`I sauh a tour on a toft, tryelyche i-maket', part two:
on Place-Names in -toft in England

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The place-name element -toft has received only marginal
treatment in the British Isles. Apart from Bengt
Holmberg’s thesis and the present writer’s overview of
the Scottish toft place-name material,¹ this group of place-
names has been the focus of very little research, despite
the fact that the element may be used to throw new light
on the complex linguistic situation in Viking Age and post-
Conquest England.

The place-name element toft is ultimately of
Scandinavian origin, having been transferred into the
languages and onomastica of England and Scotland
through either Old Danish (ODa) toft, f., or Old Norse (ON)
þveit, f. I shall not elaborate further on the origin of this
place-name element, as this has already been dealt with
in my above-mentioned article on the subject. As a place-
name element of Scandinavian origin, toft is part of the
large body of Viking Age place-names which include such
prominent and well-researched Scandinavian place-name
elements as bý, þorp and þveit. One complicating factor
in the study of the place-name element toft is the early
borrowing of toft into English. It occurs as an appellative
as early as 1001 in English in the phrase healf þæt land
æt suðham innur and uttur on tofte and on crofte (`half
the land at Southam, including homestead as well as

¹B. Holmberg, Tomt och Toft som Appellativ och
Ortsnamnselement, Studier till en svensk ornamnsatlas, 4
(Uppsala and Copenhagen, 1946); P. Gammeltoft, “I sauh a tour
on a toft, tryelyche i-maket”: on place-names in -toft, -tote and
-tobhta from Shetland to the Isle of Man’, Nomina, 24 (2001),
17–32.
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and even earlier as a place-name element in a document from 963: *and healf hide on hibaldes tofte* (`and half a hide on Hibald's toft'). These two examples show that *toft* was not only borrowed into English already during the Old English (OE) period but also functioned as a fully fledged constituent of the English language, be it on an appellatival or an onomastic level. That we are most probably dealing with an English and not a Norse formation is accentuated in the 963 entry where the specific of the place-name *hibaldes tofte* is the Old English personal name *Hygbald*, m., although the theoretical possibility exists that *hibaldes tofte* could have been coined by Scandinavian speakers. However, the presence of an English personal name in a place-name with a generic of ultimately Scandinavian origin as early as 963 must mean that by then *toft* was fully accepted as a place-name element in the local language community.

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As the above examples have shown, ON toft, f., is one of the earliest known Scandinavian words and place-name elements to be borrowed into English. According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, the core meaning of toft in English is that of ‘a homestead, the site of a house and its out-buildings’. Sometimes toft may also signify ‘a settlement site and its accompanying land’, a connotation stressed through the often used legal phrase *toft and croft*. A third, and a somewhat extended connotation of toft, is that of ‘a knoll or hillock, especially one suitable for settlement’. A prime example of this latter meaning is found in the *Piers Plowman* quotation which forms part of the title of this article: *I sauh a Tour on a Toft—tryelyche i-maket; a Deop Dale bi-neoþe* (‘I saw a tower on a hillock, very well-built; a deep valley below’).

The denotative signification, however, does not seem to be a complete one-to-one relationship to the appellatival connotation of toft. In Denmark, toft has been used to coin habitative names as well as field-names. Although the denotational gap between that of ‘a settlement’ and that of ‘a field’ appears wide, it seems to have its roots in the original denotation of ‘a site for settlement’. This denotation carries considerable elasticity because the ‘site’ itself must necessarily have included the settlement plot as well as some amount of accompanying land.

The potential for this two-fold denotation seems to stretch back into the Viking Age, as this denotational span is found not only in Scandinavia, but is also extremely common with toft-names in England. How wide this denotational span has appeared in the naming situation, or whether it has been apparent to the namer at all, is impossible to say. What is apparent, though, is the seeming overlapping of naming motives of the two

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denotations to such an extent that there is no discernible
difference between them. Typologically speaking, there is
no way of telling the difference between, say, the
Northamptonshire parish name of Sibbertoft (1086
Sibertod, 11th c. Sibertoft) and the field name of
Grimbaldstoft (1246 Grimbaldstoft), as either name is
specified by a personal name, namely ON Sigbjörn, m., or
OE Sigebeorth, m., and Continental Germanic (ContGerm)
Grimbeald, m.6 In the same way, the Old Norse appellative
búr, n., ‘a storage house’, may equally well be applied to
a settlement, such as the hamlet of Burtoft in Wigtoft,
Lincolnshire (1086 Burtoft), or to a field, as in the case of
Burtofts in Yorkshire (1196 Burtofts) and Burtofts in
Leicestershire (1703 Burtofts). In other words, it is
impossible to tell whether a place-name in -toft is an
original settlement name or an original field-name.

