

Garden Cottage

Church Road, Wappenbury, Warwickshire, CV33 9DW

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Archaeological Recording

SP 37827 69307

Site code: wap19

OASIS ID: 110archa1-368493

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6th January 2020

one ten archaeology

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Front cover; Garden Cottage from the west.

SUMMARY

Archaeological recording was carried out during August 2019 at Garden Cottage, Church Road, Wappenbury, Warwickshire, CV33 9DW during the construction of an extension to the existing property. The village and the site is situated within the remains of a large iron age earthwork camp, about 8 Hectares in area. The cottage is situated within and near the south-east corner of the earthwork. Although small in scope, no archaeological deposits or cut features were observed during the development, instead the stratigraphy within the site consisted of an underlying geology comprising a stiff Lias clay overlain by a relict subsoil and the modern topsoil.

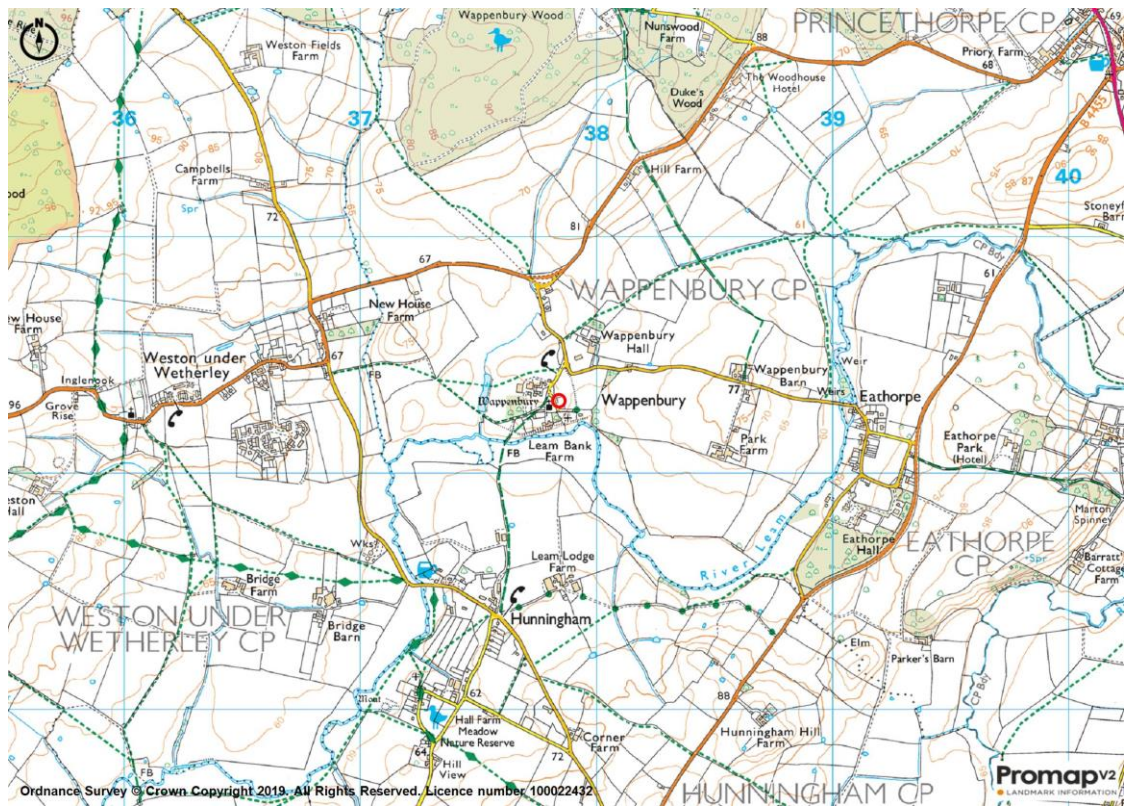


Fig. 1; site location (circled in red)

