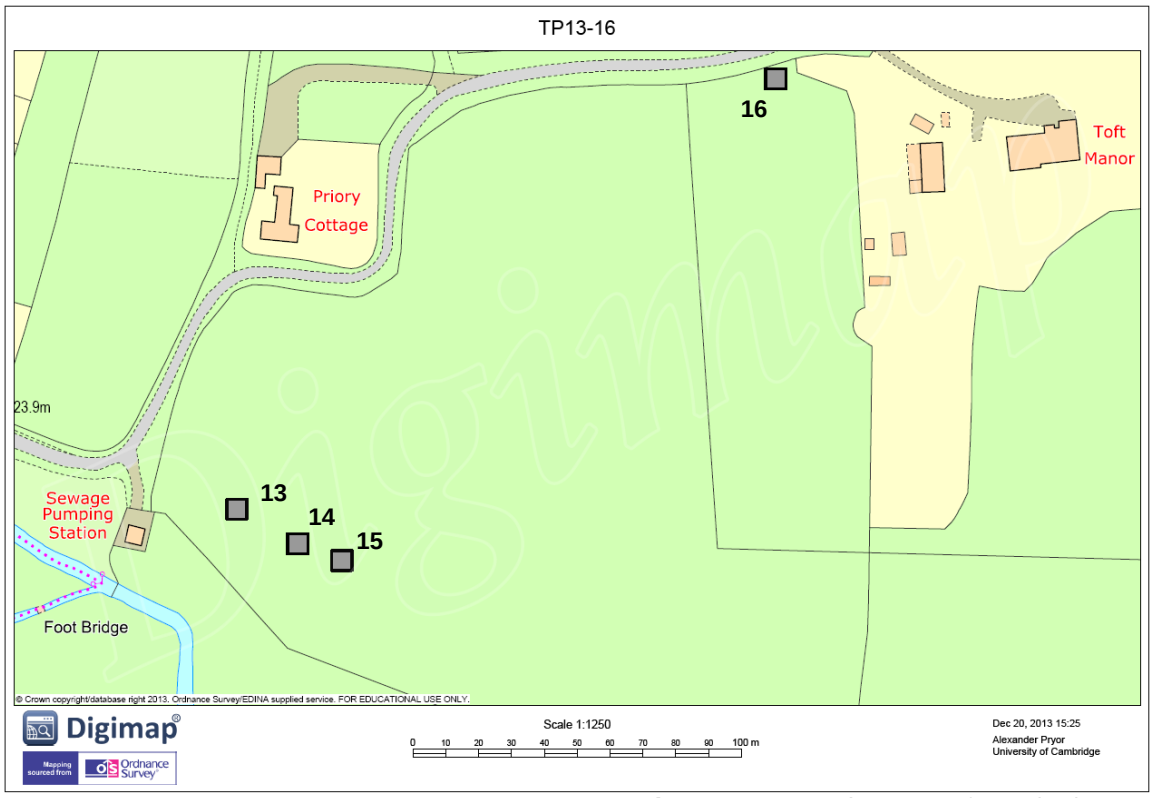

Figure 22 - *Location map of TOF/13/16*

Test pit 16 was excavated to a depth of 0.4m without finding natural. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The small amount of pottery from test pit 16 included two Romano-British sherds and three Victorian-era sherds.

		RB		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
16	2			2	3	1800-1900
16	3	2	5	1	4	100-1900

Table 16 – *Pottery excavated from TOF/13/16*

Other finds from test pit 16 included small quantities of CBM, brick and tile, glass, a square corroded iron nail, clinker and a tiny fragment of white Perspex. The faunal assemblage comprised 4 unidentifiable bones. A single secondary flint flake was also discovered.

Test pit 16 contributes towards the strong evidence for Roman occupation and activity centred on the field SW of the parish church (see also test pits 13, 14 and

15). The area then appears to have been abandoned with no further evidence of use until the Victorian era when the area was used as fields. This is curious, due to the test pit location barely 100m from the parish church. Similar to nearby Comberton, the modern village of Toft is separated from the modern parish church by open fields on all sides, and the test pit evidence suggests that may have been the case during the medieval period as well. Other medieval examples where the parish church is some distance from the main village core are also known, for example Meldreth in Cambridgeshire (Lewis and Pryor 2014). Test pit 16 thus reinforces the impression of a church separated from residential occupation by open fields as a long-standing pattern at Toft. The lack of finds of brick, tile and CBM is interesting, and suggests any dwellings constructed near test pit 14 during the Roman era were probably constructed primarily of less durable materials, of wood and daub.

9 Discussion

The archaeological test pitting in Toft succeeded in its aims of producing finds and other data to help reconstruct the development of the village and answer some key questions pertaining to its development while also engaging a large number of local residents in hands-on investigation of its past. Despite the relatively small number of pits excavated, some significant general observations on the results can be made and contextualised within wider archaeological and historical research. These observations are discussed below in chronological order by historic period.

9.1 Prehistoric period

No pottery of prehistoric date was recovered from any of the test pits excavated in Toft in 2013, but worked flint of certain and likely prehistoric date was found in more than half (10/16) of the excavated test pits. These were distributed across most of the excavated areas, but did slightly favour the areas south and east of the present village, along the eastern extent of Brookside . Interpreting the significance of this distribution pattern is made more difficult by the fact that worked flint has a long currency, potentially spanning thousands of years, and many pieces can be difficult to date with any precision. The worked flint assemblage from Toft is clearly multi period, spanning at least the Mesolithic (c. 9600 - 4000 BC), represented by blades from test pits TOF/13/3 TOF/13/14 to the Neolithic (4000 – 2,300 BC), represented by a diagnostic end scraper, also from TOF/13/3. The remainder of the assemblage consists of hard hammer flake-based material and, as such, is likely to represent activity from the later Neolithic onwards. The clustering of worked flint of certain and likely Neolithic date from pits TOF/13/3, TOF/13/ 4, TOF/13/13 and TOF/13/14 along Brookside does suggest there may well have a been some sort of focus of activity in this area, perhaps a settlement, along the northern side of the stream here.

9.2 Roman period

Six out of the 16 excavated pits produced Romano-British pottery, with four of these (25% of the total) producing two or more sherds, which is more than would be expected from low-intensity use of the landscape such as manuring. Excavation of more than 1,500 test pits in eastern England since 2005 shows that on average, around 9% of pits produce two or more sherds of Romano-British pottery (Lewis forthcoming), so Toft is significant in producing more than twice as much of this material than might have been expected. Although caution should be exercised in drawing inferences about any one place when only a relatively small number of pits have been excavated (as at toft), it is nonetheless interesting to note that a figure of 25% places Toft in the top 10% of communities in eastern England, ranked alongside places such a Peakirk (Cambs(),just north of Peterborough and adjacent to the Carr Dyke, a major artificial waterway of Roman date. It is also notable that there is some suggestion that the Roman settlement at Toft lay beyond the limits of the post-medieval and modern settlement, as this is similar to most other cases where sites of Roman date have been encountered when excavating test pits within CORS.

All of the sites at Toft which produced two or more sherds of Romano-British pottery were sited in the two fields east of Brookside/Church Lane, and this clustering, along with the volume of pottery recovered, indicates that there was a settlement of some sort in this area at that time. As less pottery was recovered from TOF/13/16 than from TOF/13/14 and TOF/13/14 (nearer the stream) it may well be that this settlement was concentrated near the stream. This too has been observed at other CORS such as Pirton (Herts), and is a commonly observed pattern in eastern England (eg Dodwell, Lucy and Tipper 2004). The size of this settlement cannot be deduced from the current excavated evidence, although this would be an interesting question to pursue in the future. Other parts of the modern village of Toft, where excavated, show no evidence for occupation at this time, although likewise, it would be interesting to carry out further excavation to see if further material of this date would indicate settlement elsewhere as well. On present evidence, which includes the recovery of a single sherd from each of TOF/13/5 and TOF/13/9, it seems most likely that the area covered by the southern extent of the present village was arable land in the Roman period, which pottery reaching these as a result of manuring.

9.3 Anglo-Saxon period

Just one test pit in Toft in 2013 (TOF/13/13) produced pottery dating to the early or middle Anglo-Saxon period (c. 410-850 AD). Although this is considerably less than for the Roman period, early-middle Saxon wares are notably rare find in test pits across East Anglia, with only around 2% of pits producing even a single sherd of this date (Lewis forthcoming). As such, Toft could be considered unusually productive to have yielded such material with just 16 pits excavated. While it is clear that the Romano-British settlement contracted very severely in size, it is possible, therefore, that some part of the settlement may have continued on into the early-Anglo-Saxon period, as TOF/13/13 is in the same area where the Romano-British pottery was most concentrated (indeed, TOF/13/13 itself also produced Roman material). However, it is also possible that the pottery may date to the middle Anglo-Saxon period, deposited following re-foundation of the settlement after post-Roman desertion.

In the late Anglo-Saxon period, the pattern is very different. Six pits produced pottery of this date, with five producing more two or more sherds. This is a higher-than-average number (31% compared with a regional average of 11%), and the distribution of pits producing this material is also clearly concentrated south-east of the present village, north of the stream along Brookside as it turns into Church Lane. This clearly indicates that settlement is highly like to have been present in this area in the late Anglo-Saxon period, and certainly by the 11th century. While this distribution location replicates that of the Romano-British settlement pattern, there is some suggestion of a slight westerly shift, as TOF/13/9 (with just a single small sherd of Romano-British pottery) produced late Anglo-Saxon pottery while TOF/13/16 did not. However this cannot be interpreted as significant, as TOF/13/16 was only excavated to 0.4m without reaching natural, leaving it unclear as to whether additional early pottery is present at lower levels.

It is s unclear whether the early/middle sherd relates to late continuation of the Romano-British settlement, or the earliest antecedent of the 10th/11th century settlement. If the latter is the case, it may represent a ‘pre-village-nucleus’ of the sort identified in central England (Jones and Page 2007) and show that the medieval settlement at Toft originated in perhaps the 8th century. What is more clearly

apparent, is by the 10th or 11th century, a small settlement, possibly already by then a nucleated village, on the northern side of the brook, and possibly extending up Church Road and Pinford Well Lane. Further test pits north and south of Priory Cottage would be needed to ascertain whether the settlement here was arranged as a continuous linear row, or whether it took the form of a succession of intermittent farmsteads or cottages.

9.4 High medieval

All bar three of the test pits in Toft produced pottery of high medieval date (early 12th – mid 14th century), and eight pits, that is 50% of the total number excavated, produced two or more sherds. This is a little higher than the regional average of around 40%, although with a limited number of pits excavated it is difficult to attach too much significance to this. Nonetheless, it is very clear that the settlement at Toft was thriving in this period, although interesting to note that TOF/13/3 did not produce any pottery of this date despite yielding significant quantities of late Anglo-Saxon pottery. This is unusual, and hints at the possibility that the settlement footprint within the landscape did not become firmly fixed until after the Norman Conquest, with areas occupied by settlement shifting around until then. That Toft grew in size in the high medieval period is indicated by the appearance of pottery of this date in areas where that of earlier date was absent, namely south of the brook and west of the High Street. Bones of pig, cow and sheep are strongly associated with pits producing pottery of this date.

9.5 Late medieval

The late medieval period (late 13th – mid 16th century) sees a dramatic change. Just six pits produced any pottery of this date, and only one (TOF/13/5) yielded more than a single sherd. Although drawing conclusions based on a relatively small number of excavated pits can be difficult, it is clear that the late medieval period saw considerable contraction of settlement in the excavated areas of Toft in the late medieval period and by implication a fall in population. Furthermore, it is absolutely clear that the area of settlement east of Brookside and south of the brook was abandoned at this time, although areas further north seem possibly to have fared a little better, although it should be noted that finds of single sherds of this date are what would normally be expected from a non-settlement use such as manuring of arable. Pig bone does not appear to be associated with material of this date.

This decline is likely to be due to the cumulative effect of a number of set-backs in the later 13th and 14th century, including climatic deterioration, persistent wars with Wales, Scotland and France, economic recession, famines caused by repeated crop failures and outbreaks of epidemic disease amongst animals, over-population, and, of course, the Black Death in 1348-9. The excavation of more than 1,500 test pits in eastern has shown that on average the volume of recovered pottery halves over this period, providing a vivid indication of the severity of this impact. If the pattern of pottery recovery from the pits excavated to date at Toft were to be replicated elsewhere across the village, Toft would be one of the most severely affected communities in the region, with a decline of 88% and just 6% of pits yielding more than a single pottery sherd of late medieval date, compared with a regional average of around 20%. That said, it should be noted most of the excavated pits in Toft are on

or beyond the margins of the present settlement, which might be expected to be more severely affected that the rest of the village, as is apparent at villages such as Pirton (Herts) (http://www.access.arch.cam.ac.uk/reports/hertfordshire/pirton).

9.6 Post-medieval and later

The test pit data suggest that after the severe setback of the later medieval period Toft experienced a gradual and modest recovery. 38% of pits produced pottery of dating to the late 16th – late 18th century, compared to a regional average of around 60% (Lewis, in preparation). This general regional increase reflects resurgent population levels as well as the greater availability of pottery as production techniques and transportation improved in the period which encompassed the industrial revolution. Toft, however, seems to struggle more than most during this period. The areas of settlement east and south of Brookside which were abandoned in the 14th century remained so throughout the post-medieval period, and there is no evidence to suggest these were reoccupied in any way until the 19th or 20th century.

Elsewhere in the excavated areas, however, the picture is better, with habitative volumes of pottery recovered from TOF/13/7 behind the High Street and volumes possibly indicative of habitation from Pinford Well Lane as well as two sites which appear to have come into use for this first time at this period, based on the pottery data, at TOF/13/10 (further west along Brookside) and TOF/13/11 (from Old Farm south of Comberton Road). Overall, it is notable that the distribution of test pits producing pottery of post-medieval date clearly favours the areas of existing settlement, suggesting the settlement drifted north as is recovered. It seems that this is the period when the village plan as it was in the 19th century, favouring the Comberton Road may have developed. Rabbit bone appears to be associated exclusively with pits producing pottery of this date, and may represent the wider use made of rabbit fur at this time.