As I mentioned at the beginning, toft has only rarely
been focused on in English place-name studies. In fact,
the only relatively detailed study so far is the above-
mentioned Bengt Holmberg’s Tomt och Toft som
Appellativ och Ortsnamnselement from 1946. In this work,
he lists 162 names containing toft in England, the
majority of which he has taken from Harald Lindkvist’s
Middle English Place-Names of Scandinavian Origin from
1912.7 My own compilation of English toft-names has so
far tallied some 282 place-names. Place-names in -toft are
scattered over the areas of Viking Age Scandinavian
settlement, i.e. all of eastern and northern England,
including a slight drizzle of toft-names into
Gloucestshire. The greatest concentrations of names in
this material are to be found in Cambridgeshire (13),
Leicestershire (30), Lincolnshire (90), Norfolk (23),
Yorkshire (76) and Westmorland (12). The remaining
counties have less than ten toft-names each. The present

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6See the appendix for a more detailed description of this and
other toft-names.

7H. Lindkvist, Middle English Place-Names of Scandinavian
material has mainly been collected from printed place-name works, as detailed below.\(^8\) The great flaw of collecting place-names from such works is that the well-researched areas also become the better-represented ones. Therefore, it is necessary to bear in mind that the number of names for each county is more or less proportional to the amount of research into the place-names of the area. Since my collection and recording of place-names in toft is still ongoing, the number of 282 may only be seen as a preliminary figure. Personally, I am certain that it should be possible to add an additional 50–100 names to the present material, if not more.

Far from all these toft-names are of Scandinavian origin; a fair number have been coined in the Middle English period. Nonetheless, a large number of names appear to have been coined during the Viking Age, if not by Scandinavians, then at least by people heavily influenced by them. For this reason, it is exceedingly difficult to establish whether a place-name in toft is a Scandinavian, Anglo-Scandinavian or purely English construction.

The problem of determining the language of coinage of toft-names is mainly owing to the success of this element

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\(^8\)The various English Place-Name Society volumes (EPNS + volume number); K. Cameron, A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names, English Place-Name Society, Popular Series 1 (Nottingham, 1998) (Cameron 1998); B. Cox, ‘The Place-Names of Leicestershire and Rutland’ (unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Nottingham, 1971) (PNLeiR); G. Fellows Jensen, Scandinavian Personal Names in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire, Navnestudier, 7 (Copenhagen, 1968) (SPNLY); G. Fellows Jensen, Scandinavian Settlement Names in Yorkshire, Navnestudier, 11 (Copenhagen, 1972) (SSNY); G. Fellows Jensen, Scandinavian Settlement Names in the East Midlands, Navnestudier, 16 (Copenhagen, 1978) (SSNEM); G. Fellows-Jensen, Scandinavian Settlement Names in the North-West (Copenhagen, 1985) (SSNNW); K. Hald, ‘Nordiske stednavne i Lincolnshire’ (unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Copenhagen, 1930) (Hald 1930); Holmberg, Tomt och Toft (Holmb.); Lindkvist, Middle English Place-Names (Lindkv.).
as an appellative in English. From the evidence of the element’s appearance in, for instance, the 1001 text, it is apparent that toft was one of the first everyday Scandinavian terms to be borrowed into English. This is evidenced for example in the 1001 example on tofte, where toft takes the Old English dative form in accordance with the preposition on. Similarly, place-names in -toft are often found in the Latinised form -toftum, as in the case of Emmetoft, Benniworth, Lincs., which occurs in a twelfth-century document in Latin as Emmetoftum. The gender corresponds to that in Scandinavian, the -um in Emmetoftum being a Latin feminine accusative inflexion.

