

143/23

**CHURCH STREET, HEMSWELL,
LINCOLNSHIRE :
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**CHURCH STREET, HEMSWELL,
LINCOLNSHIRE :
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

CONTENTS

SYNOPSIS

- 1. INTRODUCTION**
- 2. SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION**
- 3. EXISTING HISTORICAL INFORMATION**
- 4. EXISTING ARCHAEOLOGICAL INFORMATION**
- 5. SITE OBSERVATIONS**
- 6. DISCUSSION**

BIBLIOGRAPHY

CARTOGRAPHY

Fig. 1 SITE PLAN

Fig. 2 EXTRACT FROM OS ONE-INCH MAP (1824)

PHOTOGRAPHS

**CHURCH STREET, HEMSWELL,
LINCOLNSHIRE :
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

SYNOPSIS

An archaeological watching brief on earthmoving for construction of a house and garage encountered no features or artefacts of antiquity. The only structure exposed was the foundation of a 19th century building which still stands in truncated form. Limited evidence for former land-use pointed to possible utilisation as a kitchen garden since the 19th century. It was concluded that the development has had no archaeological impact.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report has been prepared by the *Tony Sumpter Archaeological Consultancy* (the archaeological consultant) for Mr R.G. Carman (the developer). It describes an archaeological watching brief on development in Church Street, Hemswell, seven miles east of Gainsborough (SK 9306 9098).
- 1.2 A planning application (no. M02/P/0304) was submitted for the construction of a detached house with garage. The application area is on the north side of Church Street, at an elevation of 40m (130ft) OD. The location is on the east of the Trent Valley with clay at the foot of the Lincoln Cliff which rises steeply 200m to the east.
- 1.3 The local planning authority (LPA), West Lindsey District Council, acting on the advice of the District Archaeologist for Lincolnshire County Council, requested an archaeological watching brief on earthmoving for the development to conform with an approved written scheme of investigation.
- 1.4 The developer retained the archaeological consultant to carry out the watching brief.
- 1.5 A specification was prepared which was approved by the District Archaeologist on 14th November 2003 as the written scheme of investigation necessary to secure the implementation of the watching brief.
- 1.6 The watching brief was based on the requirements of *Planning Policy Guidance 16* (PPG 16, DoE 1990), and designed to accord with the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire CC 1998). It conformed with the *Code of Conduct* and took account of the appropriate *Standards and guidance* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1997, 1999a, 1999b). It was carried out in line with current best archaeological practice.

2. SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION

2.1 Location

The application area (Fig. 1) is on the north side of Church Street opposite the parish church and is bounded on three sides by residential properties. To the east is the Old Vicarage, a substantial mid- to late 19th century house. Immediately to the west, nos. 11-15 form a terrace of 19th century stone-built cottages with brick chimneys and brick tumbling in the east gable of no. 15.

2.2 Description

In plan the area is an almost rectilinear parallelogram measuring 81 x 20m and covering c. 1600m². When first inspected on 9th October 2003 it appeared to have been vacant for many years and was overgrown with long grass, field weeds and young trees. It is generally level and no artificial features were perceptible.

2.3 Environs

To the east the Lincoln Cliff is a north-south ridge of Middle Jurassic Lincolnshire Limestone which runs from Lincoln northward to the Humber estuary. It rises to just over 60m (200ft) OD and separates the Trent valley to the west from the Ancholme valley to the east. At the foot of the west-facing scarp the limestone is underlain by impermeable clays, resulting in a spring line along which a series of villages was established before the Norman conquest. Each village is linked to the sinuous B1398 road which follows the 60m (200ft) contour along the Cliff. Like its neighbours Hemswell is a strip parish, extending four miles east-west with a mean north-south breadth of one mile. The village is in the centre of the parish and largely comprises a mixture of 19th and 20th century houses.

3. EXISTING HISTORICAL INFORMATION

3.1 Hemswell is recorded in the Domesday survey of AD 1086 as *Helmeswelle* (Helm's spring, Anglo-Saxon). It lay in Aslaoe wapentake (the Anglo-Saxon administrative district). In 1086 it included arable and pasture, with the greater part belonging to the king. Thirty years later when the Lindsey Survey (1115-18) was compiled, the king no longer appears as a landowner (Foster & Longley 1924, lxxiv, 20, 38, 167, 239, 240).

