

Warwickshire Historic Towns Project

(English Heritage Project Number: 5922)

Fillongley Historic Character Assessment



Benjamin Morton

Warwickshire Historic Environment Record

Warwickshire County Council

January 2015

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Part of the National Programme of Extensive Urban Surveys (EUS)

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Front cover image: St Mary and All Saints Church, Fillongley. The church dates from the 12th century and continues to form an important focus for the village.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the following people who have helped produce the Warwickshire Historic Towns Project: the members of the project steering group, for their advice and encouragement; Giles Carey, Assistant Historic Environment Record Officer, for his work on the project webpage; John Robinson, Assistant Historic Environment Record Officer, for his contribution to the characterisation work and advice; Bryn Gethin, Archaeology Warwickshire Project Officer, for his contribution to the town reports, and for his friendly encouragement and advice; Jonathan Parkhouse, former Country Archaeologist, for his support in the early days of the project, and for editing the reports; Ben Wallace, Historic Environment Record Manager, who managed the project; Zhenya Dewfield, whose personal support during the first two years of the project was invaluable.

Lastly, special thanks must go to Anne Morton, for her time spent editing the reports, and for her additional help and support over the years.

I am forever grateful.

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Abbreviations

BCA – Birmingham City Archives

HER – Historic Environment Record

HTC – Historic Town Component

HTCA – Historic Town Character Area

LB – Nationally Listed Building

EWA - Warwickshire HER Event number

MWA – Warwickshire HER Monument number

SAM – Scheduled Ancient Monument

SBT – Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

SWA – Warwickshire HER Source number

TNA – The National Archives

VCH – Victoria County History

WCRO – Warwickshire County Record Office

Periods

Prehistoric (Pre 43 AD)

Roman (43 AD to the fourth century)

Sub-Roman (fifth century)

Early Anglo-Saxon (fifth to seventh century)

Middle Anglo-Saxon (eighth to ninth century)

Late Anglo-Saxon (tenth century to 1086)

High Medieval (1086 to 1350)

Late Medieval (1350 to 1540)

Early Modern (1540 to 1750)

Early Industrial (1750 to 1850)

Industrial (1850 to 1918)

Inter-War (1918 to 1945)

Late Industrial (1945 to 1979)

Post Industrial (1979 to Present)

Fillongley Historic Character Assessment

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of this study

The Fillongley Historic Character Assessment has been completed as part of the Warwickshire Historic Towns Project. The project intends to increase and synthesise the knowledge and understanding of the historic environment and historic character of twenty towns in Warwickshire.

The project forms part of the national programme of Extensive Urban Surveys initiated and supported by English Heritage. The programme is already well underway with a number of English counties having been completed or undergoing study.

This report is best read in conjunction with the Warwickshire Historic Towns Project Report and the North Warwickshire Borough Strategic Report. These reports and the GIS data and database records generated from the project can be obtained from the Warwickshire HER.

1.2. Scope

The geographical extent of this study has been based on the maximum extent of the modern built up area of Fillongley. The study covers all periods of Fillongley's history from the prehistoric period until the present day.



Geographical extent of the Fillongley Historic Character Assessment

1.3. Methodology

The project examines the following aspects of Fillongley: its context, historical development and finally its historic character. Each of these factors is then used to disaggregate the townscape into a number of distinct character areas.

A major part of this study has been the characterisation of the townscape. The purpose of historic characterisation is to interpret and understand the inherited character of all places, and the evidence for change and continuity in the present environment. It is based on the need to understand and help professionals and communities to manage the present environment as a product of past change and the raw material for future change. It functions at an area-scale, above that of individual sites and features (protected or not). It differs from research and survey, as undertaken in the historic environment sector, by its promotion of broad and generalised approaches to understanding the historic environment.

A detailed assessment of the historic character of Fillongley has therefore been undertaken that has attempted to bridge the gap between characterisation studies and more detailed research and survey. This has been accomplished by mapping and defining a number of Historic Town Components (HTCs) with broad character type classifications (such as settlement, industrial, recreational etc.) and sub character types that provide more detail. This characterisation has formed the evidence base upon which Historic Town Character Areas (HTCAs) have been created.

Each area within a town has been examined in terms of its historic character, present function and period of origin. Where an area displays a morphological, functional and chronological coherence it has been treated as one HTC. This approach uses a variety of sources and approaches to understand the historic character of an area to significantly aid understanding of variations in function, historic character, architectural style and period of origin.

The historical and archaeological research conducted for this report uses techniques developed in archaeology, historical geography, history and architectural history in an attempt to provide a holistic understanding of the historical development and historic character of Fillongley.

2. Summary

Fillongley is a small village located just to the north of Coventry. The village has managed to retain a local pub, shop, post office and village hall giving it a range of services often lacking in other rural communities. While virtually nothing is known of early history, a small number of finds found within the parish tentatively hint at prehistoric and Roman activity. However, the paucity of evidence likely reflects the lack of archaeological research in the area. The area was settled during the Anglo-Saxon period, and the name Fillongley probably derives from the old English 'Fyglingleage', 'clearing of the people of Fygl'. We can only speculate on the intensity of settlement during the period.

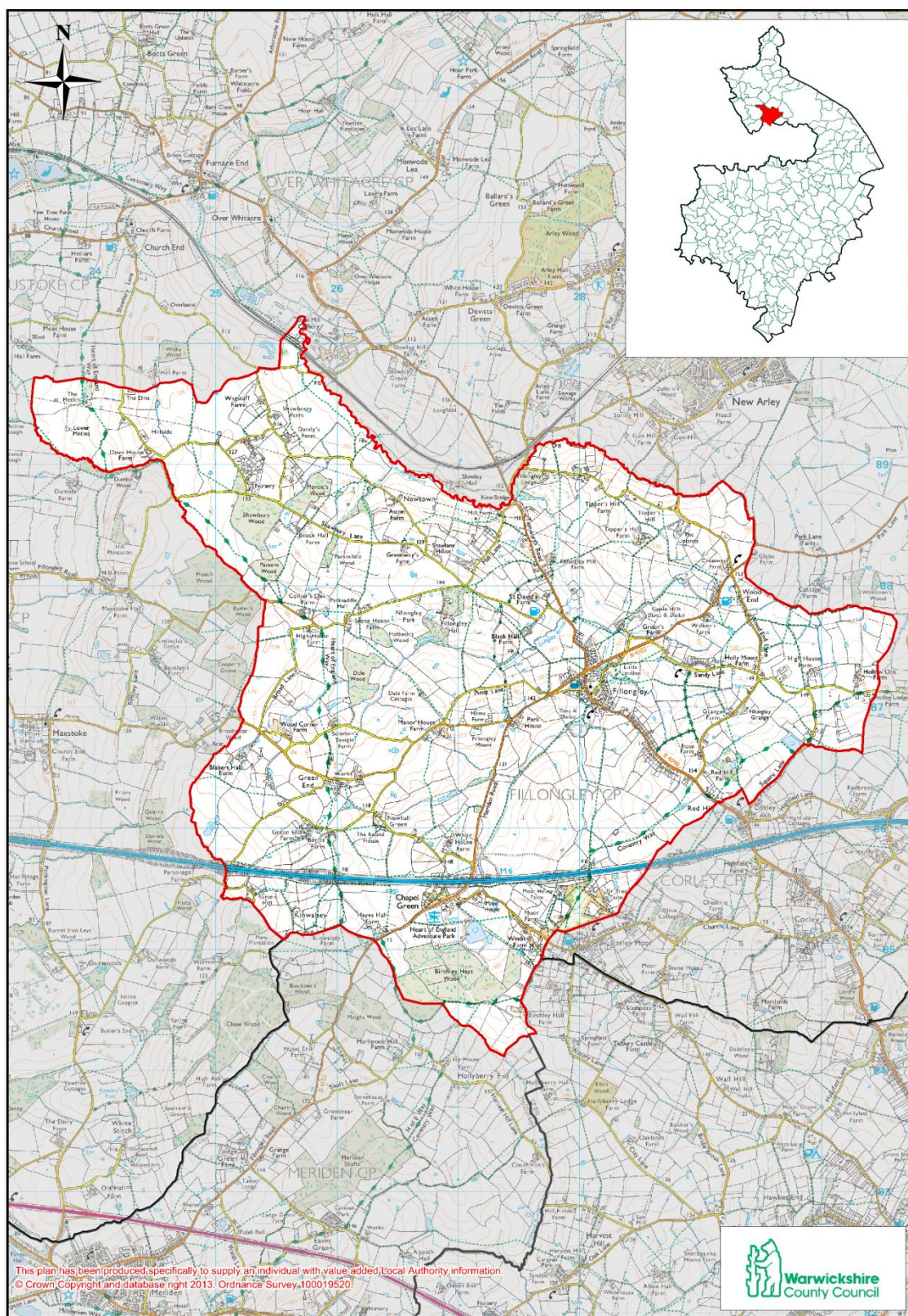
The Domesday Survey of 1086 records a sparsely settled landscape with extensive tracts of woodland. In many respects the history of the village and parish is typical of others within the Arden. Forming much of the north and west of the county the Arden was historically a wood-pasture region of woodland with low levels of settlement.

The medieval and later history of the village and parish is better known. The Domesday Survey of 1086 recorded the presence of 38 households within the parish. In 1301 John de Hastings was granted the right for a weekly market to be held in Fillongley. Whether or not this was his intention to establish a town at Fillongley cannot be known, but either way the market seems to have soon fallen out of use.

