

EOXP TEST PIT 34

Location: 24 Abberbury Road, Iffley.

Date of Excavation: 11th April 2012

Area excavated: 1 x 1m

Weather conditions: Predominately dry and sunny, but with some periods of rain.

Excavators: Nick Swift, Tara Love, Alan Davis, Steve Nicholson.

Report by: Nick Swift

GPS location and height above sea-level: SP5294 0366 82m OD

Introduction

Test pit 34 was located in the back garden of 24 Abberbury Road in Iffley, in the south-facing end that was used as a vegetable and fruit growing area. However, the plot that TP34 was located in hadn't been used for some time, as there were no current crops within it. For the most part, the weather was good but there were two or three heavy showers of rain – fortunately the rain didn't cause any waterlogging problems.

Excavation summary

As the test pit was located in a vegetable plot within a raised bed, it meant that for the first 0.25 m the soil had been continually turned-over and added to for a number of years. Consequently, at this depth the soil was a jumble of different inclusions including a number of modern fragments of terracotta pot and a pair of secateurs and there was little stratigraphic evidence to be found. It was only as the loose plot soil was removed that an older, more compact layer was discovered. Some CBM pieces were discovered, along with pieces of burnt flint, FE objects (possibly nails) and a metal bottle top with 'GLAXO' embossed into it. The test pit was dug to a final depth of 0.55m with the use of a sondage and here the soil was replaced by clay with large chunks of limestone in it.

