Charney Bassett

Geophysical Survey

During the period of this thesis, two areas were was surveyed using resistivity survey equipment, as discussed in the methodology. Within these area both archaeological and modern features were identified dating to multi-periods. The data from these site surveyed will be explained; a copy of the results will be shown, followed by a discussion on its interpretation. A map indicating the survey areas undertaken using this technique is seen in Figure 104.

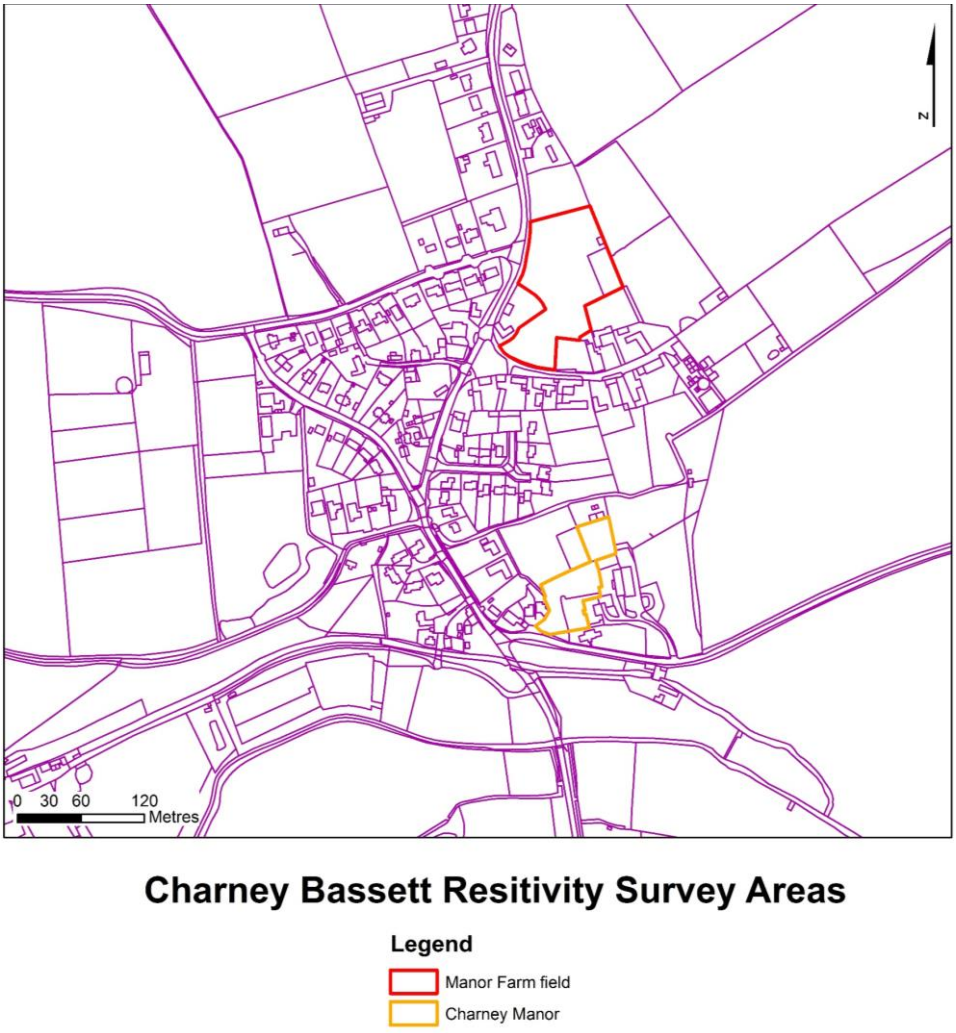

Figure 1. Map showing the location of the areas where geophysical data has been collected during the thesis period, within the village of Charney Bassett.

Charney Manor

Within the survey area of the Charney Manor house gardens (SU 3808, 9444) a series of anomalies were identified on the plot, Figure 105. Each feature is described and discussed in Appendix 6.