10 Conclusion

Overall, the archaeological test pit excavation programme carried out in Toft in 2013 fulfilled its aims of advancing understanding of the past development of the settlement and providing an opportunity for members of the public to get involved in excavating within their own community. The archaeological evidence gained from the excavations has advanced knowledge and understanding of the historic development of Toft, providing some evidence for the prehistoric use of the landscape, and much more for its later development, showing that a Romano-British settlement was present on the south-east side of the present settlement north of the Bourn Brook, in an area which may also have been occupied in the succeeding period, and was certainly one focus of a settlement which expanded significantly in the Saxo-Norman and high medieval periods before contracting very severely in the later medieval period and gradually recovering in the post-medieval period.

In addition, we can see how the development of Toft compares with wider regional patterns, faring relatively well in the Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods, but relatively badly in the later medieval and post-medieval periods. In this respect, the results from Toft are also contributing to advancing knowledge and understanding of the bigger picture of rural settlement development over the medieval period across the eastern region.

The evidence from the excavations also allows inferences to be drawn about the volume and extent of further evidence of archaeological value remaining buried under the streets, gardens and houses of the existing homes in the parish of Toft. The 2013 excavations clearly indicate there is a high probability of these being present, and that the value of such evidence for further advancing understanding of the historic development of the settlement is also likely to be high. This information should be of use in managing this resource in the future.

As well as advancing knowledge and understanding of Toft's development, the 2013 excavations raised a number of questions, especially pertaining to its extent and development in the first millennium AD, and showed how useful further excavation would be, both to address these questions and to inform understanding of areas which have not been excavated to date, were this to be possible in the future.

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13 Appendices

13.1 Pottery report (Paul Blinkhorn)

RB: Roman. An assortment of common types of Roman pottery such as shelly ware and Nene Valley Colour-Coated Ware, and was made in many different places in Britain. Lots of different types of vessels were made.

E/MS: Early/middle Saxon Hand-built Wares, c AD450 – 850. Soft, sandy fabric, often mixed with animal dung and other organic material. Simple jar and bowls forms, with a small proportion decorated with stamps, incised lines and/or pressed bosses.

SN: St Neots Ware. Made at a number of as-yet unknown places in southern England between AD900-1200. The early pots are usually a purplish-black, black or grey colour, the later ones brown or reddish. All the sherds from this site date to AD1000 or later. The clay from which they were made contains finely crushed fossil shell, giving them a white speckled appearance. Most pots were small jars or bowls.

THET: Thetford ware. So-called because archaeologists first found it in Thetford, but the first place to make it was Ipswich, around AD850. Potters first began to make it in Thetford sometime around AD925, and carried on until around AD1100. Many kilns are known from the town. It was made in Norwich from about AD1000, and soon after at many of the main towns in England at that time. The pots are usually grey, and the clay has lots of tiny grains of sand in it, making the surface feel a little like fine sandpaper. Most pots were simple jars, but very large storage pots over 1m high were also made, along with jugs, bowls and lamps. It is found all over East Anglia and eastern England as far north as Lincoln and as far south as London.

STAM: Stamford Ware. Made at several different sites in Stamford in Lincolnshire between AD850 and 1150. The earliest pots were small, simple jars with white, buff or grey fabric, or large jars with painted red stripes. By AD1000, the potters were making vessels which were quite thin-walled and smooth, with a yellow or pale green glaze on the outside, the first glazed pots in England. These were usually jugs with handles and a spout, but other sorts of vessel, such as candle-sticks, bowls and water-bottles are also known. It appears to have been much sought after because it was of such good quality, and has been found all over Britain and Ireland.

SHC: Early Medieval Shelly Ware: AD1100-1400. Hard fabric with plentiful fossil shell mixed in with the clay. Manufactured at many sites in western Bedfordshire. Mostly cooking pots, but bowls and occasionally jugs also known.

ELY: Ely Ware, mid 12th - 15th century. Quartz sand and limestone tempered group of pottery fabrics mainly manufactured in Ely, but also with a second possible source in the Hunts. Fenland. Jars, bowls and jugs dominate the assemblage. Earlier vessels hand-built and turntable finished, later vessels finer and usually wheel-thrown. Wide distribution.

HG: Hertfordshire Greyware, Late 12th – 14th century. Hard, grey sandy pottery found at sites all over Hertfordshire. Made at a number of different places, with the

most recent and best-preserved evidence being from Hitchin. Range of simple jars, bowls and jugs.

HED: Hedingham Ware: Late 12th – 14th century. Fine orange/red glazed pottery, made at Sible Hedingham in Essex. The surfaces of the sherds have a sparkly appearance due to there being large quantities of mica, a glassy mineral, in the clay. Pots usually glazed jugs.

GRIM: Grimston Ware. Made at Grimston, near King's Lynn. It was made from a sandy clay similar with a slight 'sandpaper' texture. The clay is usually a dark bluish-grey colour, sometimes with a light-coloured buff or orange inner surface. It was made between about AD1080 and 1400. All sorts of different pots were made, but the most common finds are jugs, which usually have a slightly dull green glaze on the outer surface. Between AD1300 and 1400, the potters made very ornate jugs, with painted designs in a reddish brown clay, and sometimes attached models of knights in armour or grotesque faces to the outside of the pots. It is found all over East Anglia and eastern England. A lot of Grimston ware has been found in Norway, as there is very little clay in that country, and they had to import their pottery. Nearly half the medieval pottery found in Norway was made at Grimston, and was shipped there from King's Lynn.

POTT: Potterspury Ware. Mid 13th – 16th century. Fine sandy ware, usually buff-coloured with a grey core. Jars, bowls and jugs, some glazed.

LMT: Late Medieval Ware: Hard, reddish-orange pottery with lots of sand mixed in with the clay. Made from about 1400 – 1550 in lots of different places in East Anglia. Used for everyday pottery such as jugs and large bowls, and also large pots ('cisterns') for brewing beer.

GRE: Glazed Red Earthenwares: Just about everywhere in Britain began to make and use this type of pottery from about AD1550 onwards, and it was still being made in the 19th century. The clay fabric is usually very smooth, and a brick red colour. Lots of different types of pots were made, particularly very large bowls, cooking pots and cauldrons. Almost all of them have shiny, good-quality orange or green glaze on the inner surface, and sometimes on the outside as well. From about AD1680, black glaze was also used.

EST: English Stoneware: Very hard, grey fabric with white and/or brown surfaces. First made in Britain at the end of the 17th century, became very common in the 18th and 19th century, particularly for mineral water or ink bottles and beer jars.

VIC: 'Victorian'. A wide range of different types of pottery, particularly the cups, plates and bowls with blue decoration which are still used today. First made around AD1800.

Results

Test Pit 1

		HG		HED		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
1	2	2	16	1	19	1150-1400

The small amount of pottery from this test-pit shows that there was activity at the site in the earlier medieval period, but it was then abandoned and not used by people again.

Test Pit 2

		HED		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
2	1	1	1			1200-1400
2	3			1	2	1800-1900

The small amount of pottery from this test-pit shows that there was activity at the site in the earlier medieval period, but it was then abandoned until Victorian times. It has probably always had a marginal use, such as pasture.

Test Pit 3

		THT		SN		LMT		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
3	1	1	3	1	9			3	3	900-1900
3	2	1	3	4	8	1	19	7	7	900-1900
3	3							2	5	1800-1900

This site was occupied in late Saxon times, but was then largely abandoned until the Victorian era.

Test Pit 4

		SN		SHC		HG		HED		LMT		GRE		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
4	1													16	17	1800-1900
4	2													16	44	1800-1900
4	3											3	12	21	21	1550-1900
4	4													9	9	1800-1900
4	5													2	2	1800-1900
4	6							1	3							1200-1400
4	7	1	4	1	4	4	8			2	13					900-1550
4	8					1	1									1150-1200

This site was in used during the late Saxon and medieval period, possibly as fields, but was then abandoned until the Victorian era.

Test Pit 5

		RB		STAM		SN		SHC		HG		LMT		GRE		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
5	1													1	9	1550-1600
5	3	1	4									4	31			100-1550
5	4			1	1					1	2					1000-1200
5	5							2	3	1	4					1100-1200
5	6									2	14					1150-1200
5	7					1	3									900-1100

This site was in use during the Roman period, possibly as fields, but was then abandoned until around the time of the Norman Conquest. It then seems to have been used throughout the medieval period, until it was abandoned some time in the 16th century.

Test Pit 6

		SHC		HG		LMT		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
6	2							1	1	1800-1900
6	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	1100-1900

This site was in used during the late Saxon and medieval period, possibly as fields, but was then abandoned until the Victorian era.

Test Pit 7

		SHC		GRIM		GRE		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
7	2	1	10	1	1	4	9	9	10	1100-1900
7	3					1	3	7	12	1550-1900
7	4	2	4							1100-1200

This site was in used during the late Saxon and medieval period, possibly as fields, but was then abandoned until the Victorian era.

Test Pit 8

		HG		GRE		EST		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
8	1							1	4	1800-1900
8	2			1	4					1550-1600
8	3					1	8	2	5	1680-1900
8	6	1	11							1150-1200
8	7							1	2	1800-1900
8	9							2	10	1800-1900

This site was in used during the late Saxon and medieval period, possibly as fields, but was then abandoned until the Victorian era.

Test Pit 9

		RB		SN		THT		SHC		ELY		HG		POTT		GRE		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
9	1											2	5					6	86	1150-1900
9	2													1	6			10	117	1250-1900
9	3																	8	62	1800-1900
9	5									1	8					3	42	14	198	1150-1900
9	7			1	6															900-1100
9	8	1	2					1	12	1	8									100-1200
9	9			1	2	3	35													900-1100
9	10			1	5															900-1100

This site was occupied during the late Saxon and medieval periods, but was then abandoned until the Victorian era. The single sherd of Roman pottery indicates that it may have been used as fields during that time.

Test Pit 10

		SHC		GRE		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
10	1			1	2	15	38	1550-1900
10	2					25	59	1800-1900
10	3					15	26	1800-1900
10	5			9	213	14	44	1550-1900
10	6			1	5	5	8	1550-1900
10	7	1	14			2	2	1100-1900
10	9			1	1	1	3	1550-1900

The single sherd of medieval pottery suggests the site may have been used as fields at that time, but it was then abandoned or used as pasture until the post-medieval period.

Test Pit 11

		GRE		EST		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
11	1	1	5	1	10	3	12	1550-1900
11	2		1	1	4	15	16	1800-1900
11	3					2	14	1800-1900
11	6					2	5	1800-1900

All the pottery form this test-pit is post-medieval, and shows that the site was not used before that time.

Test Pit 12

		HG		GRE		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
12	1	1	1	3	8	7	14	1150-1900
12	2					1	2	1800-1900

The single sherd of medieval pottery suggests the site may have been used as fields at that time, but it was then abandoned or used as pasture until the post-medieval period.

Test Pit 13

		RB		E/MS		SN		SHC		ELY		HG		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
13	1													1	1	1800-1900
13	2									3	26					1150-1200
13	3	1	5			1	2			2	9					100-1200
13	4	1	6			1	1	3	35	8	47	1	10			100-1200
13	5											3	18			1150-1200
13	6			1	4											900-1100

This site was in use during the Roman period, possibly as fields, but was then abandoned until around the time of the Norman Conquest. It then seems to have been used until it was abandoned some time in the late 12th century.

Test Pit 14

		RB		SN		SHC		ELY		HG		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
14	2	1	2									10	19	100-1900
14	3	3	15			5	17	5	38			1	1	100-1900
14	4	5	34			1	2	4	7					100-1200
14	5	3	5	1	3	3	7							100-1150
14	6					1	2	1	1	4	11			1100-1200
14	7	1	3			2	14			7	30			100-1200
14	8			2	5	1	7	4	30					900-1200
14	9			3	9									900-1100
14	10							1	23					1150-1200

This site was in use during the Roman period, but was then abandoned until around the time of the Norman Conquest. It then seems to have been used until it was abandoned some time in the late 12th century.

Test Pit 15

		RB		SN		STAM		SHC		ELY		HG		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
15	2													2	2	1800-1900
15	3	5	20					1	5	1	2	2	12	1	2	100-1900
15	4							2	2	2	13	2	18			1100-1200
15	5							4	12			6	20			1100-1200
15	6							1	1	1	7					1100-1200
15	7	1	1			1	4					8	32			100-1200
15	8	1	11	1	3			1	5	1	1					100-1200
15	9					1	5					1	4			900-1200
3	10							5	36			1	1			1100-1200

This site was in use during the Roman period, but was then abandoned until around the time of the Norman Conquest. It then seems to have been used until it was abandoned some time in the late 12th century.

Test Pit 16

		RB		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
16	2			2	3	1800-1900
16	3	2	5	1	4	100-1900

This site was in use during the Roman period, possibly as fields, but was then abandoned until the Victorian era.

13.2 Faunal report (Vida Rajkovača)

A small faunal assemblage was recovered, totalling some 190 assessable specimens. Of this figure, only a small percentage was identifiable to species or family level (42 specimens/ 22.1%). This is mainly owing to the fact that the assemblage is highly fragmented and heavily processed, the majority of the assemblage being made up of sheep-sized limb bone fragments or splinters.
Based on their location, the assemblage was split into four main sub-sets. The largest group of pits was excavated on the southern brinks of the village (test pits 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9 and 10) and these were considered collectively. Pits investigated in the eastern edge were also grouped together (5, 6, 7) and an isolated pit 11 situated in the west was presented separately. Further five pits (12, 13, 14, 15 and 16) were also considered as a group. Though certain pits were quantified collectively, fauna derived from contexts of different dates was analysed independently.

Test pits 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9 and 10
These seven pits collectively yielded 89 specimens, or *c.*47% of the entire site assemblage. Despite the overall poor preservation and high fragmentation, it was possible to identify a range of more common domestic species, and a 'duck' specimen, which could be domestic or wild in character (Tables 1 and 2). The relatively high quantities of bone from test pits 4 and 8 were mirrored in the wider range of pottery dates. It was not surprising to see contexts dated to the Victorian period generating more bone than others. This was not the case for test pits 9 and 10, which contained a considerable amount of pottery, yet very little in terms of fauna. Though several meat-bearing elements were recorded (e.g. cow humerus fragment), mandibular elements, loose teeth and tooth fragments made up the majority of identified species' count.

