

## **EOXP TEST PIT 16**

### **Edgeway Road, Marston**

**Date of Excavation:** 1 September 2011

**Area excavated:** 1 x 1m

**Weather conditions:** sunny and dry.

**Excavators:** John, Clare and David Leal, neighbours and friends.

**Report by:** the team with Jane Harrison.

**GPS location and height above sea-level:** SP 5272 0718, 60m OD

### **Summary of Excavation**

Test pit 16 was located in the garden of a house on the south side of Edgeway Road in a small level lawn. The house is one of a short terrace of houses ending in an office block. The terrace and the office were built in 1988 on the site of a garage remembered by a local resident in the 1930s. A jump in house numbering suggests that the relatively new terrace may occupy the site of older cottages that preceded the garage, and the test pit results would seem to confirm this.

Historic maps and the survival of ridge and furrow in the fields bordering the river suggest that the area would have been either farm or meadow land before cottages were built there; the first dwellings may have been built on the site before the nineteenth century. The test pit uncovered the corner of the foundations of a stone-built structure, the foundations of either an out-building related to the earlier cottages or even part of the cottage itself. A broken slate pencil found in the sondage may have been owned by a young occupant of the previous dwelling! Edgeway Road was once Hedgeway Road and a remnant of what may be ancient hedging survives around the farm east of Edgeway Road. This suggests the road may have run along a significant farm boundary over the centuries that this area was farmland. The hints of abraded medieval pottery may indicate traces of disturbed medieval plough soil.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>100</b>	<b>Turf layer:</b> removed by hand. Depth 0.07m	
<b>101</b>	<b>Topsoil:</b> loosened by spade, removed by trowel, all material sieved. Friable dark blackish brown sandy silt; very organic. Root and worm activity. To depth of 0.21m from surface. Increasingly clay and charcoal-rich with depth. <b>Inclusions:</b> 3% small rounded limestone cobbles-pebbles max size 100mm and degraded limestone 10-50mm; 3% charcoal flecks and v occasional flint fragments. <b>Finds:</b> c 3% of context: pottery sherds including glazed ceramics (post-medieval and modern), 1 possible Roman sherd and small fragments v abraded possible	<b>Organic homogenous garden topsoil, not worked over very recently, with relatively little modern material and the remains of the demolition of possibly nineteenth century cottages.</b>

	<p>medieval; iron (Fe) fragments; occasional slate and evidence for demolition of preceding cottages – mortar, clay pipe and stone roof tile.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Looking east</b></p>
<p><b>102</b></p>	<p><b>Subsoil:</b> increasingly compact brownish black clayey silt; increasingly clay with depth with small yellow clay lenses. Root and worm disturbance. 0.19m deep (c 0.40m from surface).  <b>Inclusions:</b> 3% limestone chunks and gryphea; occasional pebbles and 3% charcoal fragments inc charcoal-rich with depth especially in NE corner.  <b>Finds:</b> 3% of context: pottery sherds, CBM, glass fragments, mortar, wood, melted, fused lead and a broken slate pencil.</p>	<p><b>Very organic disturbed subsoil influenced by demolition of earlier cottages. Sondage dug in finds-rich NE corner.</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Looking north</b></p>
<p><b>103</b> Structure</p>	<p>In the NE corner of the 0.5m<sup>2</sup> sondage the stone built corner of a structure was discovered 0.45m down with the remains of a later post jammed against it. In the sondage it was impossible to determine the alignment of the wall.  <b>Matrix:</b> friable v slightly sandy silt, very organic and charcoal-rich; with bigger pieces of mortared brick, iron fragments and loose mortar.</p>	<p><b>Foundations of outbuilding to earlier building or of main building. Under the disturbed sub-soil the foundations were within a lower occupation layer relating to the earlier dwellings on the site.</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Looking east</b></p>

