

EOAP Test Pit:

Location: 3 Bedford St, OX4 1SU

Date of Excavation: 6-7 Aug 2012

Area of excavation: 1x2m

Weather conditions: Mixed sunshine, overcast/showers

Excavators: Olaf Bayer, Clare Barden, David Pinches, Jeanne Peskett, Kristyn McGuire, Freddie Locock-Harrison



Report by: Olaf Bayer


Location and elevation: E452679 N204866 H63.34m OD

Introduction: One of a series of test pits excavated in the Iffley Fields area during 2012/13. Test pits were excavated in order to locate a spread of prehistoric activity said to have been found in this area by A.M.Bell in the late 19th/20th century. The site is located towards the top of a gentle East to West slope overlooking the Thames flood plain (see figure 2). The Bedford Street area was open fields until c.1900 (see figure 3).

Excavation summary: Three deposits were encountered, a relatively thick deposit of topsoil/garden soil (001), a layer of probable 19C plough soil overlying natural deposits. In addition to post-medieval/modern finds 3 pieces of prehistoric worked flint were recovered.

Results:

Context	Type	Description	Soil sample	Comments/photo
001	layer	Matrix: Wet dark blackish brown, clayey silt Inclusions: Stones, water worn flint & gravel <1%, rounded & some burnt stones, small pcs charcoal Finds: glass, pottery, Fe objects (nails), bone, 2 worked pcs flint. Depth: 0.22m Boundaries: Distinct with (002) Contamination: roots & worms Excavated: trowel & spade	N/A	Garden soil/topsoil 
002	layer	Matrix: Wet, mid brownish grey silty clay. Inclusions: Rounded stone <10mm, charcoal, flint 5% Finds: Pottery, bone, clay pipe, glass, Fe 5%, CBM 20%, tile 2%, 1 pc worked flint, slate pencil Depth: 0.14m Boundaries: Indistinct with (003) Contamination: Roots & worms Excavated: spades, trowels, mattock, shovel	N/A	Possible plough soil (002) facing west 

003	layer	<p>Matrix: Wet, light brownish orange sandy clay, lenses of mid blue grey clay</p> <p>Inclusions: Pebbles up to 40mm, few larger, charcoal, shell<1%</p> <p>Finds: None</p> <p>Depth: 0.47m</p> <p>Boundaries: Not bottomed</p> <p>Contamination: Roots</p> <p>Excavated: spades, trowels, mattock</p>	N/A	<p>Subsoil, natural deposits (003) facing north.</p> 
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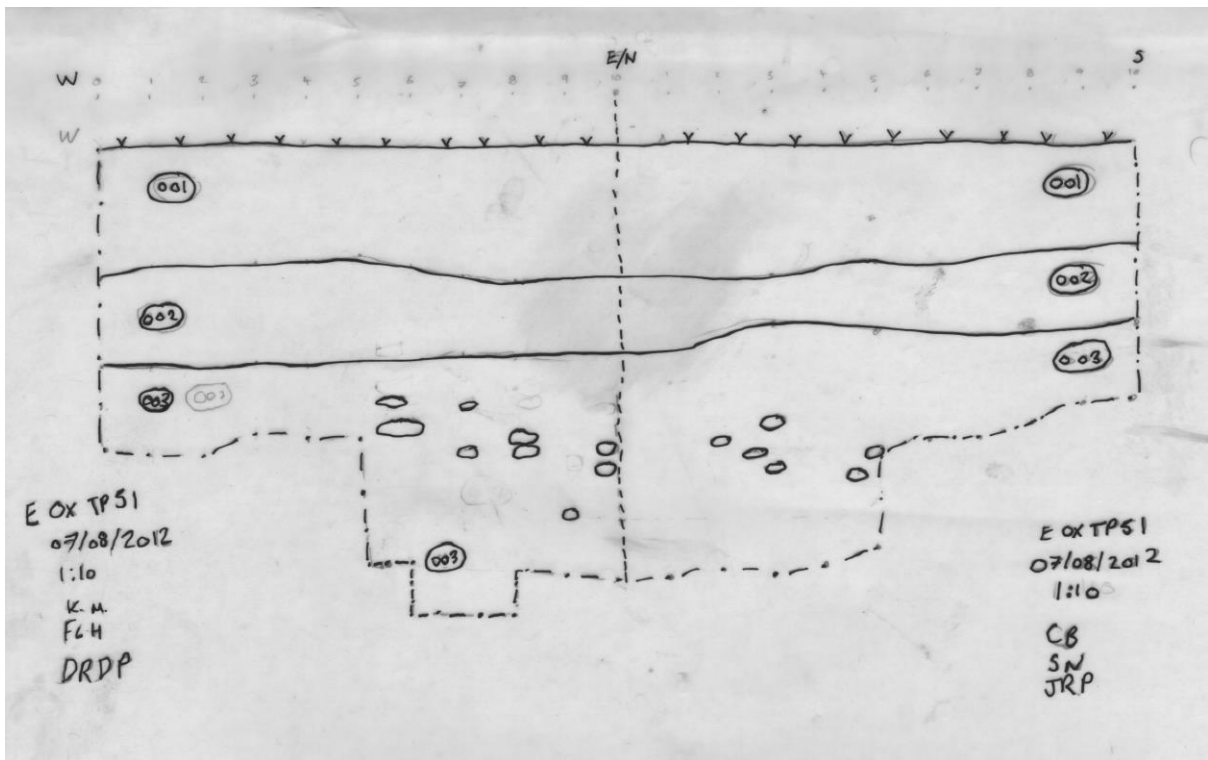


