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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES
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Hemingby, Lincs.

S98 Resewerage Scheme:

Archaeological Monitoring

TF 2323 7460

*NGR: **TF 238 745***
Site Code: **HEM 96**
LCNCC Museum Accn. No. **132.96**

Report produced for Anglian Water Services

March 1997

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Summary
A watching brief during trenching around Hemingby village identified no significant archaeological features or artefacts.

Introduction
Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Anglian Water in September 1996 to conduct an intermittent watching brief of trenching for a replacement water main around the village of Hemingby (Fig. 1). The archaeological monitoring had been requested by the Lincolnshire County Archaeology Section.

The first inspection visit by the author was made on 18th October 1996. Further visits were made until monitoring was concluded on 5th February 1997; a total of 23 visits were made.

Archaeological Background
The present village site appears to represent part of a larger medieval settlement. Earthwork remains of house sites and associated crofts are visible in pasture north of Baumber Road (SMR 43127; Pl. 1). The project offered an opportunity to establish whether the modern road network had been laid out over medieval or earlier settlement.

The Watching Brief
The trench was inspected from ground level and measurements taken from the surface. Numbers were assigned for recording purposes to each observation.

Baumber Road
1. Trenching (to a width of 0.75m) began at the western limit of the village, immediately outside the parish boundary. Unfortunately this part of the trench was backfilled before monitoring started and the opportunity to see a cross section at the boundary was lost.

The serpentine nature of the boundary shows that it originally followed a stream (parts of which still survive) that has been replaced by a straighter course of the River Bain. The diversion of the stream occurred after the late 18th century.

2. Baumber Road is set in a broad and deep hollow where the lane has cut into the sandy ground. To the west of the Coach and Horses public house the

modern tarmac road surface overlies a 0.1m thick layer of mixed sand and brick fragments which may represent remains of the post-medieval road. The roads around the village do not seem to have altered since before Enclosure of the parish in 1773.

3. At the northern end of the lane beside the public house, the tarmac surface covers a layer of dark soil 0.3m thick. This may be a topsoil layer of roadside land onto which this lane was extended.

4. Beside the Coach and Horses, the modern road lies directly above bands of apparently undisturbed sandy gravel which appeared to slope downwards slightly towards the south. This deposit extended to a depth of at least 2.5m below the modern surface and is probably natural in formation.

5. At the junction with the road around the southern part of the village, a thin layer of gravel was seen below the tarmac; beneath this were deposits of undisturbed natural sand and gravel extending below the trench base (Pl.2). It was unclear whether the gravel had been introduced as metalling or whether it was part of the natural deposit.

This point may have been on the course of a medieval road to the western part of the village which now survives only as earthworks in a grass field.

6. 50m north of that junction, the trench face showed 0.15m of gravel and loam beneath the modern road (Pls. 3 and 4). This layer is thought to have been a former road surface. The gravel was separated from the natural sand deposits by 0.05m of dark brown stony loam which may have been a buried topsoil layer.

7. On the NE side of the junction leading to Manor Farm, the gravel metalling layer was present up to 0.3m thick beneath the modern tarmac. Here it sealed a layer of black soil, as at 4, above a 0.15m thick band of green loam and yellow/brown clay (Pl. 5). The green coloration may indicate the presence of decomposed cess but no archaeological features were seen. Chalk bedrock was reached 1.55m from the surface below sand and sandy clay deposits.

8. At the junction of Louth Road and the village circuit, the trench was excavated in the centre of the road (Pl. 6). At this point it had been partly backfilled when inspected. The modern tarmac surface covered a layer of light brown stony loam which had probably been post-medieval metalling. Below this were two layers of dark brown loam to a depth of 0.45m below the modern surface.

9. A connection spur was excavated from the main trench into the western verge beside 8, and here the full sequence was visible (Pl. 7). The modern road covers a layer of gravel with infrequent brick fragments and a lower layer of sand which may have been imported for levelling purposes. A deposit of very dark loam about 0.22m thick probably represents a former topsoil horizon above the weathered chalk bedrock.

Chapel Lane

10. On the eastern side of the Methodist Church building, two west-east features were seen in a trench spur cut into the verge (Pl. 8). One coincided with the edge of the present road and may have been a hollow eroded into the chalk by medieval and later traffic. The other lay directly beside the frontage wall of the church and was interpreted as a property boundary ditch.