3.2 The parish church of All Saints stands 30m south of the application area (SK 9305 9092). It dates from the 12th or 13th century. The existing structure has a chancel, nave, tower and north aisle with porch. There is an Early English (c. 1190-1250) three-bay arcade with octagonal piers and double-chamfered arches, only slightly pointed. The sedilia (seats for the priests) are Decorated (c. 1290-1350). A south aisle was removed in 1754, and the rather squat tower is a replacement of 1764. There was further restoration in 1858 and 1871 (Pevsner & Harris 1964, 273; White 1892).

An inscribed stone plaque on the west side of the tower reads :

The Body of this Church was repaired & the South Ifle taken away Anno. Domini.
1754

Tho^s. Leach & R^d. Akes Church wardens

This Steeple was in part taken down Aⁿ. Do^m. 1762.

John Dewick C^h. warden

The remainder was taken down Aⁿ. Do^m. 1763.

John Marfhall. C^h. warden

Totally rebuilt & Compleatly finifhed. Aⁿ. Do^m. 1764.

Tho^s. Ake^s C^h. warden

3.3 Hemswell mill was 700m south-east on the scarp (SK 9353 9041). It was a corn windmill which also served Harpswell village, three-quarters of a mile south of Hemswell, and one of a series of at least eight windmills on the Cliff between Lincoln and Kirton in Lindsey (OS 1824).

3.4 The former National school is 80m west (SK 9297 9096). It was built in 1859, and is now the Village Hall. The contemporary master's house is privately-owned.

3.5 The site of a maypole of unknown antiquity is 100m west (SK 9295 9095). It is occupied by a modern metal maypole.

3.6 During the 19th century the village was for most purposes self-sufficient. There were two grocers & drapers, one of whom was also a bootmaker; miller; butcher; carpenter; tailor; dressmaker; three schoolteachers; joiner, wheelwright and builder; veterinary surgeon; blacksmith; and ten farmers. A carrier went weekly to Lincoln and twice weekly to Gainsborough (White 1856; White 1892). The village plan is almost unaltered over the past two centuries, but retail facilities today are limited to a post office cum general store (OS 1824; OS 2000).

4. EXISTING ARCHAEOLOGICAL INFORMATION

4.1 Prehistoric

- a) To the east the Lincoln Cliff forms part of the Jurassic Way, a major prehistoric routeway between south-west England and Yorkshire.
- b) 2.0km to the north, at Willoughton, a Mesolithic occupation site was discovered by the late Mrs Ethel Rudkin and excavated in 1932 by A.L. Armstrong, though unpublished in detail (no exact provenance given; May 1976, 32-34, 39).
- c) At Willoughton a Mesolithic flint tranchet axe was found (no exact provenance given; Dudley 1949, 40).
- d) At Willoughton a Neolithic polished stone axe and several fragments were found (no exact provenance given; Dudley 1949, 54).
- e) 1.12km north-east, on top of the Cliff at 73m (239ft) OD, a quadruple-ditched linear boundary possibly of Bronze Age date changes to a single ditch. The quadruple ditch is followed by the course of the later Willoughton - Hemswell parish boundary. The features were recorded as cropmarks (SK 937 919 ; Everson & Hayes 1985, 35, fig. 3).
- f) 3.1km north, at the foot of the scarp south of Blyborough, a tumulus was formerly marked by the Ordnance Survey (SK 9305 9415 ; OS 1824).
- g) 3.94km north, at the foot of the scarp north of Blyborough, a Bronze Age round barrow cemetery overlain by medieval ridge & furrow was recorded as cropmarks (SK 934 949 ; Everson & Hayes 1985, 36, fig. 5).
- h) 3.3km south-east, a circular enclosure or ring ditch and two possible linear features, undated, were recorded as cropmarks east of Canberra Crescent (SK 9606 8955; SMR 51090).
- i) 1.7km north, near the top of the scarp at Willoughton, Iron Age pottery and four cobalt glass beads of La Tène type were found with unspecified flints (SK 934 926 to SK 935 927 ; Whitwell 1982, 337).

