

EOAP Test Pit: 71

Location: 47 Fairacres Road

Date of Excavation: 18/07/2013

Area of excavation: 1x1m

Weather conditions: Sunny

Excavators: LQ, FLH, LM, SF, LLB

Report by: Gill Mellor, Leigh Mellor and Olaf Bayer

Location and elevation: E452738 N204688 H60.27m OD

Introduction: Test pit 71 is one of a series of test pits excavated in the Iffley Fields area during 2012/13. These 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/early 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 Fairacres Road area was open fields until c.1900 (see figure 3).

Excavation summary: Layers (101) and (102) comprised turf and top soil respectively and had a combined depth of 0.20m. They over lay (103) a 0.35m thick layer of redeposited plough/subsoil. Layer (103) overlay a 0.04m thick clinker pathway, which in turn over lay layer 105 which consisted of remnant 19th century plough soil grading into *in-situ* sub soil. A single sherd of possible Roman pottery was recovered from layer 105. No prehistoric lithic finds were recovered.

08/01/2014 – Photographs for TP71 are currently missing and will be inserted when located

Results:

Context	Type	Description	Soil sample	Comments/photo
101	layer	Matrix: Friable, mid to dark grey brown, sandy clay silt Inclusions: <1%. Small (water worn) natural flint frags. (<5mm), limestone frags poorly sorted, occasional small shell frags (<10mm) Finds: 1x small CBM frag Depth: 0.07m Boundaries: Indistinct with (102) below Contamination: Frequent roots, some worms Excavated: Trowel, hand shovel	N/A	Topsoil/turf Photos missing
102	layer	Matrix: Friable mid to dark grey brown sandy clay silt Inclusions: Limestone <5%, sandstone <5%, shell <1% Finds: Frequent coal, clinker, Fe nails, CBM, blue & white pottery,	N/A	Garden soil Photos missing

		<p>glass frags, bone Depth: 0.13m Boundaries: Indistinct with (103) below Contamination: Infrequent roots, some worms Excavated: Mattock, trowel</p>		
103	layer	<p>Matrix: Friable mid yellow grey silty clay Inclusions: As (102) Finds: Frequent coal/clinker, occasional animal bone, CBM, frequent slag chunks, occasional glass frag, occasional Fe objects (?nails), b & w ceramics Depth: 0.35m Boundaries: Distinct with (104) below Contamination: Some worms, occasional roots (much less than (102) above) Excavated: Trowel, mattock</p>	N/A	<p>Redeposited subsoil/plough soil (105) below</p> <p>Photos missing</p>
104	layer	<p>Matrix: Firm/concreted, dark grey brown, silty clay Inclusions: Abundant crushed slag/clinker and occasional Fe fragments Finds: 1 fragment glass and 1 fragment of dressed stone Depth: 0.04m thick Boundaries: Distinct with 103 above and 105 below. Contamination: Occasional worm, root, and mole based bioturbation Excavated: Trowel and mattock.</p>	N/A	<p>Possible clinker path</p> <p>Photos missing</p>
105	layer	<p>Matrix: Firm, mid grey brown, silty clay Inclusions: Very occasional clinker/slag from (104) above, occasional water worn flint gravel/pebbles and shell fragments. Finds: Occasional fragments of pottery including 1x ?Roman? Depth: 0.40m Boundaries: Distinct with 104 above, not bottomed at base Contamination: occasional worm, root and mole based bioturbation Excavated: Trowel, mattock and spade</p>	N/A	<p>Remnant of plough soil grading into <i>in situ</i> subsoil</p> <p>Photos missing</p>