When we encounter toft in place-names, a number of notable changes in comparison to the early appellatival occurrences have taken place. From the Domesday Book entries and onwards the plural form of toft is always found with the -es plural form from the former Old English masculine a-stem nouns, as for instance in the Norfolk parish name of Toftrees which is written Toftes and Totes in Domesday Book. This change must be seen as an early example of the levelling of Old English plural declensions under the -s plural, a process that began in the northern parts of England. In fact, there is not a single recorded instance of a plural toft-place-name in England which features even remnants of the original Old Norse feminine i-stem ir-plural. This is in stark contrast to, for instance, toft-names in the Hebrides, such as Seilastotar and Steinatotair in the Isle of Lewis, which appear to have retained the original Old Norse plural marker. This must signify that by the time of the compilation of the Domesday Book, toft had been fully incorporated into the

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9Emmetoft, Benniworth, Lincolnshire. Sl. 12th c. K fol. 27b Emmetoftum.
10Although -um is also a dative plural inflexion in both Old English and Old Norse, in the context of the manuscript Emmatotum reflects the Latin feminine accusative form. Cf. Hald, `Nordiske stednavne i Lincolnshire', p. 298.
Northern English dialect and henceforth took part in the local levelling of the noun system on all linguistic levels. The consequence of this to the place-name researcher is that it is in reality impossible to distinguish a purely Scandinavian toft-coinage from one created within an English framework, at least on grounds of the form of the generic element of a place-name in -toft.

If the generic element does not offer any indications as to whether a toft-place-name is of Scandinavian origin or not, the specific element might instead be a safer indicator. Of the 282 place-names in toft which I have so far collected, 228 are original compound formations. Owing to the long productivity span of this place-name element, it goes without saying that far from all of the place-names in this material can be regarded as of Scandinavian origin. Nonetheless, I have chosen to see the material as a whole for this paper.

The most striking feature of the material at hand is the overwhelming number of personal names, bynames or occupational designations, etc., 119 in total, or in excess of fifty per cent of the specifics in toft-names belong to this category. Of these, fifty-four are of Scandinavian origin whereas forty have an English source. Thirteen may be of either Scandinavian or English origin and another twelve have a French, Continental Germanic or Irish origin. In general, the toft-place-names that contain English and French sourced personal names should be considered to be English or Anglo-Scandinavian constructions, and only the sixty-seven names with a Scandinavian or a possible Scandinavian personal name as the specific can be considered to be possible Scandinavian coinages. But even here, it is difficult positively to determine the Scandinavian origin, as Scandinavian personal names were also subject to borrowing into Old English. Formally, the only certain Scandinavian coinage in this group is Branzthoft, in Lincolnshire (c.1150 Branzthoft), the specific of which is which is the Old Norse personal name Brandr, m., with an Old Norse -s genitive
In some instances, such as Caletoft, Lincs.? (1268 *Caletoft* < poss. ON persn. *Kali*, m.), Gilleteoft, Yorkshire (1439 *Gilleteoft* < ON persn. *Gilli*, m.), Gippetoft, Lincs. (c.1242 *in Gippetoft* < ON persn. *Gippi*, m.?), Gunnetoft, Lincs. (12th–14th c. *in Gunnetoft* < ON persn. *Gunní*, m./*Gunna*, f.), Oretoftes, Yorkshire (13th c. *Oretoftes* <prob. ON persn. Ári, m.), Toletoftes, Lincs. (14th c. *Toletoftes* < ON persn. Tóli, m.), Totetoft, Lincs. (1200 *Totetoft* < ON persn. Tóti, m.), etc., the medial ‘e’ may possibly represent the remnants of the Old Norse weak masculine genitive singular form, although it may just as well merely be a linking ‘e’. In the majority of cases, however, where the *toft*-name material is modified by a Scandinavian personal name or personal designation, the source forms show either a zero form, as with Renildtoft, Lincolnshire (12th–14th c. *Renildtoft* < ON persn. *Ragnhildr*, f.) and Sywardtoft, Lincolnshire (c.1242 *in Sywardtoft* < ON persn. *Sigvarðr*, m.), or an Old English -es genitive form, as for example Bernestoft, Yorkshire (13th c. *Bernestoft* < ON persn. *Björn*, m.) and Ermestoft, Warwickshire (1216–72 *Ernestoft* < ON persn. in *Arm-*?), making these names typologically indistinguishable from *toft* place-names compounded by an Old English personal name: compare for instance Neucumentoftes, Westmorland (13th c. *Neucumentoftes* < ME byn. Neucumen ‘a newly arrived stranger’), Edmundtoft, Yorkshire (1488 *Edmundtoft* < OE persn. *Ēadmund*, m.) and Bremestoft, Norfolk (< OE persn. *Brem*, m.). Whether this means that such constructions are purely English in origin is uncertain: a fair number of these undoubtedly represent Anglicisations of original Scandinavian constructions.