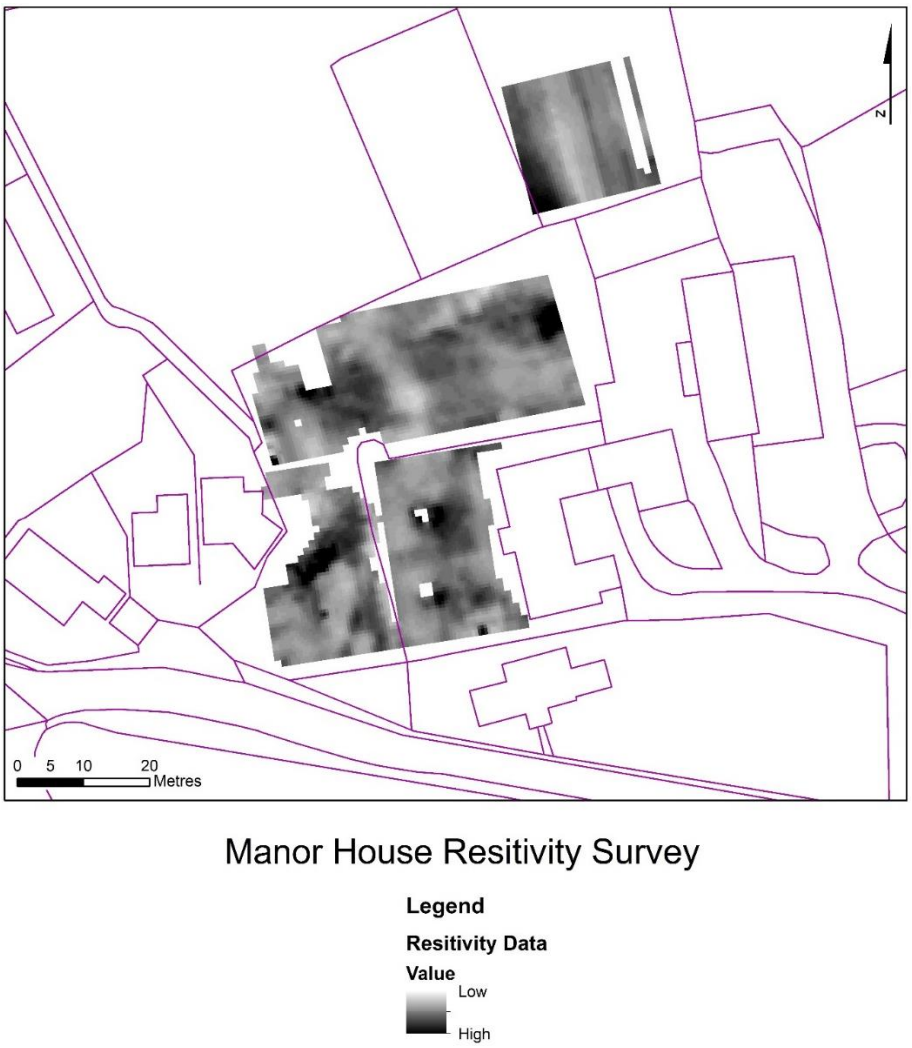

Figure 2. Resistivity data collected from Charney Manor house garden, Charney Bassett.

The resistivity survey was undertaken within the gardens of the Charney Manor to the east of the current house. The main feature identified from the survey data are the foundations of a demolished section of the medieval Hall as highlighted in Figure 107 in green. As seen on the data plot, both the external walls as well as a number of internal walls, forming rooms can be seen. This includes, close the current standing structure, a number of wall features which correlate with those found during the 1964 excavations carried out the grounds of the Manor, which demonstrated a continuation of the solar wing further to the west than is seen today (reference). However, as seen on resistivity data this wing of buildings extends much further than seen during the excavation, forming two further rooms to the west were previously unknown. The survey data also demonstrates a wall running north-south, possibly indicating a second mediaeval wing of the house, at 90° to the solar, and possibly forming a mediaeval. This structure is likely to continue on under the current 17th century house. Of the two room's previously unknown rooms west, the furthest of these contains a circular feature in the corner of the room. This feature, with its associated adjacent

thick wall has been interpreted as the base of a possible spiral staircases. This is significant as it suggests indicates this part of the building was at least two storeys in height. It may be surmised that this staircase gave access to the solar and other adjacent rooms on the 1st floor.

Evidence for this demolished wing extending out from the existing medieval wing of the hall can also be seen in the current standing structure of the building. As shown in figure 106, a section of blocked window melon can be seen with the southern external wall of the building on the first floor. this window has been chopped off by the later gable end wall of the wing, and there for further indicated this wing extended further west, as shown on the resistivity data discussed above, making this wing more than three times its current length.

