

TP 9 Summary of primary findings

The following document states the current findings from the test pit dug in the rear garden of Wick Cottage, over the weekend of the 27th to 28th July 2019. 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 friable, mid greyish brown, sandy silt, with limestone inclusions. This layer was 0.20 m in depth. The finds material recovered from this layer included: animal bone (9 grams), including sheep and pig; building material including, brick (29 grams), roofing slate (9 grams), floor tile (27 grams); metal including, Fe nails (12 grams) and Fe objects (235 grams); charcoal (35 grams); vessel glass (3 grams); clay pipe including, stem (2 grams) and bowl (2 grams), dating to the 18th C; snail shell (4 grams); and flint including, debitage (11 grams) and worked (2 grams) including one scraper Neolithic in date. The pottery recovered dated to Saxon (15 grams), medieval (8 grams), post medieval (10 grams) and modern (10 grams) periods. This layer is interpreted as being formed of the modern turf and topsoil.

Spit 3

The second layer was formed of spit 3, and was comprised of a friable, mid yellowish brown, sandy silt, with limestone and charcoal inclusions. This layer was 0.10 m in depth. The finds material recovered from this layer included: animal bone (8 grams), including pig; building material including, brick (129 grams) and plaster (50 grams); charcoal (29 grams); metal including, Fe nails (44 grams), Fe object (21 grams), and Cu alloy objects (1 gram); clay pipe including, stem (6 grams) and bowl (1 gram), dating to the 18th to 19th C; window glass (3 grams); flint including, debitage (4 grams) and worked (7 grams) including two blades and one scraper dating to the Neolithic; and oyster shell (1 gram). The pottery recovered dated to the medieval (7 grams), post medieval (34 grams) and modern (13 grams) periods. This layer is interpreted as the first of two garden soil deposits dating to the post medieval period.

Spit 4

The third layer was formed of spit 4, and was comprised of a friable, mid to dark yellowish brown, sandy silt, with limestone and charcoal inclusions. This layer was 0.15 m in depth. The finds material recovered from this layer included: animal bone (17 grams), including pig and sheep; building material including, brick (115 grams), roof tile (148 grams), plaster (149 grams); charcoal (17 grams); metal including, Fe nails (57 grams) and Fe object (5 grams); clay pipe including, stem (16 grams) and bowl (11 grams), dating to the 18th

to 19th C; glass including, window (1 gram) and vessel (1 gram); flint including, debitage (23 grams) and worked (3 grams) including one scraper dating to the Neolithic; and oyster shell (1 gram). The pottery recovered dated to the medieval (18 grams), post medieval (62 grams) and modern (6 grams) periods. Two small finds were also recovered, a small lead ball, possibly a fishing weight and a Cu alloy button. This layer is interpreted as the second of two garden soil deposits dating to the post medieval period.

Spit 5 to 6

The fourth layer was formed of spits 5 to 6, and was comprised of a compact to friable, mid orangish brown with grey flecks, sandy silt, with limestone and charcoal inclusions. This layer was 0.15 m in depth. The finds material recovered from this layer included: animal bone (73 grams), including cattle, pig and sheep; building material including, brick (157 grams), plaster (1 gram) and burn daub (2 grams); charcoal (4 grams); Fe nails (17 grams); clay pipe including, stem (27 grams) and bowl (1 gram), dating to the 18th; flint including, burnt (1 gram), debitage (10 grams) and worked (4 grams) including two scrapers dating to the Neolithic to Bronze Age periods; and shell including, snail (1 gram) and mussel (1 gram). The pottery recovered dated to the Roman (4 grams), Saxon (14 grams), medieval (70 grams), post medieval (58 grams) and modern (1 gram) periods. One small find was also recovered, a fragment of clay with makers stamp. This layer is interpreted as a post medieval demolition deposit, relating to the demolition of a structure on the site.

Spit 7 to 8

The fifth layer was formed of spits 7 to 8, and was comprised of a compact, mid brownish grey, clay sand, with limestone inclusions. This layer was 0.20 m in depth. The finds material recovered from this layer included: animal bone (27 grams), including cattle, bird and sheep; building material including, brick (21 grams) and plaster (26 grams); charcoal (1 gram); Fe nails (7 grams); clay pipe stem (1 gram), dating to the 18th C; window glass (1 gram); flint including, debitage (69 grams) and worked (11 grams) including three scrapers dating to the Neolithic to Mesolithic periods; and oyster shell (2 grams). The pottery recovered dated to the Roman (28 grams), medieval (41 grams), post medieval (325 grams) and modern (1 gram) periods. This layer is interpreted as an alluvial deposit, dating to the late medieval to prehistoric periods.

Feature: Cut 10 and Fill 9

Spits 10 and 9 (cut and fill) form a gully feature which was found to be cut into spit 10, at the base of the test pit. The shape of this feature was linear in plan, sides sloping (10-20°) with rounded break at its top and base and a base flat. The depth of the cut was 12 cm deep. The fill of the cut was comprised of a compact, mid greyish brown, sandy clay, with

limestone inclusions. The finds material recovered from this layer included: animal bone (173 grams), including cattle, bird and horse; brick (1 gram); Fe objects (1 gram); and flint including, debitage (113 grams) and worked (15 grams) including three scrapers, one microlith and one blade, all dating to the Neolithic to Mesolithic periods. The pottery recovered dated to the Saxon (8 grams) and medieval (4 grams) periods. This feature has been interpreted as a gully dating to the Neolithic period, with some residual finds material from the layer above also present.

Spit 11 – Natural

Spit 11 was the natural underlying geology. The natural geology was found to be a hard, light whitish yellow, 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 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 9 comprised the modern topsoil overlying two phases of post medieval garden soil deposits. These soil deposits possibly relate to activity on the site, post the demolition of a building known to be located in the vicinity of this test pit, during the early to middle post medieval period. Below this layer a deposit of demolition rubble was found. This layer contains large quantities of limestone demolition rubble thought to represent the demolition of a post medieval house or structure known to have been located on this site, during the post medieval period. The location of the structure can be seen on post medieval mapping data. Below this layer an alluvial deposit was found. This deposit is thought to have arisen from flooding episodes of the adjacent River Ock during the medieval to middle prehistoric periods. This indicates the likelihood that this area was not used for farming or habitation during these periods, instead this represents an area of floodplain or marshland in the area of the settlement.

Below this layer, at the base of the test pit, and cut into the natural solid Stanford Formation Limestone geology, a single linear cut gully was found. This gully was 0.12 m deep, extending beyond the edges of the test pit. This was found to run on a north south alignment and due to its depth, the gully is thought to have been horizontally truncated by later activities. This feature contained worked Neolithic flint material, indicating the earliest possible inhabited settlement of Charney Bassett. This feature therefore represents an important discovery within the archaeology of Charney Bassett; this indicates that the village settlement may have first formed in about 5000 BC when the land was cleared for farming and settlement activities. Consequently, this may indicate a continuous use of the settlement, now known as Charney Bassett, from this early date.