	Test pit 1
Taxon	[4]
Cow	1
Sub-total to species or family	**1**
Cattle-sized	.
Sheep-sized	1
Rodent-sized	.
Total	**2**

Table 1?. Number of Identified Specimens for all species from test pit 1.

	Test pit 4								Test pit 8			
Taxon	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[9]
Cow	.	.	.	.	1	3	1	.	.	.	.	.
Sheep/ goat	.	1	2	.	.	2	.	1	.	.	.	.
Pig	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Rabbit	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
Cat	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
Sub-total to species	**.**	**1**	**2**	**.**	**2**	**6**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**.**	**.**	**.**
Cattle-sized	.	.	.	.	3	.	3	.	.	.	.	.
Sheep-sized	2	6	6	4	5	.	14	1	2	.	2	1
Mammal n.f.i.	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bird n.f.i.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.
Total	**2**	**7**	**8**	**4**	**10**	**9**	**18**	**2**	**5**	**1**	**2**	**1**

Table 2?. Number of Identified Specimens for all species from test pits 4 and 8; the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes the specimen could not be further identified.

	Test pit 9				Test pit 10	
Taxon	[1]	[3]	[5]	[9]	[2]	[3]
Cow	.	.	1	.	1	.
Sheep/ goat	.	.	1	.	.	.
Sub-total to species or family	**.**	**.**	**2**	**.**	**1**	**.**
Cattle-sized	.	.	.	.	.	.
Sheep-sized	2	3	.	.	.	2
Mammal n.f.i.	.	.	.	1	.	.
Total	**2**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**2**

Table 3?. Number of Identified Specimens for all species from test pits 9 and 10; the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes the specimen could not be further identified.

Test pit 5

This pit contained very little bone, with only three elements being assigned to species level. Sheep/ goat was the only identified species.

	Test pit 5				
Taxon	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]
Sheep/ goat	1	.	2	.	.
Sub-total to species or family	**1**	**.**	**2**	**.**	**.**
Cattle-sized	.	.	.	1	.
Sheep-sized	2	5	2	.	2
Mammal n.f.i.	.	.	.	2	.
Total	**3**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**3**

Table 4?. Number of Identified Specimens for all species from test pit 5; the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes the specimen could not be further identified.

Test pit 11

This isolated pit produced a fragment of a rabbit pelvis and two sheep-sized bone splinters.

Test pits 12-16

The final group of pits generated a small quantity of bone, with some 17 specimens assigned to species. Three main 'food species' were identified and a cat. The prevalence of sheep/ goat is mirrored in the high counts for the sheep-sized category.

	Test pit 12	Test pit 13					Test pit 14							
Taxon	[1]	[3]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]	[10]
Cow	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1
Sheep/ goat	.	.	.	1	.	2	.	.	1	2	.	.	.	.	.
Cat	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Anseriformes (Duck family)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
Sub-total to species	**.**	**.**	**.**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**.**	**.**	**1**	**2**	**.**	**.**	**2**	**.**	**1**
Cattle-sized	1	.	.	.	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
Sheep-sized	.	2	1	.	4	2	3	3	3	5	4	3	5	1	1
Rodent-sized	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
Total	**1**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**7**	**5**	**5**	**3**	**4**	**7**	**4**	**3**	**9**	**1**	**2**

Table 5?. Number of Identified Specimens for all species from test pits 12, 13 and 14.

	Test pit 15									Test pit 16	
Taxon	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[10]	[3]	[4]
Cow	.	.	.			.		1		.	.
Sheep/ goat	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	2	.	.
Pig	1	1	1			.		.		.	.
Sub-total to species	**1**	**1**	**1**	**.**	**.**	**.**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**.**	**.**
Cattle-sized	.	.	2			.		.			.
Sheep-sized	.	4	3	4	1	4	1	2	.	2	2
Rodent sized	.	.	.			.		.			.
Total	**1**	**5**	**6**	**4**	**1**	**4**	**2**	**3**	**2**	**2**	**2**

Table 6?. Number of Identified Specimens for all species from test pits 15 and 16.

In the complete absence of ageing or biometrical data, it is not possible to draw any conclusions regarding the site's economy practices. Judging purely on the range of species present within the assemblage, it could be said it bodes well with regional patterns. The slight prevalence of sheep/ goat could be indicative of the increasing importance of wool from the medieval period onwards, though beef must have made the biggest contribution to their diet. The lack of wild faunal resources, suggestive of a heavy reliance on livestock species is another characteristic of the period.

13.3 Lithics report (Lawrence Billington)

The Flint

A small assemblage of nine worked flints and 27.1g (ten pieces) of unworked burnt flint were recovered from the test pitting (table 1). The assemblage was thinly distributed, deriving from 14 individual deposits. The assemblage is made up exclusively of flint and surviving cortical surfaces suggest a secondary source, probably from glacio-fluvial gravels. The condition of the assemblage is characteristic of flintwork derived as a residual/redeposited element from later deposits with frequent edge damage and rounding. Two pieces display corticated (patinated) surfaces.

Test pit	Context	secondary flake	tertiary flake	blade	scraper	**total worked**	unworked burnt flint no.	unworked burnt flint weight (g)
3	1				1	**1**	1	10.8
3	2		1			**1**	1	1
4	1						1	1.5
4	3						4	7.2
4	5	1				**1**		
4	6	1				**1**		
5	3						1	3.7
6	3						1	2.4
8	3	1				**1**		
9	9	1				**1**		
13	1	1				**1**		
14	7						1	0.5
14	8			1		**1**		
16	3	1				**1**		
		6	1	1	1	**9**	10	27.1

Table 1. Basic quantification of the flint assemblage

In terms of dating the worked flint assemblage is clearly multi period. Mesolithic activity is represented by the distal portion of a fine prismatic blade from Test Pit 14. A further burnt blade like fragment from Test Pit 3 maybe broadly contemporary. The remainder of the assemblage consists of hard hammer flake based material and, as such, is likely to represent activity from the later Neolithic onwards. The only strongly diagnostic piece is a fine end scraper recovered from Test Pit 3. This piece is made on a fine tertiary flake with a distinctive finely faceted striking platform and appears to be the product of a specialised levallois-like core reduction strategy, very characteristic of later Neolithic technologies (Ballin 2011).

13.4 Finds from Toft test pits (Alex Pryor)

Test Pit 1

Test pit 1	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1						
C. 2	yellow/cream concrete and mortar mix x16 =879g, black brick x2 =10g, cream brick fragments x3 =46g, pink and red CBM x8 =42g					
C. 3						
C. 4						

Test pit 2

Test pit 3	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1	red CBM =1g		slag x2 =11g	flint scraper =8g, burnt flint =11g, coal x5 =2g,	rubble =334g	
C. 2	modern red brick fragments x6 =182g	corroded green glass =2g	corroded iron nail =4g	charcoal x12 =16g, slate =<1g, burnt flint x2 =2g		
C. 3						
C. 4	clay pipe stem =3g					

Test Pit 4

Test pit 4	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1	red CBM x10 = 23g	clear container glass x6 =5g	corroded iron splinters x2 =4g, metal C-shaped hook or pin =8g	charcoal x54 =48g	dirty white mortar x11 =20g, white corroded plastic tag fragments x2 =<1g	
C. 2	flat red tile =18g, red CBM x16 =45g, cream brick fragments x4 =51g	clear curved glass x5 =11g	slag x9 =16g, corroded iron nails x6 =17g, corroded iron lump =9g, corroded iron lengths x6 =6g, white metal tack =2g, bullet casing from a rifle bullet =<1g	charcoal x6 =5g, slate =2g	dirty white mortar x16 =66g, blue plastic fragment =<1g, black plastic button =7g	
C. 3	red CBM x17 =53g, cream brick fragments x7 =77g	clear glass spall from melting =1g, curved green glass x2 =3g	large corroded iron lump =94g, small corroded iron lumps x8 =20g, corroded iron nail =7g, white metal tack =2g, slag x3 =16g, lead scrap =2g	coal x26 =32g, burnt flint x4 =7g		
C. 4	dirty cream brick fragments x4 =32g, red CBM x14 =41g, flat red glazed tile =6g		corroded iron nails of mixed size x8 =99g,corroded iron lumps x6 =27g, slag =17g	coal x19 =28g	dirty white mortar x3 =5g	
C. 5	curved red and black tile =31g, curved red roof tile x2 =31g, flat red tile x5 =91g, flat grey tile =45g, red CBM x20 =46g	corroded green glass =5g	corroded iron lumps x5 =66g	charcoal =<1g	dirty white mortar x6 =23g	
C. 6	red CBM =4g, pinkish cream CBM =5g		slag x11 =107g	charcoal =<1g		
C. 7			half a corroded iron horseshoe =145g, large slag lumps x5 =452g, small slag lumps x26 =206g	charcoal x4 =4g	oyster shell x3 =1g	
C. 8 (in corner 3)			corroded square iron nail =5g, slag x4 =18g			

Test Pit 5

Test pit 5	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1			corroded metal can lid =7g	charcoal x7 =1g	charred mortar =34g	
C. 2				burnt stone/clinker x2 =25g, charcoal =<1g	shell =1g	
C. 3	red CBM x6 =8g			burnt stone =4g		
C. 4	red CBM x4 =11g, pink CBM =5g				mussel shell x3 =<1g, oyster shell =<1g	
C. 6	red CBM x2 =<1g		metal slag(?) fragment =2g	charcoal x5 =<1g		
C. 8				round stone pebble, possibly with mortar adhering and used in construction? =128g		

Test Pit 6

Test pit 6	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 2	red CBM x6 =11g, glazed drain tile/pipe fragment =6g	green bottle glass =2g		charcoal x2 =1g		
C. 3	red CBM =9g, clay pipe stem x2 =3g	curved green glass =2g	slag x2 =<1g, corroded iron nail =8g	coal x3 =4g, slate =2g		

Test Pit 7

Test pit 7	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 3	clay pipe stem x4 =5g, red CBM x10 =12g, glazed tile x2 =3g	corroded flat glass =1g, green curving glass =2g, clear curved glass =1g	corroded iron lumps x3 =7g, corroded bolt and washer =18g, corroded iron tacks x2 =3g, corroded iron nails x2 =8g	slate =2g, coal x18 =36g, cinder x8 =13g		
C. 3/4	clay pipe stem =1g, clay pipe bowl =1g, red CBM x9 =16g	clear glass fragment =<1g	corroded iron nail =5g	cinder x25 =28g, coal x20 =28g	chocolate coin, uneaten and still in gold foil wrapper =2g	
C. 4	clay pipe stem x3 =3g		corroded iron splinters x2 =1g, corroded metal =1g			

Test Pit 8

Test pit 8	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1	flat red tile =33g, red CBM =7g				black moulded plastic =1g	
C. 2	red brick fragments x3 =1447g, red CBM x23 =220g, flat red tile =66g, cream CBM x2 =25g, clay pipe bowl =3g	brown curved glass =13g, clear container glass =2g	corroded iron nail =3g, long corroded square iron nail =13g	charcoal x7 =22g, cinder x2 =2g	white end of a plastic clothes peg =<1g, black plastic peg or block for plugging a hole =<1g, shell =1g, black plastic fragments of a seed tray x18 =21g	
C. 3				coal x2 =8g, charcoal x2 =2g		
C. 4			long corroded iron nail with oblong head =24g	charcoal =<1g, burnt stone, possibly pummice x2 =25g		
C. 10		clear flat glass =<1g		charcoal =<1g		

Test Pit 9

Test pit 9	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1	red brick =451g, glazed cream drain pipe x2 =136g, red CBM x9 =74g, cream CBM x5 =147g		corroded iron nail x2 =6g	stone bead =4g, coal x5 =9g	concrete x4 =213g	
C. 2	flat red tile =21g, red CBM x3 =15g	clear curved glass x3 =8g, blue container glass =5g	metal ring/hoop =2g, corroded iron nails x7 =59g	charcoal =2g	asbestos x2 =13g, plaster board =4g, concrete x3 =139g	
C. 3	cream brick x4 =397g, glazed cream drain pipe x2 =25g, red CBM x6 =51g, section of clay pipe =1077g	clear flat glass x4 =13g	corroded iron wedge or tool =40g, corroded metal screw x2 =6g, corroded iron nails x6 =30g	cinder x5 =8g	plaster board x5 =23g, asbestos =3g	
C. 4	modern red flat tile =175g, cream brick fragment =271g, glazed cream drain fragment =32g, red CBM x11 =48g, glazed white tile/china x10 =50g	clear curved glass x2 =5g	corroded iron lump =5g, corroded iron nails x5 =56g, modern stainless steel nail =21g	slate =8g, burnt material x8 =37g	grey breeze block x2 =2g	
C. 5	flat red modern tile =103g, modern redbrick =96g, modern cream brick =592g, glazed red curved tile =300g, curved pink tile =104g	clear container glass x2 =11g	hollow metal curved tube =12g, corroded iron nails x2 =13g		cream mortar lumps x3 =131g, corroded asphalt in many fragments =15g, oyster shell fragments =4g	
C. 6	cream brick fragment =16g		corroded iron nail =3g	charcoal x3 =3g		
C. 7				charcoal x2 =21g		
C. 10	red CBM x2 =1g			charcoal =<1g		
C. 11	red CBM =<1g					