Today the village contains a variety of distinctive historic buildings varying in size, type and date, including the fine medieval church of St Mary and All Saints. Furthermore, to the south of the village are the earthwork and masonry remains of a castle (Castle Yard), while the earthwork remains of a second castle (Castle Hills) can be found to the north-east of the village. Elsewhere within the parish are a number of historic farmsteads and cottages dating from the medieval period onwards reflecting the dispersed nature of historic settlement in the area.

3. The Setting

The parish of Fillongley is located just to the north of Coventry. The village of Fillongley is centred on the parish church and the crossroads of the Solihull to Nuneaton road (B4102) and the Coventry to Tamworth road (B4098). This is the largest settlement in the parish. The countryside surrounding the village forms part of the Arden, traditionally a wood-pasture landscape, where hamlets predominated over nucleated villages (Alcock 1993: 7). In keeping with the character of the wider area, the parish's pattern of settlement is dispersed. There are hamlets at Wood End in the east of the parish, Green End in the west, and Chapel Green in the southwest near Old Fillongley-hall.



Location and Setting of Fillongley

4. A Settlement Through Time

4.1. *Place name*

The name Fillongley probably derives from the old English 'Fyglingleage' meaning 'clearing of the people of Fyglā' (Gover et al, 1936). The incorporation of 'leah' (ley) within a parish name seems to indicate areas which were predominantly wooded during the Anglo-Saxon period (Hooke, 1985: 167). Certainly this accords with Fillongley's entry in the Domesday Book which records that at least half the area of the parish was wooded (Wager, 1998: 76).

4.2. *The Prehistoric and Roman Periods*

Evidence for prehistoric activity in Fillongley is sparse consisting of a scatter of Mesolithic flint artefacts in the north-western part of the parish, a Neolithic axe just north of Castle Hills and a Bronze Age spearhead found at Castle Yard. The nearest known major prehistoric settlement is the hillfort at Corley some two miles to the south east of Fillongley.

For the Roman period, evidence is also minimal with thirteen Roman coins found just west of Fillongley, a Roman coin and brooch fragment found to the east of the village, and a piece of grey-ware pottery (site unspecified). The nearest major Roman sites are Grimstock Hill in Coleshill, six miles north-west of Fillongley, and Mancetter, seven miles north east.

The lack of evidence for human activity in these two periods may be more due to a lack of archaeological work in the area rather than a genuine reflection of levels of settlement at this time.

4.3. *The Anglo-Saxon Period*

During the early to mid-Anglo-Saxon period the area appears to have formed the southernmost reaches of Tomsætan territory (Hooke, 1985: 85-6, 96). The Tomsætan were a sub-kingdom or folk group within the Mercian kingdom.

We can only speculate about the nature of settlement within the parish before the Norman Conquest. However, a priest is recorded as living in Fillongley in 1086, suggesting the presence of a pre-Conquest church, possibly on the site of the present parish church.

4.4. *Fillongley at Domesday*

The Domesday Survey of 1086 gives us the first real impression of the parish's medieval landscape. At this time Fillongley was held by four individuals, each holding ½ hide. The owners were Robert Despenser, Alsi, the Bishop of Coutances and the Abbey of Coventry (VCH, 1947). Across the four holdings, 24 villages, 3 slaves, 1 priest and 8 ploughs were recorded. Assuming an average family size of 5 per household (excluding the priest) the population of the parish was about 135 people.

From later medieval sources we know that one plough could approximately cultivate 100 acres a year (Dyer, 2003: 92-3). Therefore the figure of 8 ploughs suggests about 800 acres of arable land within the parish. Assuming that the area of the modern parish (4,731 acres) matches that of the four recorded manors then only about 17 per cent of the parish was under arable cultivation. This is unsurprising given that the survey also suggests that about half the parish consisted of woodland (Wager, 1998: 76).

4.5. The Medieval Landscape

The Domesday landscape

Fillongley's entry in Domesday Book (1086) provides us with the first substantive evidence for settlement and land use within the parish. As mentioned earlier, in 1086 Fillongley was held by four individuals, each holding ½ hide, the owners being Robert Despenser, Alsi, the Bishop of Coutances and the Abbey of Coventry. By the late thirteenth century the overlordship of the first three portions had passed to the Marmion family of Tamworth and Edmund, earl of Leicester and Lancaster. The main under-tenants of both lords were the Hastings family (later earls of Pembroke) who were established there at least as early as 1235-6. Their holding became known as the manor of Young Fillongley and corresponds with the area around the present village.

There appears to have been at least two sub-manors of the Hastings manor: Young Fillongley, already mentioned, and Old Fillongley. This latter appears to have been the most significant and was held by the Fillongley family until they died out in the fifteenth century. It seems to have been situated towards the south of the parish in the area of Chapel Green, where Old Fillongley Hall still stands. The distinction between Old and Young Fillongley is recorded as far back as 1231/2 when Gerard de Allepath held of Geoffrey, prior of Coventry ½ hide of land in 'Veteri (old) Fellingelegh' (Warwickshire Feet of Fines Vol. 1: 458).

The parish church

The reference to a priest in the parish at the time of Domesday Survey suggests the presence of a church. The earliest known fabric of the present parish church dates from the twelfth century (LB 308929). The church was added to and modified over a long period of time: the lower part of the west tower is thirteenth century, the chancel largely rebuilt in the mid-fourteenth century on older foundations, while the south wall appears to have been rebuilt in the fifteenth century.

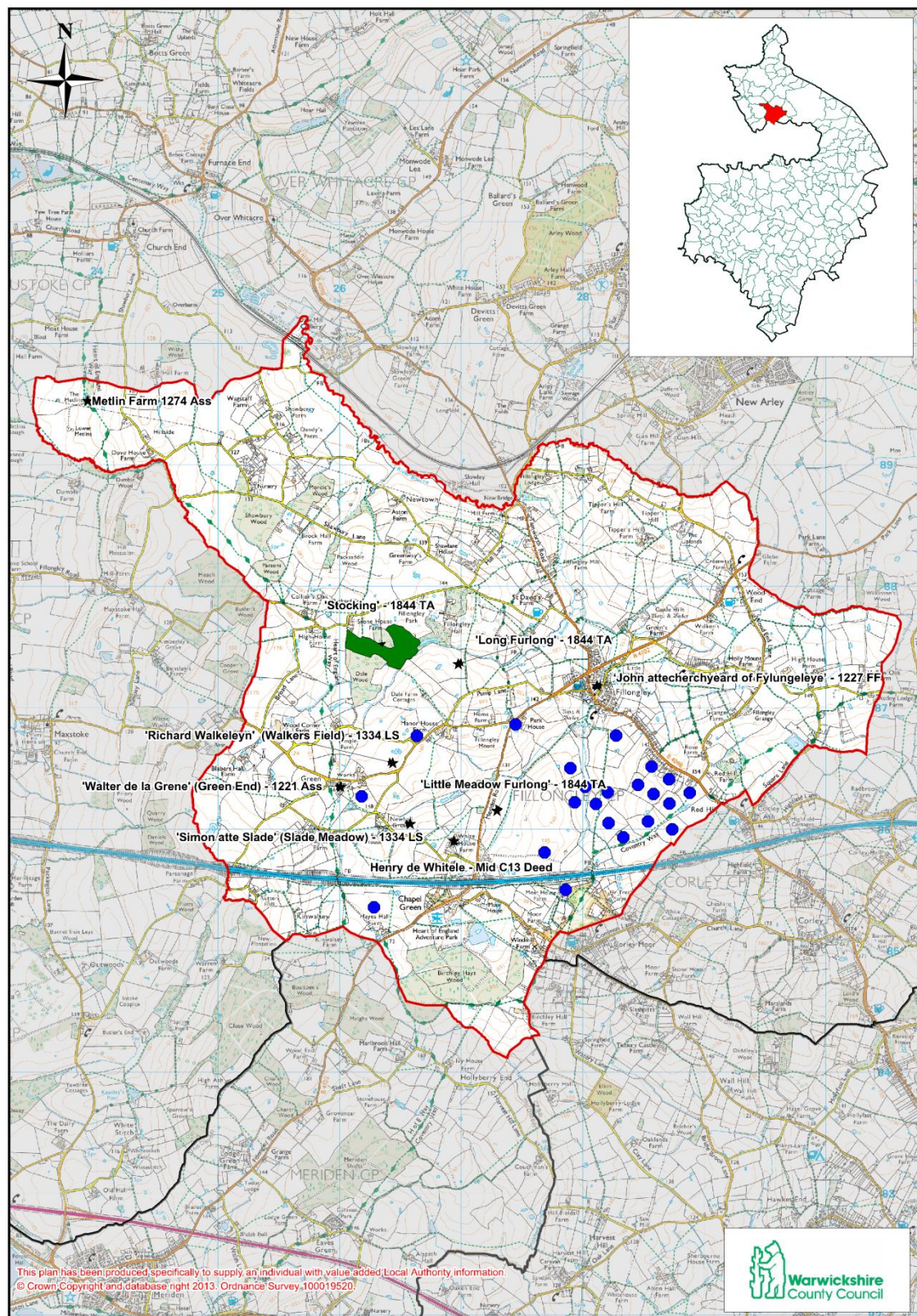
The parish's two castles

Fillongley is relatively unusual in having two castles within the parish: Castle Hills (SAM 21546) and Castle Yard (SAM 21573). The presence of two castles within the parish can - be explained either by one preceding the other, but held by the same family, or that they belonged to two separate lordships within the parish (although not necessarily both occupied at the same time).