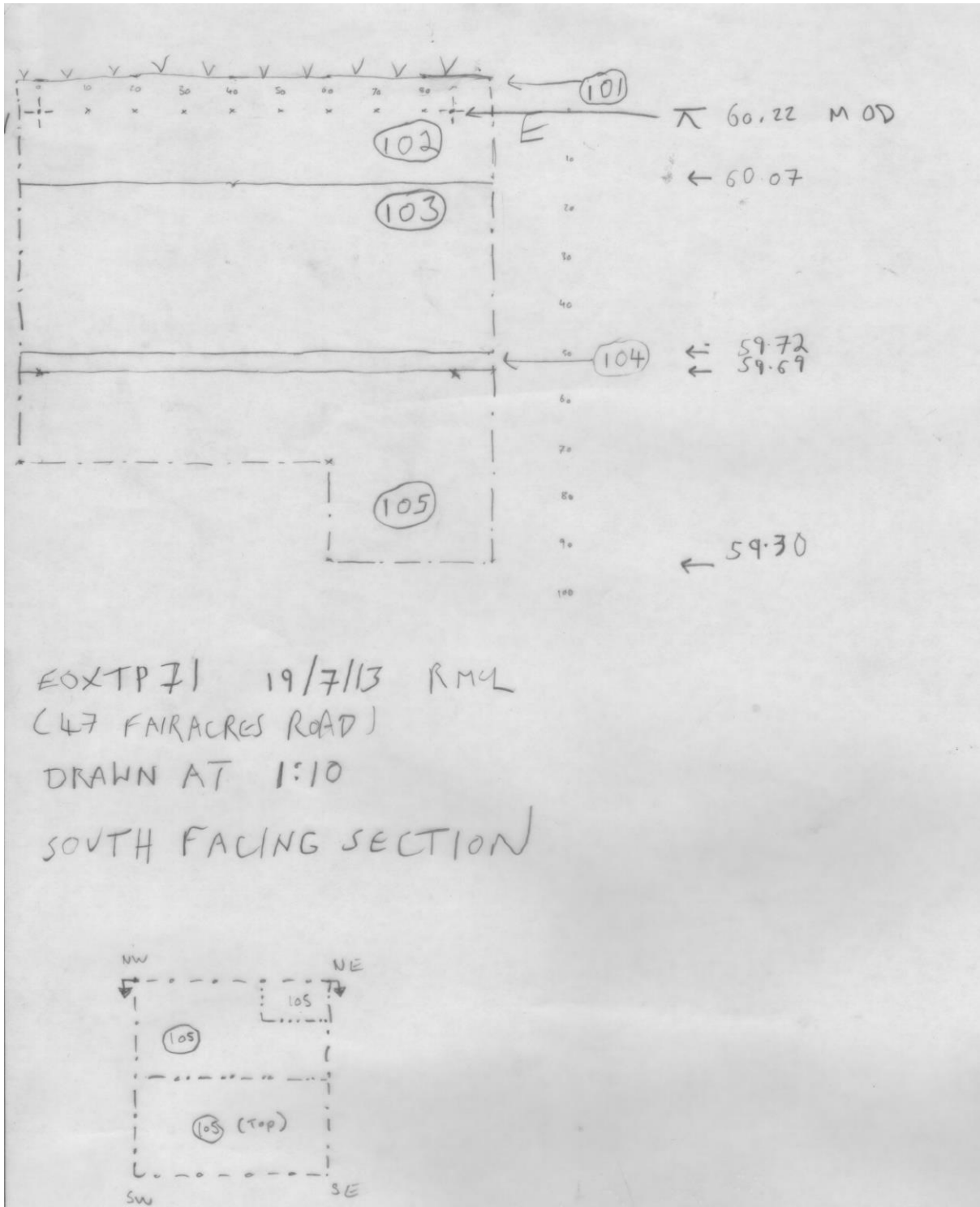


Figure 1: Test Pit 71 section and sketch plan

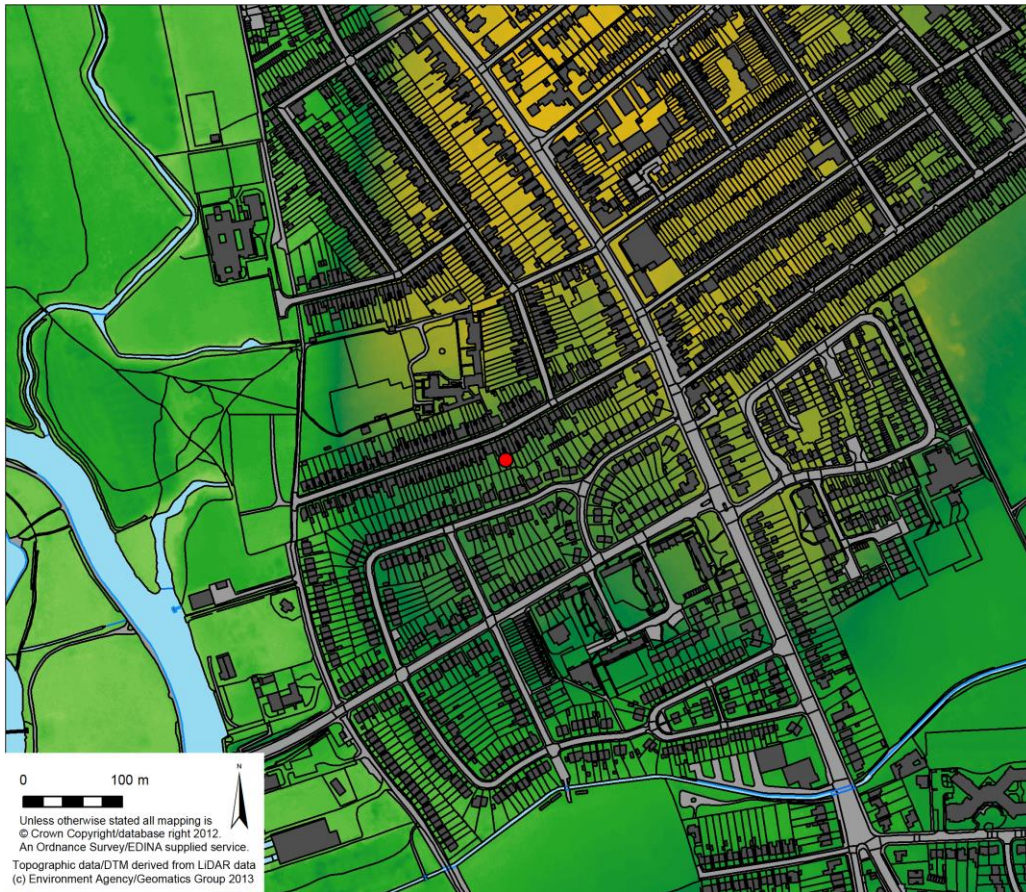