4.2 Roman

- a) 3.5km east is the major Roman road Ermine Street, originally the 1st century military road from south-east England to the North. The 32-mile stretch from Lincoln to the Humber (Margary 2d) is known locally as The Ramper and is overlain by the A15 trunk road.
- b) 2.5km north-east is the site of a Roman stone building formerly known locally as the 'Roman villa' which was robbed for road material in the early 1900s. Mrs Rudkin has recorded roof tiles, pottery including samian & colour-coated wares, and 3rd to early 4th century coins. Nearby to the north is the 'Roman well', half-arched over the top (SK 946 9298 ; OS 1962 ; Dudley 1949, 144; Whitwell 1982, 337).

Another occupation site immediately west investigated by Mrs Rudkin produced stone hearths, pottery, a quern, bones and charcoal, but no roof tiles (SK 942 928 ; Dudley 1949, 144; Whitwell 1982, 337).

c) 1.9km north-west, to the south-west of Willoughton, Roman pottery was found (SK 919 925 ; Dudley 1949, 181; Whitwell 1982, 337).

d) 2.0km north, near the top of the scarp at Willoughton, Roman pottery was found (SK 935 929(?); Whitwell 1982, 337).

e) 1.9km north-north-west, on top of the Cliff, Roman pottery was found (SK 939 927 ; Whitwell 1982, 337).

f) 2.8km north-north-west, on the Willoughton - Blyborough boundary, is the site of a Roman stone building robbed for farm repairs. Mrs Rudkin has recorded pottery, roof tiles, and metal artefacts (SK 924 937 ; Dudley 1949, 181; Whitwell 1982, 195).

g) 3.6km north-north-west, and west of Blyborough, a possible Roman villa was discovered in 1835 with a mosaic floor and pottery (SK 917 944 or SK 919 943 ; White 1842; Whitwell 1982, 195).

h) In Blyborough parish there are several other findspots of Roman pottery (Whitwell 1982, 195).

4.3 Anglo-Saxon

At Willoughton is the site of an Anglo-Saxon timber dwelling investigated by Mrs Rudkin with pottery and metalwork dated to the 6th century. A rim and disc escutcheon from hanging bowls, and other metal objects, have been found in the parish (no exact provenances given; Dudley 1949, 232).

4.4 Medieval

a) 1.2km south is a medieval moated site at Harpswell (SK 931 8975 ; OS 2000).

b) 2.2km north is a medieval moated site at Willoughton (SK 933 932 ; OS 2000).

c) 2.35km north-north west is another medieval moated site at Willoughton (SK 9275 9335 ; OS 2000).

4.5 Undated

300m north-east are the springs giving rise to the name Hemswell (SK 9335 912).

5. SITE OBSERVATIONS

- 5.1 The watching brief was carried out on 24th - 27th November 2003.
- 5.2 The plant in use was a JCB 3CX hydraulic digger-loader.
- 5.3 Shrubbery and vegetation were cleared. At the north end of the plot a moderate heap of building debris consisting of limestone rubble and pantiles was removed. The ground surface was stripped of grass to a depth of 100mm. The topsoil contained occasional fragments of blue on white earthenware of 19th to 20th century date and sparse 20th century debris.
- 5.4 Halfway along the west side of the plot was the base of a small rectangular building in 2¾-inch brick with concrete floor, probably a potting shed or similar garden structure of the late 19th century.
- 5.5 Towards the south-west angle a north-south wall foundation of limestone was exposed 3.9m long x 550mm in breadth. It comprised a single course of unmortared rough limestone slabs up to 400mm, cut 300mm into the topsoil. Among the foundations was a clay tobacco-pipe stem fragment of narrow bore, probably 19th century. No floor levels remained.
- 5.6 Foundation trenches for the garage were dug in the north-east sector. They were 1.4m deep and 600mm wide. The strata exposed were :
- 700mm medium-brown topsoil with small limestone rubble towards the base
 - 500mm yellow-brown slightly sandy clay
 - medium-grey clay
- No features or artefacts were observed.
- 5.7 Foundation trenches for the house were dug on the frontage. They were 1.7m deep and 600mm wide. The strata revealed were the same except that the thickness of topsoil was slightly less at 600mm.
- No features or artefacts were observed.
- 5.8 Spoilheaps were carefully examined for artefacts without result.