Figure 1. TP 51 section

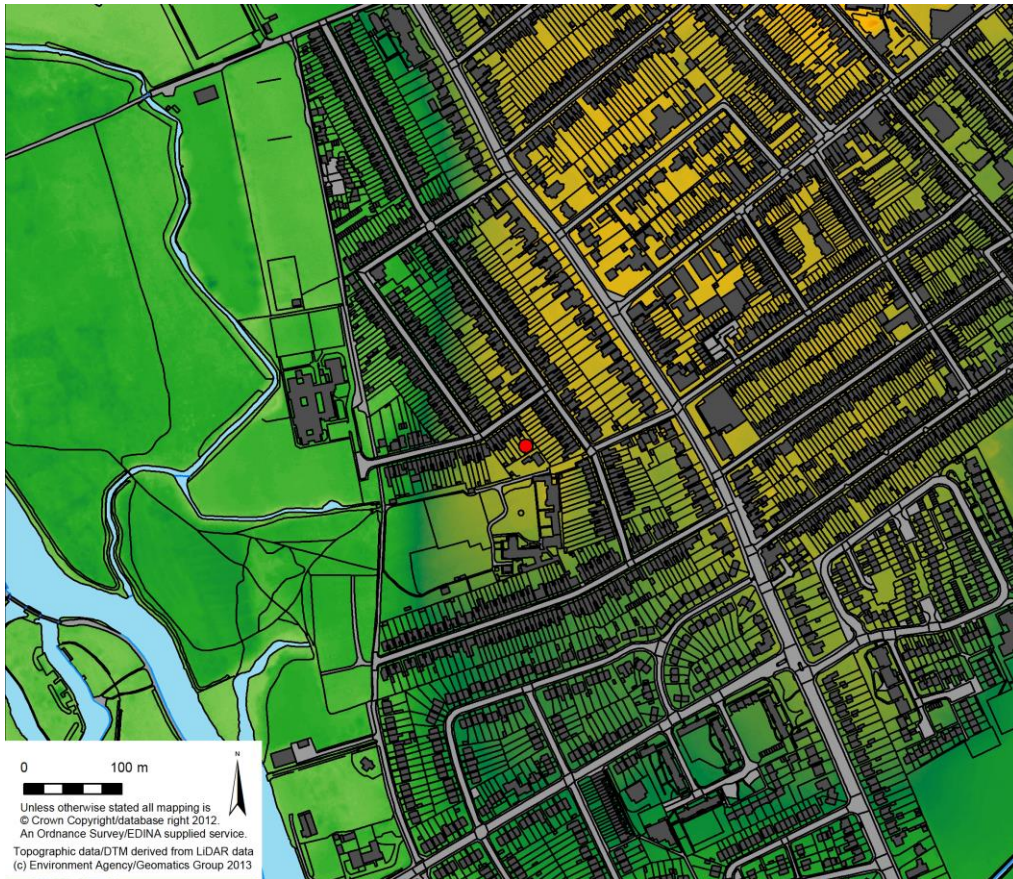


Figure 2. Test pit 51 location and topography

