



Langdyke Trust



Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund

# TORPEL'S ROMAN HERITAGE



## ROMAN POTTERY FOUND IN THE FIELD TO THE NORTH OF TORPEL FIELD

These pottery finds have confirmed our belief that the Roman soldiers paused at the roadside as they marched up the arterial road which we now call King Street. Maybe it was even a staging post to defend the crossing of the River Welland. There is a slight wobble in the alignment of the road at Torpel Field.

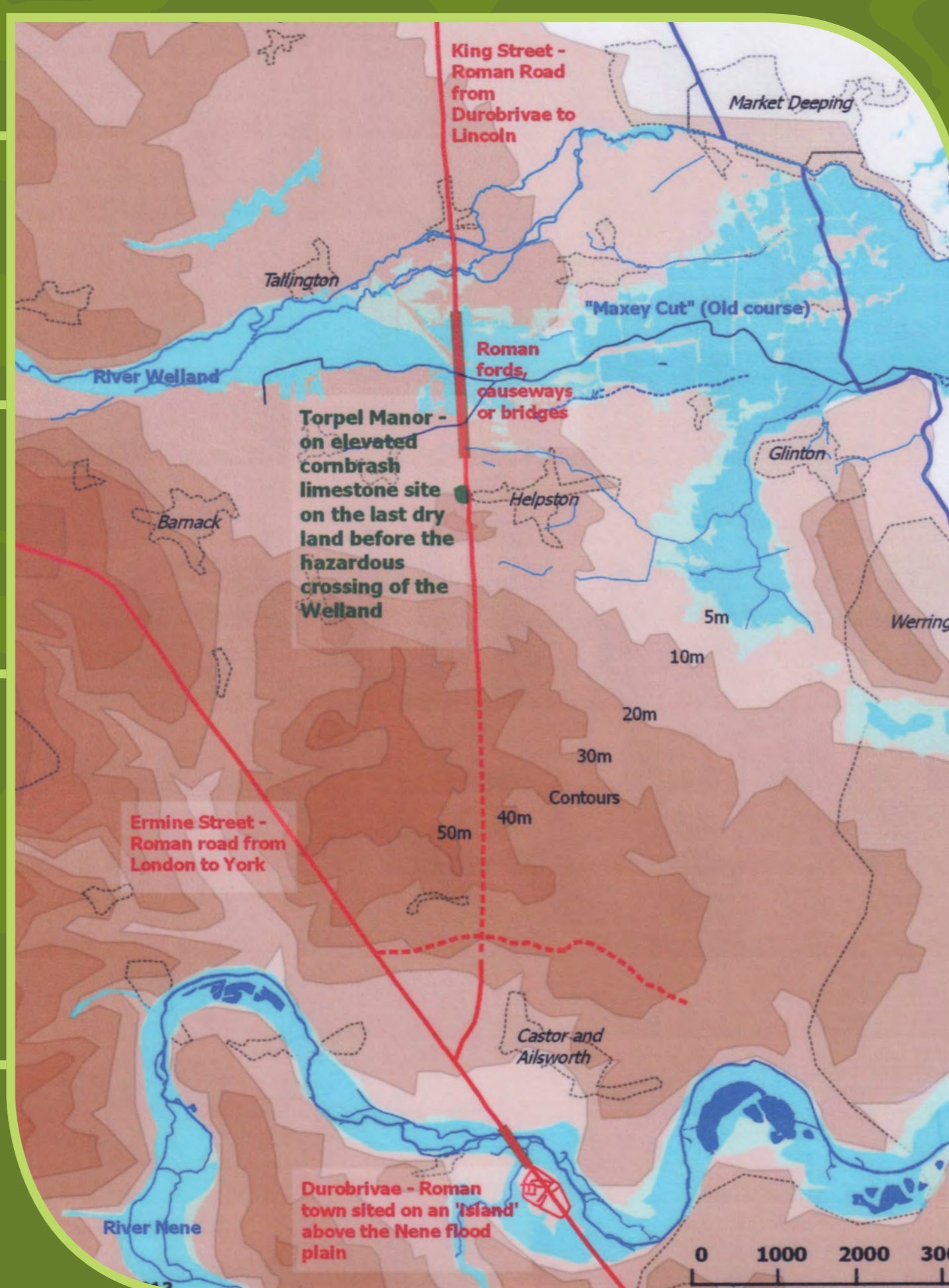
## TORPEL MANOR FIELD IN ITS LANDSCAPE

Torpel Manor Field is situated at a height of 15-20 metres.

Limestone ridge between the valleys of the Rivers Welland and Nene.

Torpel was only 5 miles north of an important Roman regional centre in the Nene Valley.

Durobrivae was the centre of all the industries, notably pottery, using local clay and wood, and iron working. Workshops made jewellery, glass, tiles, leather and textiles.



The blue shading shows the flood plain of the River Welland, which kept changing its course. We believe that there were raised banks or causeways leading to fords across the river.

A tile stamped LEG I X HISP was found in Hilly Wood and can be seen in Peterborough Museum. Innumerable Roman soldiers, including the famous Spanish Legion, must have marched up King Street on their way north up to Lincoln and beyond.

At Castor there was a large building, probably the palace of the regional governor.

The River Nene was a major inland waterway and it opened up the whole of its hinterland to trade.

Wealthy Romans lived in villas mainly in the Nene Valley and there was also one in Oxy Wood just south of Helpston. Some had mosaic floors and heating systems. Some owners employed slaves to keep cattle or grow corn. Others had profited from the various industries.

The end of the Roman occupation was at the beginning of the 5th century. With no army to be supplied and the collapse of civil organisation, the industries ceased to be needed.