

EOXP TEST PIT 45

Location of Test pit: 15 Whitethorne Way Blackbird Leys OX4

Householder: Jane

Date of Excavation: 22/23 rd June

Area excavated: 1m x 1m

Weather conditions: Windy, cloudy and damp

Excavators: Christine Turley, (CAT) & Christopher Lewis (CL) on 22nd Christopher, Dave, Tara, Christine Archer + 2 others on 23rd

Report by: CAT & CL

GPS location and height above sea level: SP 5510 0272, 67m OD

Introduction

1960's housing estate. We excavated in the front garden. According to records the area was mostly farm land until the estate was built during the 1960's.

Excavation summary

Test pit reached 1m depth in the sondage. Very little found of any apparent significance. Once we had uncovered the pipe (103) we left that section alone. One bone found but not identified; occasional pottery was found – one possible Roman and one possible medieval sherd.

Results

Spit / Context	Type of deposit	Description	Soil sample	Comments
Spit (101)	layer	Grass was the top layer which was difficult to lift and consisted of some layers being about 10cm		

Spit (102): the soil was still very disturbed, very dry and loose at 0.20m down to 0.28m when it became slightly more yellowish. Spit from (101,102) layers which were the surface down to 0.28m was the same. Trowel and hand shovel dug as soil very loose but contaminated with roots from nearby Pampas Grass.

Spit / Context	Type of deposit	Description	Soil sample	Comments
Spit (102)	layer	Below 101 – 30m damp soil 50/50 silty sand, mid brown. Inclusions: river stones charcoal and some shingle 10% some jagged. Contamination roots and worms. Finds charcoal pottery and glass, bone bagged separately; plastic bottle top. Used hand shovel and trowel. Possible mortaria pottery – separate bag		
Spit (103)	layer	Top 0.30m bottom 0.35m – cut, as we had found a pipe in the SW corner. Not aligning to anything that we could see. Pipe didn't seem to have been laid recently, made of cast iron. Change in density and more compact to trowel. Small stones; no finds as yet. Photos taken red pegs at either end of pipe which measured 0.60m.		

Spit / Context	Type of deposit	Description	Soil sample	Comments
Context (104)	layer	Top 0.35m, bottom 0.45m. This layer began on Sat morning: mid brown silty sand; inc. sandy with depth.		

Sondage dug in north east corner half metre by half metre this dug by Dave to avoid pipe (as it was not known if the pipe ‘was live’.

Spit / Context	Type of deposit	Description	Soil sample	Comments
Context (105)	layer	Top 0.45m, bottom 0.57m. NE corner depth .0.57m from top; colour yellow brown more sandy and quite compacted. Some river pebbles; finds thought to be modern with green glaze (poss. medieval), some plain terracotta; flecks of charcoal found.		
Spit / Context	Type of deposit	Description	Soil sample	Comments
Context (106)	Sondage	Top 0.57m, bottom 1.00m: sondage Softer than 105 and getting softer as troweling continued; inc. sandy and yellow. All sieved. Fewer stones – less than 1% . Evidence of roots and worms but no finds. Concluded that we were on natural sand and finished.		



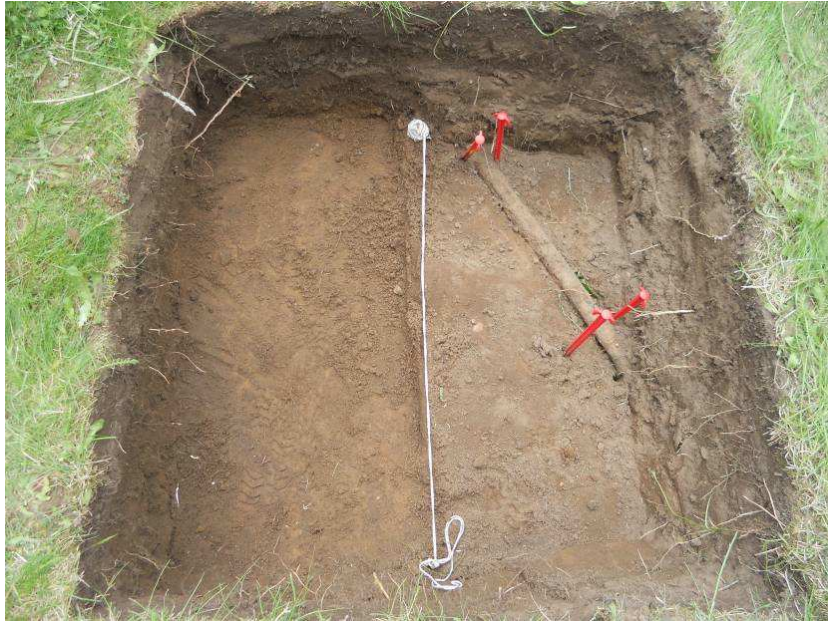
Looking south



Looking south (102)



Looking west (103) – (104)



Looking East



Finished TP