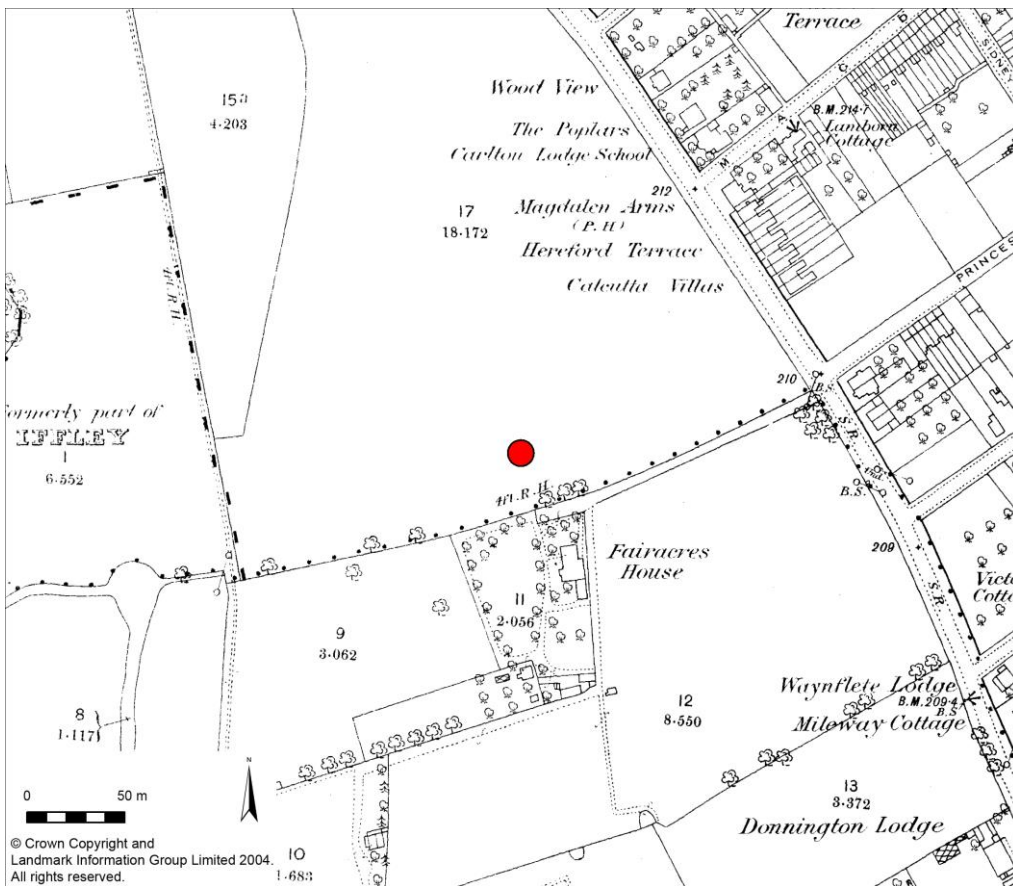


Figure 3. Test pit 51 c1880 (Ordnance Survey First Edition Mapping)