6. DISCUSSION

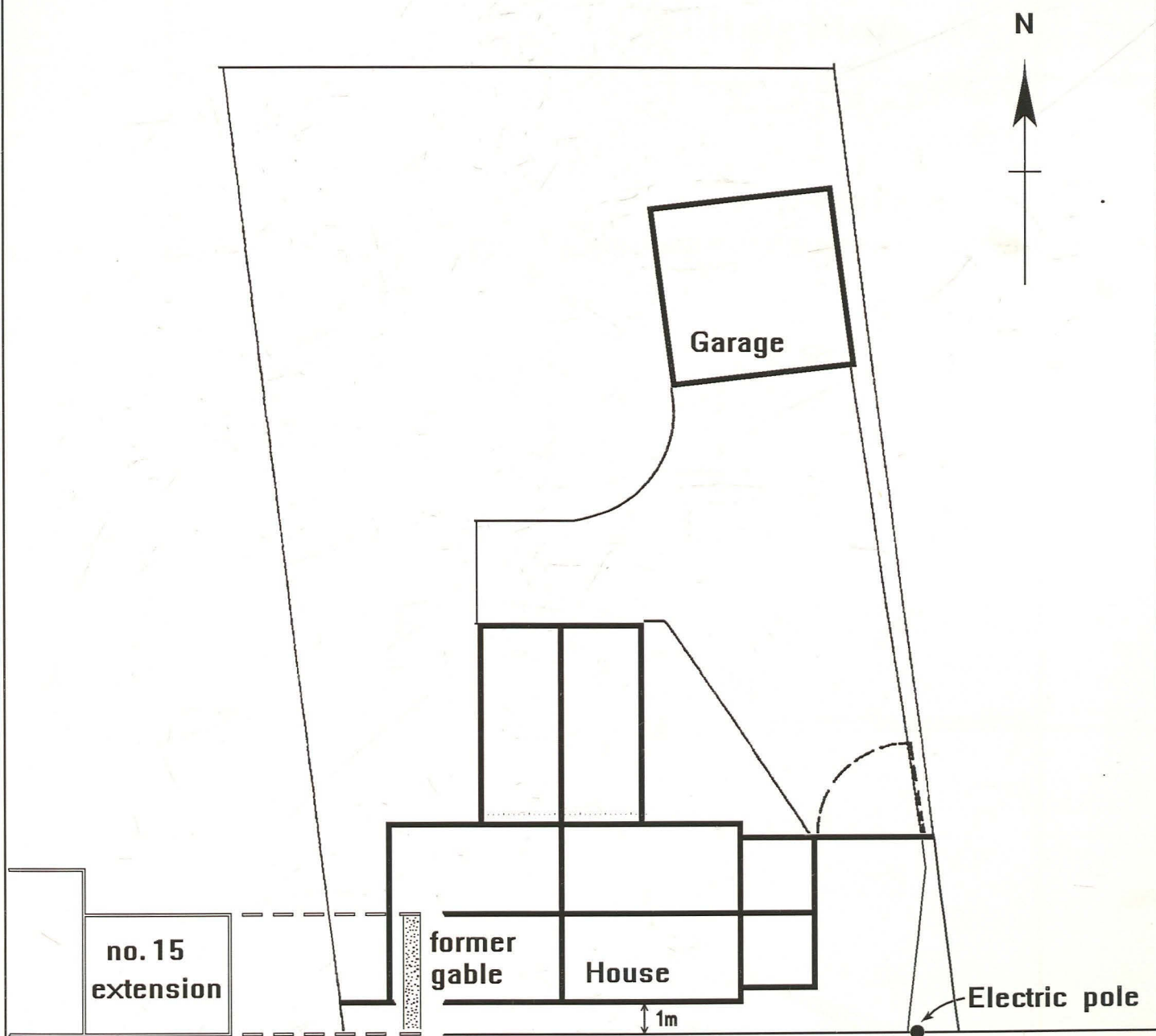
- 6.1** The exposed limestone wall foundation was identified as the original east gable wall of an existing single-storey extension to the adjacent no. 15 Church Street, formerly 10.9m but now only 4.8m in length. It is of coursed limestone rubble with pantiled roof and was probably added in the late 19th century, a date supported by the claypipe stem. According to the householder the extension was truncated in the late 20th century to make a driveway to a garage at the rear of no. 15. Confirmation was provided by sawn-off roof beams exposed in the rebuilt gable wall.
- 6.2** The heap of building debris at the north end of the plot is likely to have resulted from the truncation.
- 6.3** Horticultural activity was implied by the remains of the presumed potting-shed. The depth of topsoil is likely to have been created by double-digging (two spade-depths) for growing vegetables. The plot had probably served as a kitchen garden for no. 15.
- 6.4** No structural or artefactual evidence pre-dating the 19th century was found.
- 6.5** It was concluded that the development has had no archaeological impact.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- DoE 1990 *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning*, PPG 16 (Department of the Environment, London).
- Dudley H.E. 1949 *Early Days in North-West Lincolnshire* (Scunthorpe).