Figure 3. Photograph of the inside of the Charney Manor house, in the southern wing on the 1st floor showing blocked in and vertically truncated medieval window mullein.

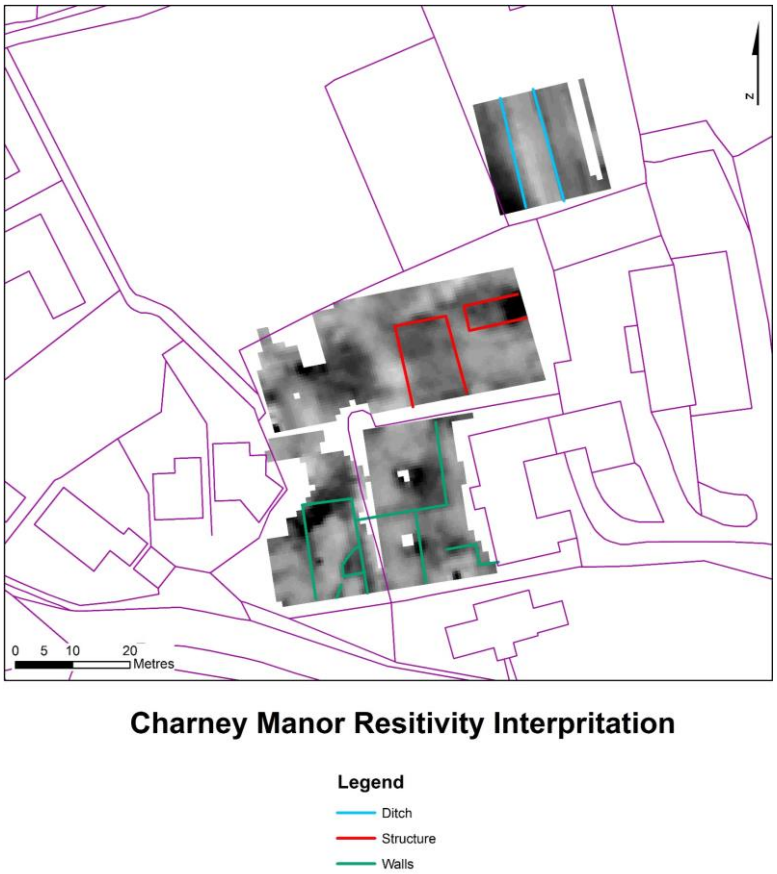

Figure 4. Interpretation of resistivity data collected from Charney Manor house gardens, indicating possible archaeological features.

The survey data also indicates three further features. This includes two possible structures to the north of the current house, which may former further buildings associated with the mediaeval Manor house complex it may be surmised that these structures may form a continuation of the scene in the structures the south, with a possible adjacent and separate kitchen structure. No wall lines can be seen within these possible structures, which may be due to large volumes of demolition rubble within these buildings, however the latter of these two structures (most instant) has a high resistance anomaly at its eastern end, which may represent a fireplace or other large high resistance feature. Excavation in this part of the site would be required to confirm exact the date and function of these structures. The final feature identified is a possible linear ditch feature running north-south on the survey, to the north east of the current Manor house. This ditch feature may be either mediaeval or Saxon in date, and represents the eastern boundary of the mediaeval complex during this date. However due to only a small section of this feature being identified it is difficult to determine the exact extent of this possible ditch feature and therefore further work would be required within this area to determine this.

Manor Farm Field

Within the survey area of the Manor Farm Field (SU 3807, 9474) a series of anomalies were identified on the plot, Figure 108. Each feature is described and discussed in Appendix 6.

Figure 5. Resistivity data collected from Manor Farm Field, Charney Bassett.

The resistivity survey was undertaken within the field of the Manor Farm to the south west of the current house and adjacent to the Green Road and Longworth Road. Four possible archaeological features have been identified on the plot, as indicated in Figure 109. The first of the features alines with a linear earthwork bank which runs through the centre of the field on a north south aliment. As indicted by the geophysical data, this feature has been interpreted as raised trackway, with metaled surface and two linear parallel diches, one running down either side. This track way is thought to be medieval in date, as it coincides and respects the burgess plots discussed below. It can also be seen to have connected The Green road and the northern section of Longworth road, possibly indicating it predates the adjacent Manor Farm buildings and gardens.

