

TP 1 Summary of primary findings

The following document states the current findings from the test pit dug on Charney Bassett village Green, on the weekend of the 16th September 2017. Each spit/feature or group of spits/features will be described in turn, including the finds material, provisional date and provisional interpretation.

Spit 1

The first layer uncovered was formed of spit 1, and was comprised of a friable, mid greyish brown, silty sand, with limestone inclusions. This layer was 0.10 m in depth. No finds material was recovered from this layer. This layer is interpreted as being formed of the modern turf and topsoil.

Spit 2 to 3

The second layer was formed of spits 2 to 3, and was comprised of a friable, mid greyish brown, silty sand, with limestone inclusions. This layer was 0.20 m in depth. The finds material recovered from this layer included: animal bone (46 grams), including cattle, pig, bird and sheep; building material including, brick (53 grams), roof tile (151 grams), and roofing slate (11 grams); charcoal (77 grams); metal including, Fe nails (43 grams), Fe object (952 grams) and lead objects (6 grams); clay pipe stem (11 grams), dating to the 18th to 19th C; glass including, window (4 grams) and vessel (20 grams); iron slag (89 grams); and flint worked (10 grams) including one core and one microlith, both Mesolithic in date. The pottery recovered dated to medieval (2 grams), post medieval (49 grams) and modern (132 grams) periods. This layer is interpreted as a soil deposit dating to the early modern to post medieval period, related to the Green.

Spit 4

The third layer was formed of spit 4, and was comprised of a friable, mid greyish brown, silty sand, with limestone inclusions. This layer was 0.10 m in depth. The finds material recovered from this layer included: animal bone (7 grams), including sheep; building material including, brick (1 gram); metal including, Fe nails (4 grams) and Fe object (2 grams); window glass (1 gram); clay pipe stem (1 gram), dating to the 19th C; charcoal (4 grams); iron slag (17 grams); and burnt flint (3 grams). The pottery recovered dated to the post medieval (3 grams) and modern (4 grams) periods. This layer is interpreted as a rammed limestone surface relating to the market activity on the Green during this period.

Spit 5 – Natural

Spit 5 was the natural underlying geology. The natural geology was found to be a hard, light greyish white, limestone, with no inclusions. This level was reached at a depth of 0.40 m from the top of the test pit. No finds material was recovered from this spit and because of this it is thought to be formed of the natural Stanford Formation Limestone geology.

Conclusion

In conclusion, from the evidence presented above, it is shown that the underlying archaeology within the area of test pit 1 comprised the modern topsoil overlying a modern to post medieval soil deposit. This overlies a rammed limestone surface, which covers the geology, Stanford Formation Limestone. This limestone surface is thought to relate to market activity on the Green as it is similar to one found at Stanford in the Vale on Church Green, where the market at Stanford was located. Therefore, this surface is thought to date to the medieval period but may have also been used in the early post medieval period too, during the market. It is likely that the surface would have reduced the erosion to the Green during market activities in this area. Lastly, finds material from this test pit indicate Mesolithic activity in this area of the village, with both a flint microlith and core dating to this period found within this test pit.