

EOXP TEST PIT 30

Links Allotments, off Cowley Road/Bartlemas Close

Date of Excavation: 22 October 2011

Area excavated: 1 x 1m

Weather conditions: Breezy, sunny and chilly

Excavators: JH, DG, allotment families

Report by: JH

GPS location and height above sea-level: SP 5348 0548, 67.5m OD


Introduction



The test pit was dug in grass between the boundary wall for Bartlemas Chapel to the west and N-S allotment plots to the east. This location was particularly interesting as it would provide a comparison with the deposits under excavation at the same time in the major excavation in the grounds of Bartlemas Chapel (see Bartlemas Chapel report BC11). There may also have been an entrance into the chapel/leper hospital grounds from the east just north of the test pit. Fragments of medieval pottery and bone hinted at activity close by and the deposits were considerably shallower than those within the chapel grounds to the west.

Excavation summary

The test pit was dug to 0.4m with another 0.2m in a sondage 0.5m square in the NE corner of the pit making an overall depth of 0.6m from the surface. Natural clay was reached at the bottom of the sondage. The layers were very disturbed and clay-rich but all layers above the clay produced some finds.

Results

Context	Type of deposit	Description	Comments
100 1.m x 1m	Layer, under turf	Turf removed by hand c 0.1m thick. Damp firm dark brownish black, gritty, slightly sandy silt (80%); very organic. 0.2m deep from surface. Inclusions: river pebbles and small angular limestone cobbles 5%; pea-grit 1%. Finds: c 2% overall: fragments of bone; pottery sherds; occasional clay pipe and glass fragments; charcoal flecks c2%, increasing with depth.	Very organic topsoil.  Looking north

<p>101</p>	<p>Layer under (100)</p>	<p>Damp, lumpy, compact dark brown silty clay, dug 0.2m to depth of 0.4m. Inclusions: occasional small river pebbles; fragments of limestone; limestone fossils. Finds: pottery sherds; tile and glass fragments; abraded.</p>	<p>Clay-rich subsoil.</p>
<p>102</p>	<p>Layer: below (101)</p>	<p>Compact damp brownish yellow very slightly silty disturbed clay. Dug 0.2m to 0.6m depth. Inclusions: very occasional fossil and limestone fragments. Finds: some bone and pottery worked into the clay.</p>	<p>Disturbed clay above natural clay.</p>  <p>Looking east: excavation of (102) nearly complete</p>
<p>103 dug in sondage 0.5m x 0.5m NE corner</p>	<p>Layer: below (102)</p>	<p>Sterile compact yellow clay; not excavated.</p>	<p>Natural clay.</p>  <p>Looking north</p>