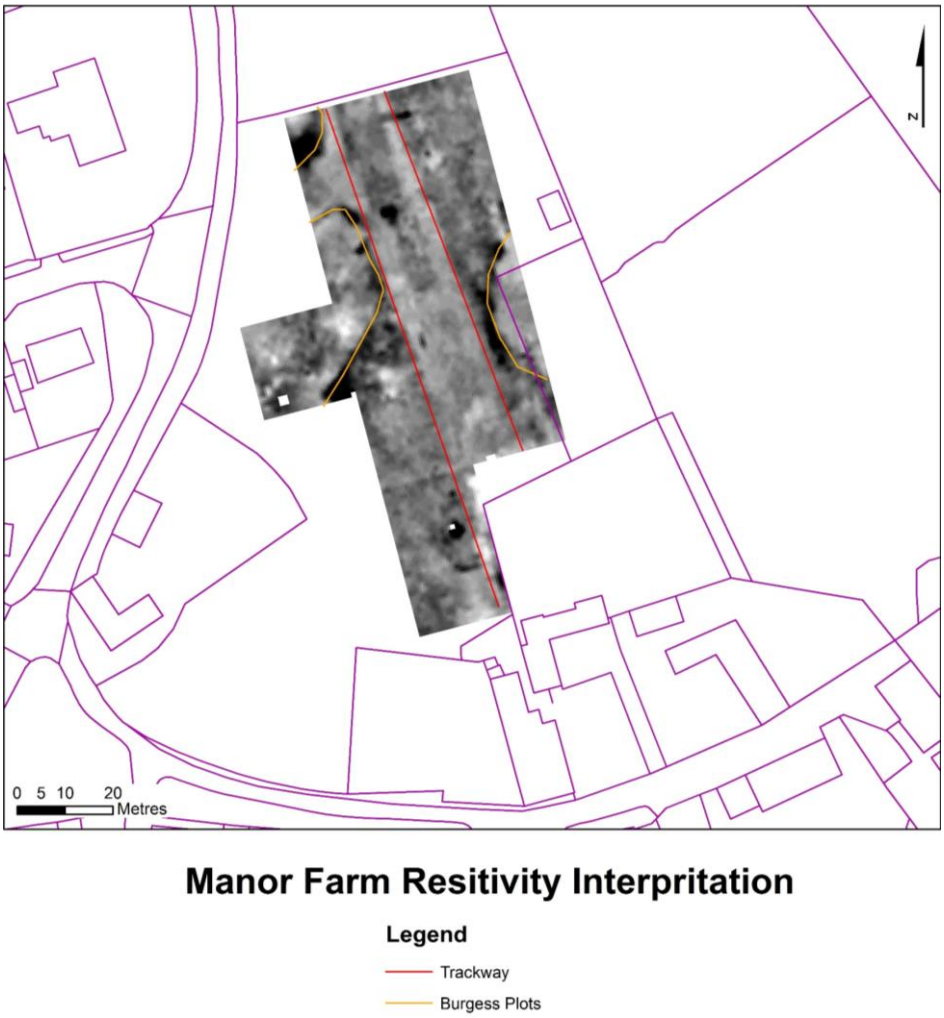

Figure 6. Interpretation of resistivity data collected from Charney Manor Farm field, indicating possible archaeological features.

The other three features identified on the plot are interpreted as the rear boundary of three possible medieval Burgess plots, two of which would have fronted Longworth Road, with the third fronting the trackway which runs through this field (discussed above), which is indicated on the geophysical plot. All three of these Burgess plots are important, as they do not relate to any modern or post-mediaeval housing on the site and therefore indicate a possible abandonment of this central area of the village during the later medieval to early post medieval periods. However, to confirm the date of the abandonment of this area of the settlement, archaeological excavations would be required to be undertaken.

