

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Toft Next Newton Lincolnshire

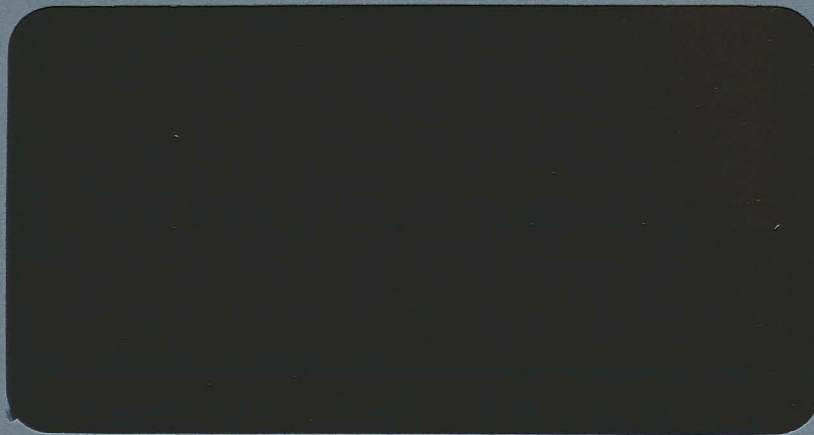
Site Code: TNN 96

LCNCC: 141.96

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Prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) for Anglian Water Services Limited

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Summary

- * *A low-intensity archaeological recording brief took place during water mains replacement through the shrunken village of Toft Next Newton, Lincolnshire. (Fig. 1)*
- * *The main was replaced by thrust-boring and monitoring was thus restricted to six small access pits.*
- * *No archaeological artefacts were recovered and the small sample observed has made interpretation of the stratigraphy difficult: deposits in two of the pits, however, may represent the remains of possible medieval track.*