11. Along much of Chapel Lane, chalk was encountered at a depth of between 0.5m and 0.85m below the modern road level. It is conceivable that the greater depths (parallel to Hemingby Beck) were in archaeological features such as ditches or plough furrows, but no dateable remains were found (Pl. 9). South of the track to Brook House Farm a layer of black soil 0.27m thick was present between the road metalling and the chalk; this may have been a buried topsoil. The underlying chalk was quite mixed with clay but this was probably caused by geological factors.

New End

Trenching along the road to New End lay outside the remit of the monitoring but was inspected close to the village hall during routine visits.

12. At the cross-roads NW of the village hall, the modern road surface covered a 0.15m thick layer of stone chips in a light brown soil. Beneath this was a layer of stony darker soil 0.1m thick and a mid-brown clay loam layer 0.2m thick. It was unclear whether these represented ploughsoil deposits. Below this was 0.2m of gravel mixed with chalky clay, above undisturbed brown sandy clay. The much higher clay content of these deposits reflects the close proximity of Hemingby Beck (Pl. 10).

13. South of the village hall the trench was in the eastern verge. Beneath the topsoil was 0.25m of mixed sand and clay, over 0.4m of gravel. This sealed a deposit of grey clay and chalk extending beneath the trench base. The sequence suggests that the stream bed has moved eastwards to its present position.

Rectory Road

14. To the north of St. Margaret's Church, the ground slopes sharply downwards; the road forming the southern circuit of the village lies at the base of a steep bank. Immediately west of the post office the modern road overlies brown sand with small stones, apparently a naturally produced deposit. A single small medieval sherd of 14th century date was recovered from the topsoil in the bank.

15. East of Hemingby House the modern road surface covered a thin layer of gravel metalling. Below this was 1.2m of light yellow/brown sand, which overlay dark brown sand with natural flint inclusions.

Conclusion

Varied geological drift deposits were revealed in the trench which entirely circled the modern village centre. To the west, the ground was sandy to a

depth of over 1m, but the chalk and clay content increased towards the north and east. It seems probable that the sand is a fluvio-glacial deposit at the eastern edge of a NW-SE valley which has cut through boulder-clay deposits on the side of the chalk bedrock slope. Further up the slope on the eastern side of the village the Hemingby Beck occupies the western edge of another valley channel. This arrangement means that the present village site is on ground drained in three directions, with sand, clay and chalk based soils readily available. The settlement has moved or contracted from the lower sandier site onto heavier soils.

Little information relating to the archaeology of the village site was revealed in the trench although Chapel Lane may be the later part of the road circuit, perhaps crossing fields near Hemingby Beck which were cultivated during the medieval period. Possible occupation deposits were seen near the road to Manor Farm.

Acknowledgements
LAS are grateful to Anglian Water, especially Stuart Weaver (Conservation Section), Colin Lee,Paula Camamile and Lesley Hamilton (Project Engineers) and Peter Cashman (Resident Engineer) for their help and interest.

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Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
4th March 1997

Archive Summary
medieval pot sherd
photographs
annotated copies of AW plans
correspondence