Castle Hills lies a little to the north of the village. The surviving earthworks consist of a nearly oval ringwork with a denuded bailey. Its defences consist of a strong rampart running round a raised internal plateau with a deep ditch outer ditch. This ditch was probably once filled with water from the stream which still runs through it on the south west side. The castle at Castle Hills is probably fairly early for it is generally accepted that ringwork castles tend to be early post-Conquest.

The second castle, Castle Yard, lies just to the south-west of the village. The castle comprises a low mount (or keep) with a courtyard to the south-, the whole being surrounded by a moat. Visible masonry fragments testify to the stone construction of the castle. In 1301 Edward I granted John de Hastings a Royal licence to crenellate the castle. The earliest reference to Castle Yard is from 1265 when Henry de Hastings the younger forfeited lands after the battle of Evesham, when Fillongley, including a park, was given to his wife Joan (VCH, 1947). The castle had probably been in existence for some time before this, but little more is known.

The reference to a park associated with the Hasting's castle at Castle Yard is not surprising as the relationship between high status seigniorial sites and parks is well attested in archaeological and historical records (Crawford, 1953: 189). From analysis of historic field boundaries and field names recorded on the 1844 tithe map of the parish (WCRO 569/102/1) it has been possible to tentatively reconstruct the bounds of the park (see map below).



Pre-1350 documentary references to places within the parish and 'park' (blue circles), 'furlong' and 'stocking' names (green area) field names recorded on the 1844 tithe map (base map Ordnance Survey 1:25,000)

The medieval landscape

Historical sources shed a little light on the functioning of the medieval agricultural landscape within the parish. Late medieval documents refer to open field lands. One such example dating from 1484/5 records nine acres of land called 'Walkyns', in the fields of New Fillongley, abutting upon the grove of William Snelle on the North and East, the close of Abel de Shostoke and Juddes croft on the South and West, and Somerslesowe on the South (SBT DR 18/10/46/1). A further example from 1505 records the surrender by William Tedde, the younger, of Le Grenend (Green End): a messuage, four crofts and appurtenances and two acres of land in Le Wydefyld (BCA MS 3525/ACC 1935-043/437897). A deed from 1549 relating to Parker's messuage, possibly Parkhouse Farm, mentions both 'crofts' and 'selions' of land in Wydefeld in Old and yong Fillongley' (SBT DR 18/10/52/2). The references to open field lands are all in the south of the parish between Green End, Chapel Green and New Fillongley. In contrast, a cluster of field names to the north which mention 'Stocking' on the 1844 tithe map possibly relate to the old English word 'stoccing', meaning a piece of land cleared of stumps, implying the persistence of woodland away from these early open field cores towards the south (Hooke 2006: 87).

The acquisition of a market charter

Situated at the crossroads of the Coventry to Tamworth and the Solihull to Nuneaton roads, Fillongley was ideally positioned to take advantage of trade between these centres. This may have been one factor in why John de Hastings acquired a market charter for his manor of Fillongley in 1301 (VCH, 1947). The market place was probably situated outside the parish church, possibly between this building and the castle park.

Fillongley was one of a number of market grants made between the thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries in Warwickshire. In particular, the founding of numerous markets within the Arden points to the area's growing population and expanding economy throughout this period. However, Fillongley was a relatively late grant; the majority within Warwickshire and Worcester being made between 1220 and 1270 (Slater, 1982: 187). The Fillongley grant came just prior to a series of calamitous events, such as the Great Famine and the Black Death, which led to a severe reduction in population and economic activity. This may have killed off the embryonic market for it is not mentioned in a survey of the Hastings manor taken in 1392 (TNA DL 43/14/3; copy at WCRO Z/898). The granting of a market often represented the first stage in urban development (Slater 1982: 187). However, no such development took place at Fillongley. The lack of occupational diversity amongst the list of names recorded on the 1332 Lay Subsidy clearly points to a rural rather than an urban settlement.

4.6. *The Early Modern period to present*

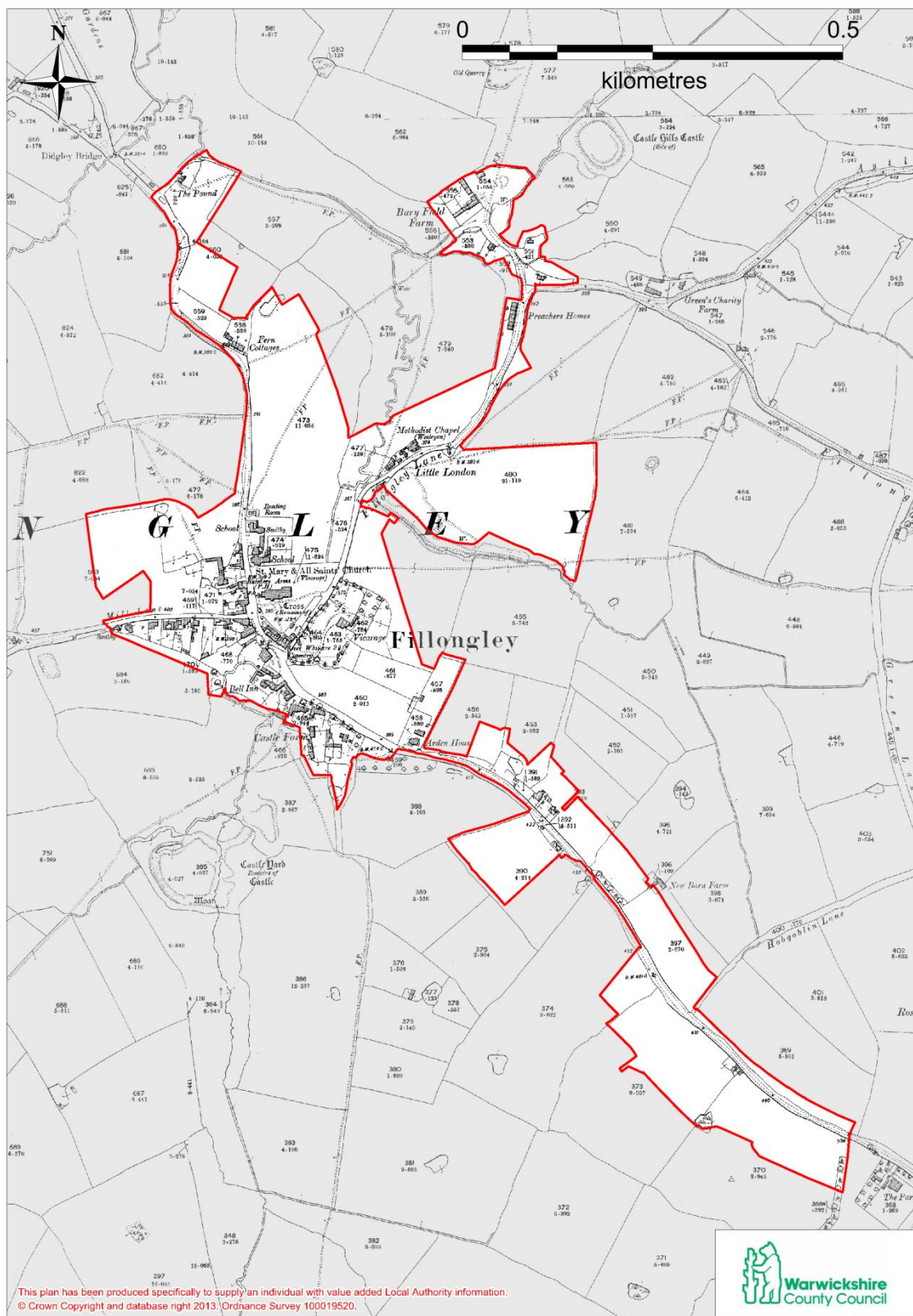
The agricultural landscape of the parish is likely to have continued to change with the progressive enclosure of the open fields by private agreement. However, the high numbers of surviving buildings, particularly farm buildings, dating from this period testify to the growing wealth of the area during the period.

Our first illustration of the village comes from the Leigh estate map of 1764 (SBT DR 18). The map shows a small cluster of buildings focused around the church and stretching out along the Coventry and Tamworth roads. Elsewhere within the parish (including Church Lane and Berryfields) small cottages occupy areas of roadside waste, and farmsteads lie scattered amongst fields. The one striking thing from this depiction is the lack of regularity within the village plan. Much of the village occupies a triangular shaped area sandwiched between the Coventry road and the castle and park at Castle Yard. Fillongley may have developed on an area of roadside waste during the medieval or early modern period.

The population's spiritual needs were later provided for by a Methodist chapel, built in 1892, in Church Lane. The wealth of some villagers at this time is testified by the row of early to mid-nineteenth century Georgian houses built along Ousterne Lane and scattered elsewhere within the parish.

At the turn of the twentieth century the village retained its public houses, general store, butchers, smithy, bakery, post office, reading room, bank, working men's club, school, village hall and police station. However, the village seems to have grown little during this period.

In the twentieth century the village expanded rapidly. During the inter-war period, houses were built along the main arterial routes leading out of the village, particularly along Coventry road. After the Second World War large scale local authority housing estates were developed along Holbeche crescent and Eastlang road. Elsewhere, within the village many older properties were either substantially altered or demolished and replaced.