The specific material which does not signal a person’s association to a *toft*-locality is a mixture of Scandinavian and English word stock, an aspect which strengthens the impression that this place-name element has been much

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11Cf. SPNLY, p. xcix.
12Ibid., p. c.
used in a bilingual or contact linguistic environment. Owing to the introductory nature of this paper, it will suffice to mention a few examples that show evidence of *toft* being used by both Scandinavian and English speaking people. For instance, the occurrence of the tree-designation *ash*, OE *æsc*, ON askrjeski, as in Eshetoftes, Yorkshire (1158–67 *Eshetoftes*) and Eastoft, Lincs. (c.1200 *Esketoft*), shows that Eshetoftes probably has been coined by English speakers, because of the palatalisation of Germanic [sk] to OE [ʃ] in the specific element, whereas the unpalatalised [sk] in the specific of the source form of Eastoft betrays that its origin is ON eski, m., ‘ash-trees’, a collective noun of ON askr, m. The two Yorkshire *Saintofts* (Saintoft, Pickering, YNR (1335 P Centoftdikes), Saintofts, Warter, YER (early 12th c. *Sintoftes*) seemingly contain the Old English word sænget, ‘burnt’, probably meaning ‘the toft cleared by burning’ or ‘the toft destroyed by burning’. As such they could be a translation of an original ON *Brendatoft* (compare for instance the Faroese Brendatoft where the specific is derived from ON brenna, vb. ‘to burn’). In total, the present material comprises roughly ninety *toft*-names which contain ordinary word stock, of which roughly a third is of Scandinavian origin, a third of English origin (of varying periods), whereas the final third of the material contains word stock of either Scandinavian or English origin.

It is my hope that this brief overview of the English place-name material in *toft* has drawn attention to a number of interesting points and shown the research potential for this place-name type. However brief, it is evident from the above survey that this place-name element in English cannot but be studied from a contact linguistic point of view, since *-toft* has been used by both Scandinavian and English speaking people alike. An obvious path to tread in this respect is to try and outline the transition of *toft* from being a purely Scandinavian

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element to becoming a fully Anglo-Scandinavian and later eastern and northern English place-name element, if at all possible. Another important aspect which needs further study is the relationship between the dual place-name function of -toft. Why is -toft used both of settlements and of fields? How old is this feature and is it comparable to that found in, for instance, Denmark? Given that this place-name material on the one hand is relatively transparent and on the other hand shows up complexities of morphology, it is evident that more work needs to be done on the use of Old English genitive markers in place-names of ultimately Scandinavian origin and on the question of the use of genitive markers in personal name + generic constructions in general. As was the case with the Scottish place-name material in -toft, this element has proved to be more diverse and complicated than has hitherto been realised. I hope that by discussing merely a few of the most central points I have managed to show the potential as well as potential pitfalls of the place-name element toft.

Appendix: Place-Names in -toft, f.