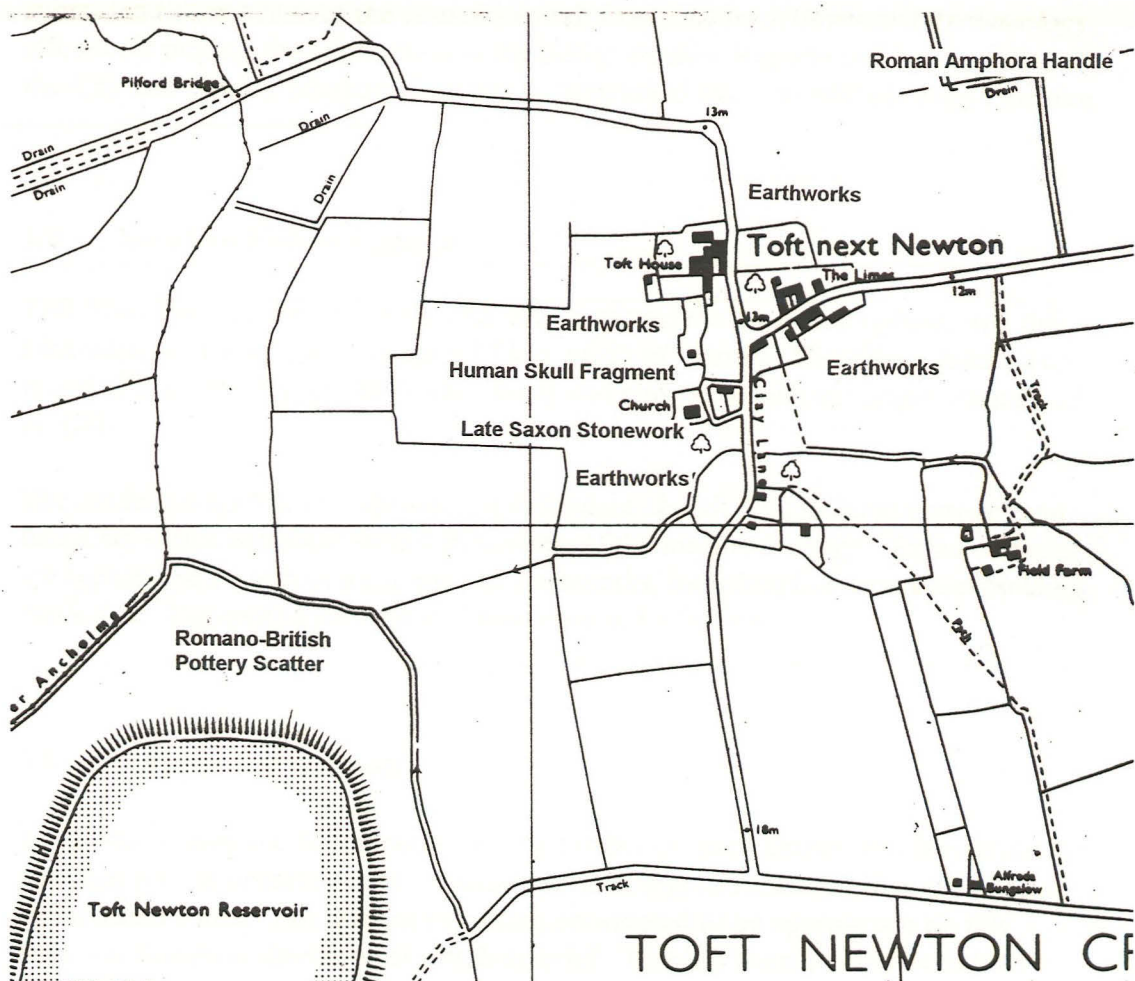


Fig. 1: Site location incorporating principal entries from the County Sites & Monuments Record (1:10,000)
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1.0 Introduction

Anglian Water Services Ltd have been undertaking widespread water main replacement schemes throughout the region; working under the terms vested in the Water Act of 1989. In consideration of the impacts to the archaeological resource which take place as a result of such developments, the clients routinely fund archaeological work, as defined in their own conservation policy.

Entries within the County Sites and Monuments Record for Lincolnshire (SMR) indicate that the new main through Toft Next Newton, a shrunken medieval village, could have disturbed important *in situ* archaeological remains (extant earthworks lie on either side of the chosen route).

A copy of this report will be deposited at the County SMR, and a short text will be submitted to the editor of the county journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*; effectively placing the information in the public domain. Reports will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, accompanied with an ordered project archive.

2.0 Location and description

Toft Next Newton lies within the clay vale, between the limestone uplands and the Lincolnshire Wolds, approximately 17 km. north of Lincoln. The village rests on an island of Oxford Clay and Kellaways sands and clays at an altitude approximately 13.0 m. OD.

The modern settlement comprises of a redundant church with isolated cottages and farms set within extensive shrunken remains of the medieval village. Extant remains are typical and consist of a complex of earthworks, including holloways and building platforms. The central national grid reference is TF 043 882.

3.0 Purpose and methods

The County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) contains entries which indicate the potential for the disturbance of important archaeological remains within the chosen replacement route. The level of recording considered to be appropriate on this occasion was an archaeological watching brief. This has been defined as follows:

'An archaeological watching brief is defined as a programme of observation and investigation conducted during the destruction of archaeological deposits, resulting in the preparation of a report and ordered archive' (IFA, 1994 *Standard Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*)

A decision to employ a thrust-bore technique, rather than an open cut method, resulted in reduced excavation and therefore a smaller impact on the archaeology.

Monitoring consisted of observation during topsoil and subsoil stripping in six access pits, followed by the inspection and cleaning of exposed soil surfaces. The contractors were most co-operative and made suitable provisions within their own timescale for the archaeological element.

Recording was undertaken using standard context record sheets (incorporating physical descriptions, interpretations, and stratigraphic relationships). Sections were drawn to scale (1:20), and comprehensive photographic recording was undertaken (some prints are reproduced in this report). Artefacts (pottery, animal bone etc.) were not recovered on this occasion.