Test Pit 10

Test pit 10	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1	cream CBM x8 =91g, pink burnt brick =77g	blue container glass x3 =3g, curved green glass =2g, clear container glass x13 =49g	corroded metal bold and bracket =12g, corroded iron nails x13 =51g, corroded metal bottle cap =5g	slate =3g, cinder x25 =48g		
C. 2	red CBM x2 =16g, clay pipe stem =<1g, curved glazed cream tile/pipe =32g, cream CBM x6 =108g, dirty white tile =28g	green bottle glass x2 =10g, brown bottle glass =11g, clear container glass x12=33g, clear glass bottle stopper =12g	slag =27g, metal button =<1g, corroded iron bar =44g, corroded iron disc =4g, corroded iron handle or twist =3g, corroded iron nails x31 =210g	slate =14g, coal x2 =4g	corroded battery =14g, bone button =1g, concrete =39g	
C. 3	red CBM x11 =91g, cream CBM x2 =26g, clay pipe stem x2 =4g	brown curved glass =4g, green curved glass =8g, red, white and yellow decorated glass =9g, clear container glass x12 =49g	corroded iron mails x2 =17g	cinder x6 =13g	white plastic tag =<1g	
C. 4	red CBM x7 =81g, glazed red CBM =9g, red and black low-fired brick x4 =120g		corroded iron lump x2 =17g, corroded iron nail =3g	slate x2 =12g, coal x3 =12g		
C. 5	clay pipe stem x2 =4g, red CBM x12 =82g	clear container glass x6 =14g	corroded metal lump =30g, corroded iron nail =11g	coal x10 =33g	oyster shell fragment =<1g	
C. 6	clay pipe stem x2 =3g, red CBM =<1g	clear curved glass =3g,	corroded iron nail =2g	stone loom weight =58g, coal x4 =4g		
C. 7	red brick fragment=34g, red CBM x5 =17g	clear flat glass x2 =4g		charcoal x7 =29g		
C. 8	red CBM x4 =66g, crumbly low fired red brick x3 =129g			coal =<1g		
C. 9	red CBM x6 =4g			charcoal x5 =12g		

Test Pit 11

Test pit 11	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1	red CBM x28 =39g, cream CBM =18g	clear flat glass x5 =8g, silvered glass =1g	corroded iron nail =13g			
C. 2	grey tile x3 =5g, clay pipe stem x3 =10g, red flat tile x27 =670g, cream brick fragment =93g,flat cream tile x20 =403g, dark red or purple flat fluted tile x10 =497g	brown curved glass x2 =4g, green curved glass =4g, clear container glass x16 =34g, corroded glass =13g	corroded iron lump =2g, corroded iron nails x5 =28g	one bag of cinder fragments =551g	clear plastic wrapper =<1g, brown woven cloth =<1g, oyster shell fragments x3 =6g, large quantity of unitemised small rubble fragments	
C. 3	flat cream tile x10 =213g, flat red tile x20 =381g, dark red or purple flat fluted tile x10 =307g, fragments of red housebricks x10 =1032g		corroded iron nails x2 =12g, slag and clinker from metal working x32 =207g	one bag of cinder fragments =757g	concrete =120g, large quantity of unitemised rubble fragments =1210g	
C. 4	dark red or purple flat fluted tile x5 =149g, red brick fragments x4 =215g, red flat tile x14 =362g, cream flat tile x5 =168g		slag =28g	charcoal and cinder =377g	unitemised rubble fragments =696g	
C. 5	flat cream tile x5 =39g, red CBM x4 =11g		slag x28 =122g	cinder x7 =10g		
C. 6	red brick fragments x5 =476g, pink brick fragments =408g			one bag of cinder measured as 739g, plus vast amounts more not retained		
C. 7.1				large bag of mostly slag, cinder and small amounts of CBM =1690g		
C. 7.2			lumps of mixed cinder and slag x11 =53g		cream and white mortar x33 =224g	

Test Pit 12

Test pit 12	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1	red CBM x8 =8g, clay pipe bowl x2 =1g, clay pipe stem x6 =7g, glazed drain pipe =3g	clear curved glass x2=4g, clear flat glass x2 =4g	slag =4g, corroded iron tack =2g	coal x7 =11g, cinder x2 =2g		
C. 2	red CBM x7 =5g, clay pipe stem x7 =11g	corroded green glass =1g	corroded iron nails x3 =8g, large metal coin, dated 1799 =12g	cinder x2 =6g, coal x30 =46g		
C. 3	red CBM x2 =10g, glazed red CBM =2g, red brick fragment =49g, flat red tile =64g, clay pipe stems x11 =18g		corroded iron lumps x3 =30g	coal =2g		

Test Pit 13

Test pit 13	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1		clear container glass x3 =4g			clear plastic floppy cover for something =7g	
C. 2	red curved tile =65g	clear container glass =3g	bent metal square nail =4g			
C. 3	red CBM =1g	clear container glass =9g	slag =125g			
C. 5	cream CBM =8g					

Test Pit 14

Test pit 14	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 2			twisted strip of corroded lead =5g, square corroded iron nail =8g	charcoal x5 =4g		
C. 4				charcoal x4 =2g		
C. 6				charcoal x5 =<1g	burnt daub x2 =4g	
C. 7			corroded iron lump =4g	charcoal =<1g		
C. 8					burnt daub =1g, marine shell =<1g	
C. 9				charcoal =<1g		

Test Pit 15

Test pit 15	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 3		clear container glass =4g				
C. 4				charcoal =<1g		
C. 7					marine shell x3 =<1g	
C. 8	red CBM =<1g			charcoal =<1g	marine shell =<1g	
C. 9				charcoal x2 =<1g		

Test Pit 16

Test pit 16	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 2		clear container glass x5 =18g	corroded square iron nail =8g	clinker =1g	white Perspex =<1g	
C. 3	flat red tile =3g, red CBM =<1g, red brick fragment =15g	clear container glass =<1g				

13.5 Maps

Much of the value of test pit data from currently occupied rural settlements are derived from a holistic consideration across the entire settlement. Maps showing a range of the data from the test pit excavations in Toft in 2013 are included below. These may be read in conjunction with relevant sections of the main report.