A. Uncompounded toft-names

Basiltoftes, f.n., Bottesford, Lei. 1252 (early 14th c.) BelCartA
Toftis, 1292 (early 14th c.) BelCartA Thoftis, 1377 Nichols
Basiltoftes, Lei. 1413 Basiltoftes. Cf. EPNS 78.26, PNLeiR 144.
Birchham Tofts, parish, Norf. 1086 DB Stoftsta, 1313 Cl.R.
Fishtoft, parish, Lincs. 1086 DB Toft. Cf. Lindkv., 214 &
SSNEM.148, 150.
Rockland Toft of Major, All Saints and St. Andrews parish, Norf.
DB 1086 Toftes.
Tafts Close, f.n., Stapleford, Freeby, Lei. late 13th c. (1449)
Toftis, 1632 Tafts Close. Cf. EPNS 78.142.
The Toft, mansion, Sharnbrook, Beds. 1279 Toft, Tofte. Cf. EPNS
3.42.
The Tofts Close, f.n., Strathern, Lei. 1625 The Toftes close. Cf.
EPNS 78.266–67.
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Toft Field, f.n., Warw. 1355 *le Toft feld*. Cf. EPNS 13.333.  
Toft Flats, Scrayingham, YER. 1208 FF *Toftum quod fuit bruning*.  
Cf. EPNS 14.147.  
Toft Monks, parish, Norf. DB 1086 *Toft*, 1386 BM *Toft Monachorum*.  
Toft, f.n., Cleckheaton, YWR. Cf. Holmb., 228.  
Toft, f.n., Hunshelf, YWR. Cf. Holmb., 228.  
Toft, near Ipswich, Suff. 1086 DB *Toft*. Cf. Lindkv., 211.  
Toft, parish, Ches. 1210 *Tofte*. Cf. EPNS 45.81 & SSNNW.59.  
Toft’s Hill, Toft’s Lane, f.ns., Strathern, Lei. 1605 *the Toftes*. Cf. EPNS 78.261.  
Toftes, Breedon on the Hill, Lei. 1288 *Le Toftes*. Cf. PNLeiR 347.  
Toftes, f.n., Bottesford, Lei. 1252 (early 14th c.) *Toftis*, 1374 (early 15th c.) *Toftes*. Cf. EPNS 78.32.
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Toftes, f.n., Westmorl. 1179 the Toftes. Cf. EPNS 43.293.
Toftes, f.n., YNR. 1380 le Toftes. Cf. EPNS 5.327.
Toftes, vill, Wombwell, Upper Strafforth, YWR. 1086 DB Toftes. Cf. SSNY.89.
Tofts, Carnaby, YER. 1306 Bridl. le Toftes. EPNS 14.87.
Tofts, Dent, YWR. 1699 PR Tofts. Cf. EPNS 35.259.
Tofts, f.n., Harby, Clawson, Hose and Harby parish, Lei. 1703 the Tofts. Cf. EPNS 78.98.
Tofts, f.n., Redmille, Lei. late 1424 le Toftes. Cf. EPNS 78.199.
Tofts, f.n., Strathern, Lei. 1709 Toftes pasture. Cf. EPNS 78.261.
Tofts, f.n., Westmorl. 1425 Les Toftes. Cf. EPNS 43.67, 293.
Tofts, f.n., Westmorl. Cf. EPNS 43.70.
Tofts, f.n.?, Wyke, YWR. 1817 M Tofts. Cf. EPNS 32.34.
Tufty Farm, Ossett, YWR. 1314 YDi le Toftes. Cf. EPNS 31.191.
West Tofts, parish, Norf. DB 1086 Stofftam, 1199 P toftes, 1291 Tax. Westtoftes.

B. Compounded toft-names
Aculfetoftes, f.n., Westmorl. 1179 Aculfetoftes. < OE persn. Æcwulf, m. Cf. EPNS 43.293, 313.
Adestanestoft, Sutterton, Lincs. 13th c. (?) Cr. fol. 127b Adestanestoft. < OE persn. Æadstān, m. Cf. Hald 1930, 298.
Albritostoftis, Swineshead, Lincs. 1316 Ch.R. Albritostoftis. < ON persn. Albrict, m., or OE persn. Ealdbeorht, Aldberht,
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Aldbriht, m. Cf. Lindkv., 212.
Aletostegate, f.n., Langton-by-Wragby, Lincs. 13th c. 
Alfledestoft, Beds. 12th c. Alfledestoft. < OE persn. Æðelflæd, f.
Cf. EPNS 3.297.
Algaretoft, f.n., Gosberton, Lincs. 1242 Li.Rec. Algaretoft. < ON 
persn. Alfgeirr, m. or OE persn. Ælfgar, m. Cf. Lindkv., 212 & 
SPNLY.6.
Alkeltoft, f.n., Ardsley, YWR. 1348 in Alkeltoft’. < ON persn.
Alfketill, m. Cf. EPNS 31.178, EPNS 37.256 & SPNLY.8.
Allan Tops, f.n., Pickering, YNR. 1204 Ch.R. Aleinetoften. < OF 
persn. Alain, m. Cf. EPNS 5.82.
Altofts, parish, YWR. c.1090 (1492–93) Altoftes, 1230 Altoftis. < 
ME aid, adj. ‘old’ or ON alr, ‘an alder-tree’. Cf. Lindkv., 212.
Alwoldtoftsf, f.n., Easingwold, YNR. 1292 Pat.R. Alwoldtoftes. < 
ON persn. Alvaldi, m./ON Alfar, m. Cf. EPNS 5.25 & 
SPNLY.8.
Antofts, Scawton, YNR. 1193–1203 Riev. Aldwinoftes, 
Arnoldstoft, Middlesborough, YNR. 1086 DB Arnoldstorp, 12th c. 
Whitby Ch. Aarnaldestoftes. < ON persn. Arnaldr, m. Cf. EPNS 
5.161.
Asgaretoft, Steeping, Lincs. 13th c. B fol. 133b Asgaretoft. < ON 
persn. Asgeirr, m./ODa Asgēr, m. Cf. Hald 1930, 29 8.
Ash Tofts, f.n., YWR. < OE æsc, m., ‘an ash-tree’. Cf. EPNS 
37.256.
< ON persn. Áslákr, m. or OE persn. Aslac, m. Cf. Lindkv., 174 
& SPNLY.33.
Aswicktoftine†, near Pinchbeck?, Lincs. 1227 Ch.R. Assenwatof. 
Cf. Lindkv., 212.
Ayllebrandtof, f.n., YWR. 1380 Ayllebrandtof. < ContGerm persn. 
Adalbrand, m. Cf. EPNS 37.256.
Barby Nortoft, Kilsby, Northants. 1247 Ass. Nortoft. < OE 
norð/ON norðr, adv., ‘north’. Cf. EPNS 10.25.
Beaumontofts, f.n., YWR. 13th c. Beaumontofts. < OF persn./pn. 
Beghall Toft, f.n., YWR. 1409 Beghall toft. < pn. Beghall (cf. BIHR 
PR 1 22v 1390 Robert de Beghall of the parish of All Saints)? 
Cf. EPNS 37.256.
Beltoft, Belton & Manthorpe, Lincs. 1086 DB Beltoft, 1202 Ass. 
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Berberdetoft, Loftus, YNR. 13th c. Guisborough Ch. 