Observation points were plotted on 1:2500 development plans which were provided by the clients. These, and the rest of the paper record, will form the basis for a long-term project archive.

The watching brief was undertaken by Mr RL Schofield and the writer.

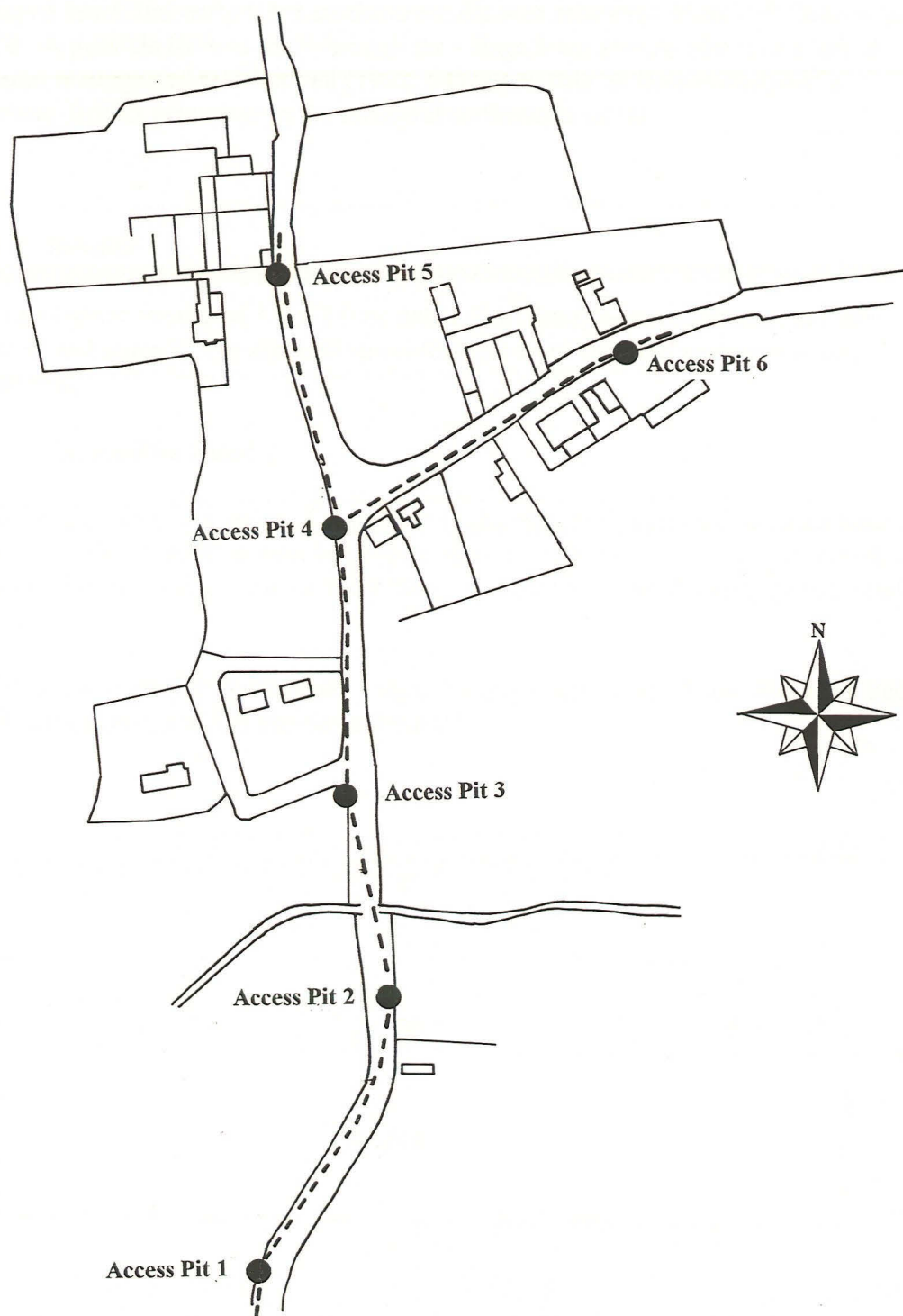
4.0 Archaeological and Historic Background

Toft Next Newton is a small village predominantly consisting of spaced C18th and C19th cottages and farmsteads. The original *vills* of Toft and Newton are difficult to separate within historic sources and appear to have been closely associated throughout the medieval period. Toft comes from the Old Scandinavian for 'curtilage or homestead' whereas Newton is Old English for 'new farmstead, estate or village' (Mills 1993, 331; 242).

