

TP 10 Summary of primary findings

The following document states the current findings from the test pit dug in a field to the east of Longworth Road, over the weekend of the 15th October 2022. 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 compact, 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 (1 gram); building material including, brick (14 grams), roofing tile (40 grams) and roofing slate (1 gram); metal including, Fe nails (6 grams) and Fe objects (11 grams); charcoal (1 gram); vessel glass (2 grams); and flint including, burnt (39 grams), debitage (17 grams) and worked (9 grams) including two Mesolithic microliths, two Neolithic scrapers and one Bronze Age scraper. The pottery recovered dated to post medieval (12 grams) and modern (5 grams) periods. This layer is interpreted as being formed of the modern turf and topsoil and a related plough soil deposit.

Spit 3 to 4

The second layer was formed of spit 3 to 4, and was comprised of a compact, mid orangish brown, sandy silt to silty sand, with limestone inclusions. This layer was 0.20 m in depth. The finds material recovered from this layer included: animal bone (13 grams), including cattle; building material including, brick (4 grams) and roofing tile (2 grams); metal including, Fe nails (1 gram) and Fe objects (9 grams); charcoal (7 grams); glass, including window (1 gram) and vessel glass (3 grams); and flint including, burnt (39 grams); debitage (30 grams) and worked (2 grams) including one Neolithic scraper. The pottery recovered dated to post medieval (31 grams) and modern (1 gram) periods. This layer is interpreted as alluvial deposit dating to the post medieval period.

Spit 5 – Natural

Spit 5 was 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 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 10 comprised the modern topsoil and related plough soil overlying a post medieval alluvial deposit. This deposit was found to overly the solid geology, Stanford Formation Limestone. The only finds material recovered from the test pit predating the post medieval period, was a quantity of flint material, including burnt, debitage and worked, dating to the Mesolithic to Bronze Age periods. This evidence suggests the presence of people during these prehistoric periods within this area of the Charney Bassett, with any related features most likely removed by ploughing during the post medieval to modern, and possibly earlier, periods.