Test Pitting

During the period of the thesis nine test pits were excavated across the area of the village, with their locations seen in Figure 26. The archaeological evidence from each TP will be examined in turn, including important features and artifacts/ecofacts, with detailed phasing for each TP seen in Appendix 11. Furthermore, within the description of each TP its location will be discussed. It should be noted that for every TP excavated spit 001 comprised

the modern topsoil and turf (unless otherwise stated) and because of this will not be discussed further in these sections. Also, a detailed breakdown of the composition and interpretation of each spit, cut and fill from each TP in turn, can be seen in Appendix 13 and a detailed breakdown of the finds recovered from each TP in Appendix 12.

TP 1

TP 1 was located to the Village Green, (SU 38006, 94692). The test pit was formed of 5 contexts with their relationship being seen in Figure 110. The total depth of the test pit was 0.40 m. TP 1 was comprised of two main phases of activity with the first relating to a modern to post medieval soil deposit, which bother CBM and pottery of this date. A single sherd of medieval pottery was also recovered from this layer. This deposit was found to overlay a rammed limestone surface, which covers the natural Stanford Formation Limestone geology. The surface was found to contained little finds material and therefore is difficult to date, but due to its make up is thought to the post medieval period due to one small sherd of pottery and a fragment of clay pipe being found, dating to the 17-18th C. It is thought that this surface is related to activities occurring on the Green at this time, possibly relating to market activities which are none to have occur on Charney Bassett's green, even though the settlement was not granted a charter. It should also be noted that a comparable version of this surface was also found in Stanford in the Vale within TP36 (discussed above), which was excavated on Church Green, however this is thought to be medieval to early post medieval in date and therefore relate to the market of this period.

Figure 7. Section photograph of deposits within TP 1, showing a rammed limestone surface.

TP 2

TP 2 was located on the Village Green, (SU 37996, 94678). The test pit was formed of 5 contexts with their relationship being seen in Figure 111. The total depth of the test pit was 0.40 m. TP 2 was comprised of two main phases of activity with the first relating to a

modern to post medieval soil deposit, which was also found in the adjacent test pit, TP1. Finds material recovered from this layer included a large quantity of CBM, as well as pottery, clay pipe and a fragment of window leading, all post medieval in date. Below this, a layer containing weather limestone material was found, and is therefore thought to relate to the underlying geology Stanford Formation Limestone. However, it is important to note two sherds of Saxon pottery as well as a small fragment of iron slag were found in this deposited, intermingled with post medieval pottery and CBM. This is important as these Saxon pottery sherds demonstrate activities of this period occurring on this site.

Figure 8. Section photograph of deposits within TP 2, showing a post medieval soil deposit relating to activity on the village green.

TP 3

TP 3 was located to the rear garden of Mill Cottage, (SU 38122, 94403). The test pit was formed of 9 contexts with their relationship being seen in Figure 112. The total depth of the test pit was 0.90m. TP 3 was comprised of three main phases of activity, with the first relating to a possible post mediaeval garden soil, thought to relate to the adjacent mill house. Below this layer the first of two overlaying demolition deposits were found. Both these layers of demolition deposits contain large quantities of limestone rubble, with the top layer containing a larger soil matrix compared to the bottom layer which contained a higher stone matrix. To date it is unknown what these demolition deposits relate to, however they are both thought to be post mediaeval in date, and may represent renovation or expansion works of the adjacent water mill and cottage during the post mediaeval period. Dated it is important to note that all finds material, including pottery, CBM, metalwork, and other finds material dates to the post mediaeval period with no earlier material found within these deposits. Lastly these demolition deposits were found to overlay the solid Stanford Formation Limestone geology.

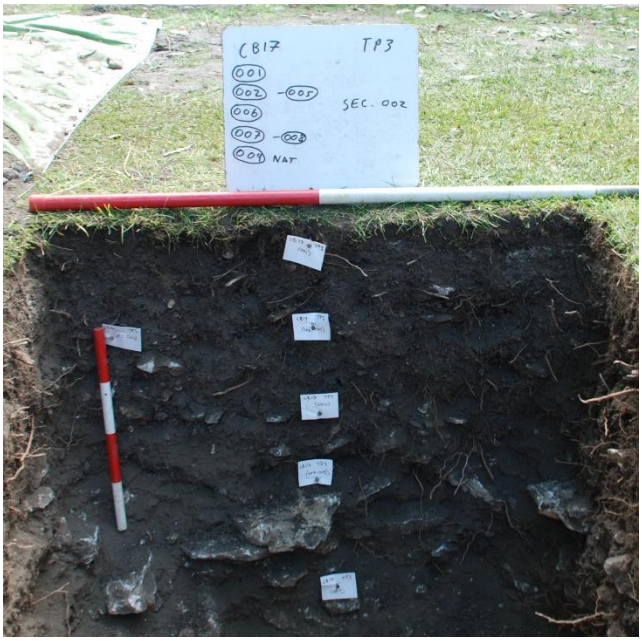

Figure 9. Section photograph of deposits within TP 3, showing demolition deposit.