Both settlements possessed their own churches and field systems by the C12th and fell within the Walshcroft *wapentake*. The Domesday Survey of 1086 lists Toft as a single manorial holding under 'Land of the Bishop of Bayeux' (granted to the Gilbertines of Sixhills in 1279) and was valued at 10s before 1066 and 60s for the survey. Newton was partially held by the bishop, with the remainder split between 'Rainer of Brimeux' and 'Svartbrandr and other Thanes'.

Today, the villages are combined and set within a complex earthwork landscape incorporating village remains and field systems. The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHM(E)) included the parish within its survey of north-west Lincolnshire. The survey interpreted the extant remains as falling within three discrete blocks. A possible manorial centre next to the parish church of St Peter and Paul is suggested by a boundary way and regular closes. Alternatively, the manor may have been within a further block centred around 'The Limes' to the north-east. Field Farm, at the south-east corner of the village overlies earthworks which may represent a monastic grange, as their character compares well with known granges at Riseholme and Cabourne (Everson *et al* 1991, 203-205).

Earlier land use and settlement has not been quantified through fieldwork but the settlements of Toft and Newton, by their incorporation in Domesday, clearly have origins at least to the late Saxon period. This is supported by pre-conquest pottery



**Fig. 2: Pipeline route showing position of Access Pits monitored
(1:2500, based on Drawing 9740661 supplied by the client)**

which was recovered after the destruction of earthworks in 1964, and by the surviving fragments of a late Saxon cross in the church yard.

Romano-British pottery was recovered during the construction of the reservoir and a stamped late C2nd-early C3rd amphora handle was recovered from Toft Grange in 1970. A possible Roman road through the village from Ermine Street to Linford Warren is suggested by Whitwell (1992, 54) but to date no firm evidence of a Romano-British precursor to the medieval settlements exists.

5.0 Results

Six pits (which measured 1.0 x 2.0 m. and 1.2 m. deep) were monitored, and are located on Figure 1. No archaeological features were exposed and no artefacts recovered.

5.1 Access Pits 1 and 2

These pits contained a series of water-borne deposits sealed beneath modern road make-up. The deposits comprised superimposed sandy gravels which may have been deposited by a previous course of the River Ancholme during the early post-glacial period.

A distinct horizon [102] contained a significant proportion of silt and may have been a cultivation horizon which pre-dates the road.