Figure 2. Test pit 71 location and topography

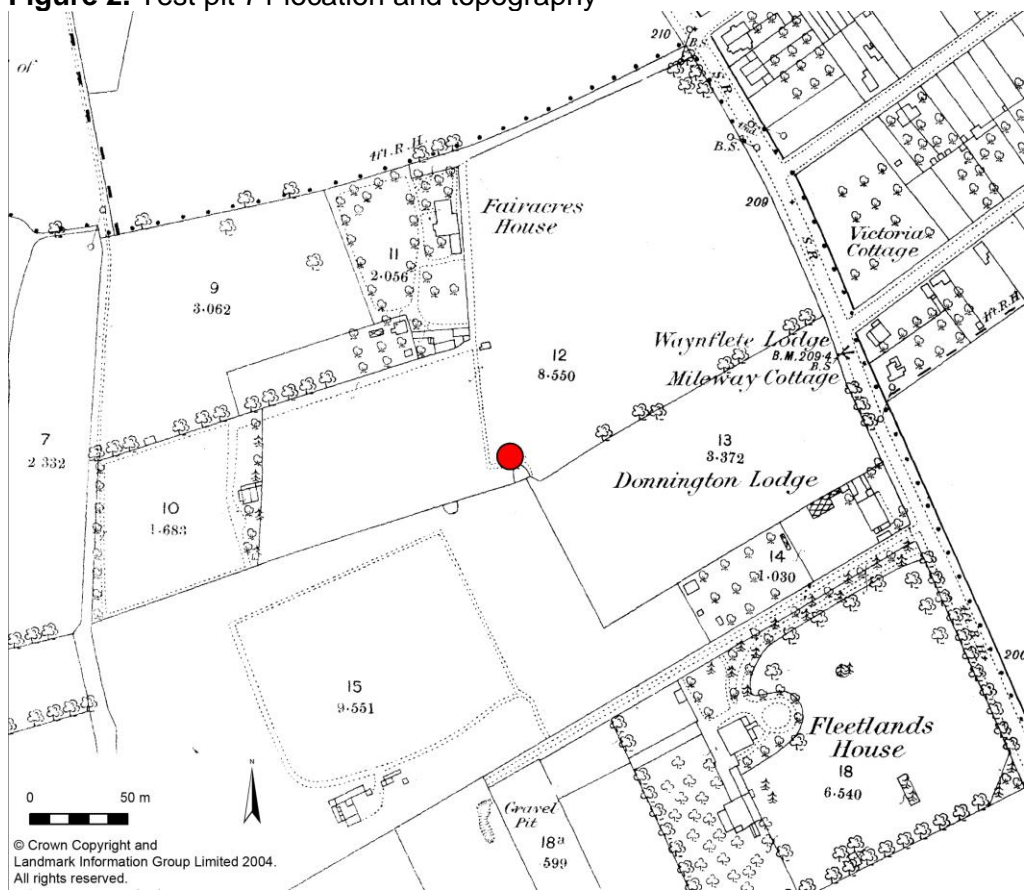


Figure 3. Test pit 71 location in c. 1880 – First Edition Ordnance Survey mapping