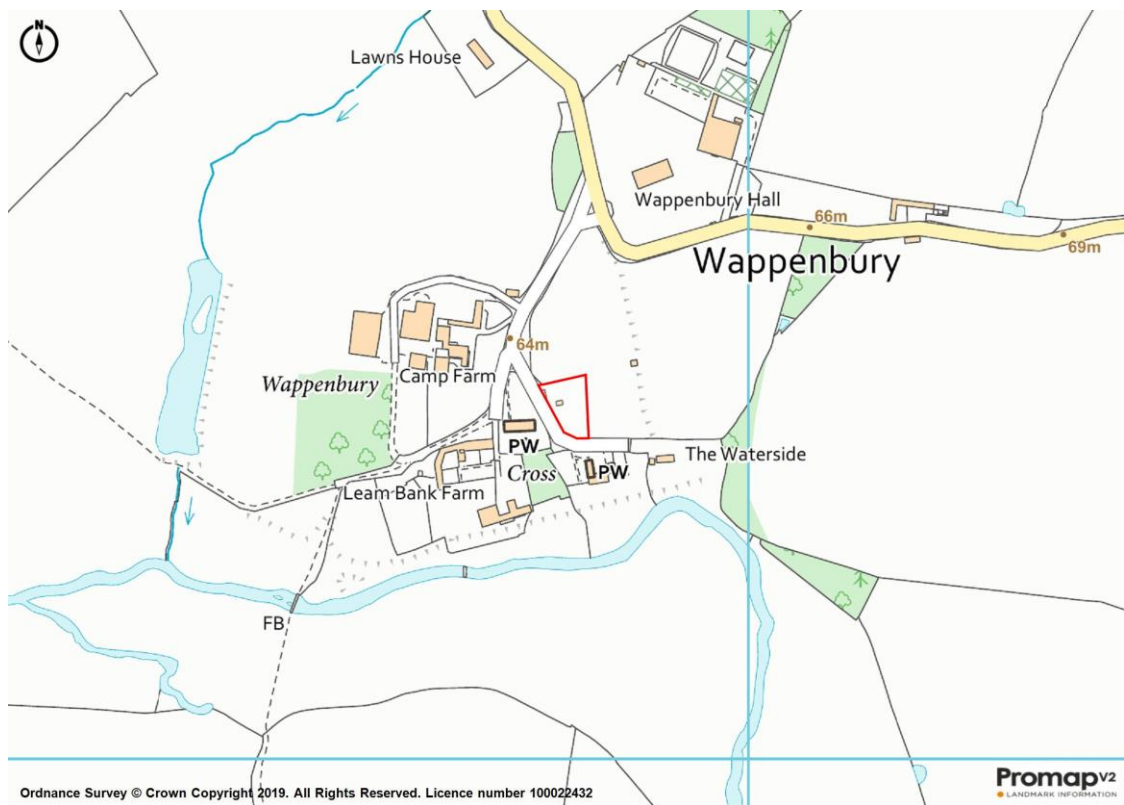


Fig. 2; area of study (outlined in red)

INTRODUCTION

Location and scope of works

This document details the results of archaeological recording ('watching brief') carried out during 15th August 2019 at Garden Cottage, Church Road, Wappenbury, Warwickshire, CV33 9DW. carried out on behalf of the owner Mr Chris Peters. Planning permission has been granted in respect of an application (Ref: W/16/1464) to Leamington Spa District Council and will be undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Warwickshire Archaeological Information and Advice. The proposed development lies within an area of significant archaeological potential, within the defences of the Wappenbury Camp Iron Age univallate hillfort ([Warwickshire Historic Environment Record MWA 1840](#)) and within an area of known medieval settlement ([MWA 9539](#)). The best-preserved section of the hillfort's defences lies along the western edge of the Camp, to the west of the development site. The national importance of these archaeological remains is recognised by the statutory protection of parts of the hillfort as a Scheduled Monument (List Entry No.1009817). There had been strong potential for the survival of significant Iron Age and medieval deposits in this location.

