

## **EOXP TP 35**

### **11 Grebe Close, Greater Leys**

**This test pit was one of a group excavated on the weekend of 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> May to gather information about this area of East Oxford, which was farmland until developed in the 1980s-90s.**

**The test pit revealed disturbed deposits, which included fragments of Roman pottery together with modern building materials.**

**GPS location:** 455234 east, 202087 north, 64.1m OD

**Area excavated:** 1m x 1m

**Date of Excavation:** 12-13th May 2012

**Conditions:** dry and largely sunny

**Method of excavation:** trowel and mattock. Sieving was difficult due to wet soil and clay, but spoil was checked for finds and lumps broken up.

**Excavators:** Mandy and Sam Roberts, Clare Barden, Karen Stansbie, Tricia Hallam

**Report by:** TH

#### **Summary of Excavation**

The test pit was dug overall to a depth of c0.32m, and down to 0.64m in the northern end of the sondage dug in the western third of the pit. The natural clay was reached to the south of the sondage. However, a channel containing imported flint continued in the north-western corner beyond the depth excavated. This is thought to be a modern feature, possibly making up the land surface or forming part of a soakaway.

The first spit of c0.15m (101) was an organic garden soil. It was very disturbed and produced mostly modern building materials but also included one fragment of Roman grey ware. Context (102) was less organic with patches of yellowy-brown clay. Again, this layer was disturbed, producing building materials from a variety of periods and some possible Roman pottery. After c0.14m the clay patches increased and became more orangey-brown in colour so a new context (103) was assigned. However, the inclusions and finds remained very similar and it was soon decided to merge (102) and (103) as they were not substantially different. A clear change of context occurred at c0.22m, when a yellowish-brown gritty layer (104) was reached. This was dug to a depth of c0.27m until a clay layer (105) was reached. This was still disturbed, containing modern building materials as well as fragments of possible Roman pottery. The finds began to reduce and it was decided to dig a sondage in the western third of the pit where the finds appeared to persist. This was dug overall to 0.36m and the natural clay reached to the south, though the northern section contained a channel filled with flint pebbles. This was excavated until time ran out, but the natural geology was not reached here. A depth of 0.64m was reached in this channel.

## Results

Spit/context	Type of deposit	Description	Soil sample	Drawings
<b>Spit (101)</b>	Layer below turf (100)	0.05m of turf and topsoil removed by hand. Mid greyish brown clayey silt, friable but sticky when wet. Rounded pebbles c5% up to 70mm in diameter. Occasional angular limestone pieces and a few charcoal flecks. The spit was much disturbed by roots and worm action. Depth c0.15m. <b>Finds:</b> CBM, a few pottery fragments including one piece of Roman grey ware. <b>Garden soil, disturbed</b>		Sketch plan
<b>Context (102)</b>	Layer: below (101)	Diffuse boundary with (101) above, but lighter colour less organic and more clay content (15-20%). Rounded pebbles less than 5%, limestone less than 5% and some sandstone. Charcoal flecks. 0.07m deep. <b>Finds:</b> CBM, 2 nails (modern), pottery - 1 fragment post medieval glazed and 1 possible Roman mortarium fragment. <b>Disturbed garden soil</b>		Sketch plan
<b>Context (103)</b>	Layer: below (102)	This context was assigned when the clay patches became slightly more pronounced and orangey brown in colour, but was soon merged with (102).		
<b>Context (104)</b>	Layer: below (102/103)	Clear boundary with (102) above. Mid yellowish-brown silty clay containing high proportion of grit/gravel - c70% at the upper level, decreasing with depth. Angular limestone c15%. Patches of greyish brown clay increasing with depth. Shell fragments and charcoal flecks. 0.05m deep. <b>Finds:</b> CBM including concrete. <b>Disturbed soil with building materials</b>		Sketch plan
<b>Context (105)</b>	Layer: below (104)	Diffuse boundary with (104) above. Dark grey/yellowish brown clay with angular limestone (c15%) reducing with depth. Charcoal flecks. Fragments of flint. <b>Finds:</b> CBM including concrete. Some pottery fragments, possibly Roman. Polystyrene. <b>Disturbed soil with building materials</b>		Sketch plan
<b>Context (106)</b>	Layer: below (105) in Sondage	Diffuse boundary with (105) above. Dark greyish brown clay with high proportion of flint (c95%) in deep channel to north. In channel 0.32m deep. <b>Finds:</b> CBM including concrete and water pipe. Some pottery fragments. <b>Natural clay to south with building materials persisting to north.</b>		Sketch plan and section

