

EOXP TEST PIT 28 and SURFACE FINDS

Location: Plot 140 Thompson Terrace Allotments, Littlemore Oxford OX4

Area of surface collection: 20 pole allotment approx. 30m x 10m centred on SP 534 029

Area excavated: 1m x 1m at in west end of plot

Date of excavation: 23rd July 2011

Conditions: Warm, light rain showers, sunny intervals, white clouds

Excavators: Catherine Hawkins and her nieces and nephew, Manon Erin and Io, Catherine's sister Julia and brother in law Kevin; Dave and Amy Goodspeed and Amy's friend Lily.
Littlemore Local History Society: Julia Brocklesby

GPS location and height above sea level: SP 5340 0298, 75.5m OD

Report by: The Team and JB



Summary of Fieldwork

The 1m x 1m test pit from the north-west



After vegetation clearance, the allotment topsoil (Context 001) was excavated by hand trowelling and sieving through a 1cm mesh to a depth of 0.20m across the whole pit. It was soft, moist, mid yellowish brown fine grained silt dry, mid greyish brown sandy silt containing 5% moderately sorted coral rag pieces, and rare pebbles 0.04-0.1m. Contexts 002 and 003 labels were used in recording surface collections, 002 being

the Corallian bedrock and 003 being identical to 001 up to December 2012.

Finds (see a selection below) included pot, bone, flint, stone, glass CBM, charcoal and slag.



Progress was slow with young children excitedly finding fossil shells and worms. Finds were washed and examined as they appeared. Context 001 was not bottomed out in one or two places the base of Context 001 reached at a depth of 0.05 - 0.08m, its exposure was uneven across the trench. Context 002 immediately below it was a coral rag fossiliferous which was unexcavated, and not reached for 95% of the trench, due to time constraints. As to that of the other terrace back gardens, and levelling may have occurred after the circa 1880 build on land used as market gardens and orchards on both sides of Long Lane which prior to the construction of the eastern by-pass road in 1957. Two tree-throws, Context 102 in the NE corner, and Context 103 in the SE corner, cut into the plough-soil layer (Context 104) below the topsoil layer (Context 101).

A selection of Finds from the topsoil Context 001

Time did not allow any further excavation of this metre square, and the demands of horticulture meant that the trench was abandoned. Further surface collections continued through 2011 and into 2012 (see below)

As Roman pottery was identified in small quantities further landscape and historical research is continuing by Littlemore Local History Society to discover more about the people working and perhaps living in what is now Littlemore 2000 years ago