Geology and topography

The parish of Wappenbury and hamlet of Eathorpe lie on the banks of the Leam, about 4 miles north-east of Leamington Spa. The river divides Wappenbury proper from Eathorpe on the east and from the parish of Hunningham on the south. Wappenbury contains the valley of a small brook rising near Wappenbury Wood in the north of the parish and joining the Leam just south-west of the village; there is a larger tributary, running almost parallel, forming the western boundary of the parish (VCH, 1951). The northern end is mostly occupied by Wappenbury Wood, which is large (300 to 400 acres), and here is the highest ground (328 ft.); the rest of the parish is mostly in pasture. The secondary road from Leamington to Rugby takes a somewhat zigzag course across the middle of the parish, the village being about ¼ mile south of this, on a by-road. The site of the village is well adapted for defence, the north bank of the Leam being quite steep at this point, and is surrounded by earthworks, the 'burh' which gave the village its name. The site lies on the eastern edge of the village at a height of about 65m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Warwickshire Historic Environment Record (HER) was consulted with a search carried out over a 1000m radius centred on the site. Significant aspects of the data within the HER that is relevant to the site, including an analysis of historical mapping referenced at the County Record Office (OS 1887) is outlined below.

The evidence overall shows that there has been continuous settlement at Wappenbury beginning in the Prehistoric and then also through the Roman and medieval periods, this activity is characterised by a series of monuments recorded within the search area. Some stray finds, the earliest of which include probable Neolithic arrowheads ([MWA2974](#) & [MWA5506](#)) and a stone hammer ([MWA5505](#)) suggest that occupation of the area may have begun around this time.

Located on the north bank of the River Leam, the settlement at Wappenbury is almost entirely inside the ramparts of an Iron Age univallate hillfort (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record [MWA 1840](#)). The best-preserved section of the hillfort's defences lies along the eastern edge of the Camp, to the east of the development site. The national importance of these archaeological remains is recognised by the statutory protection of parts of the hillfort as a Scheduled Monument (List Entry No. 1009817). The fort is close to two river fords and is protected on three sides by streams. It is an irregular rectangle with northeast and southwest corners truncated and the rampart almost ploughed out on the east, while the south has been destroyed by the river. The ditch is only visible to the east and, for a short section, to the southwest. There are causeways to the north, east and west which may be modern and there is an entrance at the southwest marked by a deep, narrow, in-turned break in the ditch. The site occupies a prominent position on a natural knoll. The defensive earthworks include intermittent traces of a single rampart and a ditch that has been mostly infilled. Along the northern edge of the site, the rampart is visible as a distinctive break in slope and is thought to have been levelled by ploughing. The associated ditch has become in-filled, but it can be traced as a slight depression and will survive as a buried feature. The western edge of the site is defined by a scarp bank, marking the location of a rampart which remains visible at the northern end of the scarp. A break in the western bank is thought to be part of a drainage channel. A series of finds have found in association with the occupation of the camp including a sherd of Iron Age pottery ([MWA12430](#)) found during archaeological observation at Garden Cottage, Wappenbury (Thompson &

Greig, 2006) and some Iron Age coins ([MWA7122](#) & [MWA7265](#)) at various locations.

Occupation of the site at Wappenbury in the Roman period is evidenced by the discovery of a ditch feature ([MWA7937](#)) found during excavation at Riversmeade and also the discovery of the site of Roman pottery manufacture ([MWA5507](#)) in the village approx. 300m east of Church, with high concentrations of pottery and kiln debris. In addition, stray Roman finds from around the village include bronze coins ([MWA5945](#) & [MWA5947](#)); two C1st brooches ([MWA4332](#)) reported by metal detectorists and two bronze brooches ([MWA4332](#)) about 400m to the east of the site.