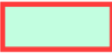

Map showing Fillongley and its setting in the early 20th Century (OS 1:2500 map, 1903)

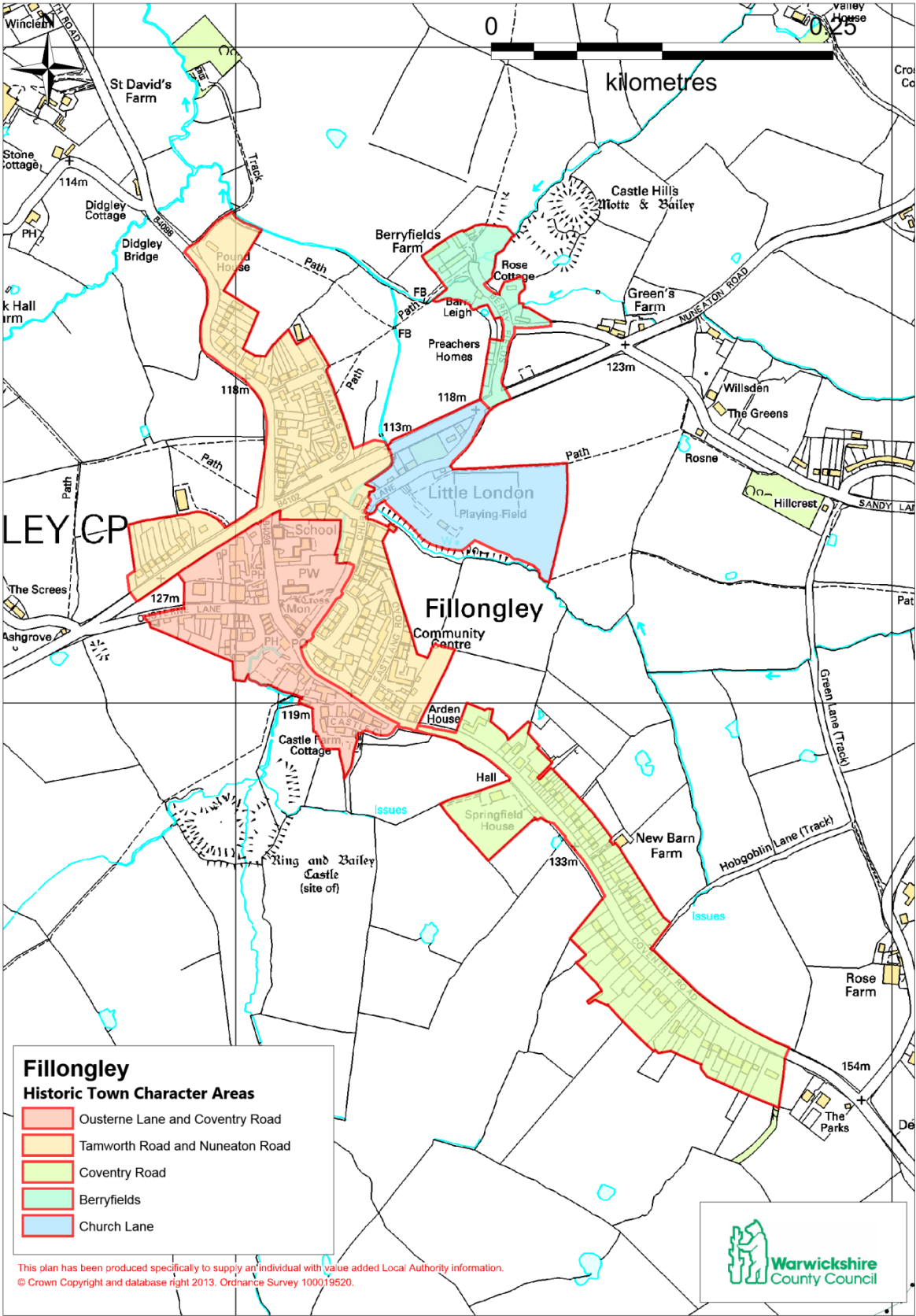
5. Historic Character and Historic Town Character Areas

Due to the small size of the present village it has been treated as one character area. Consequently, the following section should be seen as a character statement for the whole village. The present village has been broken down into five sub-areas.

5.1. Overview

The present village can be disaggregated into five areas which relate to its built form and time-depth. These are:

	Ousterne Lane and Coventry Road
	Tamworth Road and Nuneaton Road
	Coventry Road
	Berryfields
	Church Lane



Fillongley Historic Town Character Areas (HTCAs)

5.2. Ousterne Lane and Coventry Road (the historic village centre)

The village is centred on the parish church and the crossroads of the Solihull to Nuneaton road (B4102) and the Coventry to Tamworth road (B4098). Broadly speaking pre-nineteenth century buildings tend to occupy irregular plots often built on areas of roadside waste. Typical examples of this can be found along Church Lane. Buildings dating from the early nineteenth century onwards tend to occupy regular in shape plots. A band of inter-war ribbon development, intermixed with earlier and later houses, can be seen along Coventry road. In the years following the Second World War, local authority housing estates were built to the north and east of the village centre.

Our first illustration of the village comes from a map of 1767 (WCRO Z/149). The map shows a relatively small cluster of buildings focused around the parish church. Elsewhere, within the parish (including Church Lane and Berryfields) small cottages occupy areas of roadside waste, and farmsteads lie scattered amongst fields. The one striking thing from this depiction is the lack of regularity within the village plan. Much of the village occupies a triangular shaped area sandwiched between the Coventry road and the former castle and park. This suggests that much of Fillongley may have developed on an area of roadside waste during the medieval or early modern period.



View down Coventry Road looking at the School and St Mary and All Saints Church



The Butchers Rest, Coventry Road, Fillongley

5.3. Tamworth road and Nuneaton road

This area is overwhelmingly residential in character. Housing - generally dates from the post-War period and consequently- has a rather suburban feel. Despite this there are a few good examples of earlier buildings reflecting the pre-suburban landscape.

The former vicarage lay within the vicinity of Holbeche crescent before its demolition after the Second World War. An earlier building is shown in this area on the 1767 Leigh estate map. Small vernacular styled cottages were built alongside Tamworth road. In the early nineteenth century, the relatively large Georgian styled Arden House was built adjacent to the Coventry -road. The area remained relatively undeveloped until the second half of the twentieth century when large housing estates were built. The area's built and plan form is largely the result of large-scale post-war residential development.



Nuneaton Road, Fillongley

5.4. Coventry road

Settlement along Coventry road is largely the result of unrestricted inter-War ribbon development, although a number of later dwellings have been added. There are two good examples of red brick double fronted early nineteenth century Georgian styled houses and a mid to late nineteenth house with typical Victorian eclectic styling.

5.5. Berryfields

Berryfields farmhouse dates from the seventeenth century and could very well occupy an older habitation site. By the mid-eighteenth century, if not earlier, small cottages belonging to smallholders or landless labourers were built on roadside waste to the south of the farm. In the nineteen twenties, almshouses were built just off Berryfields road. Surviving cottages, Berryfields farm and the almshouses form a distinct historic settlement cluster.

To the west of Berryfields farm is the medieval castle at Castle Hills, which was probably built soon after the Norman Conquest. Nothing is known of the castle's history and it was

presumably abandoned before the thirteenth century. The castle may have been a focus for settlement in the area, although we can only speculate about its nature.



Farm at Berryfields, Fillongley



18th to early 19th century cottages at Berryfields built along an area of roadside waste.

5.6. Church lane

The area is still overwhelmingly rural in character and feels very detached from the relative bustle of the village centre. In the nineteenth century the small cluster of dwellings along Church lane was known as 'Little London'. Nearby are earthworks that have been interpreted as fishponds, although according to local tradition they represent former brickworks (the author pers. com.). In 1897 a Methodist chapel was built in Church lane. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries the rural poor built their simple two-up, two-down cottages on the roadside waste away from the village centre. These cottages still occupy characteristic long narrow plots running parallel to the road. There are some good surviving examples of brick-built early nineteenth century cottages. The small roadside waste cottages situated in their well-endowed plots provided the framework for the area's suburbanisation in the late twentieth century through their adaptation, extension and aggrandisement. It is this piecemeal, informal growth that in many respects continues to shape the area's character.



