

EOXP TEST PIT TP 69

117 Crescent Road Oxford OX4

Date of Excavation: 29/30 June 2013
Area excavated: 1m x 1m in rear garden
Method of excavation: Trowel, mattock, spade
Weather conditions: Sunny and dry
Excavators: Lucy Commens, Patricia Marsh, Molly Storey, Leo & Nell Storey-Lewis, Paul Rowland
Report by: Patricia Marsh

GPS location and height above sea-level: SP 54651 04706, 85m OD


Summary of Excavation



This test pit was one of a number dug in the Temple Cowley area on 29 and 30 June 2013. It was in the back garden of an Edwardian terrace house towards the top of Crescent Road opposite the back of the Salesian college.

A pit 1m square was excavated. The turf was removed to a depth of 0.03m. The whole trench was excavated to a depth of 0.14m. Then a sondage was dug in the west half to a depth of 0.6m. Most of the finds appeared to be relatively modern and it was thought that the original village had not extended this far.

The first context 100 was a tidying up layer after removing the turf. Context 101 was trowelled off from 0.04m to 0.07m. The soil was dry and easy to trowel. The next layer, context 102, was dug with trowel and mattock to a depth of 0.14m then, partly because of time constraints, it was decided to continue down in a sondage in the west half of the trench initially to a depth of 0.23m

Context 103 was dug to between 0.31 -0.36m using a mattock and trowel. There was more charcoal (28%) towards the top of this layer in the south west corner and butchered bone, evidence of human activity was found. A further layer was dug in the sondage to 0.6m (max) using spade, mattock and trowel, context 104. Here the silty sand was noted to be flecked with small lenses of dark grey (leopard print), thought not to be human made but also possibly not natural.

Spit/ context	Type of deposit	Description	Soil sample	drawings
100	Layer below turf	Greyish brown, friable, sandy silt 60%. Some contamination with roots, worms, ants. Dug by trowel Inclusions; charcoal 1-2%, well sorted small stones angular to rounded 5% Finds; small pieces of brick approx 0.02m, one larger piece approx 0.04m, 3 x metal objects, 1 x bone, occasional small clear pieces of glass Clear boundaries		Sketch plan 
101	Layer below 100 above 101	Firm very dry, grayish brown sandy silt 60%. Inclusions: stones, moderately sorted, angular to rounded 5%, charcoal 1-2% Finds: 1 small figurine (Virgin Mary?) with		Sketch plan

		<p>small hole in base approx 0.05m tall, slate. Then making up approx 5% altogether; small pieces of brick approx 0.02-0.04m, pottery, glass, 1 piece of abraded bone, small metal objects</p> <p>Diffuse boundaries Contamination: roots</p>		
102	<p>Layer below 101 inc. son dage in west half</p> <p>Above 103 (sondage)</p>	<p>Firm, very dry dark greyish brown sandy silt 60%</p> <p>Inclusions: charcoal (<1%) stones (limestone) small angular, bricks (complete and broken) c5%, shells (<1%)</p> <p>Finds: glass, modern pottery, CBM, bead, bone, slate</p> <p>Metal objects (bullet case?) (ring) (button), Fe objects (nails) clay pipe stem</p> <p>Diffuse boundaries. Contamination: roots</p>		<p>Sketch plan</p> 
103	<p>Below 102 in son dage</p>	<p>Friable, yellowish brown silty sand.</p> <p>Inclusions: charcoal varying between 5% to 30%, stones 10%, (angular fragmentary 8%, well rounded complete 2%)</p> <p>Finds: pottery, butchered bone, clay pipe, small button, Fe, CBM</p> <p>Boundary between 102 & 103 diffuse</p> <p>103& 104 clear</p> <p>Contamination roots few worms or ants.</p>		<p>Sketch plan</p>
104	<p>Below 103 in son dage</p>	<p>Friable, mid yellowish brown silty sand</p> <p>Inclusions <1% charcoal, <1% limestone, small, angular</p> <p>Finds: CBM, flint fossil, pottery bone, Fe</p> <p>No boundary Contamination roots</p>		<p>Sketch plan</p> 



Small figurine found in context 101



Paul and Leo in the sondage