TP 4

TP 4 was located to the rear garden of Mill Cottage, (SU 38130, 94394). The test pit was formed of 13 contexts with their relationship being seen in Figure 113. The total depth of the test pit was 1.15m. TP 4 was comprised of three main phases of activity with the first relating to a demolition deposit, which infills the mill channel, and therefor abuts the adjacent mill channel wall. This deposited was 0.80m deep. Finds material from recovered from this deposited includes large quantities of clinker as well as building martials 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 deposited a 0.15m thick layer of silting was found at the base of the mill channel and overlaid the Stanford formation geology. This deposit also contained modem material including ceramic roof tile as well as a post medieval stone roof tile, 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 uses, as otherwise it would be likely that earlier material wold have been found.

Within this lest pit the earliest phase of activity relates a stone wall, constructed of limestone with 13 Couse and which forms a retaining wall of the mill channel. This structure is built directly onto the Stanford formation limestone, which therefore forms its foundation, and relates to the adjacent medieval to post medieval water mill. No finds material was received from this feature, however considering other evidence such as mapping data, it is thought that this structure is either late medieval or early post medieval in date. Lastly, it is important to note, this therefore forms the earliest find within this test pit as not finds material predating the post medieval period was recover from within this excavation area.

Figure 10. Section photograph of deposits within TP 4, showing the stone revetment wall of a leat associated to the adjacent water mill.

TP 5

TP 5 was located to the grounds of the Manor House, (SU 38090, 94495). The test pit was formed of 7 contexts with their relationship seen in Figure 114. The total depth of the test pit was 0.55 m. TP 5 comprised of three main phases of activity with the first relating to a layer of tarmac and subsequent subbase material, forming the surface of a modern tennis court located on the site. Below this a thin alluvial deposit was found, 0.10m thick. This layer is thought to relate to periods 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.

Figure 11. Section photograph of deposits within TP 5, showing a clay alluvial deposit with underlying post hole feature.

TP 6

TP 6 was located to the grounds of the Manor House, (SU 38079, 94503). The test pit was formed of 7 contexts with their relationship being seen in Figure 115. The total depth of the test pit was 0.55 m. TP 6 was comprised of two main phases of activity. Like that of TP5, the first relates to the tarmac and subbase of the modern tennis court. Below this and overlying the solid geology (Stanford Formation Limestone), an alluvial deposit was found. Like that of TP5, this is thought to relate to periods of flooding during the Roman to prehistoric period. 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.

