

## **TP 7 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 3<sup>rd</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 to friable, dark greyish black, with tarmac and clinker, with 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 6**

The second layer was formed of spits 3 to 6, and was comprised of a turgid, mid brownish orange, sandy clay, with limestone inclusions. This layer was 0.70 m in depth. The finds material recovered from this layer included: animal bone (55 grams) including sheep, cattle and pig; building material including, brick (10 grams) and mortar (9 grams); window glass (1 gram); charcoal (38 grams); slag including, iron (116 grams) and glass (5 grams); and flint including, burnt (2 grams), debitage (34 grams) and worked (35 grams) including four scrapers and three blades dating to the Mesolithic to Neolithic periods. Pottery was also recovered dating to the Roman (27 grams) and modern (18 grams) periods. This layer is interpreted as an alluvial deposit, 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 friable, mid brownish grey, silt with coarse sand and gravel, and no inclusions. This level was reached at a depth of 0.90 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 a natural river gravel deposit possibly related to a paleochannel.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, from the evidence presented above, it is shown that the underlying archaeology within the area of test pit 7 comprised the modern tennis court surface overlying a thick layer of alluvial deposit. Like TP 5 and 6, this deposit is thought to relate to flooding episodes in the area during the prehistoric to Roman periods, as both Roman pottery and Mesolithic to Neolithic worked flint was recovered from this layer. Archaeological evidence

indicates the likelihood that this deposit has been truncated by the modern overlying tennis court. Below this layer, a layer of gravel was found. This layer of gravel is thought to represent a buried paleochannel, located in this area. No finds material was recovered from this deposit; however, it is thought to possibly be early prehistoric in date and therefore relate to the post glacial period. This deposit may also relate to the overlying alluvial deposits, discussed above, and demonstrates the channel firstly silting up and thereafter flooding with alluvial deposition.