The probable extent of the medieval at Wappenbury ([MWA9539](#)) is based on the Ordnance Survey First Edition 1887 and also includes the known shrunken area ([MWA2985](#)) where earthworks are visible on aerial photographs representing several house platforms and hollow ways, as well as ridge and furrow ([MWA2986](#)) The 5-hide vill (village) of Wappenbury manor was recorded in Domesday (1086) indicating that a settlement was also established there during the Saxon period although the pre-Conquest tenant is not named. A mill existed at this time whilst the medieval settlement ([MWA 9539](#)) included the church of St. John The Baptist which stands on a slight mound in the middle of a small churchyard, with a farmhouse on the west and Wappenbury Hall, which has been entirely rebuilt to the east. A medieval Coin ([MWA5948](#)) was found south of Wappenbury Hall. The church was built in the C13 and then consisted of chancel and nave. Early in the C14 a west tower was built on the south side of the nave, together with a south aisle and porch. Documentary evidence suggests that the area to the west of Wappenbury Farm may be the site of a possible Moat ([MWA2980](#)).

A series of undated monuments are also recorded within the search area. Aerial photographs show a possible settlement ([MWA4626](#)) 600m east of Hunningham Bridge comprising pits, linear features and possible enclosures. A linear cropmark feature ([MWA5366](#)) is visible on aerial photographs 700m east of the church and part of an irregular oval enclosure ([MWA2975](#)) 600m east of the church. This is interrupted by an internal rectangular feature which may be associated with later quarrying.

RESULTS

Method and nature of the excavation

The objective of the archaeological recording was to obtain an appropriate record of the archaeological deposits and finds disturbed or exposed during excavation of the new patio area. The development comprised the excavation of a rectangular area measuring 35.50 sqm and resulted in ground reduction involving the removal of the overlying relict subsoil and topsoil exposing the surface of the natural substrate.

Machine excavation was only used for the removal of non-archaeologically significant material (modern deposits) and was used to excavate these layers stratigraphically. All machining was conducted under constant and close archaeological supervision using a toothless bucket and ceased when the natural substrate was revealed, excavation continued by hand thereafter.

Description of deposits

The natural substrate which comprised a light brown sand-clay with a component of small to medium sized pebbles was revealed throughout the excavation area at a level height of approx. 70.00m, no archaeological features or deposits were recorded cut into or overlying this deposit. Overlying the clay natural was a relict subsoil layer (101) consisting of a 0.22m thick deposit of a yellowish-brown, sandy-silt which produced two residual sherds of pottery. This deposit was in turn overlain by a layer of modern topsoil (100) about 0.25m in depth.