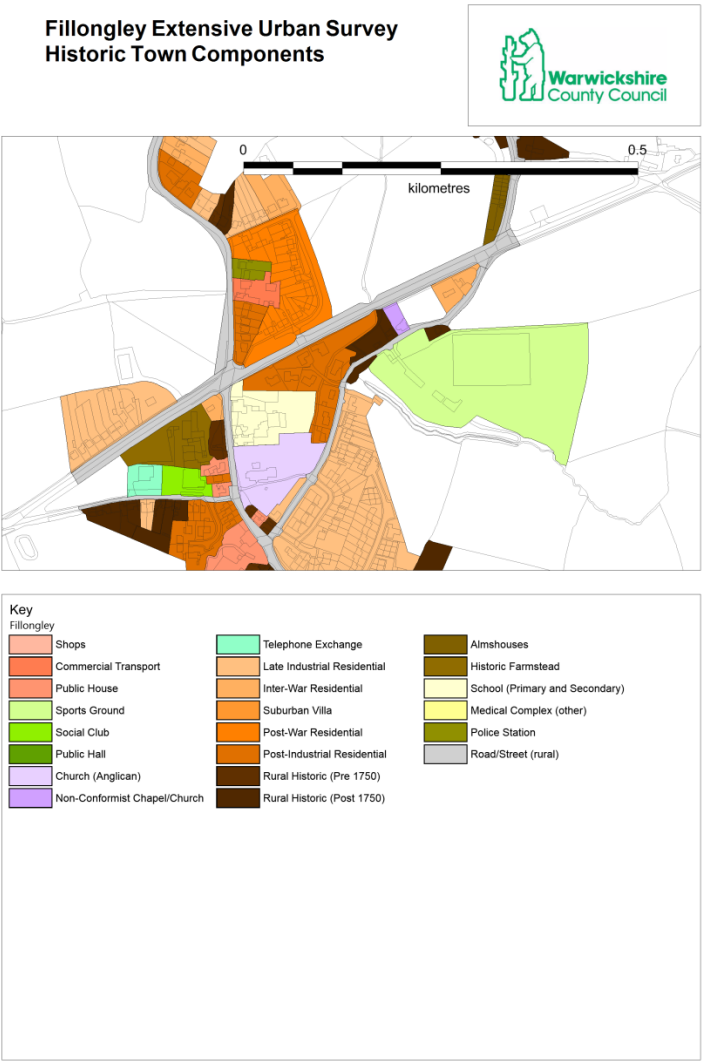
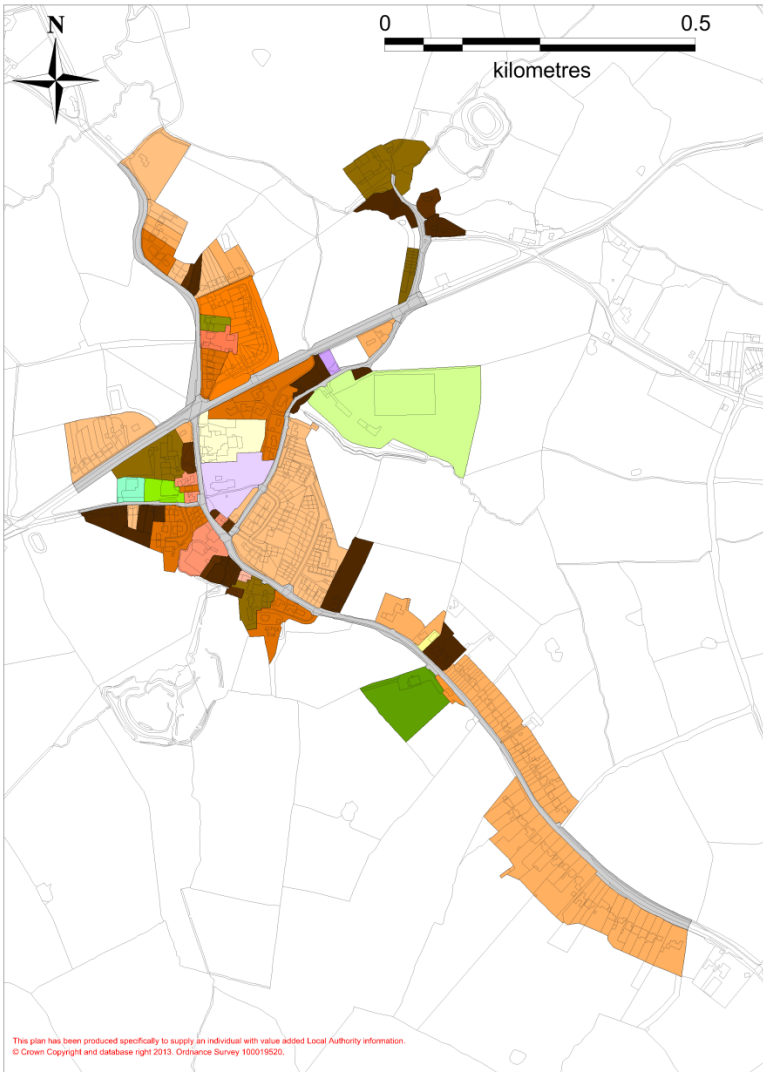
Typical example of an early 19th century cottage built on an area of roadside waste at Church Lane, Fillongley



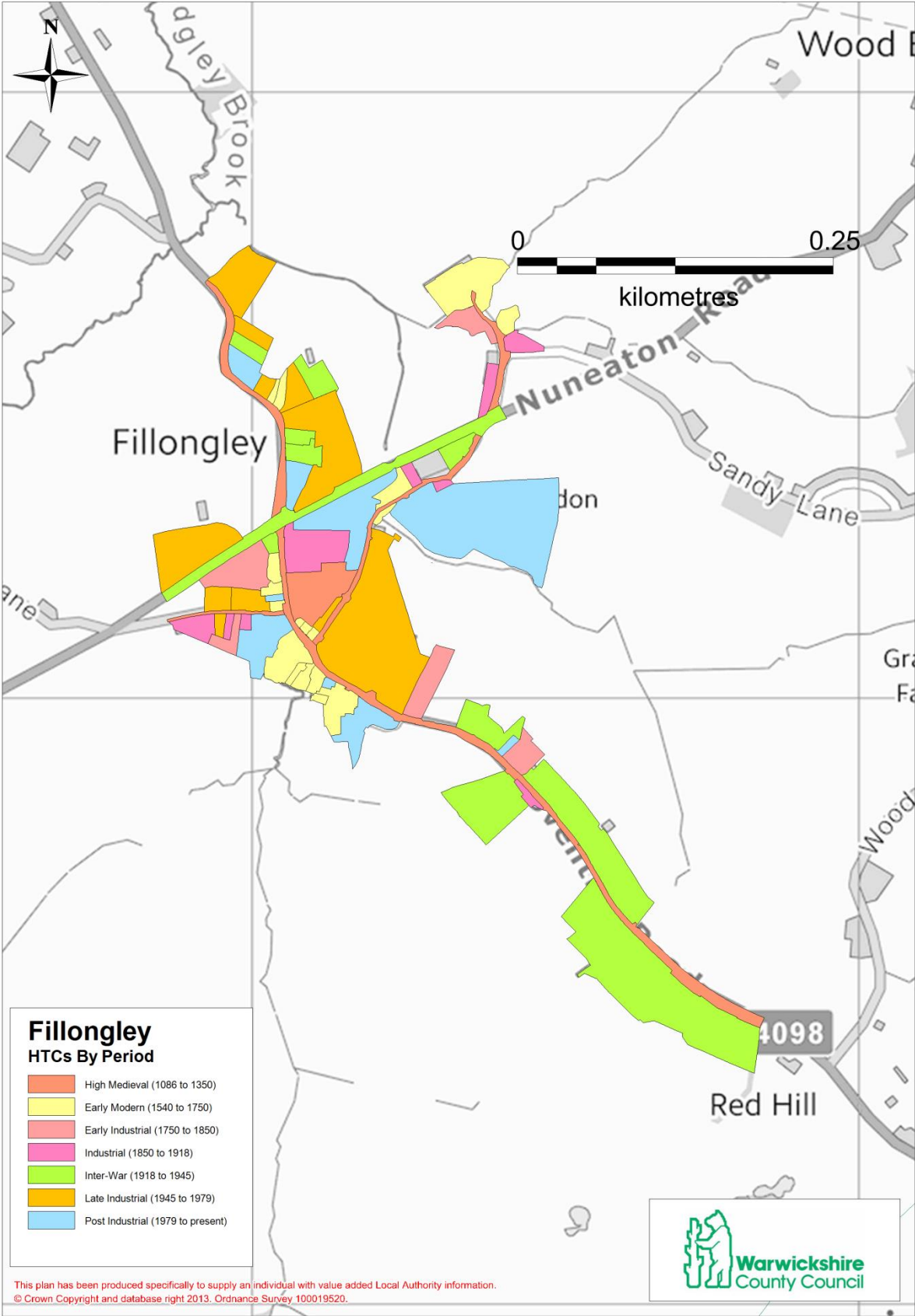
View of chapel and cottage along Church Lane, Fillongley

5.7. The wider parish

It is clear from the distribution of dated historic buildings across the parish that the pattern of dispersed settlement visible today had largely been established by the sixteenth century. However, this was no haphazard scattering of cottages and farmsteads. Instead, there were a series of loose clusters or hamlets focused on the parish's 'ends' and 'greens'. The village of Fillongley has long been the largest settlement within the parish and contains the parish church. There are hamlets at Wood End in the east of the parish, Green End in the west, and Chapel Green in the southwest near Old Fillongley-hall (VCH 1947).



Map showing HTCs in Fillongley by Type



Map showing HTCs in Fillongley by Period

6. Early origins of Settlement in the Parish

Historically a distinction was made between Old and Young Fillongley. This distinction is recorded as far back as 1231/2 when Gerard de Allepath held of Geoffrey, prior of Coventry, ½ hide of land in 'Veteri (old) Fellingelegh' (Warwickshire Feet of Fines: 458). Old Fillongley seems to have been in the south of the parish in the area of Chapel Green, where Old Fillongley-hall still stands. Further evidence linking Chapel Green with Old Fillongley comes from a mention of a chapel in "Olde Fyllongley", which probably refers to the chapel known to have existed at Chapel Green in the sixteenth century (BCA MS 3301/Acc 1944-001/579050). In addition, a lease dating from 1452 records 'a house and garden in Old Fillongley' with an attached parcel of land called 'le Slade Parrok' (WCRO 2981/Dining Room/Cabinet/Drawer 4/5). This presumably corresponds with the 'Slade Field' and 'Slade Meadow', marked on the 1844 tithe map (WCRO 569/102/1), located a little to the north of White-farm.

