

TP 6 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 2nd 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 to friable, dark greyish black, with tarmac, shale, hoggin and clinker, no inclusions. This layer was 0.20 m in depth. No finds material was recovered from this layer. 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 friable, light orangish brown, sandy clay, with limestone inclusions. This layer was 0.20 m in depth. The finds material recovered from this layer included: building material including, brick (17 grams) and roofing tile (33 grams); vessel glass (8 grams); Fe nails (19 grams); charcoal (118 grams); iron slag (23 grams); and flint including debitage (14 grams) and worked (15 grams) including one scraper dating to the Neolithic. Pottery was also recovered dating to the modern (1 gram) period. This layer is interpreted as a subbase layer for the tennis court, modern in date.

Spit 5 to 6

The third layer was formed of spits 5 to 6, and was comprised of a turgid, dark blackish brown to mid brownish orange, sandy clay, with limestone inclusions. This layer was 0.15 m in depth. The finds material recovered from this layer included: vessel glass (1 gram); iron slag (1 gram); charcoal (1 gram); and flint debitage (4 grams). This layer is interpreted as an alluvial deposit, possibly Roman to prehistoric in date.

Spit 7 – Natural

Spit 7 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 0.55 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 6 comprised the modern tennis court surface overlying an alluvial deposit; thereafter, overlying the solid geology (Stanford Formation Limestone). Like TP5, this is thought to relate to periods of flooding during the Roman to prehistoric period, with one Neolithic scraper found within this test pit. Furthermore, the layer is likely to have been horizontally truncated by the construction of the overlying tennis court. It can therefore be surmised that the construction of the tennis court has removed any archaeological evidence for the use of the site during the medieval period, when the adjacent Manor House was both constructed and in use.