Figure 23: Roman pottery from Toft

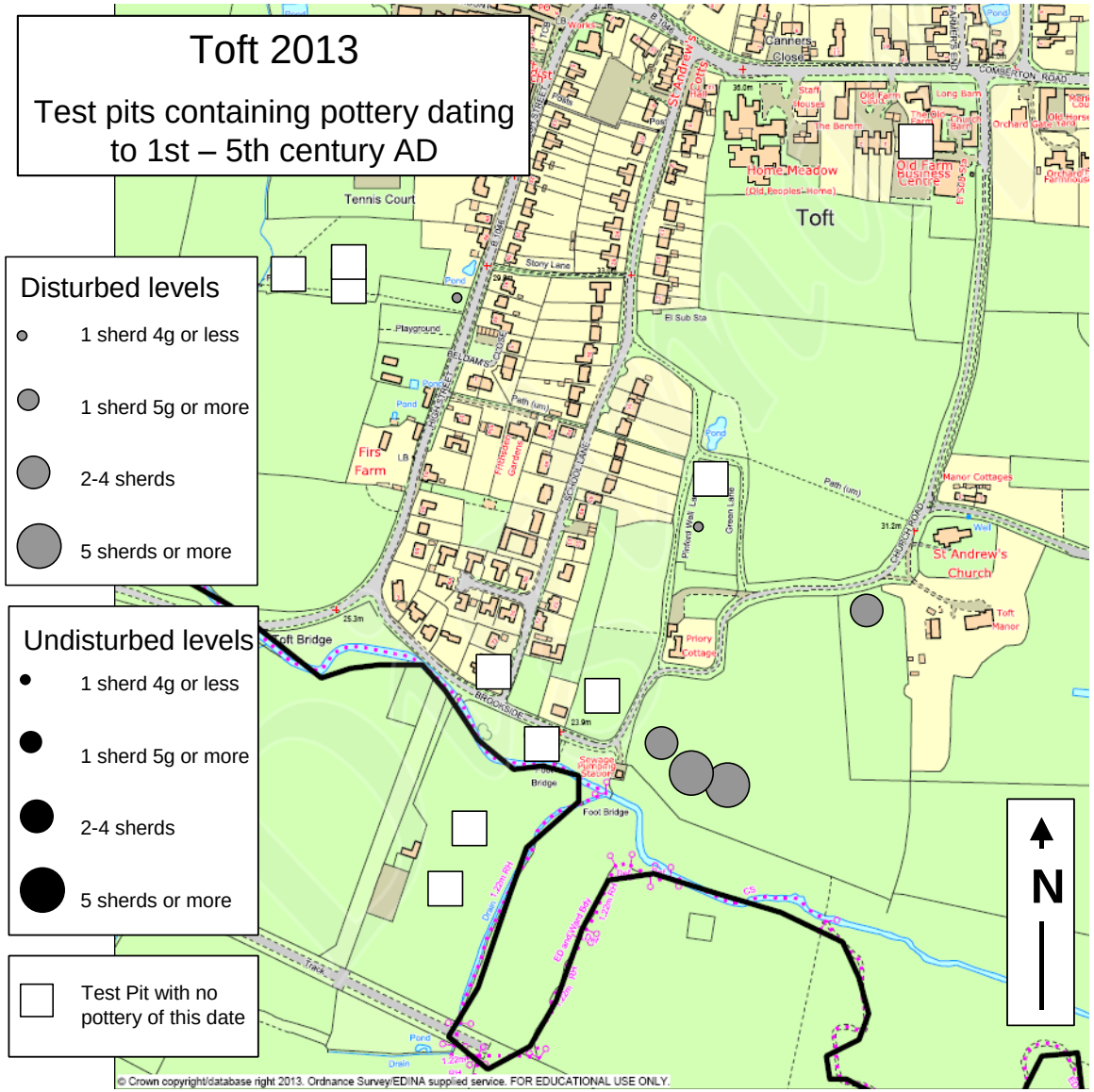

Figure 24: Early Saxon pottery from Toft

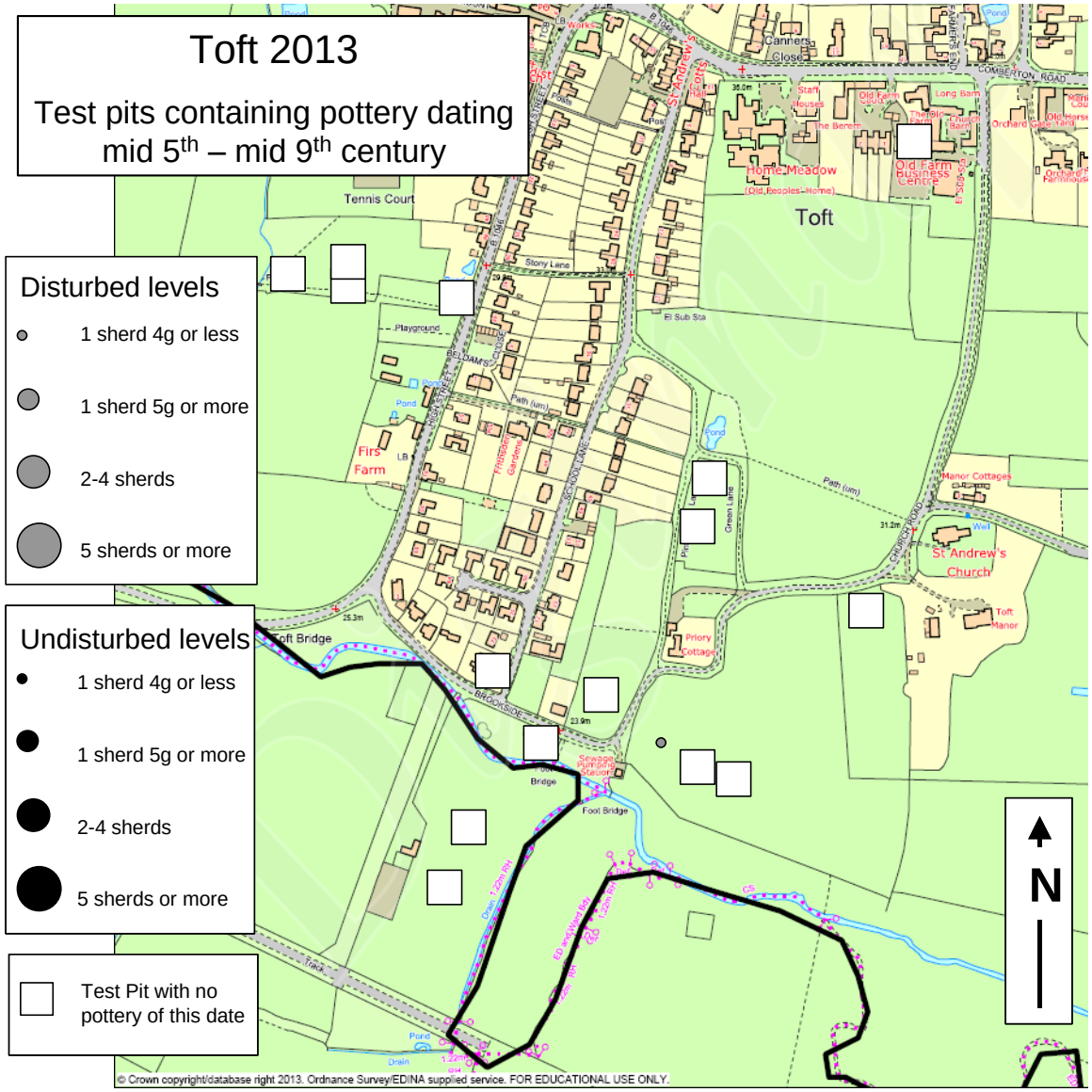

Figure 25: Late Saxon pottery from Toft

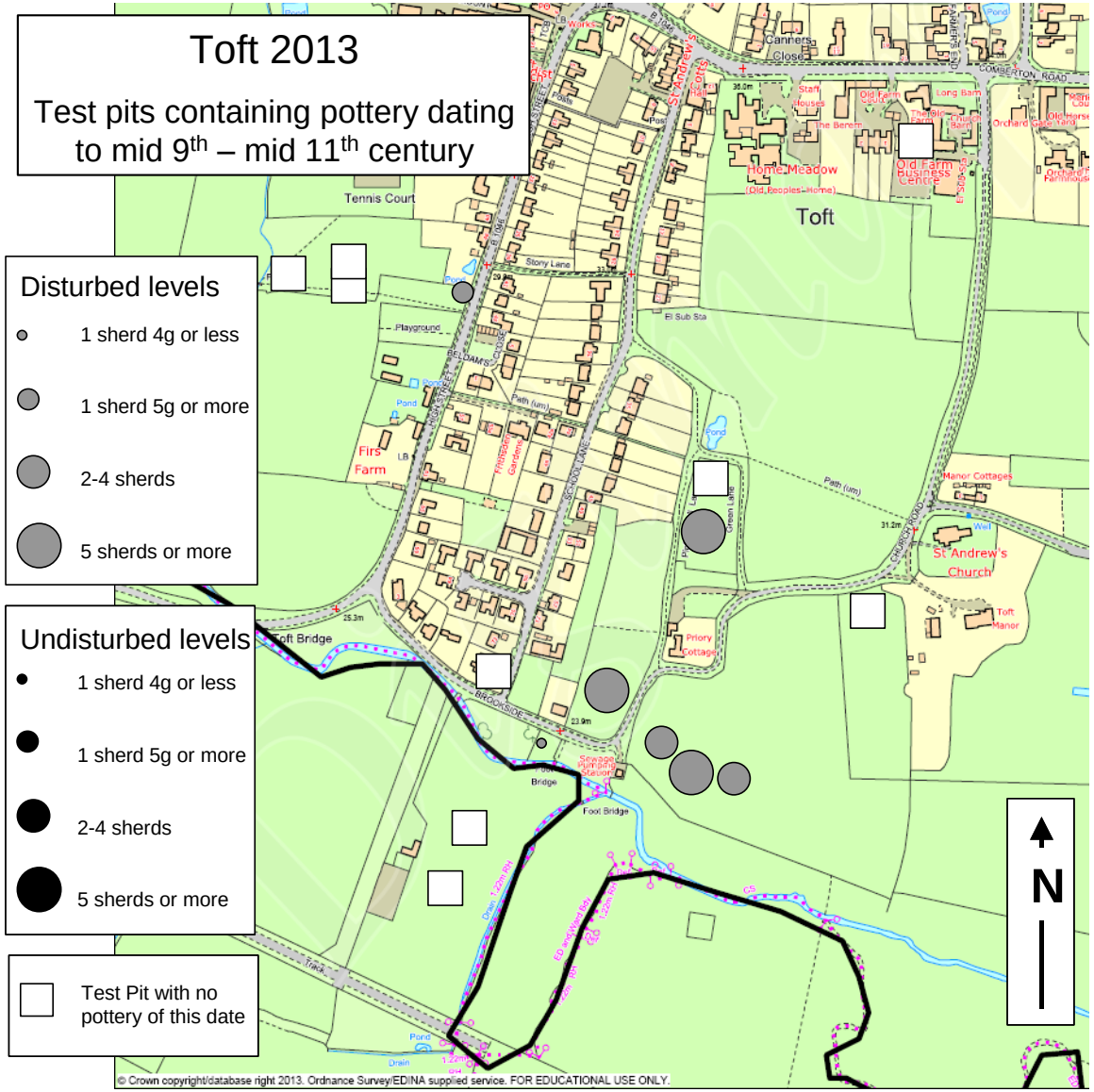

Figure 26: High Medieval pottery from Toft

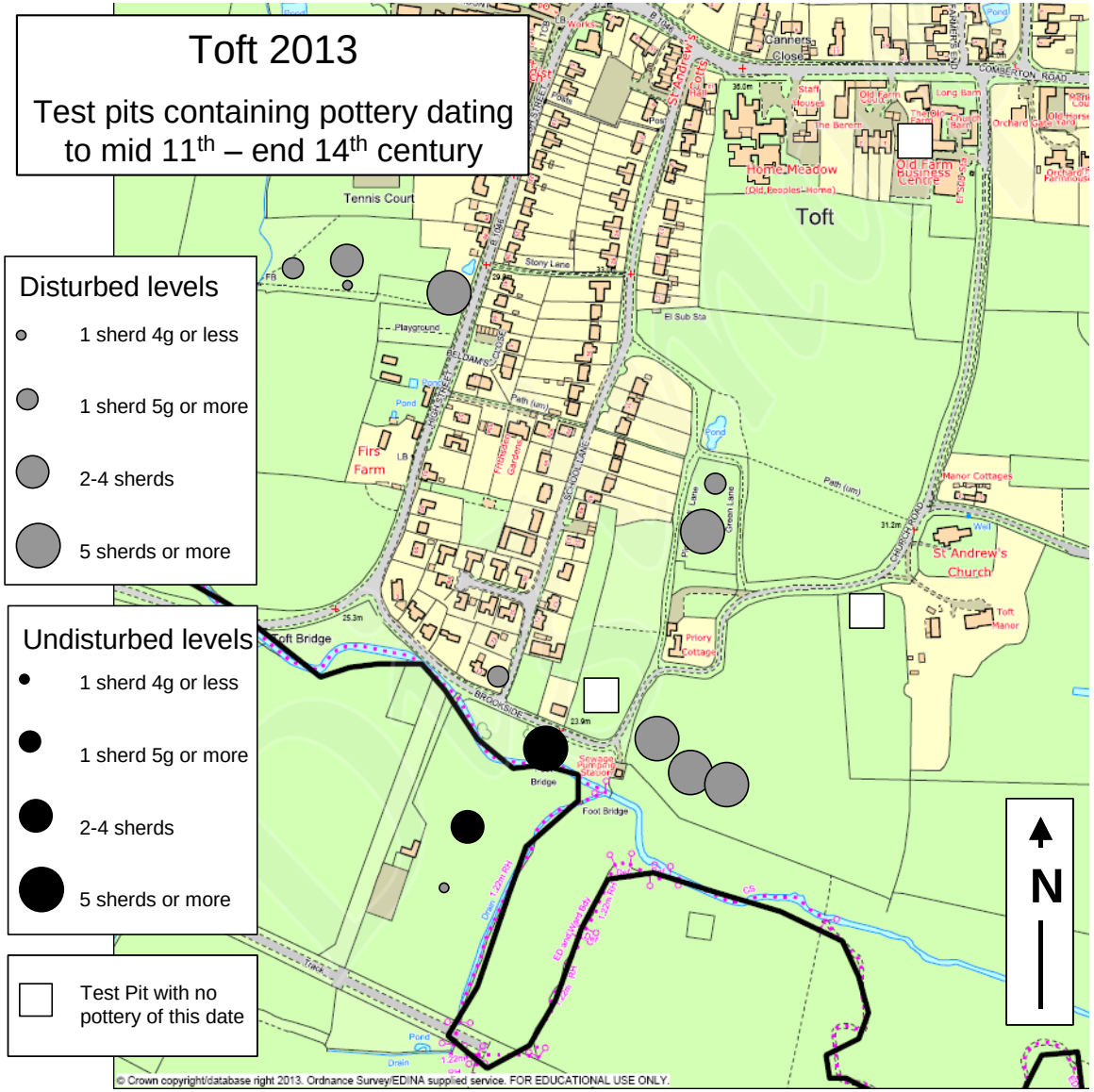

Figure 27: Late Medieval pottery from Toft

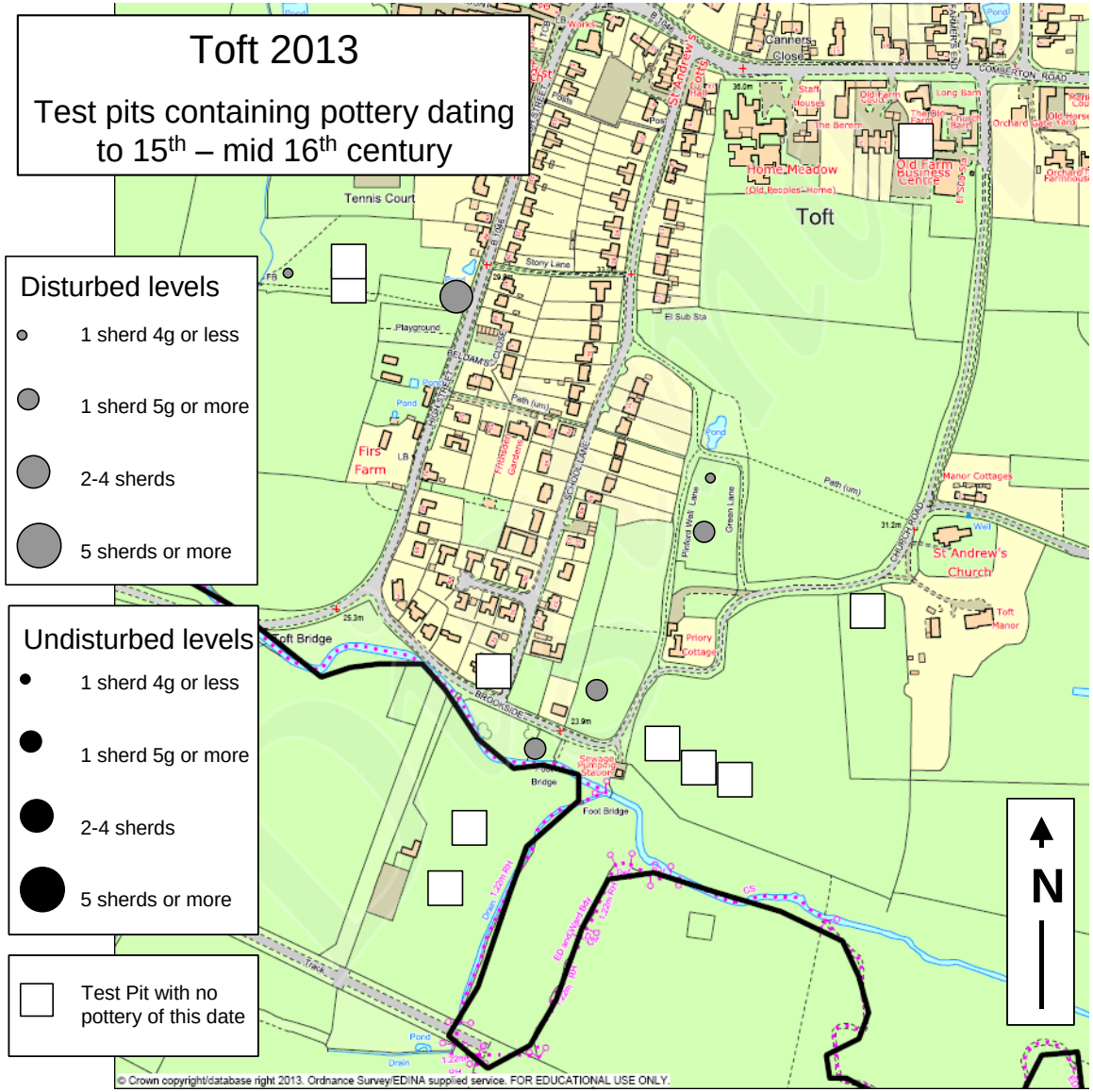