The 1767 estate map of Fillongley shows that the manor of Young Fillongley, which was held by the Hastings family and was sometimes described as Fillongley Hastings (VCH 1947), was focused around the present village.

In terms of the origins of settlement in Young Fillongley, the earliest surviving fabric in the parish church shows there was some settlement in existence by the twelfth century. In 1305-6 an individual called "John attecherchyeard of Fylungeleye" is recorded as holding a messuage and 17 acres of land in Fillongley (Warwickshire Feet of Fines 1227). However, it is important to recognise that, as said earlier, due to the dispersed nature of settlement within the parish it would seem probable that any settlement around the church would have been fairly small, perhaps just a cluster of dwellings.

The relative importance and longevity of settlement at both Old and Young Fillongley is shown by their close spatial association with other early sites in the parish. As already mentioned, both had a church or chapel in the medieval period. In addition both castles within the parish are located in close proximity to Young Fillongley, and it would be logical to assume that they would be built within the more settled parts of the parish. A further interesting spatial relationship is that between the location of the parish's medieval church and its castles. Castles are often found in close proximity to churches (see Morris 1997 and Creighton 2005). However, there is no such clear spatial relationship in the case of Fillongley. One possible explanation is that it is a result of parish's complex patterns of

lordship in the early medieval period as shown by its entry in Domesday in which four landowners are recorded. ***The origins of the parish's 'ends' and 'greens'***

Historically parishes in the Arden, such as Fillongley, were characterised by very high levels of dispersed settlement. As mentioned, excluding Fillongley village, there are historic hamlets at Wood End in the east of the parish, Green End in the west, and Chapel Green in the southwest near Old Fillongley Hall. Dated buildings within these settlements show they were in existence by at least the sixteenth or seventeenth century. Where moated sites have been recorded we can be fairly confident that settlement in these areas can be taken back to between the twelfth and thirteenth centuries; the period from which most moated sites date. With the above in mind, the model of settlement development within the Arden, as proposed by Roberts (1968), provides us with a very relevant framework for understanding the origins of these settlements. According to the model, settlement seems to have originated from historic nuclei within parishes. In the case of Fillongley these probably equate with the areas of Young and Old Fillongley (see above). Between the twelfth and thirteenth century settlement expanded out from these earlier cores into areas of woodland and heath. Often such expansion is testified by the presence of moated sites and 'green' and "end" place-names suggesting colonisation in the period 1000-1300 (Roberts and Wrathmell 2002: 129-131, 164-9). The place names "Wood End" and 'Green End' certainly accord with the notion of settlement expansion into uncultivated lands.

However, it is probably wrong to accept too literally the notion of colonisation of tracts of virgin forest and waste. This may have been an expansion of settlement into earlier relic landscapes and those that had previously been less intensively settled or exploited, such as managed woodland and pasture.

The wider medieval landscape

Historical sources shed a little light on the landscape associated with the parish's medieval settlements, in particular the agricultural landscape.

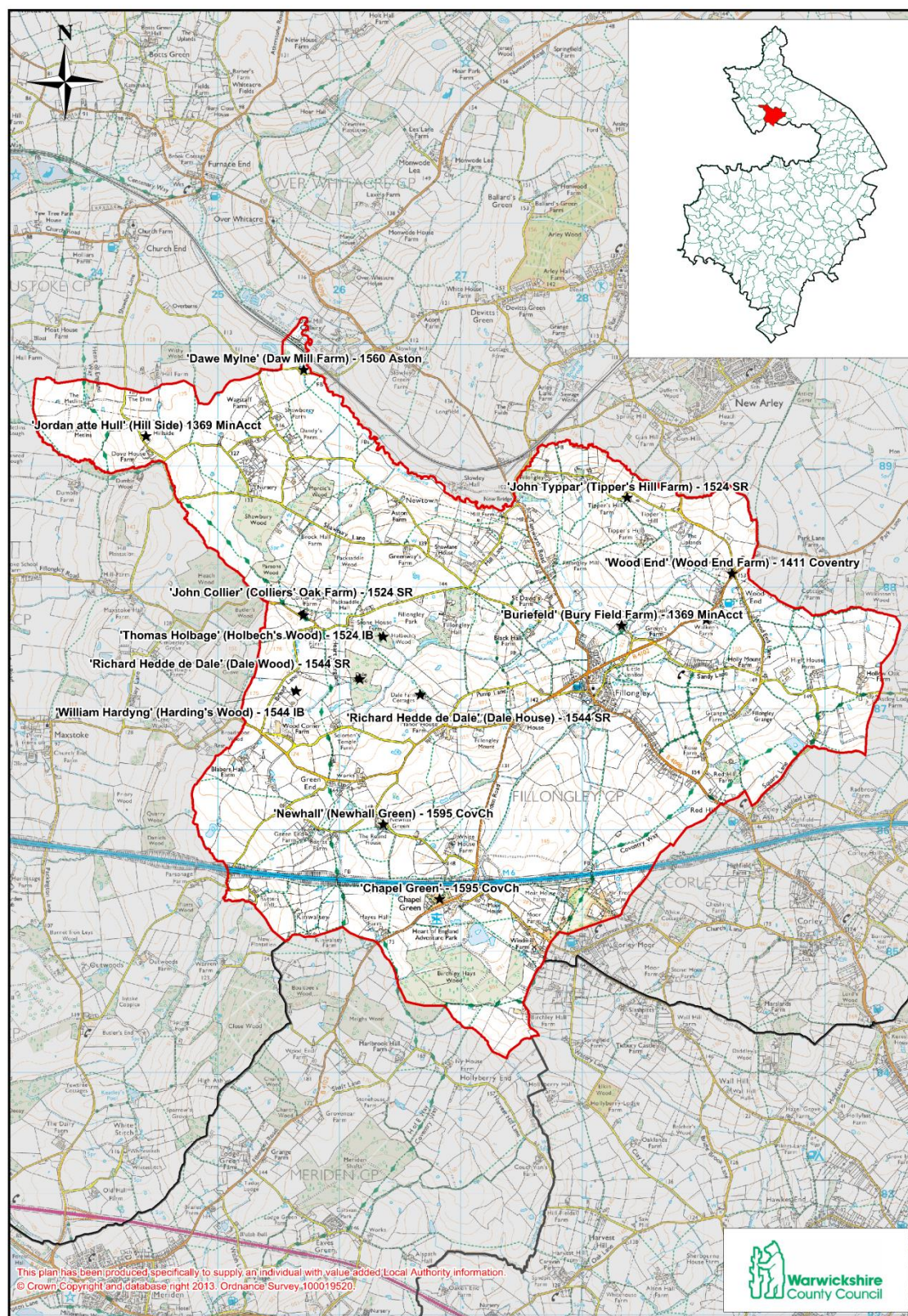
To the west of the present village of Fillongley was a medieval park within which the Hastings castle lay at Castle Yard. The earliest reference to Castle Yard seems to be from 1265 when Henry de Hastings the younger forfeited lands after the battle of Evesham, when Fillongley, including a park, was given to his wife Joan. The reference to a park associated with the castle is not surprising. The relationship between high status seigniorial sites and parks is well attested in archaeological and historical records (Crawford 1953: 189). From analysis of historic field boundaries and field names recorded on the 1844 tithe map of the parish it has been possible to tentatively reconstruct the bounds of the park belonging to

Castle Yard. When the distribution of historic farmsteads is compared with park field names in the parish, the absence of farmsteads in the area of park field names is noticeable, suggesting the present pattern of farmsteads was largely established before the park fell out of use.

The evidence from surviving medieval and later documents, and from the landscape, shows that prior to the sixteenth century most land was held in the form of open field strips surrounding the historic settlements within the parish. However, what these sources also show is that from the fourteenth century onwards, and certainly by the fifteenth century, these open field systems were being progressively enclosed, for late medieval sources often differentiate between enclosed lands (crofts and closes) and lands within open fields. One such example dating from 1484/5 records nine acres of land called "Walkyns", in the fields of New Fillongley, abutting upon the grove of William Snelle on the North and East; the close of Abel de Shostoke and Juddes croft on the South and West, and Somerslesowe on the South (SBT DR 18/10/46/1). A further example from 1505 records the surrender by William Tedde, the younger, of Le Grenend (Green End), a messuage, four crofts and appurtenances, and two acres of land in Le Wydefyld at Le Grenend (BCA MS 3525/ACC 1935-043/437897). A deed from 1549 relating to Parker's messuage, possibly Parkhouse Farm, mentions both 'crofts' and 'selions' of land in Wydefeld in Old and 'yong Fillongley' (SBT DR 18/10/52/2). The 'furlong' field names on the 1844 tithe map between Fillongley and Green End may also refer to former open field strips. These references to open field lands are all from the southern half of the parish in the areas of Young and Old Fillongley and Green End. This is no coincidence for this area probably was the focus for early settlement in the parish, with Old and Young Fillongley being the main focus of settlement at the time of Domesday, while the origins of the parish's "ends" and "greens", such as Green End, date from the twelfth to thirteenth century.