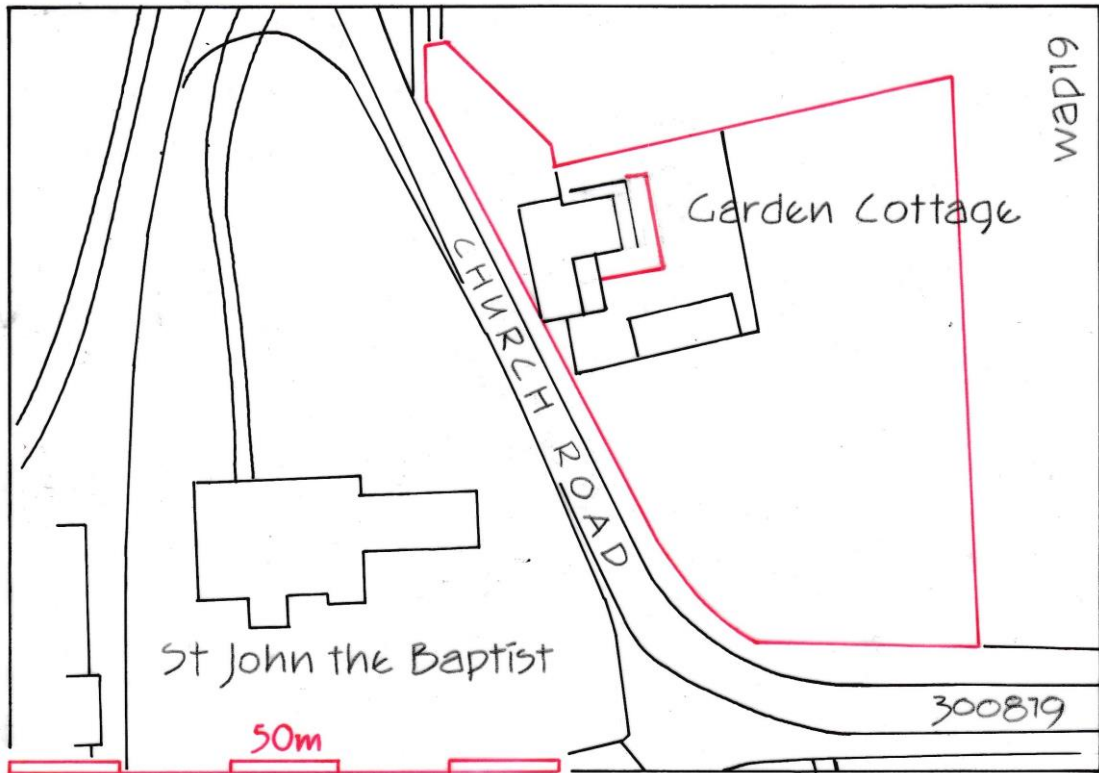


Fig.3; Site plan.