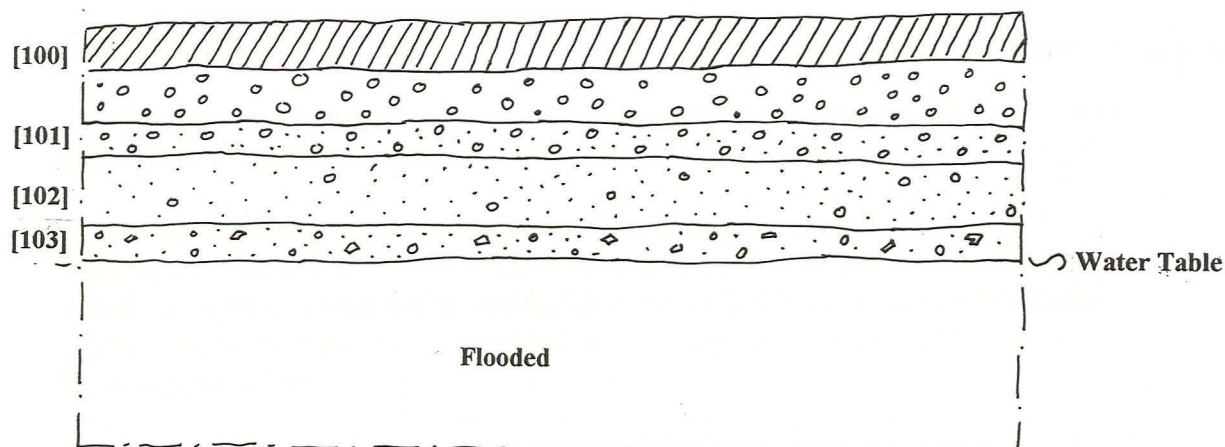


Fig. 3: Section of Access Pit 1 showing natural water-borne deposits and possible buried soil [102], scale 1:20.

5.2 Access Pit 3

Sealed beneath road make-up deposits was a sterile mid grey clay containing occasional gravel inclusions - a wash deposit, possibly, over a possible track [107]. The ?track comprised frequent cobbles set in dark grey clay. It was not clear whether this was a pre-cursor to the modern B road or if it related to Church Lane which appears to respect its medieval alignment.

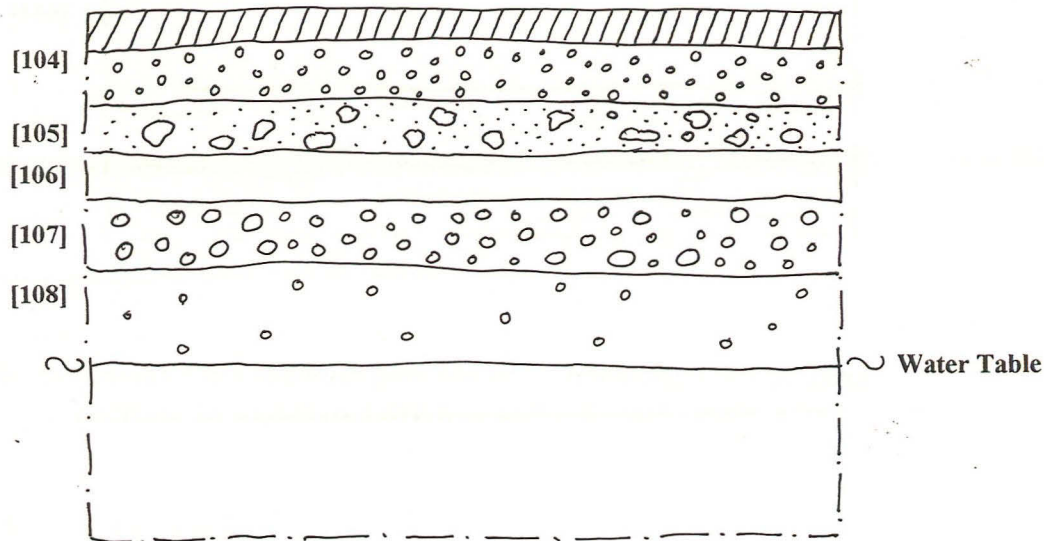


Fig. 4: Access Pit 3 showing possible previous track cobbling [107], scale 1:20

5.3 Access Pit 4

Standing water in the access pits was a constant problem during monitoring but was particularly problematic in pit 4, resulting in limited recording.

Again, the upper deposits were dominated by the current road make-up; lower deposits consisted of moderately fine sand laminae with light grey clays. This was initially thought to be the Kellaways bed but may in fact be reworked soil caused by solifluction, as the deposits contained occasional large inclusions of gravel (DN Robson *pers. comm.*)

5.4 Access Pit 5

Sandwiched between the road make-up and the underlying Oxford Clay was a thick bed of homogenous dark grey-black clay which contained two distinct lenses of moderately sized limestones. A definitive interpretation was not forthcoming but the limestone layers could represent two phases of surface, overlain by cumulative layers of detritus and soil wash.

