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TP 13 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 greyish brown, sandy silt, with limestone inclusions. This layer was 0.10 m in depth. The finds material recovered from this layer included; roofing tile (5 grams); charcoal (2 grams); glass including window (1 gram) and vessel glass (9 grams); and flint debitage (6 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 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 (2 grams); building material including, brick (1 gram) and roofing tile (12 grams); Fe nails (4 grams); charcoal (4 grams); vessel glass (3 grams); and flint including, burnt (8 grams), debitage (33 grams) and worked (4 grams) including two scrapers and one microlith, all Mesolithic in date. The pottery recovered dated to post medieval (7 grams) and modern (6 grams) periods. One small fine was also recovered, a copper ally button dating to the early 20th C with a naval insignia. This layer is interpreted as a plough soil dating to the post medieval to modern periods.

Spit 4

The third layer was formed of spit 4, and was compact, mid orangish brown, sandy silt, with limestone inclusions. This layer was 0.10 m in depth. The finds material recovered from this layer included: brick (4 grams); Fe nails (5 grams); charcoal (1 gram); and flint including, burnt (8 grams) and debitage (13 grams). The pottery recovered dated to the post medieval (1 gram) period. This layer is interpreted as an alluvial deposit dating to the post medieval periods.

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 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 13 comprised the modern topsoil overlying a modern to post medieval plough soil. This deposit was found to overly a post medieval alluvial deposit which subsequently overlayed 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 Mesolithic period. The evidence from this test pit, as well as the evidence from the other two test pits excavated in this field, TP10 and TP12, suggest 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.