Brackentoft, f.n., YWR. 1365 *Brackentoft*. < ME *braken* ‘bracken’ (orig. < ON). Cf. EPNS 37.256.


Buckenham Tofts, parish, Norf. < nearby pn. *Buckenham*. Probably a simplex name?


Burmantofts, Leeds, YWR. 1427 *Burmantoftes*, 1511 YD xxii.231 *Burghman Tofts*. < OE *burhman*, m., ‘a townsman, burgess’.
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Cf. EPNS 33.126.
Burmantofts, Wakefield, YWR. 1309 WCR Burghmantoftes. < OE burhman, m., ‘a townsman, burgess’. Cf. EPNS 31.166.
Burtofts, f.n., Harby, Clawson, Hose and Harby parish, Lei. 1703 Burtofts. < ON búr, n., ‘storage house’. Cf. EPNS 78.96.
Caletoft†, Lincs.? [1268 Ch.R. Sir Philip de Caletoft]. < ON kál, n. ‘cabbage’ or perhaps rather ON persn. Kali, m. Cf. Lindkv., 218.
Caltofts, settlement, Reddenhal with Harleston, Norf. < ON persn. Kali, m.? Cf. Holmb., 222.
Canion toft, Benniworth, Lincs. 1221 K fol. 28b Canion toft. < ME canoun ‘a clergyman living under canon rule’ or a surname derived therefrom. Cf. Hald 1930, 298.
Edmundtoft, f.n., YWR. 1488 Edmundtoft. < OE persn. Æadmund, m. Cf. EPNS 37.256.
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Ernestoft, f.n., Warw. 1216–72 Ernestoft. < ON persn. in Arn-? Cf. EPNS 13.333.


Gildhustoftes, f.n., near Hinderwell, YNR. 13th c. Whitby Ch. Gildhustoftes. < ON gildihús, n. ‘a guild hall’. Cf. EPNS 5.25.


Gilletoftes, f.n., Westmorl. < ON persn. Gilli, m., or OIr Gilla, m. Cf. EPNS 43.293, 315.


Girthetoft, f.n., Swineshead, Lincs. 1316 Ch.R. Girthetoft,
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Girdestoft. < ON persn. Gýrðr, m. Cf. Lindkv., 216. SPNLY.120.
Goukestoft, f.n., Holland, Lincs. 1331 Goukistoft. < ON byn. Gaukr, m. or poss. ON gaukr, m., ‘a cockoo’ Cf. SPNLY.96.
Great Tofts, f.n., Wymondham, Lei. 1753 Great Tofts. < MnE great, adj. Cf. EPNS 78.302.
Grimestoft, f.n., Habrough, Lincs. 12th c. in Grimestoft. < ON persn. Grímr, m. Cf. SPNLY.105.
Grimstoft, f.n., Holland, Lincs. 12th–14th c. in Grimstoft. < ON persn. Grímr, m. Cf. SPNLY.105.
Gudlokestoft, f.n., Burton Lazars, Burton and Dalby, Lei. Middle and late 13th c. Gudelokestoft, 1335 Guddelokescroft. < OE persn. Gūðlāc, m. Cf. EPNS 78.73.
Hardemetetoft, Kirton, Lincs. 1316 Ch.R. Hardemetedotoft. < ME hard mete ‘hard-meat, corn and hay used as fodder, as opposed to grass’. Cf. Lindkv., 217.
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Hardstoft, Hamlet, Auld Hucknall, Derbs. 1086 Hertestaf, 1257 F.F. Hertistoft. < ME hert, OE heort, m., ‘a stag’ or poss. ON persn. Hjörtr, m.? Cf. SSNEM.149.

