

TP 12 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 16th 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 friable, mid orangish brown, sandy silt, with limestone inclusions. This layer was 0.10 m in depth. The only finds material recovered from this layer was flint including, burnt (29 grams) and debitage (15 grams). This layer is interpreted as being formed of the modern turf and topsoil.

Spit 2 to 3

The second layer was formed of spits 2 to 3, 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: building material including, brick (10 grams) and roofing tile (2 grams); Fe nails (5 grams); charcoal (6 grams); window glass (2 grams); and flint including, burnt (13 grams), debitage (5 grams) and worked (3 grams) including one Neolithic scraper. The pottery recovered dated to post medieval (1 gram) and modern (5 grams) periods. This layer is interpreted as a plough soil dating to the post medieval to modern periods.

Spit 4 – Natural

Spit 4 was the natural underlying geology. The natural geology was found to be a compact, mid whitish yellow, limestone with sand, and no inclusions. This level was reached at a depth of 0.30 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 weathered top 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 12 comprised the modern topsoil overlying a post medieval to modern plough soil deposit. This deposit was found to overly the weathered top of 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 Neolithic period. This evidence suggests the

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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.