Figure 28: Post-medieval pottery from Toft

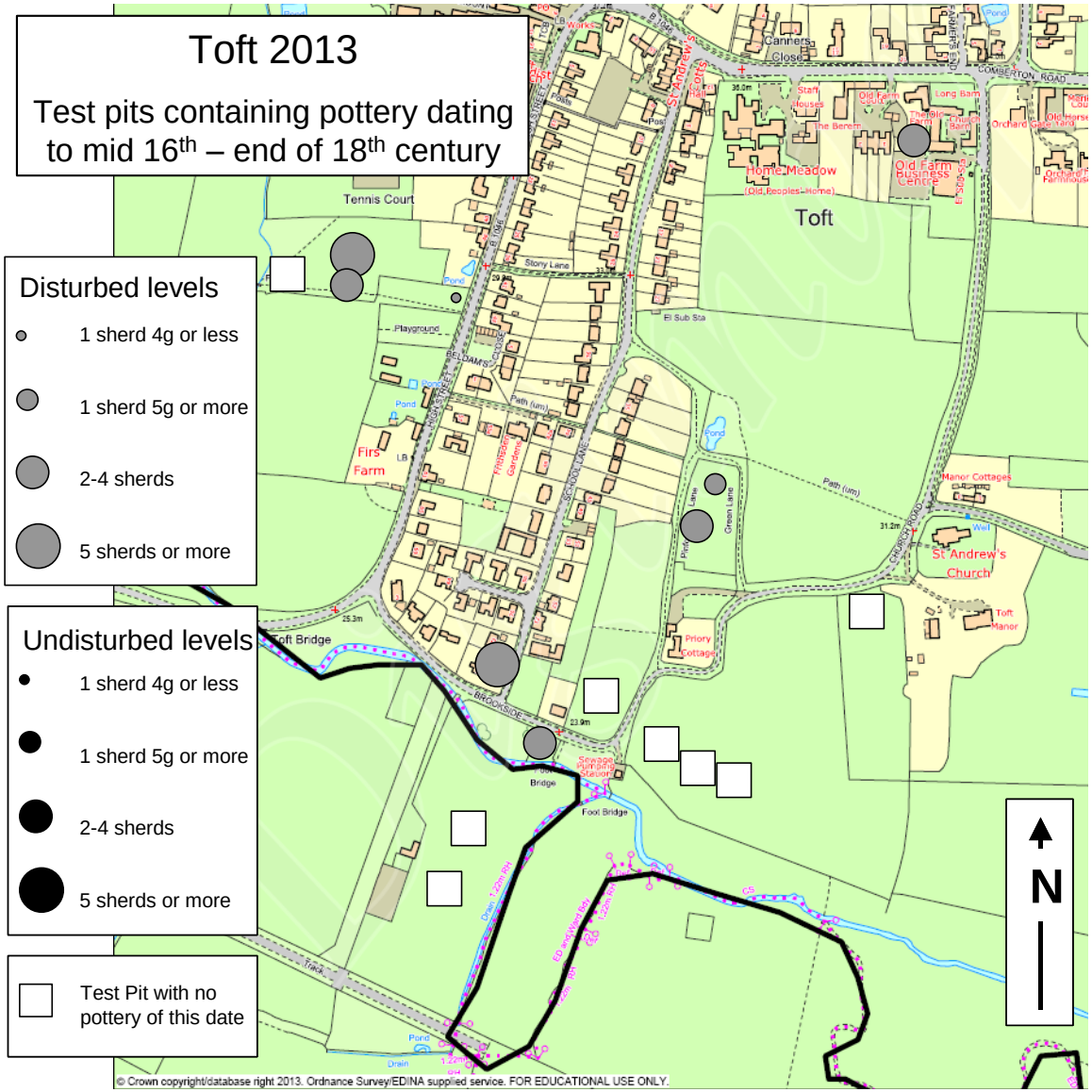

Figure 29: Victorian-era pottery from Toft

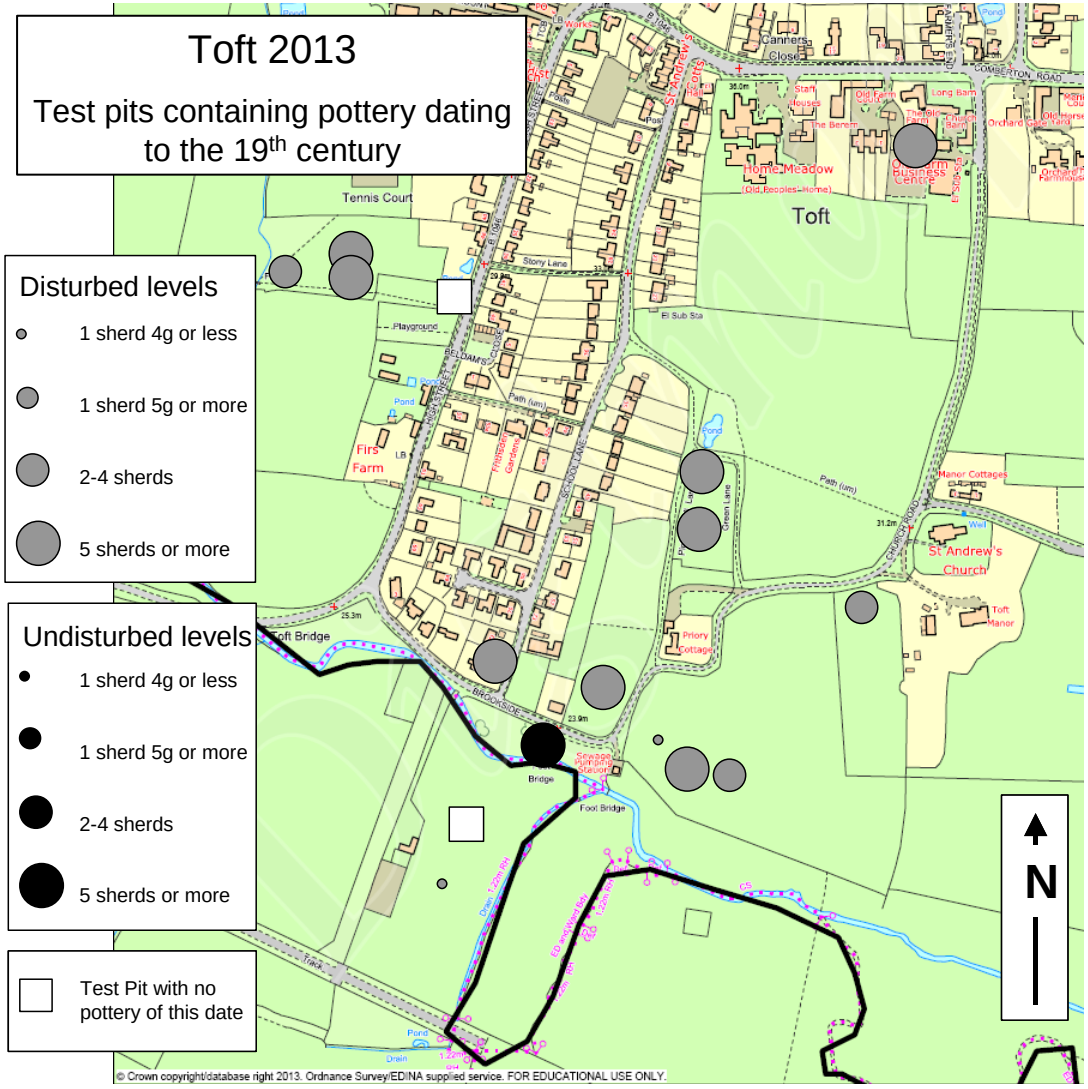

Figure 30: Faunal distribution across Toft: Cow

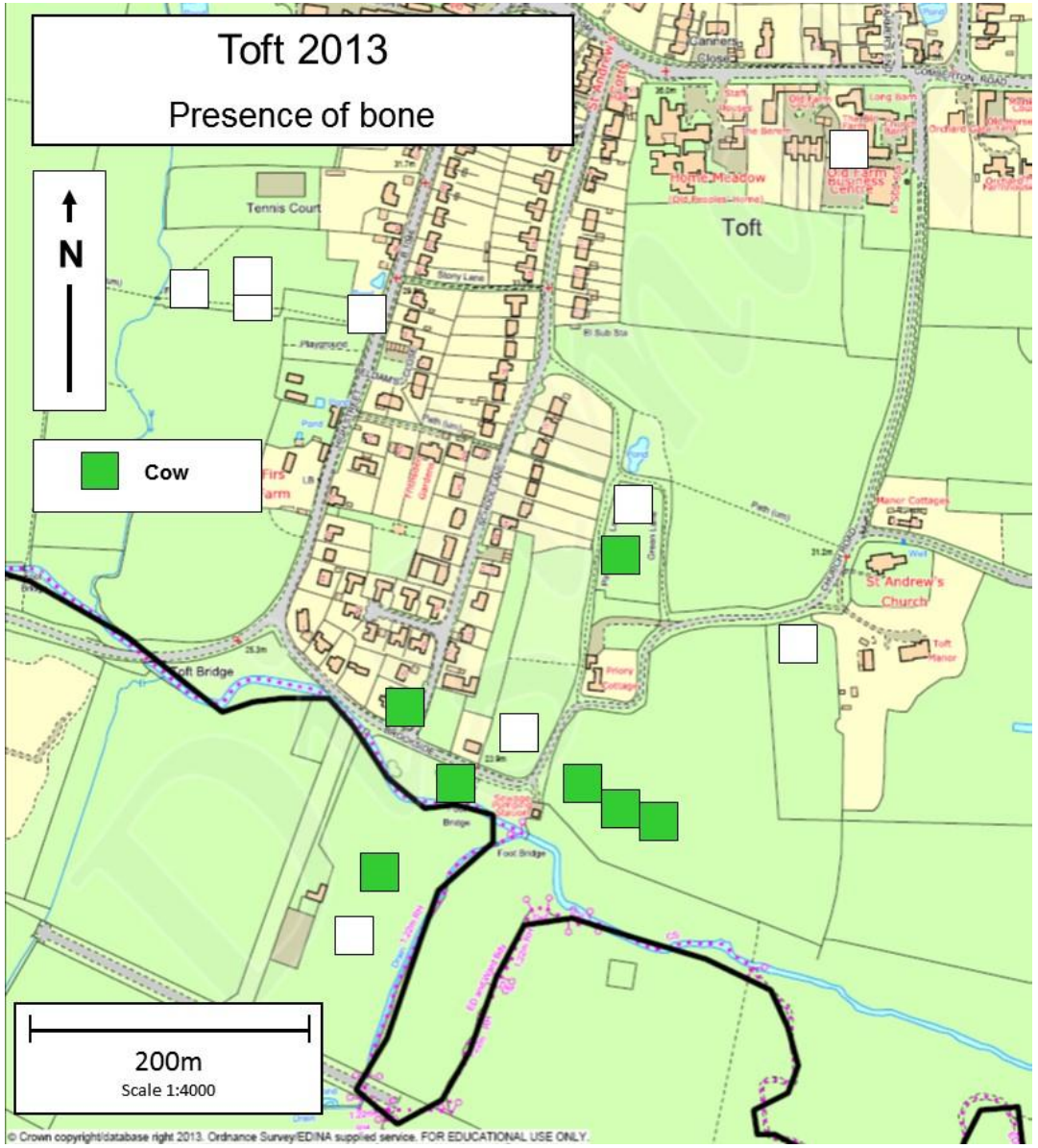

Figure 31: Faunal distribution across Toft: Sheep/goat

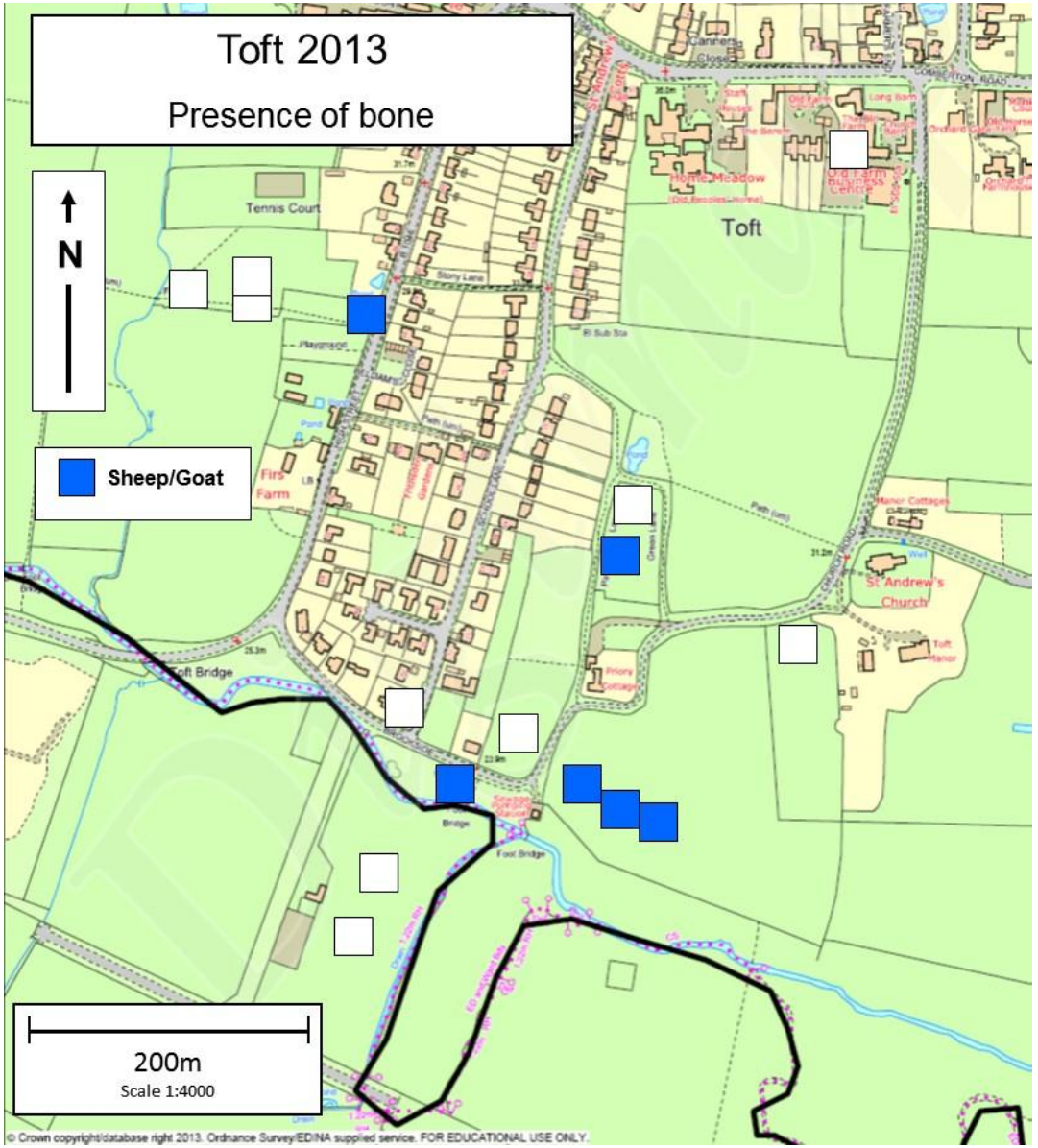