Harewardtoft, Ingoldmells, Lincs. 1422 CRI Hareward-toft. < ON persn. Hervarðr, m./OSw Hærwardh, m. Cf. Hald 1930, 299.

Hartoft, parish, YNR. 1316 Vill. Haretoft. < Prob ON hari, m., ‘a hare’, here used as a byname? Cf. EPNS 5.79.


Havertop Lane, Normanton, YWR. 1684 Glebe Havertoft, Havertofts. < ON hafri, m., ‘oats’. Cf. EPNS 31.122.

Heathertofts, f.n., YWR. < MnE heather. Cf. EPNS 37.256.


Houndystofte, f.n., Ickleton, Cambs. 1483 Houndystofte. < OE persn. Hund, m./ON persn. Hundr, m., or perhaps rather ON hundr, m./OE hund, m. ‘a dog’. Cf. EPNS 19.xx.


Hundestoft, Sherbourne, Glou. 12th c. Hundestroft. < ON persn. Hundr, m./OE persn. Hund, m., or perhaps rather ON hundr, m./OE hund, m. ‘a dog’. Cf. EPNS 38.205.

Humemantoft, Dalby, Lincs. Sl. 12th c. K fol. 15a/15b Humemantoft, toftum quod fuit Hunemanni. < ME persn.
GAMMELTOFT

Huneman, m. (Prob. < ODa occup. byn. hund(e)man, m. ‘one who minds dogs’). Cf. Hald 1930, 300.

Hunlouetoft, f.n., Swineshead, Lincs. 1316 Ch.R. Hunlouetoft. < ON persn. Óláfr, m. Cf. Lindkv., 217 & SPNY.LY.204.

Huttoft, parish, Lincs. 1086 DB Hotot. < ON hór, hár, adj. ‘high’. Cf. Lindkv., 218, also Cameron 1998, 68, for alternative interpretation.

Ingoldtoft, Lincs. < ON persn. Ingjaldr, m. Cf. Lindkv., 212.


Karl Toft, f.n., Westmorl. 1179 Karl toft. < ON karl, m., ‘a free man, free peasant’. Cf. EPNS 43.293.

Kingestoftes, York, YER. 1227 Close Rolls Kingestoftes. < ME kinge ‘a king’. Now called Toft Green.


Kirketoftes, f.n., YWR. 1365 Kirketoftes, Kyrketoftes. < ON kirkja, f., ‘a church’. Cf. EPNS 37.256.

Knapetoft, parish, Lei. 1086 DB Cnapetot, 1156 (1318) Ch Cnapetot, 1284 Feudal Aids Knapetoft. < ON knapí, m., ‘male servant, valet’ or OE Cnapa/cnapa, m. ‘a young man, servant, menial’. Cf. Holmb. 219 & PNLeiR 451–52.

Knocking Tofts, Brough, Westmorl. 1710, 1734 Nuckin tofts, Nucking tofts, 1771 Nuckentoft end. < poss. OIr persn. Cnocán (< Ir cnoc ‘hill’). Cf. EPNS 43.66.

Kyrketoftes, f.n., Westmorl. 1179 Kyrketoftes. < ON kirkja, f., ‘a church’. Cf. EPNS 43.293.


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Little Tofts, f.n., Wymondham, Lei. 1601 Litell Toft, 1753 Little Tofts. < MnE little, adj. Cf. EPNS 78.302–03.

Long Tofts, f.n., YWR. < MnE long, adj. (or older ON langr/OE lang?) ‘long’. Cf. EPNS 37.256.


Lowestoft, town, Suff. 1086 DB Lothu Wistoft, 1212 Fees Lothewistoft. < ON persn. Hloðvér, m.

Martin Top, YWR. < OF persn. Martin, m. Cf. EPNS 37.256.

Mid Toft, f.n., Pickwell, Somersby, Lei. late 1625 The mid tofthe. < ON miðr/OE midd, adj. ‘middle’. Cf. EPNS 78.244.