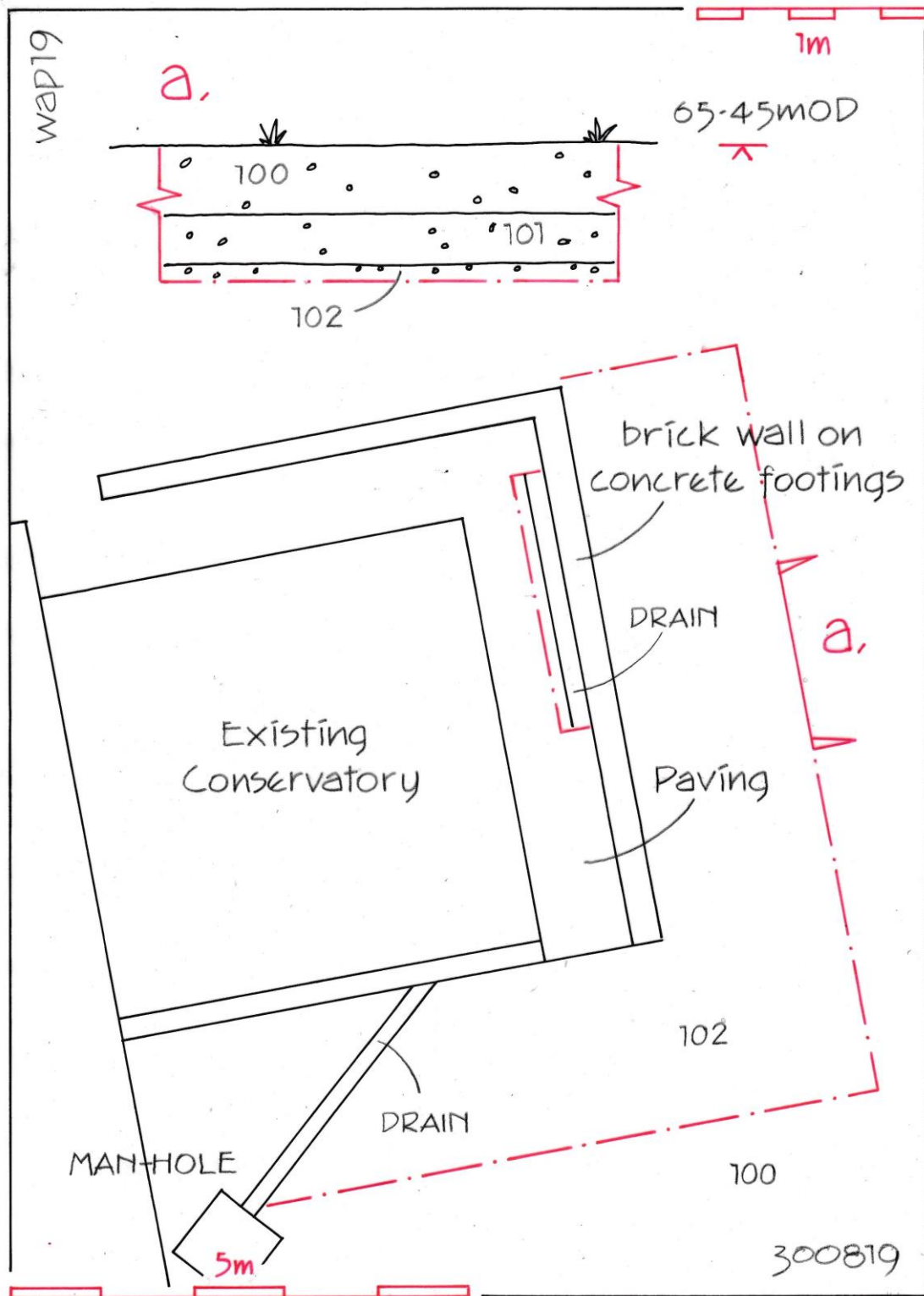


Fig.4; Trench plan and section.

FINDS

Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 2 sherds with a total weight of 19g. It was recorded using the codes and chronology of the Warwickshire Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery Type-Series (Ratkai and Soden, in archive), as follows:

MGW: Modern Earthenwares, late 18th century +. 1 sherd, 12g.

MP: Midland Purple Ware, 15th – mid 17th century. 1 sherd, 7g.

Both fabrics are common finds in the region. The sherds occurred in the sub-soil context 101. The sherd of MP is from a tall cup or tyg, with the fragment of MGW being from a flower-pot. Both are standard forms for the products of the respective traditions.

Environmental data

None of the deposits exposed during the excavation proved suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling.

