

## **TP 4 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 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> 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 and brick inclusions. This layer was 0.10 m in depth. The finds material recovered from this layer included: animal bone (2 grams); building material including, brick (46 grams) and roofing tile (42 grams); metal including, Fe nails (28 grams) and lead objects (11 grams); charcoal (22 grams); and glass including, vessel (2 grams) and window (1 gram). The pottery recovered dated to post medieval (3 grams) periods. This layer is interpreted as being formed of the modern turf and topsoil.

### **Spit 3 to 10**

The second layer was formed of spits 3 to 10, and was comprised of a loose, light yellowish to greyish brown, silty sand, with limestone and brick inclusions. This layer was 0.80 m in depth. The finds material recovered from this layer included: animal bone (430 grams), including cattle, bird, pig and sheep; building material including, brick (291 grams), roof tile (472 grams), roofing slate (83 grams), plaster (204 grams), mortar (223 grams) and ceramic pipe (36 grams); charcoal (300 grams); metal including, Fe nails (164 grams), Fe object (226 grams), Cu alloy objects (62 grams) and lead objects (6 grams); glass including, window (7 grams) and vessel (185 grams); worked flint (11 grams) including two scrapers both Neolithic in date; and oyster shell (1 gram). The pottery recovered dated to the modern (39 grams) period. This layer is interpreted as demolition rubble, back filled into the mill channel, dating to the modern period.

### **Spit 11 to 12**

The third layer was formed of spits 11 to 12, and was comprised of a friable, mid yellowish brown, sandy silt, with limestone inclusions. This layer was 0.25 m in depth. The finds material recovered from this layer included: building material including, brick (29 grams), roof tile (66 grams), slate roofing tile (81 grams) and limestone roof tile (900 grams); charcoal (19 grams); metal including, Fe objects (26 grams) and Cu alloy objects (28 grams); vessel glass (5 grams); mussel shell (2 grams); and worked flint (2 grams) including one scraper Neolithic in date. The pottery recovered dated to the modern (1 gram) period. This layer is interpreted as a layer of silting at the base of the mill channel which dates to the medieval to post medieval period.

### **Feature: Structure 2 and 13**

Spits 2 and 13 (structure) are interpreted as a retaining stone wall with associated stone footing. The first part of these structures (spit 2) is formed of limestone, no facing seen, one course high, series of large flat stones (limestone) and no bond but instead is packed with sand between them. The second part of these structures (spit 13) is formed of limestone, well faced on both the interior and exterior, 14 courses high, faced limestone with rubble core, and lime mortar bond. The height of the structure was 1.20m high. This feature is interpreted as the retaining wall and associated stepped footing of one side of the mill channel, for the adjacent water mill. No finds material was recovered; however, this structure is thought to be post medieval in date.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, from the evidence presented above, it is shown that the underlying archaeology within the area of test pit 4 comprised the modern topsoil overlying a demolition deposit, which infills the mill channel, and therefore abuts the adjacent mill channel wall. This deposit was 0.80m deep. Finds material recovered from this deposit includes large quantities of clinker as well as building materials such as CBM and wall plaster, all late post medieval to modern in date, and thought to relate to activities in the adjacent mill cottage at this time. Other domestic material of this period was also recovered. Below this deposit a 0.15m thick layer of silting was found at the base of the mill channel and overlaid the stepped footing for the wall. This deposit also contained modern material including ceramic and post medieval stone roof tiles, however it does not contain much material from an earlier date. Therefore, it could be surmised that this demonstrates that the channel was kept relatively clean, with constant silt removal until it went out of use, as otherwise it would be likely that earlier material would have been found.

Within this test pit the earliest phase of activity relates to a stone wall, constructed of limestone with 13 courses and which forms a retaining wall of the mill channel. This structure is thought to have been built directly onto the Stanford Formation Limestone but is hard to prove due to the stepped foundation for the wall which covers the geology. It is thought that this mill channel relates to the adjacent medieval to post medieval water mill. No finds material was recovered from this feature, however taking into account other evidence such as mapping data, it is thought that this structure is either late medieval or early post medieval in date. Lastly, from the finds material recovered from this test pit it can be shown that Neolithic activity occurred in this area of the village as three flint scrapers were found dating to this period.