North Tofts†, Hatfield, YWR. 1539 Hnt. Nortoft, 1615 Comm65 Northtoftes, Northtoftes. < OE norð/ON norðr, adv., ‘north’ Cf. EPNS 30.10.


GAMMELTOFT


Osebernestoft, Beds. 1313 Osebernestoft. < ON persn. Ásbjørn, m. Cf. EPNS 3.300.

Osgotetoft, f.n., Nott. 1269 Osgotetoft. < ON persn. Ásgautr, m. Cf. EPNS 17.291.

Osgottofes, Stallingborough, Lincs. 13th c. Selby Ch. Osgottoftes. < ON persn. Ásgautr, m. Cf. Lindkv., 221.


Philipstoft, Garstang, Lancs. 1241 Philipstoft. < OF Philip, m. Cf. Lindkv., 221.

Piggestoft, f.n., Norf. < ME pyg, pigge, m., ‘a piglet’. Cf. Lindkv., 221.


Rudd Toft, f.n., Westmorl. < The local surname Rudd. Cf. EPNS 43.67.


Saintoft, Pickering, YNR. 1335 P Centoftdikes. < OE sænget
‘burnt’. Cf. EPNS 5.25.
Sakertoft, f.n., Broughton and Old Dalby, Lei. c.1268 Sakertoft, Sacirtoft, Sakirtoft. < ME occup. persn. Saker ‘sackmaker’. Cf. EPNS 78.49.
Sandtoft, hamlet, Beltoft, Lincs. 1189 Ch.R. Sandtoft. < ON sandr, m./OE sand, n., ‘sand’. Cf. Lindkv., 221.
Sibbertoft, parish, Northants. 1086 DB Sibertod, 11th c. Survey Sibertoft. < ON persn. Sigbjörn, m. or OE persn. Sigebeorth, m. Cf. EPNS 10.121 & SSNEM.149.
M Smythetoft, Swineshead, Lincs. 1316 Ch.R. Smythestoft. < Either ON smiðr, m., ‘a blacksmith’ or ON smiðja, f., ‘a smithy’. Cf. Lindkv., 222.
Stantoft, Wangle, Lincs. 13th K fol. 188a, 189a Stantoft, Stantoft. < OE stān, m., ‘a stone’. Cf. Hald 1930, 301.
Staynetoft, f.n., YWR. 1483 Staynetoft. < ON steinn, m., ‘a (standing) stone’. Cf. EPNS 37.256.
Thebeltoft, f.n., Wymondham, Lei. [1242 Fees terra de Henrii de Thebeltoft, Henricus de tybetoft] < OF persn. Theobald,
GAMMELTOFT

Tibaut, m. Cf. EPNS 78.297.

Thrintoft, parish, YNR. 1086 DB Thirnetofte. < ON þyrnir, m., ‘thorn bushes’. Cf. EPNS 5.25.


Tofts Hill, Swinden, YWR. 1848 TA Near Tofts. < MnE near. Cf. EPNS 35.126.


Ulvestoft, f.n., Norf. < ME persn. Ulf, m. (< ON persn. Ulfr, m.) Cf. Lindkv., 222.


Welle Tofte, f.n., YWR. < OE wella, ‘a well, spring’. Cf. EPNS 37.256.

Werkhustoft, Eastoft, Lincs. 1263 Selby Ch. Werkhustoft. < ON verkhús, m., ‘a work-house, e.g. a smithy’. Cf. Lindkv., 223.

Westoff Lane, South Hiendley, YWR. 1841 TA Westoft. < MnE west, adv., ‘west’. Cf. EPNS 30.272.


Wigtoft, parish, Lincs. 1163–81 Ch.R. Wiketoft, 1180 P Wigetoft. < ON vík, m., ‘a small creek, inlet, bay’. Wigtoft is
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Willowes Tofte, f.n., Wymondham, Lei. 1691 Willowes Toft. < Persn. John Willowe, found in several local pns. Cf. EPNS 78.305.
Wivetoft, Sherbourne, Glou. 1200 Wivetoft. < OE wiða, m., ‘a woman’? Cf. EPNS 39.177.
Yelvertoft, parish, Northants. 1086 DB Celvrecot, Gelvrecote, Givertost, 11th c. Gelertoft(e), 1235 Fees Jelvertoft. < Uncertain might be OE persn. Ceorlferþ, m. or OE *Geldfriþ. Cf. EPNS 10.77.