Fig. 1 Location of Hemingby

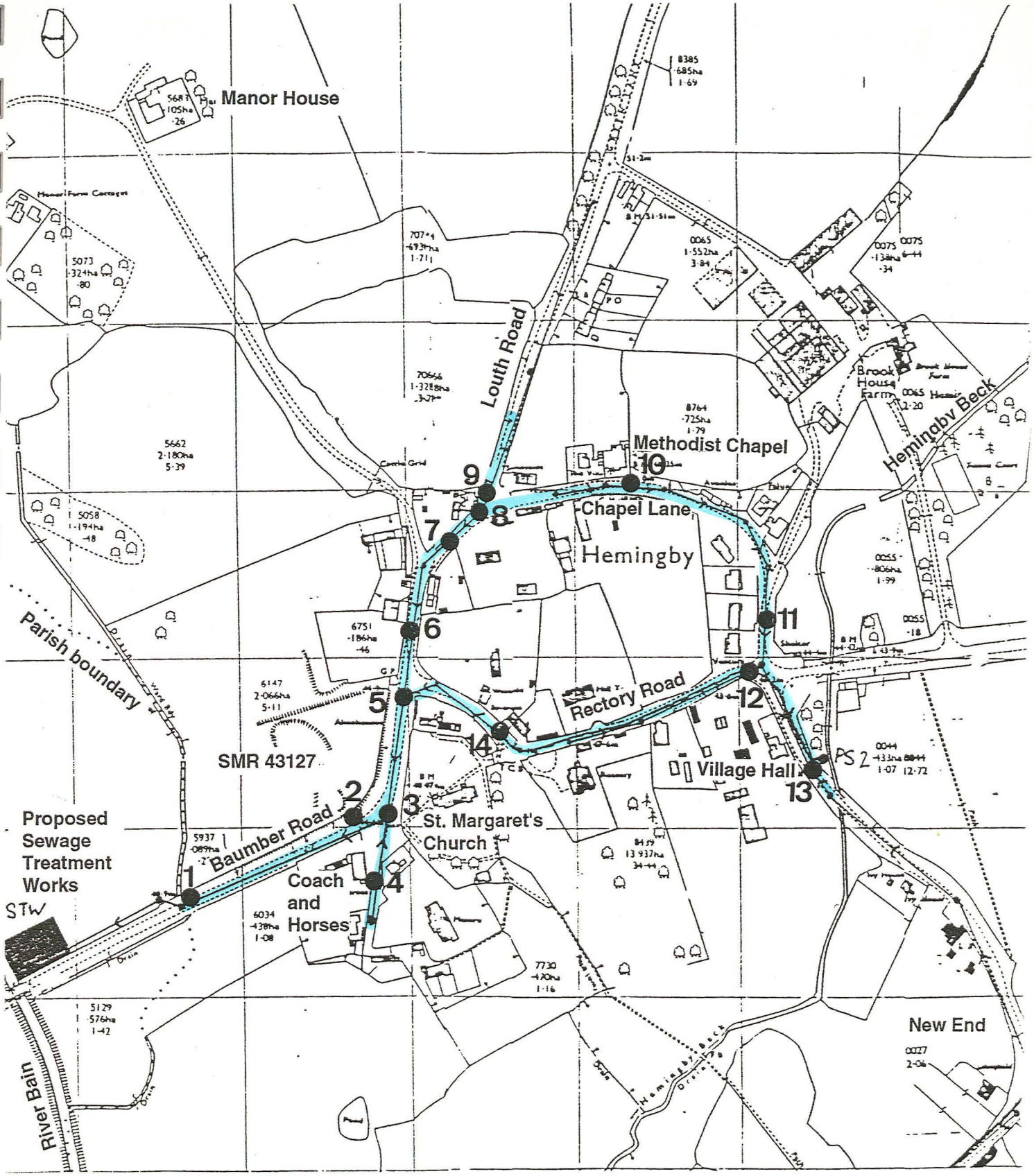

Fig. 2 The pipeline route, showing area monitored and the location of observations noted in the text. (Based on a reduced scale copy of the 1:2500 plan supplied by Anglian Water [dwg. 9234277/1, Copyright reserved]. LAS Ordnance Survey Licence no. AL 50424A).

Pl. 1 Hemingby village, viewed from the west across the River Bain. St Margaret's Church and earthworks of the shrunken medieval village site are visible.

Pl. 2 Natural sand and gravel deposits in the trench face at 5. The thin gravel layer beneath the tarmac may be a post-medieval road surface.

Pl. 3 Location of 6 (trench beside cones). The field entrance on left leads to the medieval village earthworks and overlies a former street. (Looking NW).

Pl. 4 Natural gravel layers at 6.

Pl. 5 Sequence of deposits at 7, showing post-medieval gravel road metalling covering black soil and a thin underlying band of green loam, possibly derived from cess. Natural chalk is visible at the trench base.

Pl. 6 Trenching at 8 close to the junction of Louth Road and Chapel Lane (looking SW).

Pl. 7 Stratigraphy of the trench at 9. Brick fragments were incorporated into the gravel road surfaces above the black soil layer (looking west).

Pl. 8 To the east of the Methodist Chapel in Chapel Lane, a backfilled boundary ditch (top right) was identified, coinciding with the existing brick wall frontage (centre top). The other disturbance (front left) may be ruts created by medieval and later traffic (looking NW).

Pl. 9 Uneven layer of dark mixed soil overlying natural chalk at 11, south of Brook House Farm. The post-medieval road may have been laid over levelled ridge and furrow undulations (looking W).

Pl. 10 Horncastle Road, Hemingby, at the junction with Chapel Lane (left) and New End (right). The bridge across Hemingby Beck can be seen. Observations at 12 and 13 suggested that the stream may once have flowed closer to the junction.