In contrast, a cluster of field names referring to 'Stocking' on the 1844 tithe map in the western part of the parish, to the north of Green End, refer to the old English word 'stoccing' meaning a piece of land cleared of stumps. These names hint at the former presence of woodland in this part of the parish and, significantly, these are away from the medieval open field systems found around the settlements in the southern parts of the parish (Hooke 2006: 87). The character of this area is still -that of an assarted landscape, whereby the fields have been carved out of areas of former woodland. Significantly, place names in this area refer to late medieval families or individuals associated with the parish. This may suggest that the main period of assarting occurred between the fourteenth and sixteenth century, as opposed to the period of population expansion before the fourteenth century. This would account for why no moated sites, which typically date from the twelfth or thirteenth century, have been

found in this area- despite the presence of farmsteads with buildings dating from the fifteenth century onwards. This raises the possibility that settlement expanded into this assarted landscape in the late medieval period, at a time when elsewhere in the county settlement seems to have been generally contracting.



Post-1350 documentary references to places within the parish (base map Ordnance Survey 1:25,000)

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Appendix 1: Fillongley Historic Archive Report

The report below was produced by the Warwickshire County Record Office as a summary of the archive material relating to Fillongley available at the Record Office.

HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

Background and Administrative History

Fillongley is a parish situated five miles east of Coleshill, and six miles north-west of Coventry. It is an ancient parish, containing (as well as the village of Fillongley) the hamlets or manors of Old Fillongley, Wood End, Green End and Chapel Green. It is in the hundred of Hemlingford, and in 1836 became part of Meriden Poor Law Union. It was in the diocese of Lichfield and Coventry until 1836, then in the diocese of Worcester until 1905, and since then in the diocese of Birmingham.

Manorial History

In the Domesday Book of 1086 Fillongley was held by four individuals in four portions of ½ hide each. The owners of each portion were Robert Dispenser, Alsì, the Bishop of Coutances and the Abbey of Coventry. By the late thirteenth century the overlords of the first three portions were the Marmion family of Tamworth and Edmund, earl of Leicester and Lancaster. The main under-tenants of both over-lords (holding what became known as the manor of Young Fillongley) were the Hastings family (later earls of Pembroke), who were established there at least as early as 1235-6. This manor descended by marriage to the Neville family, lords Abergavenny, in the 15th century. They sold it to Lord Aylesford shortly before 1808.

The remaining portion held by Coventry Cathedral Priory was granted out in fee to Gerald de Alspath in 1232, and by 1527 was held by Richard Marler of Coventry. It was subsequently acquired by the Holbech family of Fillongley, and sold by them to Coventry Corporation in the 1590s.

There were at least two sub-manors within the parish, both of which appear to have been sub-manors of the Hastings manor. Of these the manor of Old Fillongley appears to be the most significant. It was held by the Fillongley family until that family died out in the male line in the 15th century, when it appears to have been split into three parts. One part passed by marriage to the Froxmere family, and thence to the Cockett family in the 16th century. Another part was acquired by the Francis family of Ticknall, Derbys., and a third part was held by Thomas Bond of Coventry (d. 1506) and became part of the endowment of Bond's Hospital in Coventry (there is evidence that court leets were held for this manor between 1591 and 1665: see Charity Commission. Reports, Coventry, p.136). The remaining sub-manor for which there is substantial evidence is that called Metley or Metlyns, which was held by the Burbage family from 1313 until 1548, and later passed to the Wagstaffe, Browne and du Moulin families.

Markets and Fairs

In 1301 John de Hastings was granted the right for a weekly market to be held in Fillongley to be held on Mondays and an annual fair from 23 to 27 June.

Burgages

During the early to mid 13th century the linear plan form of the town was established. This is likely to have comprised of planned burgage plots along both sides of High Street south of the present Birmingham Road /Blythe Road), a rectangular market place, Church Hill, laid out at right angles to the main street close to the Church; and its back lane Parkfield Road, gave rear access to individual burgage plots and marked the extent of the borough and the start of the surrounding open field areas of cultivation.

Landed Estates

The major landowner in Fillongley in the Middle Ages was the De Hasting family and their successors, the Beauchamp and Neville families (Lords Bergavenny). In more recent times there has not been a single dominant landowner: see the list of landed estates.

PRIMARY SOURCES (archival)	Reference
Antiquarians' papers	Nothing found
Building plans (see also Local Govt)	
Meriden RDC building control plans, 1898-1941	WCRO CR 2662
Meriden RDC building control plans, 1947-1974	WCRO CR 2277
Meriden RDC building plans (two, of 1945 & 1968-1974)	WCC 18/27/M
Businesses (see also Industries)	
Professions	Nothing found
Trades	
Agreement of the tradesmen of Fillongley to close on Sundays, 1856	WCRO DR 404/149
Cemetery Records	Nothing found
Census Returns	On microfilm at WCRO
1841 census	TNA HO 107/1127
1851 census	TNA HO 107/2063
1861 census	TNA RG 9/2190
1871 census	TNA RG 10/3165
1881 census	TNA RG 11/3055
1891 census	TNA RG 12/2441
1901 census	TNA RG 13/2895
1911 census	TNA RG 14/18402-3,18418
Charities: see also Parish	
Accounts for various charities, 1900-1954	WCRO CR 2249/60/1-7
Communications	
Turnpikes	
Coventry & Whitacre Trusts: accounts, 1820-1833	WCRO QS84/3, QS 84/1/1
Courts	
Quarter Sessions	
Minute & order books, 1625-1973	WCRS QS 39, QS 40 (1625-1699 printed in Warwick County Record Series)
Magistrates Court, Coleshill Division	
Minutes and registers, 1842-1990	WCRO QS 116/4, CR 2923, CR 3933
Ancient Diocese	
Lichfield (to 1836), then Worcester (to 1918) & Coventry	
Bishops registers	SLRO
Church Courts	SLRO
Visitation records	SLRO
Documents of title (see also Landed Estates)	
Du Moulin-Browne of Leamington: deeds, 17 th -19 th cent.	WCRO CR 104
Dugdale of Merevale: deeds, 1557-1840	Dugdale
Finch-Knighley of Packington: deeds, 1455-19 th century	WCRO CR 432, CR 669
Leigh of Stoneleigh: deeds, 1485-1881	SBT DR 18
Newdigate of Arbury: deeds, [1724]-1868	WCRO CR 764
White's Charity (for church repairs), deeds, 1689, 1698	WCRO CR 704
Miscellaneous deeds:	
Deeds, 1620-1813	WCRO D19/424-434
Deeds (the Stockings, etc.), 1715-1832	WCRO CR 386/2,3
Deeds, 1717-1718	WCRO CR 256

Deeds, 1703, 1755	WCRO CR 299/175-176
Deeds, 1542	WCRO CR 299/426
Deeds, 1556	WCRO CR 435
Deed, 1774	WCRO CR 544
Deeds (Oughton Family), 1563, 1664	WCRO CR 562
Deed, 17 th century	WCRO CR 709
Deeds (the Underwood & mess.), 1714-1935	WCRO CR 715/467-528
Deeds, 1660-1717	WCRO CR 762
Deed, 1669	WCRO CR 814
Deeds, 1667-1678	WCRO CR 829/119-120
Deeds (Croxall family), 17 th -18 th century	WCRO CR 1184
Deeds (A.H. Pears), 1736-1856, 1904	WCRO CR 1218/1-2
Deeds (Tedds Family), 1674-1756	WCRO CR 1218/28
Deeds (Woods late of Sir A. Oughton), 1737-1812	WCRO CR 1709/48
Inclosure	
Inclosure Award (enrolment; no plan), 1780	WCRO Q575/29
Industries	
Thomas Tuckley, nailmaker: ledger, 1857-1892	WCRO CR 2314
Landed Estates	
Adams of Fillongley Lodge: deeds, 1716-1829 ledger, 1911-1914	WCRO CR 2473 WCRO CR 2367/15
Adderley of Fillongley (Lord Norton)	BCA MS 917
Bond's Hospital estate	CCA BA/D
Dugdale of Merevale	Dugdale
Finch-Knightley of Packington (Earl of Aylesford)	WCRO CR 432, CR 669, MI 277, MI 279, MI 280, MI 367
Leigh of Stoneleigh	SBT 18
Local Government	
County Council	WCRO
District Council Meriden RSA, 1880-1894 Meriden RDC, 1894-1974	WCRO CR 1527 WCRO CR 1527, CR 3182
Parish Council (see also Parish) Fillongley PC minutes, etc., 1894-1992	WCRO CR 3242, CR 3635
Manorial (see also Landed Estates)	
Young Fillongley View of frankpledge, 1428 Views of frankpledge and courts held there, including tithings of Corley, Motley End, Green End and Wood End, 1497, 1499 Court rolls, 1784-1859 Survey of manor (of John de Hastings, Earl of Pembroke), 1392 Accounts, 1467-1468	BCA MS 917/647 Dugdale, bundle I, (7) WCRO CR 1420 ¹ TNA DL 43/14/3 (copy at WCRO Z 898) WCRO CR 623/box 1
Old Fillongley [Records may survive in Bond's Hospital archives]	CCA BA/D
Metley/Metlyns	

¹ See CR 2600/12 for an affidavit of 1822 stating that the court rolls prior to 1784 had been missing for many years.

