

## EOXP TEST PIT 11

21 Abberbury Road; owner Catherine Hawkins

### Iffley and Rose Hill Test pit weekend

**Date of Excavation:** 11-12 June 2011

**Area excavated:** 1 x 1m

**Weather conditions:** sunny and dry, 11/6; overcast with torrential rain in afternoon, 12/6

**Excavators:** Jonathan Acton, David Ashby, Louise Bailey, Sue Cooke, Nick Daisley.

**Report by:** Louise Bailey, David Ashby and Jane Harrison.

**GPS location and height above sea-level: SP 5303 0373, 77.4 OD**

### Summary of Excavation

Test pit 11 was located in the garden of 21 Abberbury Road in a lawn sloping down to the north. The lawn is surrounded by mature trees and lies on the northern slopes of Rose Hill. Historic Ordnance Survey maps show this area as agricultural land until its development in the twentieth century. There is known Iron Age and Romano-British archaeology within half a kilometre including burials, domestic surfaces and Roman kiln sites focused on Annesley Road.

Natural clay, gravel or sand were not reached in this test pit which was excavated to 0.6m and to a level where fewer, but much less abraded and larger, sherds of pottery were appearing including Romano-British locally made mortaria sherds. This suggests that the area of Roman activity may well have been more extensive or perhaps that there was a trackway running nearby from the ford to the west to the centre of the kiln site on Annesley Road to the east. Pottery also included a small Brill-Boarstal ware bowl, late 13<sup>th</sup> to early 14<sup>th</sup> century; domestic perhaps for butter, with external rim to prevent it slipping from grip. (Spot identification by Maureen Mellor.)

There has clearly been a considerable shift of soil down slope over the centuries and this colluvium has built up to a depth greater than could be excavated in a small test pit. The torrential rain on Sunday also prevented work continuing. All the pits on Abberbury Road have yielded Roman material and underline the extensive as well as intensive nature of the settlement in that period.

Context	Description	Comments
100	<b>Turf layer:</b> removed by hand. Depth 0.05m	
101	<b>Topsoil:</b> loosened by spade, removed by trowel, all material sieved. Damp, friable mid yellowish brown silty sand (75%). Root activity. Depth 0.13m from surface. <b>Inclusions:</b> occasional small rounded, limestone pebbles c. 0.03m and limestone flecks c. 3%. <b>Finds:</b> minimal: one sherd of pottery	<b>Organic garden topsoil, not worked over recently, with few finds. Sand has been added to improve drainage in the lawn.</b>

	possible flint cortex.	 <p>Looking south</p>
102	<p><b>Subsoil:</b> dry, friable mid reddish brown silty sand (60%). Root disturbance. C. 0.07m deep (0.22m from surface).</p> <p><b>Inclusions:</b> 2% angular charcoal fragments and flecks 20mm – 1mm; 5% angular limestone fragments and flecks 60mm – 1mm; 1% sub-angular burnt limestone, 50-10mm.</p> <p><b>Finds:</b> pottery sherds; fragments animal bone; clay pipe; shell; glass fragments; CBM; slate; Fe nail and Cu alloy button.</p>	<p><b>Charcoal-rich subsoil with some burnt stone and more finds than topsoil.</b></p>
103	<p><b>Colluvium:</b> dry, friable-compact sandy clay (60%). Disturbed by roots and worms, dug by hand and all material sieved. To depth of 0.30m.</p> <p><b>Inclusions:</b> charcoal flecks and fragments 20-1mm, c. 2%; limestone pebbles, 20-10mm 10%; rounded cobbles, 15-70mm 5%.</p> <p><b>Finds:</b> occasional: pottery sherds; CBM; animal bone; Fe nails; Cu alloy strip; shell; burnt stone; clay pipe; fossil shell.</p>	<p><b>Colluvium (hill-wash down slope); dry soil with high pebble/cobble content.</b></p> 
104	<p>Wet, compact, light orangey brown sandy clay (60%). Depth 0.6m below surface (sondage dug down 0.30m). Large roots.</p> <p><b>Inclusions:</b> v occasional charcoal flecks; 10% sub-oval cobbles 5 – 40mm; 5% shell fragments 5-30mm.</p> <p><b>Finds:</b> 2% large sherds of pottery; 1% small fragments of animal bone; 2 fragments of roof tile c. 0.12m.</p> 	<p><b>Clay soil in 0.5m<sup>2</sup> sondage in NW corner. Occasional finds but much less abraded and larger sherds of pottery. Lower colluvium (but reverse stratigraphy).</b></p> 