

## EOXP TEST PIT 40

**Location:** 3 Anemone Close, Greater Leys

**Date of Excavation:** 12 May 2012

**Area of excavation:** 1.0 x 1.0m

**Weather conditions:** Sunny and windy

**Excavators:** Stella and Greg Collier, Tim Lee, Caroline Durrant, Christopher Lewis

**Report by:** Team and JH

**GPS Location and OD:** SP 5529 0195, 66.5m OD

### Introduction

The test pit was dug in the back garden of the property which rose gently to the NE. Some of the excavated layers were likely to have been influenced by soil slipping down this slope. A few sherds of Roman pottery were discovered: these probably originated with a concentration of Roman activity up the slope. The clay natural was reached.

### Excavation summary

The natural clay geology was reached at a depth of c 0.6m. Context (100) consisted of turf and topsoil. Context (101) began c 0.05m below the turf-top and was only 0.05m deep. This first layer was sandy, clayey topsoil with occasional river pebbles, flint and modern coke/charcoal.



Context (102) below was c 0.2m deep and a slightly sandy, clayey silt, again containing pebbles and charcoal but also slag, glass, clinker and shell fragments, and some pottery including medieval glazed sherds. Sandy patches began to appear at c 0.16m depth and the SW corner was persistently more organic. The residual pottery suggested the remains of an agricultural land surface, perhaps a plough soil. Layer (103) was dug initially across the test pit and then in a half section; (103) was similar in composition to (102) but with more lenses of sand and clay suggesting the layer was a mix of redeposited antitank and subsoil. This layer also contained medieval pottery and a burnt clay pipe as well as river pebbles.

(104) and (105) were both damp, slightly silty clays: (104) was excavated across the half section (105) in a sondage across half of that section, each was c 0.1m deep. These redeposited clays were virtually sterile, and may have been hill-wash, but came down onto (106) which was yellow clay – probably natural – with finds of Roman mortaria sherds and other pottery at the junction between (105) and (106.)

No plan or section drawings were made, but there are measured sketches on the reverse of the context sheets.

### Results

| Spit/<br>context | Type of<br>deposit | Description  | Soil<br>Sample | Comments |
|------------------|--------------------|--|----------------|----------|
| (100)            | Layer              | <b>Turf and top soil with turf</b> 0.05m deep.   | N/a            |          |
| (101)            | Layer              | Damp, friable mid yellowish brown slightly sandy, silty clay (60%).<br>0.05m from top; 0.03 – 0.05m deep.<br><b>Inclusions:</b> river pebbles 1%;<br>occasional charcoal >1%; limestone grit > 1%<br><b>Finds:</b> Coke/charcoal; flint; flint | N/a            | Topsoil. |

|       |  |   |     |  |
|-------|--|---|-----|--|
|       |  | fragments; modern material, overall >3%<br>Diffuse boundaries to (102) worm and root disturbance.   |     |   |
|       |  |   |     | <b>(101) looking south</b>   |
| (102) | Layer                                      | Friable slightly sandy/silty clay (60%) with lenses of clay and sand, more organic in SW; c 0.17m deep.<br><b>Inclusions:</b> charcoal; v occasional sub-angular fine-medium pebbles; limestone grit 1% and occasional river pebbles and flint<br><b>Finds:</b> glass; clinker and slag; pottery incl. medieval sherds: 3% context overall<br>Boundaries diffuse; worm and root disturbance | N/a | Disturbed plough-soil.   |
| (103) | Layer (partly dug in half section: S half) | Same as (102) with more lenses of sand and clay; 0.08m deep.<br><b>Inclusions:</b> same as (102)<br><b>Finds:</b> burnt clay pipe and pottery: >3% context<br>Boundaries diffuse; worm and root disturbance   | N/a | Continuation of (102).   |
| (104) | Layer (dug in half section)                | Damp, slightly silty clay (70%); c 0.1m deep<br>Virtually sterile   | N/a | Redeposited natural with some hill-wash  |
| (105) | Layer (dug in sondage in SE corner)        | Same as (104); c 0.1m deep  |     | Redeposited natural with some hill-wash  |
| (106) | Layer (dug in sondage in SE corner)        | Firm yellow clay; 0.05 0.1m deep<br><b>Inclusions:</b> charcoal flecks<br><b>Finds:</b> roman(mortaria) and possible medieval pottery sherds  |     | Natural clay with finds at junction with (1045) above<br> |
|       |  |   |     | <b>Finished pit looking west</b>   |

