

## **TP 5 Summary of primary findings**

The following document states the current findings from the test pit dug in the tennis court of Charney Bassett Manor, over the weekend of the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2018. Each spit/feature or group of spits/features will be described in turn, including the finds material, provisional date and provisional interpretation.

### **Spit 1 to 2**

The first layer uncovered was formed of spits 1 to 2, and was comprised of a hard, dark greyish black, tarmac, shale and hoggin, with no inclusions. This layer was 0.20 m in depth. The finds material recovered from this layer included: roofing tile (257 grams); and Fe nails (45 grams). This layer is interpreted as being formed of the modern surface and associated subbase for the tennis court.

### **Spit 3 to 4**

The second layer was formed of spits 3 to 4, and was comprised of a soft, mid greyish orange, sandy clay, with limestone inclusions. This layer was 0.20 m in depth. No finds material was recovered from this layer. This layer is interpreted as an alluvial deposit, possibly Roman to prehistoric in date.

### **Feature: Cut 7 and Fill 6**

Spits 7 and 6 (cut and fill) form a post hole feature which was found to be cut into spit 5, at the base of the test pit. The shape of this feature was sub-oval in plan, sides vertical (90°) with a sharp break at top and base and a base flat. The depth of the cut was 15 cm deep. The fill of the cut was comprised of a turgid, mid orangish brown, sandy clay, with no inclusions. No finds material was recovered from the fill of this feature. This feature has been interpreted as a post hole associated with a possible structure, thought to date to the prehistoric period. However, its exact date is difficult to determine due to no finds material being found within it.

### **Spit 5 – Natural**

Spit 5 was formed of the natural underlying geology. The natural geology was found to be a hard, mid whitish yellow, 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 5 comprised the modern tennis court surface overlying a thin alluvial deposit. This layer is thought to relate to episodes of flooding in the area during the Roman and prehistoric periods and is thought to have been horizontally truncated by the construction of the overlying tennis court. Below the alluvium and cut into the underlying geology (Stanford Formation Limestone) a single post hole was found. No finds were recovered from this feature; therefore, it is thought to be prehistoric in date, and possibly indicates early habitation in this part of the village.