- Everson P. & Hayes T. 1984 'Lincolnshire from the Air' in Field & White 1984, 33-41.
- Field N. & White A. (eds.) 1984 *A Prospect of Lincolnshire* (Lincoln).
- Foster C.W. & Longley T. (eds.) 1924 *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey* (Horncastle).
- IFA 1997 *Code of Conduct* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, Reading).
- IFA 1999a *Standard and guidance for an archaeological desk-based assessment* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, Reading).
- IFA 1999b *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, Reading).
- Kent P., Gaunt G.D., Wood C.J. & Wilson V., 1980 *British Regional Geology : Eastern England from the Tees to the Wash* (2nd edn, HMSO, London).
- Lincolnshire CC 1998 *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire CC Archaeology Section, Lincoln).
- May J. 1976 *Prehistoric Lincolnshire* (History of Lincolnshire 1), Lincoln.
- Pevsner N. & Harris J. 1964 *The Buildings of England : Lincolnshire* (Harmondsworth).
- White W. 1842 *History, Gazetteer, and Directory, of Lincolnshire* (Sheffield).
- White W. 1856 *History, Gazetteer, and Directory of Lincolnshire* (2nd edn, Sheffield; repr. Newton Abbot, 1969).
- White W. 1892 *History, Gazetteer and Directory of Lincolnshire* (5th edn, Sheffield).
- Whitwell J.B. 1982 *The Coritani* (British Archaeological Reports, Brit. Ser. 99, Oxford).