Figure 32: Faunal distribution across Toft: Pig

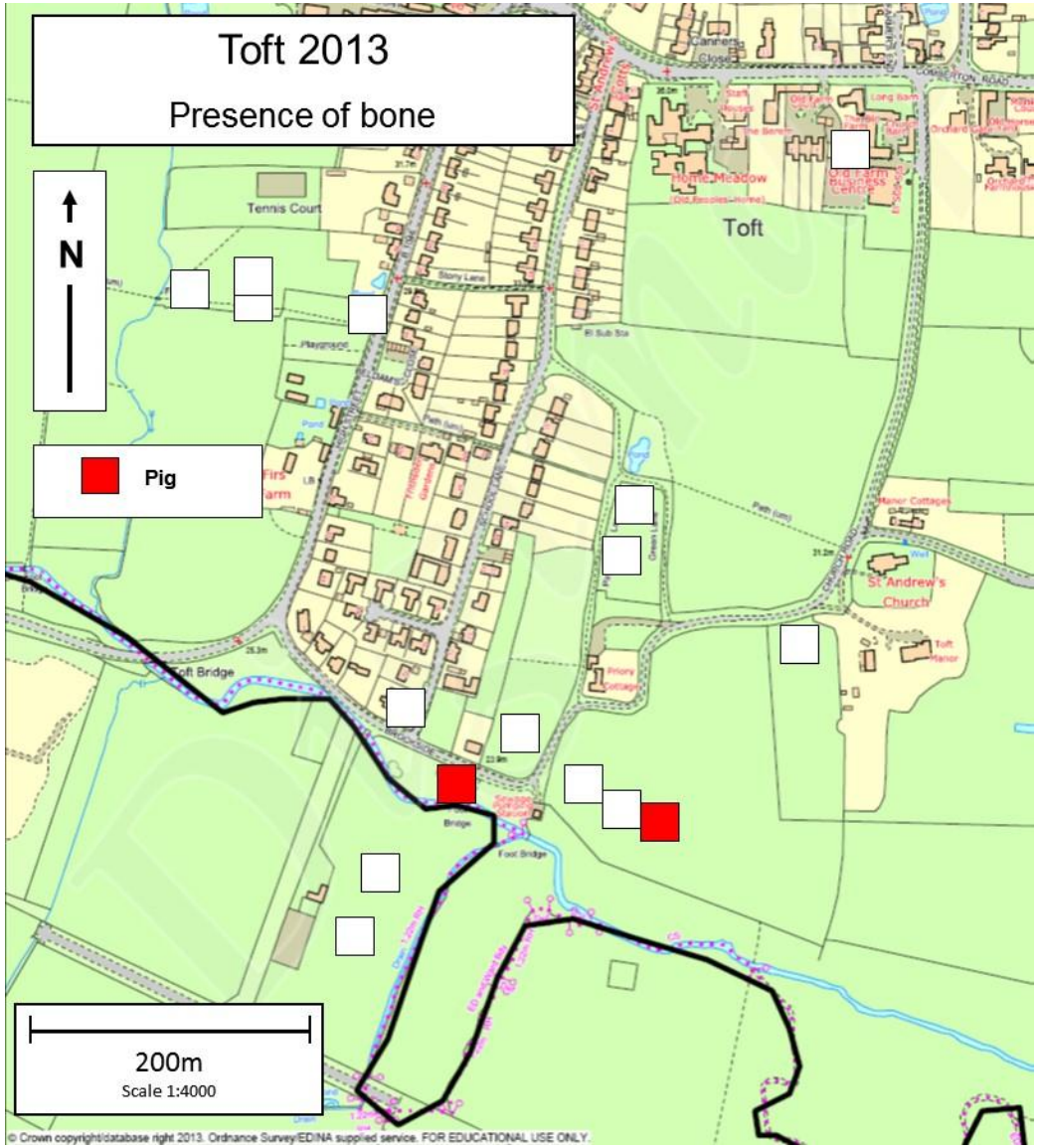

Figure 33: Faunal distribution across Toft: Rabbit

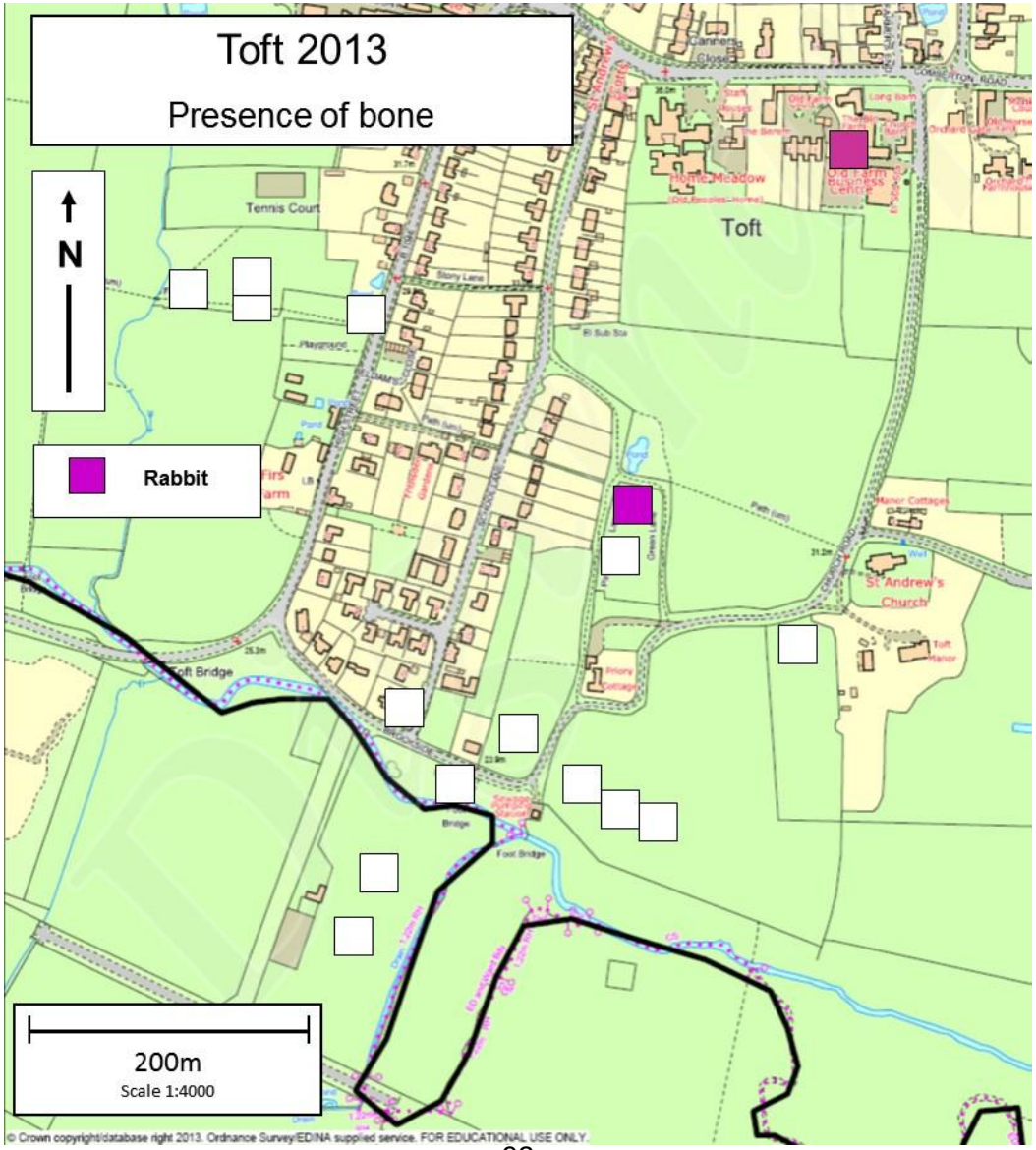

Figure 34: Faunal distribution across Toft: Cat

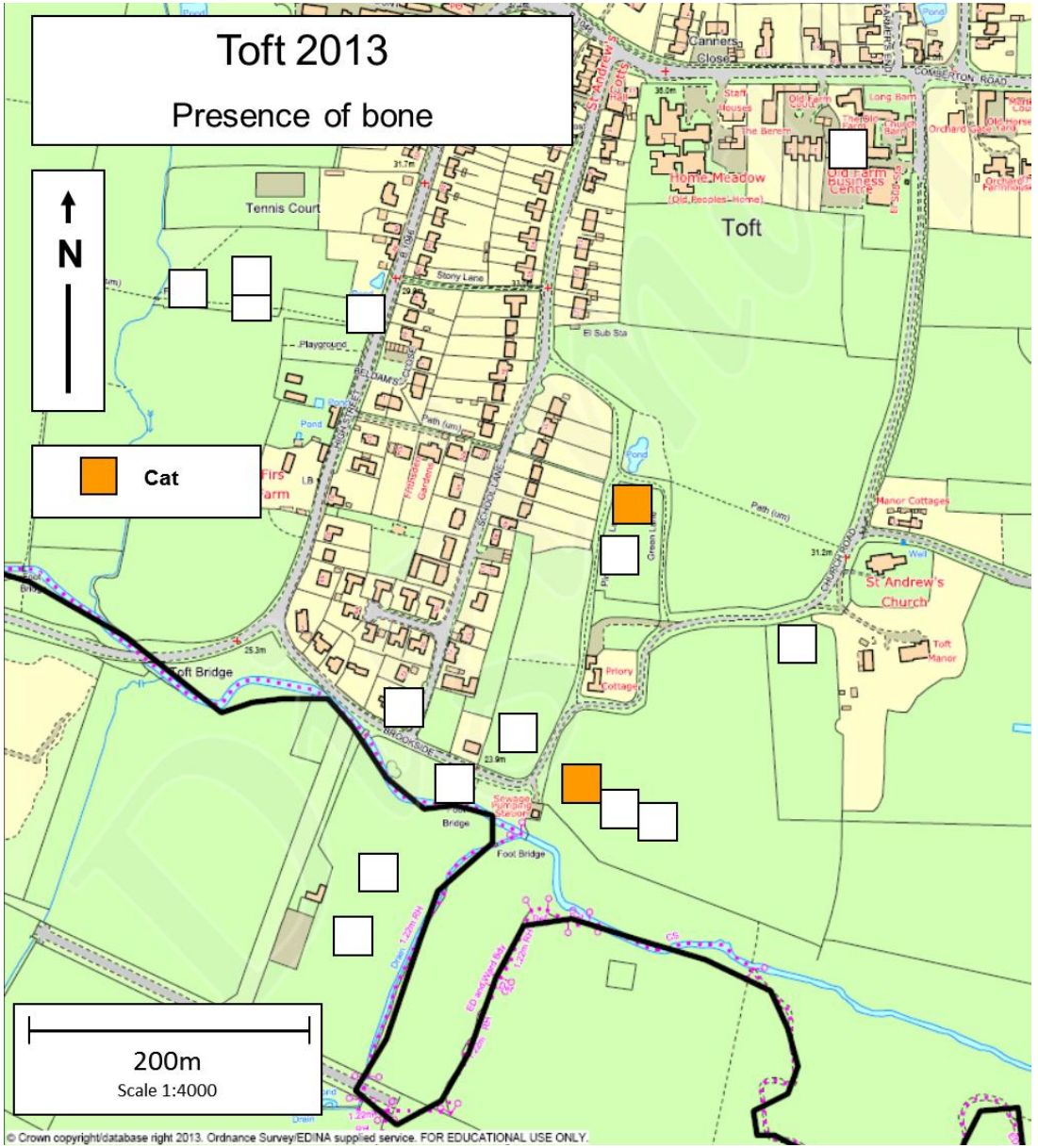

Figure 35: Faunal distribution across Toft: Anseriformes

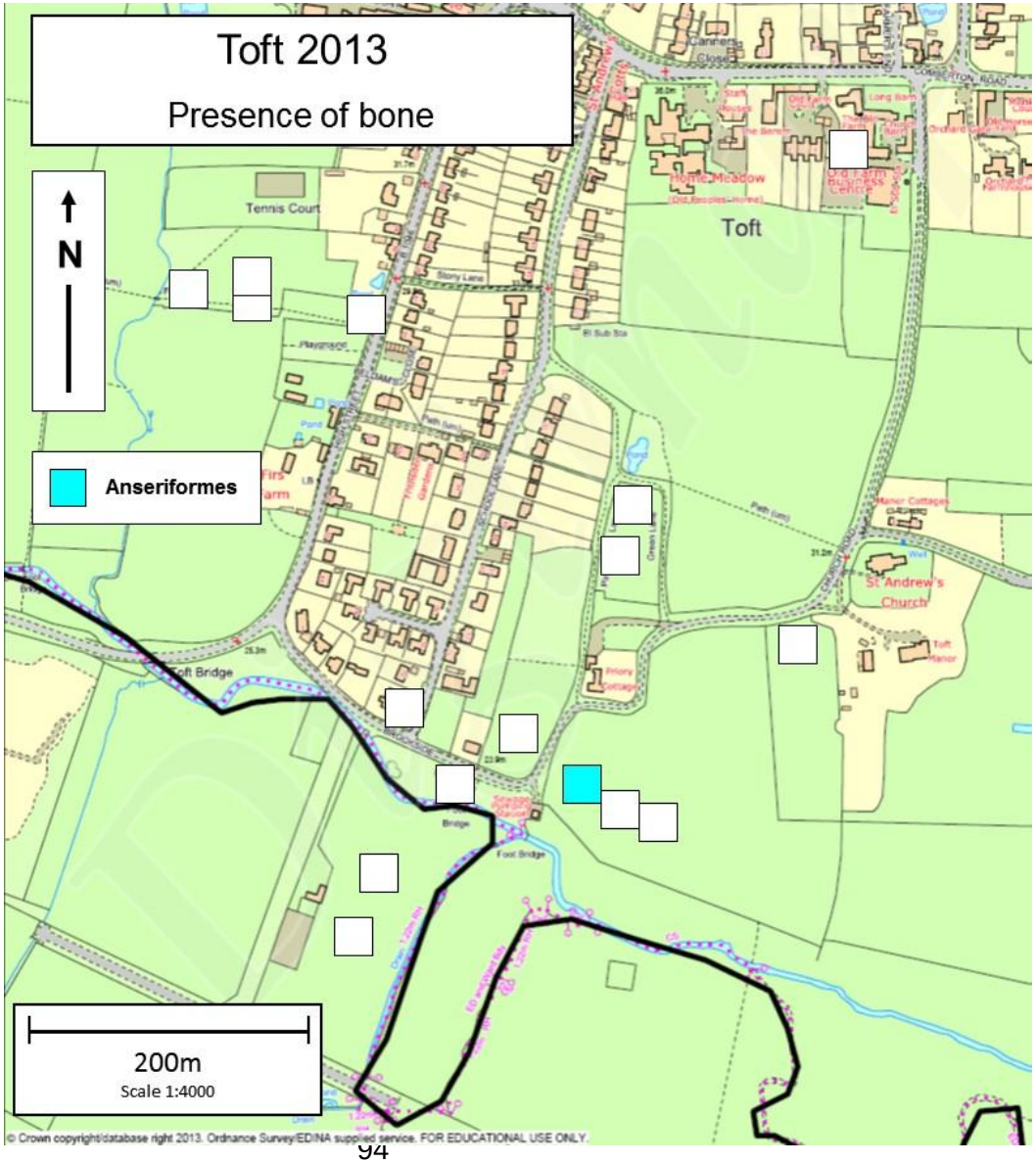

Figure 36: Flint and burnt stone in Toft