Survey and valuation, 1626 (see CR 104 for deeds)	WCRO CR 1908/208
Maps and Surveys (see also Communications, Inclosure, Tithe)	
Leigh estate, 1767	SBT DR 18 (copy at WCRO Z 149)
Dugdale estate, 1703, 1793, 1799	Dugd. M1, M2, M3
Map of conservation area with controlled buildings there on, 1973-1974	WCRO CR 2825/77
Non-Conformist Churches	
Methodist Records Marriage register, 1956-1977	WCRO CR 1994
Parish (for Parish Council see under Local Govt)	WCRO
Registers Baptisms, 1538-1953 Marriages, 1538-1981 Burials, 1538-1947	<i>On microfilm at WCRO</i>
Glebe Terriers, 1676-1836	WCRO DR 72A
Glebe Terriers (transcripts), 1698-1828	WCRO DR 404/44-47
Churchwardens Account books, 1581-c.1713, 1838-1945 <i>accounts of churchwardens and overseers, 1664</i> Church restoration papers, 1889	WCRO DR 404/48-58 <i>CR2981/6/4/31</i> WCRO DRB 404/56
Vestry/PCC Vestry minutes, 1581-1744, 1838-1950 (gaps) PCC minutes 1922-1950, 1971-1984	WCRO DRB 404/48, 50, 51, 84, 143, 144 WCRO DRB 404/143, 144, WCRO DR 677/9, DR 1097/3
Constables Accounts, 1616-1825 (gaps)	WCRO DR 404/85-86
Overseers of the Poor Accounts, 1623-1820 (gaps) Apprenticeship indentures, 1666-1795	WCRO DR 404/87-92 WCRO 404/94/1/28-128, WCRO DR 285/14
Overseers of the Highways	Nothing significant
Charities Accounts for various charities, 1732-1933 (gaps)	WCRO DR 404/95-137
Rating and Valuation records	
Parish levies, 1622-1627	WCRO DR 404/49
Parish levies, 1714, 1734	WCRO DR 404/88, 89
District/Borough Council Meriden RDC rate books, 1937-1966 (gaps) General District Valuation Lists, 1929-1954	WCRO CR 2836/8-53 WCRO CR 2836/4-6
District Valuer Domesday Book, c.1910 Field Books Maps	WCRO CR 1978/2/40 TNA IR 58/60749-60753 TNA IR 129/2/33,34,36,37
Societies	
Fillongley Association for the Prosecution of Felons Agreement, 1824; account book, 1864-1914	WCRO CR 276

Fillongley Working Men's Club Insurance policy, 1891	WCRO DR 404/78
Schools and Education	
Fillongley Church of England School Logbooks, etc, 1885-1995	WCRO CR 36F, CR 1336, CR 3355, CR 4072
Green's Charity School Leases and conveyance, 1702-1744	WCRO DR 404
Sunday School Grant by Lord Leigh of a site, 1840,1908 Sunday School Accounts, 1855-1908	WCRO DR 404/41 DR 404/42
Shawbury Industrial School Records List of officers and ex pupils on active service, 1915	BCA BCC10/BCH/11 WCRO DR 404/150
Taxation	
Hearth tax returns, 1662-1674	WCRO QS 11, Z 336 (L) M1304 (1679-1681)
Land Tax returns, 1773-1832	WCRO QS 77/91
Subsidies	
1524/5	WCRO MI 250
1340-1341	WCRO MI 252
Tithe	
Tithe Apportionment, 1846	WCRO CR 569/102, DR 404
Utilities	
Fillongley Waterworks rent and charges account, 1900-1930, and receipt book, 1929-1930	CR 3635/11,12
Visual Material	
Prints and Views	WCRO PV collections
Photographs	WCRO PH collections
Wills and Inventories	Worcester/ Lichfield Record Office (pre 1836)

SECONDARY SOURCES	
Directories	
County Directories	
Universal British Dictionary 1792-Warwickshire*	WCRO (microfiche Mf 25)
Pigot 1821-2 – Warwickshire*	WCRO (microfiche Mf 33)
Pigot 1828-9 – Warwickshire*	WCRO
West 1830 – Warwickshire*	WCRO, Kenilworth, Nuneaton, Rugby & Stratford Libraries
Pigot 1835 – Warwickshire*	WCRO, Nuneaton Library
Pigot 1842 – Warwickshire*	WCRO Nuneaton Library
Post Office 1845 – Warwickshire	Nuneaton
White 1850 – Warwickshire	WCRO, Atherstone, Coleshill, Nuneaton & Stratford Libraries
Slater 1851 – Warwickshire*	WCRO, Nuneaton Library
Post Office 1854 – Warwickshire	WCRO
Kelly's 1860 – Warwickshire	WCRO
Kelly's 1863 – Warwickshire	WCRO, Rugby Library
Morris 1866 – Warwickshire	WCRO, Nuneaton Library
Post Office 1868 – Warwickshire	WCRO
Kelly's 1872 - Warwickshire	WCRO, Nuneaton Library
White 1874 - Warwickshire	WCRO, Atherstone, Coleshill, Kenilworth, Nuneaton, Rugby, Stratford Libraries
Kelly's 1876 - Warwickshire	WCRO, Nuneaton, Rugby Libraries
Kelly's 1880 - Warwickshire	WCRO
Kelly's 1884 - Warwickshire	WCRO, Rugby Library
Kelly's 1888 - Warwickshire	WCRO, Rugby Library
Kelly's 1892 - Warwickshire	WCRO, Nuneaton, Rugby Libraries
Kelly's 1896 - Warwickshire	WCRO, Nuneaton, Rugby Libraries
Kelly's 1900 - Warwickshire	WCRO, Nuneaton, Rugby Libraries
Kelly's 1904 - Warwickshire	WCRO
Kelly's 1908 - Warwickshire	WCRO, Rugby Library
Kelly's 1912 - Warwickshire	WCRO, Atherstone, Rugby Libraries
Kelly's 1916 - Warwickshire	WCRO, Nuneaton, Rugby Libraries
Kelly's 1921 - Warwickshire	WCRO, Rugby Library
Kelly's 1924 - Warwickshire	WCRO, Nuneaton, Rugby Libraries
Kelly's 1928 - Warwickshire	WCRO, Nuneaton, Rugby Libraries
Kelly's 1932 - Warwickshire	WCRO, Nuneaton, Rugby, Stratford Libraries
Kelly's 1936 - Warwickshire	WCRO, Kenilworth, Rugby Libraries
Kelly's 1940 - Warwickshire	WCRO, Nuneaton, Rugby, Stratford Libraries
*Major Towns only	WCRO
Newspapers	
Warwickshire Advertiser from 1806 (also the Nuneaton, Coleshill and Coventry newspapers)	WCRO
Ordnance Survey Maps	(Coleshill only)
County Series	
6" sheet Warwickshire	WCRO 1887-1937

25'' sheet Warwickshire	WCRO 1902-1938
National Grid	
25''	WCRO 1954-1995
Articles and Books	
Victoria County History of Warwickshire	
List of Vicars, Church of St. Mary & All Saints, Fillongley, after 1923	WCRO B.FIL (P)
Scheduled Ancient Monument, Castle Hills, Fillongley. Description, assessment and map, English Heritage, 1994	WCRO B.FIL at C913.ENG (P)
Fillongley Agricultural Society Annual Show Catalogues, 1945, 1948	WCRO B.FIL at CR 3048
Fillongley Local History Society Newsletters, 1985 onwards	WCRO B.FIL at F.FIL (P)
History of the Bakehouse, Fillongley. Fillongley Local History Group, 1989	WCRO CR 2600/46
Fillongley Hall, Warwickshire from Country Life, by Geneva Jackson-Stops, 1989	WCRO B.FIL.Jac (P)
Behind the scenes at Fillongley Hall. The Field, by Hugh Montgomery Massingberd, 1985	WCRO B.FIL.Mas (P)
Millenium snapshots of Fillongley and Corley, by Mavis Hopkins, 2001	WCRO B.FIL.Hop (P)
I Remember Strawberries and Sewage. A collection of twenty biographies reminiscences and photographs of everyday life in North Warwickshire village of Fillongley. By Susan Moore, 1989	WCRO B.FIL.Moo (P)
Bare Bottoms and Stinging Nettles. The life of village schools in the old forest of Arden, North Warwickshire. By Susan Moore, 2005	WCRO B.FIL at C.372.MOO
Transcript of the old parish register of S. Mary and All Saints Fillongley county Warwick 1538-1653 with a short account of the church, the bells, monuments. By Walsall, W. Henry Robinson, 1893	
Broadside by "A Manx Man, and Friend to his Country, 1795	WCRO DR 404/152
Newspaper cutting entitled 'Old Curiosities n.d. of Fillongley	WCRO DR 404/153
Register of Fillongley, 1538-1653. Notes about Fillongley: a village history compiled from parish registers, churchwardens and constables' accounts and other sources of information in local and national histories, 1893	B.Fil.Wil.
Parish Magazines	WCRO DRB 100/206-262 (1854-1985)

Abbreviations

BCA	Birmingham City Archives
BL	British Library
BLNL	British Newspaper Library, Colindale
CCA	Coventry City Archives
Dugdale	Dugdale archives in possession of family
SBT	Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Records Office
SCRO	Staffordshire Record Office
SLRO	Staffordshire Record Office, Lichfield branch
TNA	The National Archives
WCRO	Warwickshire County Record Office

Fillongley Historic Character Assessment



Berryfields, Fillongley

Warwickshire Historic Environment Record

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