CARTOGRAPHY (date order)

- OS 1824 One-inch (1 : 63,360) map sheet 83 (1st edn) (repr. as sheet 29 *Lincoln* with railways & light revision to outskirts of main towns from later 19th century maps, 1970, 2nd imprn 1981, Newton Abbot).
- OS 1962 One-inch (1 : 63,360) map sheet 104 : *Gainsborough* (Ordnance Survey, 7th series, Chessington).
- OS 1991 *Historical Map & Guide : Roman Britain* (Ordnance Survey, Southampton).
- OS 2000 2½-inch (1 : 25,000) map Explorer 281 : *Ancholme Valley* (Ordnance Survey, Southampton).



Church Street

Churchyard

HOUSE AND GARAGE
15 CHURCH STREET,
HEMSWELL,
GAINSBOROUGH

for Mr R. G. Carman

scale 1 : 200

date FEB. 2003

drn J. c. adams

Fig. 1 SITE PLAN (1 : 200)

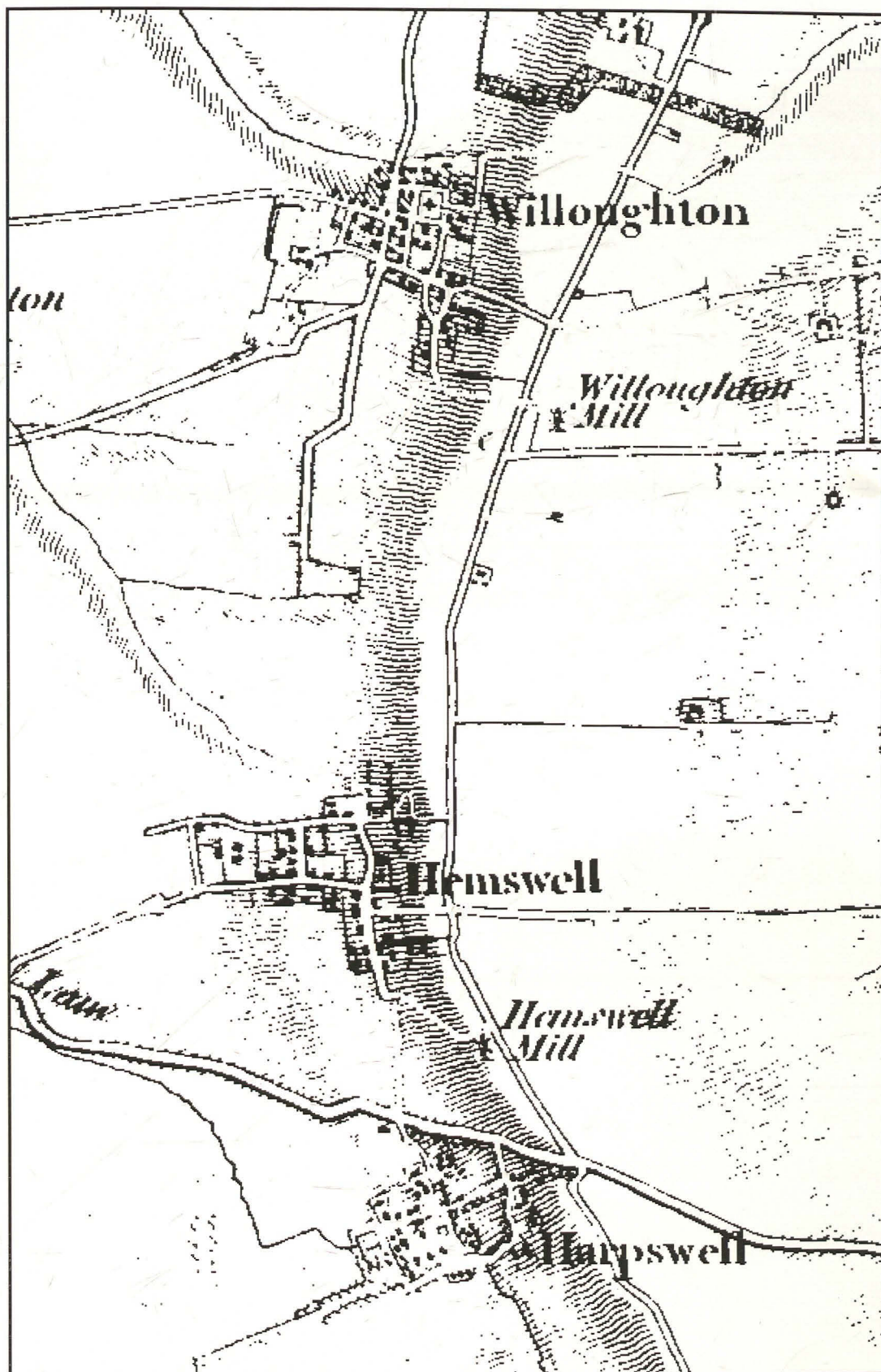


Fig. 2 EXTRACT FROM OS ONE-INCH MAP (1824)

(1 : 63,360 enlarged to 1 : 21,120)



NOS. 11, 13, 15 CHURCH ST & EXTENSION LOOKING NORTH-WEST (9.10.03)



**FOUNDATION OF ORIGINAL EAST WALL OF EXTENSION, LOOKING EAST .
(scale divisions 0.5m) (24.11.03)**