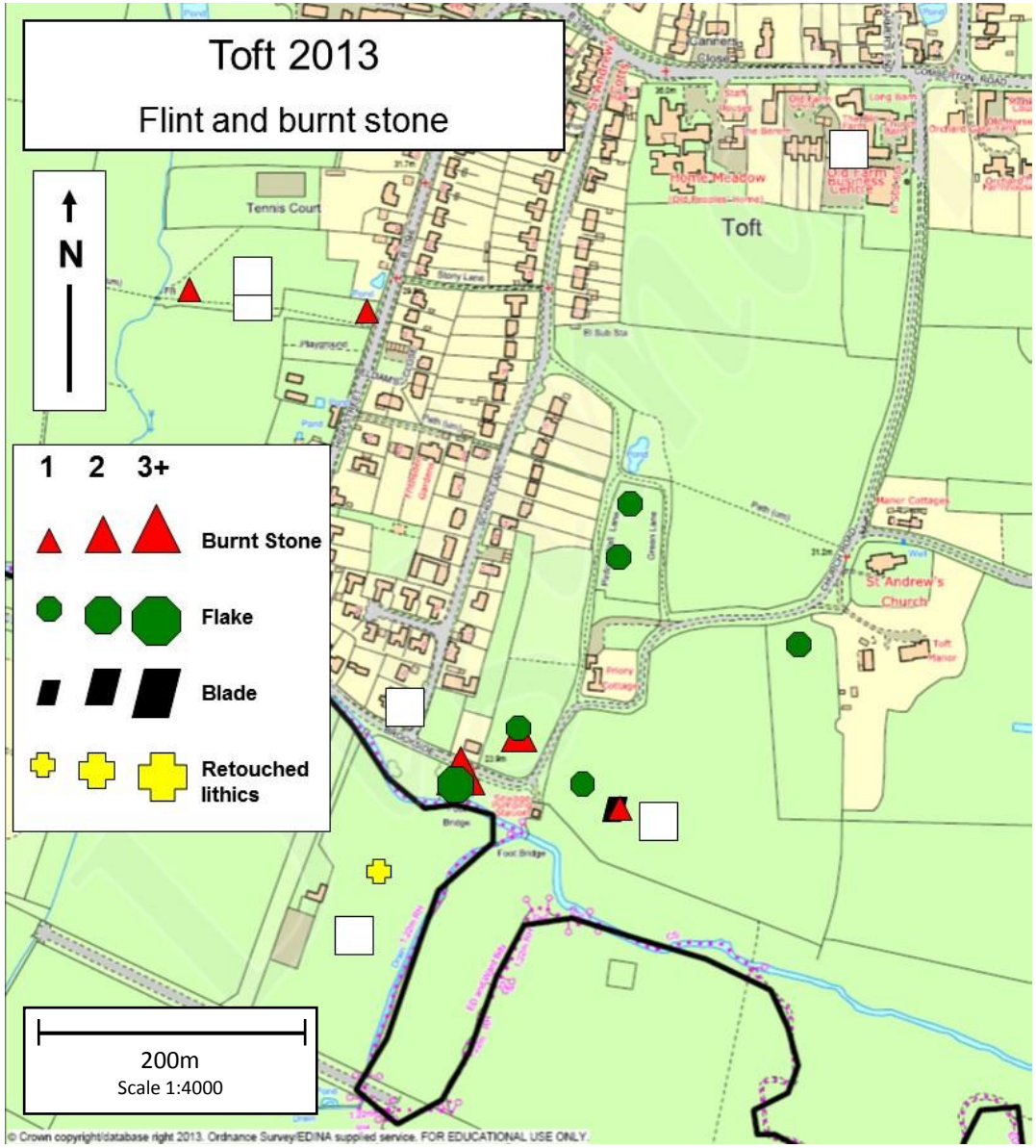

Figure 37: Flint and burnt stone in Toft: Burnt stone

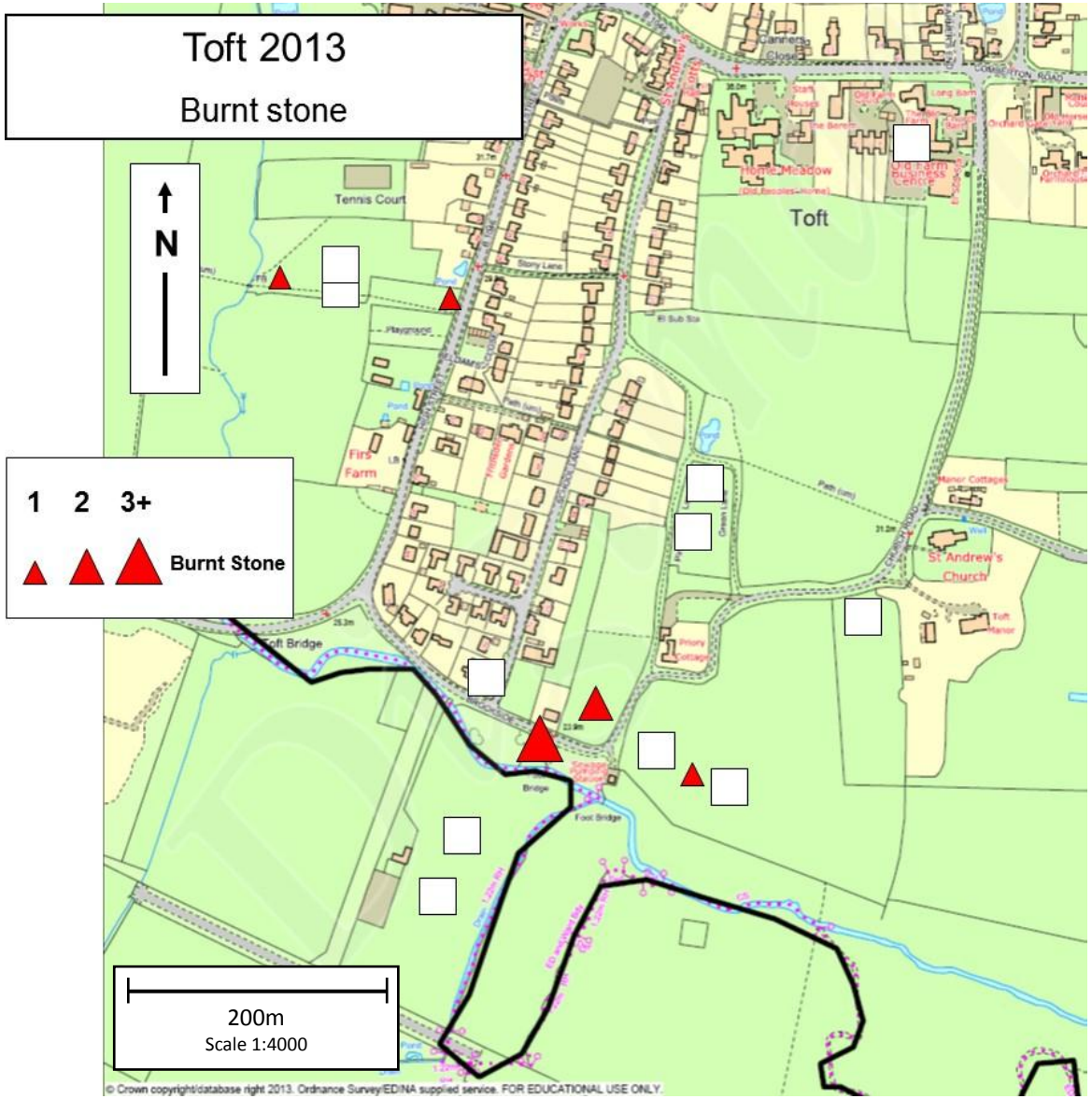

Figure 38: Flint and burnt stone in Toft: Flint flakes

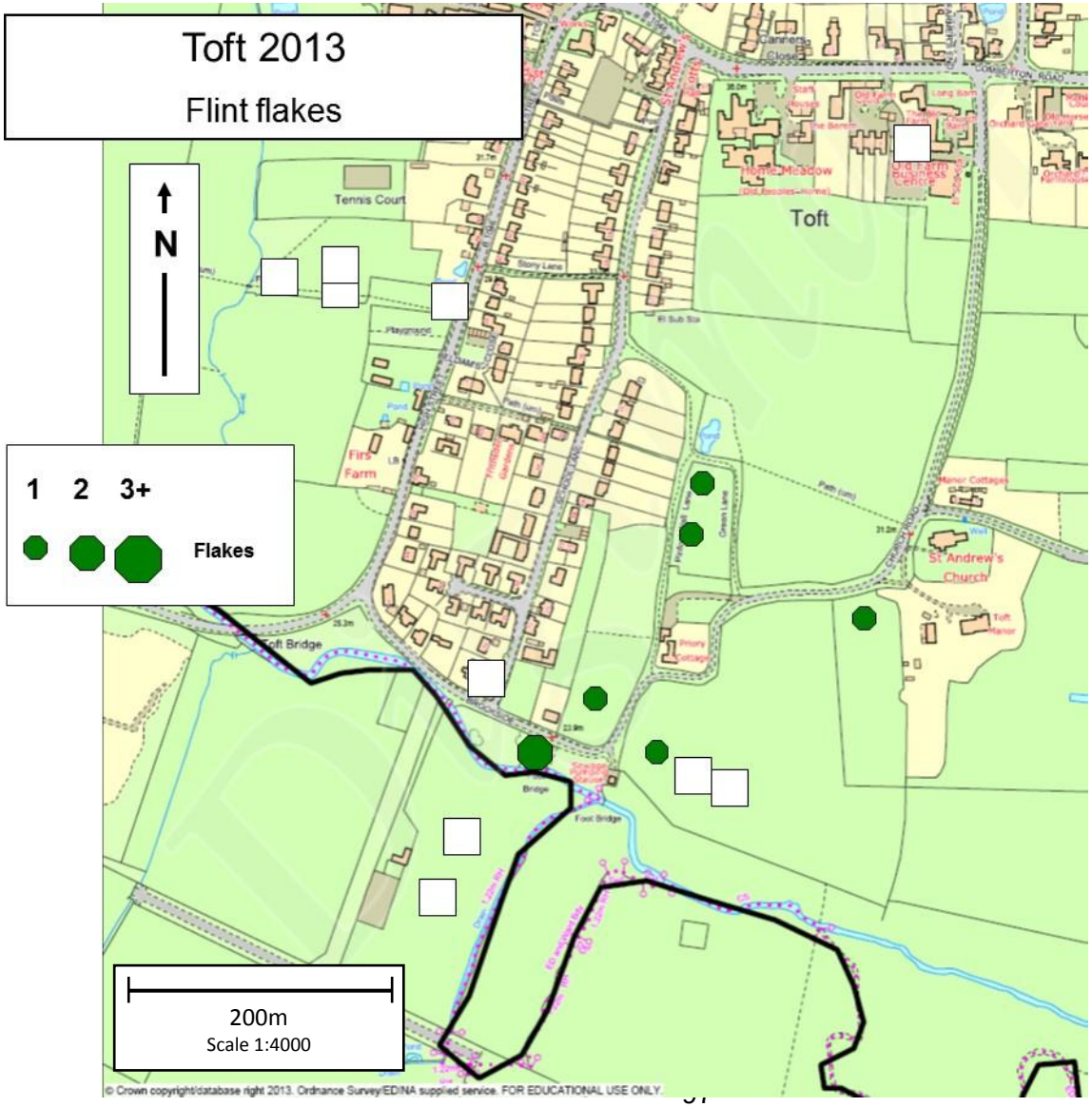

Figure 39: Flint and burnt stone in Toft: Flint blades

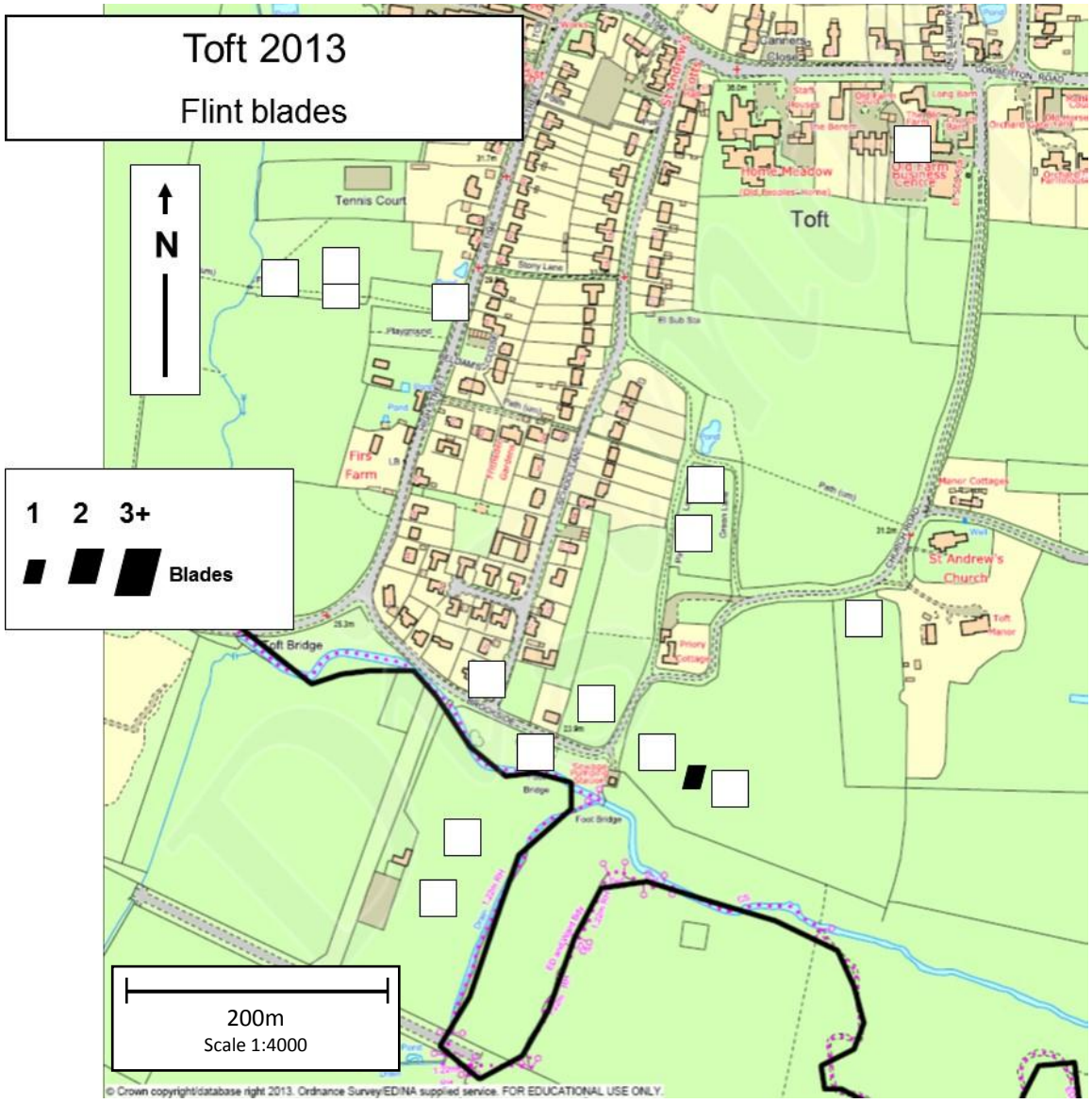

Figure 40: Flint and burnt stone in Toft: Retouched lithics