DISCUSSION

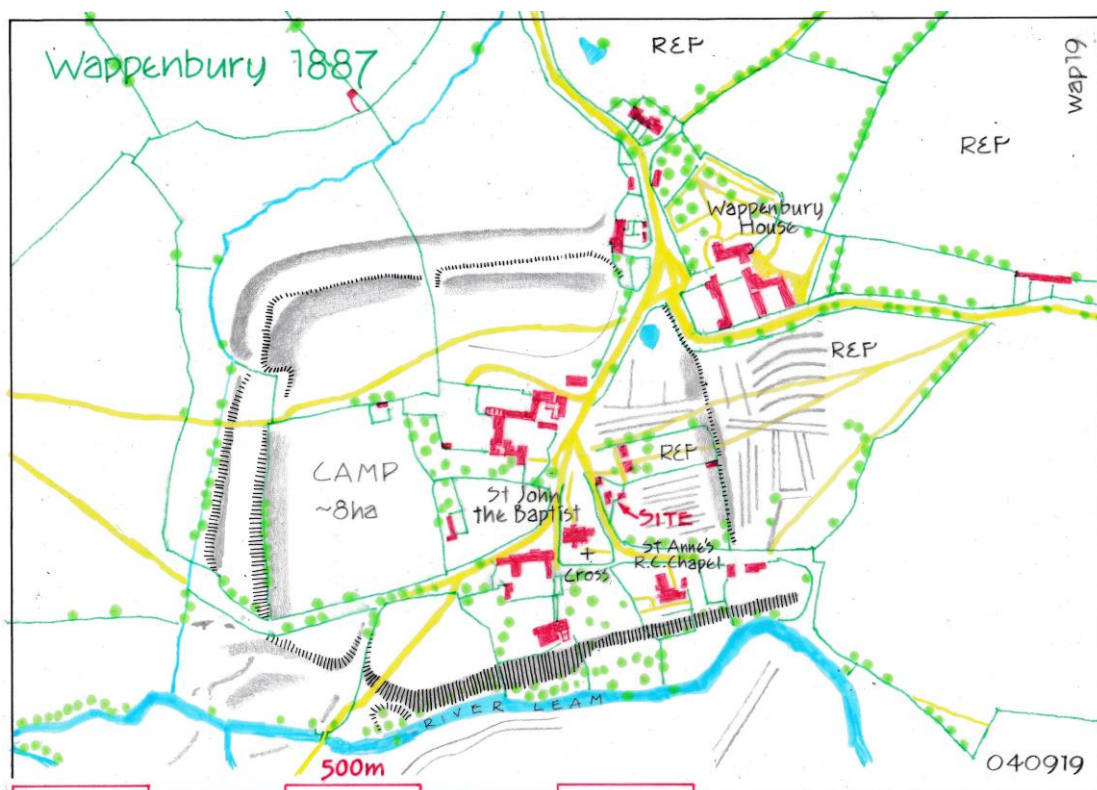


Fig. 5; The core of the settlement, showing the historic setting of the site.

The Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that Garden Cottage lies within the defences of the Wappenbury Camp Iron Age univallate hillfort and an area of known medieval settlement. Stray finds suggest the historic settlement may have started in the Late Iron Age and continued in the Romano-British period. The best-preserved section of the hillfort's defences lies along the western edge of the Camp, to the west of the development site.

Although small in scope, the development itself, which is sited in the southeast corner of the Iron Age camp, produced a negative result. The natural substrate was sealed by two homogenous layers consisting initially of a relict subsoil layer (101) which was in turn overlain by the modern topsoil (100). Two residual sherds of pottery, dated from the late medieval to the early post-medieval period were retrieved from the layer (101) possibly associated with the occupation of the area throughout this later period. The lack of any archaeological remains within the excavation may suggest that it lies in a part of the ancient camp that was neither developed nor occupied.

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Archive Location

A digital (pdf) copy of the report (referenced with OASIS) will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service. The physical archive will be deposited with the Warwickshire Museum Service.

Plates



Plate 1; View of Garden Cottage from east.



Plate 2; View of excavation from south-west.



Plate 3; View of section from west (see fig 3).

APPENDIX 1: OASIS

Project name	Garden Cottage, Wappenbury, Warks
Short description of the project	Archaeological recording was carried out during August 2019 at Garden Cottage, Church Road, Wappenbury, Warwickshire, CV33 9DW. The village is situated within the remains of a large iron age earthwork camp, about 8 Hectares and shown in the Historic Environment Record (HER). The cottage is situated within and near the south-east corner of the earthwork. Archaeological recording was focussed on the excavation work. No archeological deposits or cut features were observed during the construction of the patio but excavation showed that the underlying geology comprised a stiff Lias clay (102). Overlying this was 0.22m of subsoil (101) and 0.31m of topsoil (100).
Project dates	Start: 01-08-2019 End: 31-08-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	wap19 – Site code
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	EARTHWORK Iron Age
Significant Finds	NONE None
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	WARWICKSHIRE WARWICK WAPPENBURY Garden Cottage, Wappenbury, Warks
Postcode	CV33 9DW
Study area	28 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 37827 69307 52.320171414304 -1.444968408805 52 19 12 N 001 26 41 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 70m Max: 70m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	one ten archaeology
Project originator	brief Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	one ten archaeology
Project director/manager	sean cook

Project supervisor sean cook

Type of Landowner
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Mr Chris Peters
sponsor/funding
body

Entered by Jill Atherton (jillatherton.mcifa@btinternet.com)

Entered on 14 October 2019

APPENDIX 2: Church of St. John the Baptist



Church of St. John the Baptist from south-west.