

EOXP TEST PIT 54

Location: 15 Fairacres Road, Iffley

Date of Excavation: 12-13 May 2013

Area of excavation: 1.0 x 1.0m

Weather conditions: Breezy, broken cloud, occasional showers

Excavators: Leigh Mellor, Christopher Lewis, JH

Report by: Team and JH

GPS Location and OD: SP 5273 0478, 63m OD

Introduction

The test pit was dug in the back garden of the property near to the end of the garden. The house is on the south side of Fairacres at the crest of the slope dropping away to the west towards the river. Natural clay was reached at about 0.6m depth.

Excavation summary


Context (100) consisted of turf and topsoil c 0.1m thick. Context (101) was c 0.15m deep and was friable sandy silt, with pebbles and limestone fragments, CBM, mortar, glass, charcoal and modern metal. This layer was probably subsoil disturbed by ground levelling and with builders' detritus from the construction of the house in the early 20th century: the glass and bricks/mortar were in discrete dumps and included a near complete bottle.




Context (102) below was a firm sandy clay again containing pebbles, flint fragments and charcoal, but also pottery, animal bone, clay pipe and some metal. (102) was c 0.2m deep and seemed to be re-deposited natural clay, it became increasingly clayey with depth and the finds were mostly from the top of the context.

Context (103) was dug in a half section and was excavated for c 0.15m; it was 80% clay and increasingly clayey with depth to natural, finds stopped appearing with depth. V occasional river pebbles were found and CBM and bone fragments near the top of the context

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

Results

Spit/ context	Type of deposit	Description	Soil Sample	Comments
(100)	Layer	Turf and top soil with turf 0.1m deep.	N/a	 Looking north
(101)	Layer	Friable mid blackish brown slightly sandy silt (75%); c 0.15m deep. Inclusions: sub-angular limestone fragments 2% and river pebbles	N/a	Both modern builders' rubbish and detritus from house building in early 20 th c. Discrete dumps of glass and brick/mortar

		<p>1%; snail shell; pea-gravel 3-5%</p> <p>Finds: CBM fragments 1%; cement mortar; glass; charcoal 2%; plastic; Fe including pipes and hinges: overall 5%</p> <p>Clear boundaries to (102) worm and root disturbance.</p>		 <p>(101) looking north</p>
(102)	Layer	<p>Firm mid yellowish brown slightly sandy/silty clay (50%); 0.2m deep.</p> <p>Inclusions: charcoal 3-5% especially in SW and centre; flint gravel >1%; gryphea.</p> <p>Finds: pottery sherds; animal bone; clay pipe; mortar and Fe ; >1% context overall</p> <p>CBM and glass discarded</p> <p>Boundaries clear; worm and root disturbance</p>	N/a	<p>Undulating top surface; inc clayey with depth. Redeposited natural?</p>  <p>(102) looking north</p>
(103)	Layer (dug in half section)	<p>Firm mid brownish yellow slightly silty clay (80%), inc. clayey with depth; level at bottom 0.6m from top; 0.15m deep.</p> <p>Inclusions: Flecks of charcoal >1%; river pebbles</p> <p>Finds: bone and CBM fragments at top of context</p> <p>Boundaries diffuse; worm and root disturbance</p>	N/a	<p>Redeposited clay down to natural clay.</p>  <p>(103)/natural clay looking north</p>

