

TP 3 Summary of primary findings

The following document states the current findings from the test pit dug in the rear garden of Mill Cottage, over the weekend of the 16th to 17th 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 loose, 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 (5 grams), including sheep; building material including, brick (262 grams), roofing tile (816 grams) and mortar (84 grams); metal including, Fe nails (270 grams), Fe objects (25 grams) and lead objects (1 gram); charcoal (32 grams); vessel glass (9 grams); and plastic (1 gram). The pottery recovered dated to post medieval (19 grams) and modern (8 gram) periods. This layer is interpreted as being formed of the modern turf and topsoil.

Spit 2 to 5

The second layer was formed of spits 2 to 5, and was comprised of a loose, mid greyish brown, silty sand, with limestone inclusions. This layer was 0.50 m in depth. The finds material recovered from this layer included: animal bone (138 grams), including cattle, bird, pig and sheep; building material including, brick (1.176 Kg), roof tile (483 grams), floor tile (78 grams), roofing slate (9 grams), limestone roof tiles (975 grams), plaster (2 grams) and mortar (125 grams); charcoal (227 grams); metal including, Fe nails (150 grams), Fe object (238 grams) and Cu alloy objects (14 grams); clay pipe stem (10 grams), dating to the 18th to 19th C; glass including, window (20 grams) and vessel (70 grams); iron slag (96 grams); flint including, debitage (32 grams) and worked (4 grams) including one blade Neolithic in date; and shell including oyster (2 grams) and snail (1 gram). The pottery recovered dated to the medieval (6 grams), post medieval (287 grams) and modern (377 grams) periods. Two fragments of granite quern stone were also recovered. This layer is interpreted as a garden soil deposit dating to the post medieval period, related to the adjacent Mill Cottage.

Spit 6

The third layer was formed of spit 6, and was comprised of a loose, 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 (10 grams), including sheep; brick (1.372 Kg); charcoal (32 grams); Fe nails (13 grams); vessel glass (1 gram); iron slag (167 grams); and flint including, debitage (25 grams) and worked (3 grams) including one scraper

Neolithic in date. The pottery recovered dated to the medieval (8 grams), post medieval (76 grams) and modern (8 grams) periods. This layer is interpreted as the top layer of demolition rubble dating to the post medieval period.

Spit 7 to 8

The fourth layer was formed of spits 7 to 8, and was comprised of a loose, 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 (159 grams), including cattle, pig and sheep; building material including, brick (211 grams) and roof tile (34 grams); charcoal (56 grams); metal including, Fe nails (32 grams), Fe object (19 grams), lead objects (4 grams); window glass (2 grams); iron slag (198 grams); flint including, burnt (8 grams), debitage (14 grams) and worked (13 grams) including one core Mesolithic in date; and mussel shell (1 gram). The pottery recovered dated to the medieval (25 grams) and post medieval (81 grams) periods. This layer is interpreted as the second layer of demolition rubble dating to the post medieval period.

Spit 9

The fifth layer was formed of spit 9 and was comprised of a loose to turgid, mid greyish brown, sandy clay, with limestone inclusions. This layer was 0.10 m in depth. The finds material recovered from this layer included: animal bone (91 grams), including cattle; brick (2 grams); charcoal (1 gram); metal including, Fe nails (7 grams), Fe object (36 grams), and Cu alloy objects (5 grams); window glass (1 grams); and flint including, burnt (27 grams) and debitage (7 grams). The pottery recovered dated to the Roman (10 grams) and post medieval (36 grams) periods. This layer is interpreted as the weathered top of the natural geology (spit 10).

Spit 10 – Natural

Spit 10 was the natural underlying geology. The natural geology was found to be a hard, mid greyish white, limestone, with no inclusions. This level was reached at a depth of 0.80 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 3 comprised the modern topsoil overlying a post medieval garden soil deposit relating to the adjacent Mill Cottage. Below this layer the first

of two overlying demolition deposits were found. Both these layers of demolition deposits contain large quantities of limestone rubble, with the top layer containing a larger soil matrix compared to the bottom layer which contained a higher stone matrix. To date it is unknown what these demolition deposits relate to, however they are both thought to be post medieval in date and may represent renovation or expansion works of the adjacent water mill and cottage during the post medieval period. It is important to note that all finds material, including pottery, CBM, metalwork, and other finds materials dates to the post medieval period with no earlier material found within these deposits. These demolition deposits were found to overlay the weathered top of the geology, which then overlaid the solid Stanford Formation Limestone. Lastly, the finds material indicates the presence of medieval and Roman activity in this area, with the first possible relating to a mill in this area during the medieval period. Worked flint material recovered from this test pit also indicates activity dating to both the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods in this area.