

**EOXP TEST PIT 44**  
**Oxeye Court, Greater Leys, Oxford**

**Date of Excavation:** 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June 2012

**Area excavated:** Maximum 1.5m (N-S) x 1m (W-E), then reduced to two sondages

**Weather conditions:** **Day 1** Dry, Overcast, Windy; **Day 2** Overcast, some rain later

**Excavators:** Paul Rowland, Jayne Moore, Jane Parkinson and Sue Cooke

**Report By:** Jayne Moore, Jane Parkinson, Paul Rowland and Sue Cooke

**GPS location and height over sea level:** SP 5539 0200, 68m OD

**The evidence from this test pit links to the Roman pottery manufacture that is known to have been prevalent in this area. Recent landscaping after building work, and previous years of ploughed farmland has since occurred.**

**Summary of Excavation**

The location of this test pit was determined by the following two factors. Firstly a previously dug test pit (un-recorded) by the owner around the time of the Time Team Big Dig and before the East Oxford Project had started, produced Iron Age, Roman and Medieval pottery. There was also the possibility of a ditch or other feature located in the bottom of the un-recorded test pit as discussed with the county archaeologist at the time. The second factor was the volume of pottery found in the flower beds around the boundary of this property. A test pit (EOXP TP 37) was dug in the same garden during the weekend test pit campaign in May 2012 and located to the southwest of this test pit.

**Results**

Spit/ context	Type of Deposit	Description	Soil sample	Drawings
Layer (100)	Turf	0.05m of turf with a small amount of top soil <b>Inclusions:</b> Rounded Pebbles < 1%. Angular limestone < 2%. <b>Contamination:</b> roots and worms. <b>Boundary:</b> Same as layer 101. <b>Finds:</b> Pottery <1%, glass <1%, burnt slag <1%.  <b>Turf and some topsoil soil, part of landscaping after building work completed.</b>	None	Sketch plan
Spit (101)	Layer: below (100) continuation of top soil under turf	0.05m of dark brown sticky sandy clay, friable to firm and damp. <b>Inclusions:</b> <5% angular Limestone <5%. Medium and small Pebbles <1% Flint. <2% garden stones, some charcoal <1% <b>Contamination:</b> Worms and roots <b>Boundary:</b> Clear sudden change to (102). <b>Finds:</b> wood, glass, CBM, Pottery, <1%. Metal stud, too hard for copper.  <b>Layer below turf probable make up layer. Location of original test pit may have been located towards the northern end of the trench.</b>	None	Sketch plan
Context (102)	Layer: below (101) in sondage	Sondage dug in S of trench N-S 1.0m x W-E 1m 0.05m of damp friable dark yellowish brown silty clayey loam. Removed by trowel and spade. <b>Inclusions:</b> Pebbles <1%. Medium and small sized angular limestone <2%.	None	Sketch plan

		<p>“Burnt slag” &lt;1%  <b>Contamination:</b> Worms and roots  <b>Boundary:</b> Clear to 103  <b>Finds:</b> Fe nails, metal bolt, &lt; 1% modern building material (breeze block, brick), 1 small metal disc, &lt;1% abraded pottery, &lt;1% modern wood</p> <p><b>Most likely to be the level of soil whilst this was farm land, before the house building took place. The early location of the potential test pit has now vanished. However at the bottom of this context there appears to be a more significant area that could be the original test pit, located almost in the centre of this sondage.</b></p>		
Context (103)	Layer: below (102) within sondage	<p>Continuation of sondage  0.1m of firm but damp mid yellowish brown sandy clay dug by trowel and spade  <b>Inclusions:</b> Pebbles &lt;1%. Limestone &lt;0.1%. &lt;2% fine gravel/pea-grit  <b>Contamination:</b> worms <b>Boundary:</b> Clear.  <b>Finds:</b> &lt;1% CBM, 1 small piece of fused glass, Fe nail, very smooth rounded piece of wood, &lt;1% Pottery (including a rim)</p> <p><b>Most likely a layer of re-deposited natural.</b></p>	None	Sketch plan
Context (104)	Layer: below (103) within sondage	<p>0.23m of firm wet/damp mid bluish grey silty clay. Dug using spade and trowel <b>Inclusions:</b> &lt; 0.05% Modern plastic, &lt;1% shells, &lt;1% small pebbles  <b>Contamination:</b> Worms <b>Boundary:</b> Diffuse to 105 and at variable depths.  <b>Finds:</b> Pottery modern and old, glass, CBM, 1 flint, Fe objects including a nail or tack</p> <p><b>Possible re-deposited natural after building work</b></p>	None	Sketch plan
Context (105)	Layer: below (104) in new N-S sondage	<p>Sondage dug in SW corner of trench N-S 1.0m x W-E 0.5m  0.28m of wet firm mid yellowish brown clayey (70%) sand (30%). Dug using spade and trowel <b>Inclusions:</b> &lt;1% Charcoal flecks, &lt;1% river pebbles small and medium sized  <b>Contamination:</b> None  <b>Boundary:</b> not reached.  <b>Finds:</b> large sherd of motarium, abraded pottery and 1 Fe object, possible nail</p> <p><b>Bottom of context not reached due to water in trench (possible water table) natural geology not reached. Possible bottom of a post hole located in the eastern section of the sondage (maybe related to the feature found in the original test pit dug before the project started.</b>  <b>Limit of excavation (LOE)</b></p>	None	Sketch plan, section of trench and section of second sondage

## Photographs

Test pit after removal of turf (Layer 100) looking north



Bottom of context 102 in sondage – looking east



Bottom of context 105 (LOE) in 2<sup>nd</sup> sondage showing water in bottom of trench looking south



Possible post hole in eastern section of 2<sup>nd</sup> sondage (within context 105)

