

## EOXP TEST PIT 70

**Location:** 48 Temple Road, Temple Cowley

**Date of Excavation:** 29 June 2013

**Area of excavation:** 1.0 x 1.0m

**Weather conditions:** Warm, sunny spells

**Excavators:** Gill and Leigh Mellor, M Rogers, A Hull, M Harris, A Larter, C N Lewis, A Bowlby, F Hansford

**Report by:** GM, LM, CNL

**GPS Location and OD:** SP 5457 0474, 78m OD

### Introduction

This test pit was excavated in the garden of one of the older houses on Temple Road, showing on the oldest OS map with an associated orchard to the south. The area of garden in which the test pit was located was built up above the level of the house to the west and the road to the north. One of the many wells in this area of Temple Cowley was a few metres to the NW. The build-up seemed to have originated at least in the eighteenth century and possibly earlier and was notable for slag, charcoal and clay pipe. Although not producing as much Roman pottery as test pits to the east and NE there was at least one possible Roman sherd. Tree roots were a great problem and natural was not quite reached. The nature of the soil however suggested that the test pit was close to the geological junction between the sand and clay/silt soils.

### Excavation summary

All the excavated layers were finds-rich silty layers from a considerable build-up of agricultural/domestic material. These layers may well have been deliberately laid. The quantity of slag, charcoal and Fe fragments suggested some of the material may have come from close to a smithy. Tree roots prevented to full excavation of the test pit.

### Results

Spit/ context	Type of deposit	Description	Soil Sample	Comments
(100)	Layer	<b>Turf and humic top soil with turf</b> 0.08m deep.	N/a	 <b>Deturfing looking NE</b>
(101)	Layer	Dry, friable mid blackish brown slightly sandy, silt (70%). Bottom 0.13m from top; 0.03 – 0.05m deep. <b>Inclusions:</b> occasional river pebbles >1%; sub-angular limestone pebbles	N/a	Possible made up surface in garden area raised above road level. Related building was a farm; slag, charcoal and metal fragments suggests possible minor smithing activity?

		<p>(fine- medium) 5% max 0.06m; occasional charcoal flecks &gt;1%; limestone grit and fine white mortar chunks, max 0.07 x 0.02 x 0.04 to 0.01 2%; flint &gt;1%; occasional ironstone 0.1m</p> <p><b>Finds:</b> glass, metal - Fe; pottery sherds; CBM; shell; bone; clay pipe bowl; considerable amounts of slag 0.4m max – 0.1m; slate: overall 5% Diffuse boundaries to (102) worm and root disturbance.</p>		 <p><b>(101) looking N</b></p>
(102)	Layer	<p>Dry, friable mid greyish brown slightly sandy silt (60%); 0.12m m deep.</p> <p><b>Inclusions:</b> charcoal 5%; slag 5%; occasional granite and ironstone; occasional sub-angular fine-medium limestone pebbles and fine-medium river pebbles &gt;1%</p> <p><b>Finds:</b> Slate &gt;1%; CBM fragments; glass and pottery; Fe (incl. nails); occasional bone fragments; shell: 10% context overall Boundaries diffuse; worm and root disturbance</p>	N/a	<p>Continuation of built-up surface in garden area. Build up may be of 18-19<sup>th</sup> century origin?</p>  <p><b>(102) looking N</b></p>
(103)	Layer	<p>Dry friable, mid brown sandy silt (60%); level at bottom 0.31m from top; 0.06m deep.</p> <p><b>Inclusions:</b> charcoal and slag fragments 1%; sub-angular fine-medium pebbles 1%; mortar 1%: 5% context overall</p> <p><b>Finds:</b> slate; pottery; lots of Fe; glass; bone and clay pipe</p> <p>Boundaries diffuse; worm and root disturbance</p>	N/a	<p>Continuation of build-up</p>  <p><b>Clay pipe bowl</b></p>

(104)	Layer Dug in sondage	<p>Dry, firm, mid brown sandy silt (75%) with lenses of yellow sand; 0.2m deep; 0.51m from top. Sondage in N end 0.39m N-S x 1m E-W.</p> <p><b>Inclusions:</b> charcoal &lt;1%; sub angular limestone 0.3 – 0.1m 5%; v occasional abraded river pebbles; fine white mortar 1%</p> <p><b>Finds:</b> pottery incl. one sherd Roman; bone; clay pipe; Fe; Pb; CBM &lt;1%: 5% context overall</p> <p>Boundaries diffuse; worm and root disturbance</p>		 <p><b>(104) looking N</b></p>
(105)	Layer Dug in sondage	<p>Dry, firm, yellowish brown sandy clay (50%); 0.24m deep; bottom 0.75m from top. Tree roots a great problem in this test-pit. Dug in NE corner to avoid tree roots: 0.37m N-S x 0.4m W-E</p> <p><b>Inclusions:</b> sub angular limestone from 0.6 – 0.2m, 2%; charcoal chunks and flecks 1%</p> <p><b>Finds:</b> Bone, pottery and glass; 2% context overall</p> <p>Natural not reached.</p>		 <p><b>Finished test-pit looking N</b></p>