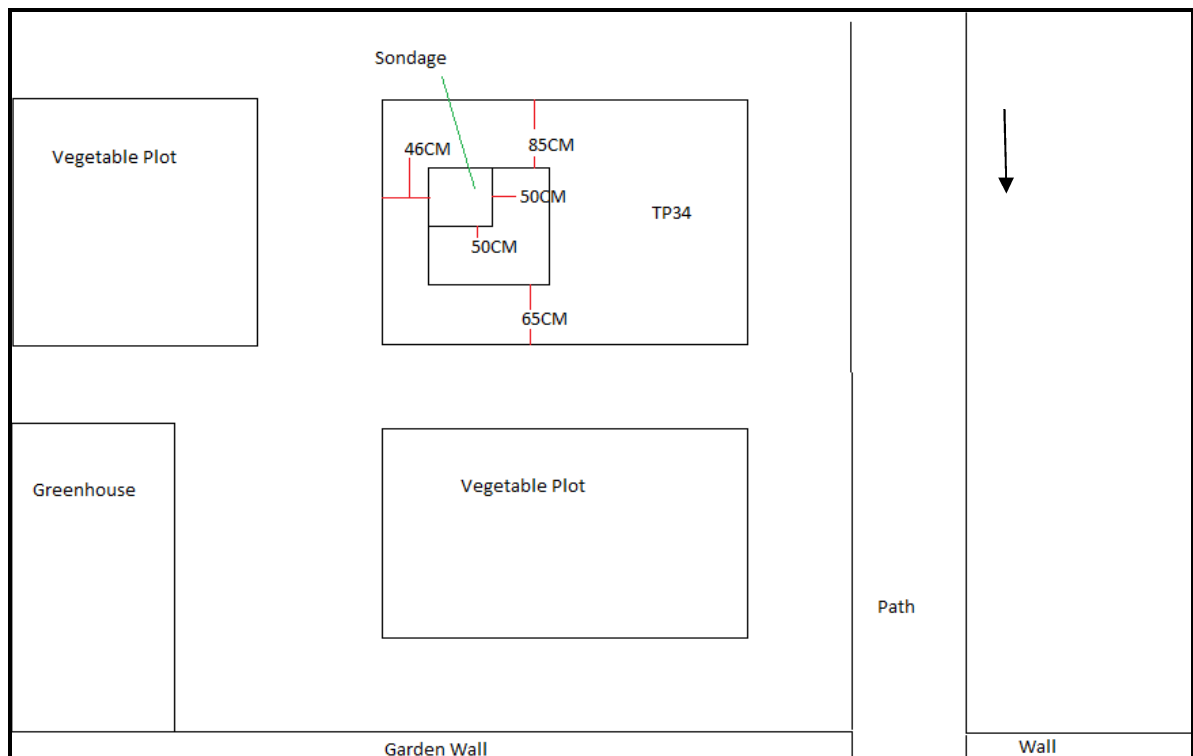



Figure 1 - TP34

Results

Spit/ context	Type of deposit	Description	Comments
100	Top layer. Down to 0.2m	<p><u>Soil</u>: Damp, loose – friable. Dark – yellowish brown/black sandy silt (20/80%).</p> <p><u>Inclusions</u>: 3% river pebbles (mixed 10-40mm); sub-angular limestone pieces (poorly sorted, degraded flecks – 50mm); charcoal flecks and chunks <1%; very occasional pieces of flint and fragmentary shell.</p> <p><u>Finds</u>: Fragmentary modern flower pot; pair of secateurs; glazed pottery pieces; fragments of clay pipe; small pieces of struck flint; some small mammal bones; one piece of lead. Overall 1%.</p> <p><u>Contamination</u>: Worm movement and cat use.</p> <p><u>Dug</u>: Shovel and trowel.</p>	As this was an organic vegetable plot, there was no turf covering. The soil has been ‘improved’ and dug over for many years.
101	Layer 0.2 – 0.25m	<p><u>Soil</u>: Damp, loose – friable. Dark – yellowish brown/black sandy silt (20/80%).</p> <p><u>Inclusions</u>: Increased amount of charcoal flecks and chunks 3%; river pebbles (mixed 10-40mm); sub-angular limestone pieces (poorly sorted, degraded flecks – 50mm). Overall 3%</p> <p><u>Finds</u>: Number of Bakelite chunks; small fragments of bone; charred wood lumps; some CBM pieces and FE objects.</p> <p><u>Contamination</u>: Worm movement and roots.</p> <p><u>Dug</u>: Shovel, trowel, small spade.</p>	Still in the ‘improved’ soil of the plot.
102	Layer 0.25 – 0.4m	<p><u>Soil</u>: Damp, but now more compacted – friable. Dark yellowish brown/black sandy silt (20/80%).</p> <p><u>Inclusions</u>: Charcoal flecks and chunks 3%; river pebbles (mixed 10-40mm); sub-angular limestone pieces (poorly sorted, degraded flecks – 50mm). Overall 3%</p> <p><u>Finds</u>: Burnt flint chunks 2-7mm; slate pieces; glazed pottery shards; CBM pieces; FE objects; one metal button.</p> <p><u>Contamination</u>: Worm movement and roots.</p> <p><u>Dug</u>: Shovel, trowel and small spade.</p>	The soil has started to become noticeably more compacted within this context and the contamination from roots is also more obvious.

103	Layer 0.4 – 0.45m	<p><u>Soil</u>: Damp, compacted – friable. Dark yellowish brown/black sandy silt (20/80%).</p> <p><u>Inclusions</u>: Charcoal flecks and chunks 3%; river pebbles (mixed 10-40mm); sub-angular limestone pieces (poorly sorted, degraded flecks 10- 80mm). Overall 4 - 5%.</p> <p><u>Finds</u>: Burnt flint chunks 2-7/8mm; CBM pieces; FE objects; one metal bottle top with ‘GLAXO’ embossed on it.</p> <p><u>Contamination</u>: Worm movement and roots.</p> <p><u>Dug</u>: Shovel, trowel, small spade and mattock.</p>	
104	Layer 0.45 – 0.55m Sondage	<p><u>Soil</u>: Damp, compacted – clay. Yellow with limestone grit.</p> <p><u>Inclusions</u>: Charcoal flecks and chunks 1%; large limestone pieces (50 – 140mm).</p> <p><u>Finds</u>: None.</p> <p><u>Contamination</u>: Small amount of root penetration.</p> <p><u>Dug</u>: Shovel, trowel, small spade and mattock.</p>	<p>0.5 x 0.5m sondage cut into South East corner of the test pit. This was not fully excavated in the time allowing, but did seem to indicate that the ‘natural’ bedrock was uncovered.</p>  <p>Looking south with sondage in upper left corner.</p>





Looking south

