

## **TP 11 Summary of primary findings**

The following document states the current findings from the test pit dug in the rear garden of Mount Pleasant house, Longworth Road, over the weekend of the 15<sup>th</sup> 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**

The first layer uncovered was formed of spit 1, and was comprised of a hard, dark grayish brown, sandy silt, with limestone inclusions. This layer was 0.10 m in depth. The finds material recovered from this layer included: animal bone (3 grams), including sheep and pig; building material including, brick (36 grams) and roofing slate (1 gram); metal including, Fe nails (22 grams), Fe objects (1 grams), Cu alloy objects (1 grams) and lead objects (40 grams); charcoal (112 grams); glass including, vessel (2 grams) and window (3 grams); clay pipe stem (1 gram), dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> C; and flint including, burnt (1 gram), debitage (4 grams) and worked (3 grams) including one Neolithic scraper and one Mesolithic blade. The pottery recovered dated to post medieval (8 grams) and modern (50 grams) periods. This layer is interpreted as being formed of the modern turf and topsoil.

### **Feature: Cut 4 and Fill 3**

Spits 4 and 3 (cut and fill) form a linear feature which was found to be cut into spit 2, at the base of the test pit. The shape of this feature was linear in plan, sides vertical (90°) with sharp break at its top and base and a base flat. The depth of the cut was 15 cm deep. The fill of the cut was comprised of a friable, mid greyish brown, sandy silt, with no inclusions. No finds material was recovered from this fill. This feature has been interpreted as a modern linear service trench.

### **Spit 2 – Natural**

Spit 2 was the natural underlying geology. The natural geology was found to be a hard, mid yellowish white, limestone, with no inclusions. This level was reached at a depth of 0.10 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 11 comprised the modern topsoil overlying a modern service trench, cut into the solid geology. The topsoil was found to overlie the solid geology, Stanford Formation Limestone. Due to the shallow nature of the archaeological deposit

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overlying the geology (c. 0.10m), it is thought that the levelling/terracing of the garden during the construction of the adjacent house has removed the majority of the archaeological deposits in this area. Therefore, the majority of the find's material recovered from this test pit relates to the occupation of the adjacent late 17<sup>th</sup> C, Grade II listed, house. However, two earlier finds also recovered from the test pit, one Neolithic and one Mesolithic worked flint. This material indicated the presents of people within this area of the property during these prehistoric periods.