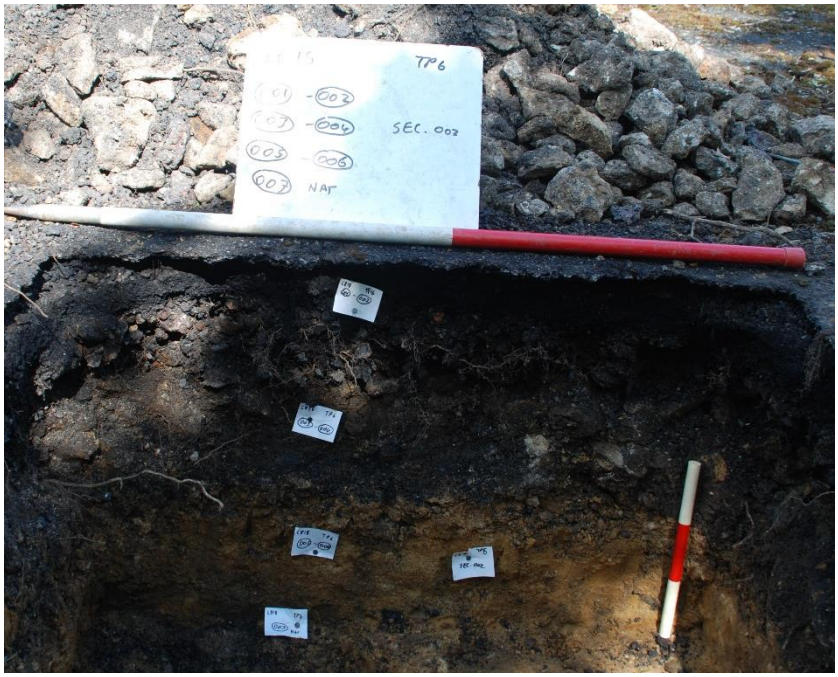

Figure 12. Section photograph of deposits within TP 6, showing a clay alluvial deposit.

TP 7

TP 7 was located in the grounds of the Manor House, (SU 38071, 94519). The test pit was formed of 7 contexts with their relationship being seen in Figure 116. The total depth of the test pit was 0.90 m. TP 7 was comprised of two main phases of activity with the first relating to a thick layer of alluvial deposit. Like that of TP 5 and 6, this deposit is thought to relate to flooding episodes in the area during the prehistoric to Roman periods, with archaeological evidence indicating 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 paleo-channel 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 the overlying alluvial deposits, discussed above, and therefore demonstrate the channel firstly silting up and then flooding with alluvial deposition thereafter.

Figure 13. Section photograph of deposits within TP 7, showing alluvial clay deposit and base of possible early prehistoric river channel at base.

TP 8

TP 8 was located in the garden of Wick Cott, adjacent to the River Ock, (SU 37990, 94413). The test pit was formed of 10 contexts with their relationship being seen in Figure 117. The total depth of the test pit was 0.90 m. TP 8 was comprised of two main phases of activity with the first relating to a post mediaeval garden soil. This soil deposit is thought to relate to an adjacent post mediaeval property which is known to have been located on the site, prior to its demolition (as indicated by historic mapping). This soil deposit, apart from containing post mediaeval finds material such as pottery bone and CBM, also contains Roman pottery as well as a large quantity of both worked flint material and debit charge, dated to the Mesolithic to Neolithic periods. This prehistoric worked flint material is thought to have originated from the underlying deposit, and therefore been mixed in during late activity on the site. Below the post mediaeval garden soil, an alluvial deposit was found. This of layer contains large quantities of Mesolithic to Neolithic work flint material and debit charge, including blades and scrapers. Due to the high volume of material it is interpreted that this layer may possibly indicate a flint working area within the vicinity of this test pit. It is also important to note that this test pit was excavated adjacent to the River Ock. Comparable sites indicating that these types of areas are important during the early prehistoric periods, as it is a common location to find flint working areas adjacent to rivers and streams (ref). It is likely that the alluvial material has therefore arisen from flooding episodes related to the adjacent River Ock.

Below this deposit the natural alluvial subsurface geology was found. It is important to note that the solid limestone geology was not found in this test pit, unlike the adjacent one (TP 9). Therefore this natural alluvial deposit may indicate an early radio channel in this area, possibly a small tributary to the adjacent River Ock, which may have formed during the late Pleistocene to early Holocene period at the end of the glaciation.

Figure 14. Section photograph of deposits within TP 8, showing alluvial clay deposit.

TP 9

TP 9 was located in the garden of the Wick Cott, adjacent to the River Ock, (SU 37998, 94418). The test pit was formed of 11 contexts with their relationship being seen in Figure 118. The total depth of the test pit was 0.92 m. TP 9 was comprised of 4 main phases of activity with the first relating to a post mediaeval garden soil deposit. This soil deposit is thought to 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 mediaeval period. Below this layer a deposit of demolition rubble was found this layer contains large quantities of limestone demolition rubble and is thought to represent the demolition of a post mediaeval house or structure known to have been located on this site during the post mediaeval period. The location of the structure can be seen on post mediaeval mapping data. Below this layer and alluvial deposit was found. This layer is thought to have arisen from a flooding episodes of the adjacent River Ock during the mediaeval to middle prehistoric periods. This therefore indicates the likelihood that this area was not used for farming or habitation during these periods and instead represents an area of floodplain or marshland in this area of the settlement.

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

Figure 15. Section photograph of deposits within TP 9, showing a Neolithic gully feature cut into the natural limestone at its base.