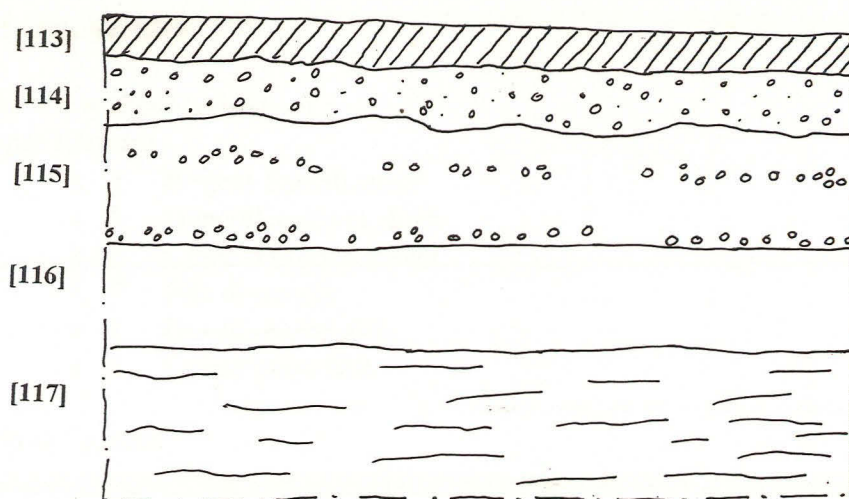


Fig. 5: Access Pit 5 showing possible track metalling (two phases) overlain by associated detritus and soil wash, scale 1:20

5.5 Access Pit 6

Inspection of this pit revealed natural Kellaways Sands and clays over Oxford Clay (sealed beneath modern road make-up).

6.0 Discussion

The development has resulted in a very minor impact to the archaeological resource. A lack of continuity between the deposits recorded in successive access pits, together with a lack of dateable material, has rendered interpretation of the results difficult.

6.1 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) express their sincere thanks to Anglian Water Services Ltd. for this commission; in particular, Ms K Gilliatt. Thanks also to Mark Bennet and Sarah Grundy (County SMR) for allowing access to the parish file, and to Dennis Robson (formally of the Geological Survey) for his comments on the geomorphology of the deposits.

7.0 Appendices:

7.1 Site archive

The site archive consists of :

Paper Element:

- x 1 Project Specification
- x 1 General account sheet
- x 12 Context record sheets
- x 7 Site drawings
- x 1 Development plan
- x 2 Colour print film

Object Element:

No artefacts were recovered

Primary records are currently with PCA (Lincoln). An ordered archive of both paper and object elements is in preparation and will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, within six months.

7.2 References

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------|---|
| Everson, PL <i>et al</i> | 1991 | <i>Change and Continuity: Rural Settlement in North-West Lincolnshire</i> |
| Mills, AD | 1993 | <i>English Place-Names</i> |
| Morris J (gen. ed.) | 1986 | 'Lincolnshire' <i>Domesday Book</i> |
| Whitwell, JB | 1992 | <i>Roman Lincolnshire</i> |



Plate 1: General shot of thrust bore operation at Access Pit 4



Plate 2: General shot of Late Saxon stonework in churchyard



Plate 3: Oblique shot of North Section, Access Pit 5, showing possible medieval road sequence

7.4 List of Contexts

Context	Description
100	Modern road surface
101	Road foundation
102	Layer of gravel/sand
103	Natural layer of riverine sand/gravel
104	Modern road surface
105	Road foundation
106	Clay based wash deposit
107	? pre-road track
108	Weathering from up-slope to north
109	Oxford Clay
110	Modern road surface
111	Moving water deposit with intermediate standing water horizons
112	Kellaways Sands and Clay
113	Modern road surface
114	Road foundation
115	Clay horizon with limestone lenses; ?previous track sequence
116	Oxford Clay (gleyed)
117	Oxford Clay
118	Modern Road Surface
119	Road foundation
120	Redeposited Kellaways sands
121	Oxford Clay