

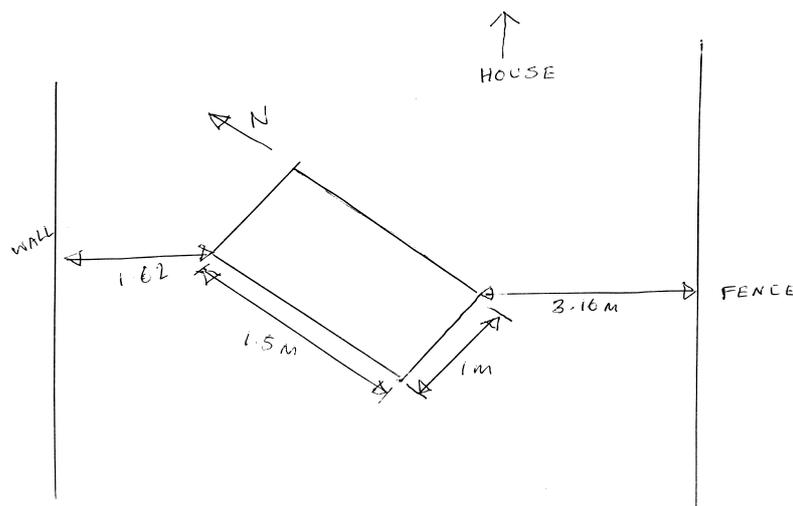
## EOXP TEST PIT 22

**Location of Test pit:** Back garden of 142 Cricket Road, Oxford OX4 3DL  
**Date of Excavation:** 30/8/11 – 1/9/11  
**Area excavated:** 1 x 1.5m  
**Weather conditions:** Overcast, dry, cool  
**Excavators:** Leigh Mellor, Gill Mellor, Tricia Hallam  
**Report by:** Gill Mellor  
**GPS location and height above sea-level:** SP53610470 58m  
**Method:** Shovel, hand shovel, trowel

### Introduction

The test pit was dug at the bottom of the garden which backs onto school grounds and positioned to avoid tree roots. Cricket Road was developed in the 1930s but marks a much older boundary and possible route between Cowley and Oxford. The first edition Ordnance Survey 25in map 1877 shows the site as a field. The north-east corner of the pit was 21.75m from the house.

**Summary of excavation:** *summary of excavation*

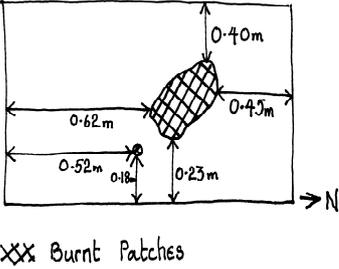
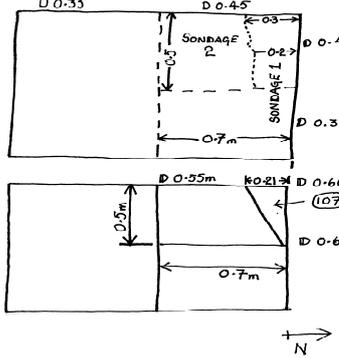


### Excavation summary

The pit was dug 1 x 1.5m because other pits in similar soil had proved to go deep. The first level was brownish black clayey silt to 0.2m with flecks and pieces of charcoal, CBM and modern debris. The second spit (to 0.25m) was diffuse to the top level but showed a clear boundary to (103), this was taken to be the plough horizon. It was similar to (101) in both soil and finds. The third spit (103) was more compact and yellowish sandy silt with clay patches. It showed a clear burnt patch. [104] was cut into (103) and contained entirely burnt charcoal with a small amount of CBM to a depth of 0.6m. A soil sample was taken. Two sondages were dug to a depth of 0.6m showing mid yellowish brown sandy clay with few finds. (107) showed a layer of gryphae laid to a straight edge which suggests we did not reach the natural. Some Roman pottery was found and a fish tooth which may have been used for leather working.

## Results

Spit/ context	Type of deposit	Description	Soil sample	Comments
(100)	Layer	Turf with humic topsoil 0.03m deep	N/A	
(101)	Layer	<p>Friable to firm brownish black garden topsoil, 70% silt, 30% clay 0.2m deep. Paler and more gravelly at lower level.</p> <p><b>Inclusions:</b> 1% charcoal &amp; clinker flecks and pieces 20x10x5mm. Few river pebbles 12x10x5mm-30x20x10. Chalk flecks 10mm.</p> <p><b>Finds:</b> CBM 2%, tile, brick, mortar, plastic, small shells, 4 pc slate 30x30mm, flint, post medieval pottery &amp; glass, wire, small modern coin, modern nails, screw, rawl plugs, lead button, pieces of large shell, ?tooth, animal bone, 1 pc ?greyware. Diffuse boundary to (102), many small roots. Fish tooth later identified as being used in leather working.</p>	N/A	<p><b>Disturbed garden topsoil. Domestic use. ?Bonfire</b></p>  <p>(101) from the SE</p> 
(102)	Layer	<p>Friable brownish black silt 70%, clay 30%, getting lighter lower 0.2 – 0.23m deep.</p> <p><b>Inclusions:</b> 1% charcoal flecks &amp; pieces as (101). Few river pebbles 15x10x5 – 20x25x10. Few pc clinker</p> <p><b>Finds:</b> &lt;1%. Small quantity CBM, bottle top, few pc bone &amp; glass, post medieval pottery, glass marble. Diffuse boundary to (101), clear to (103), some small roots a few large roots.</p>	N/A	<p>Disturbed plough soil. Domestic use ?bonfire</p>  <p>(102) from the SW</p>
(103)	Layer	<p>Yellowish brown sandy silt, more compact than (102) but still friable, more clay patches 0.25-0.3m deep.</p> <p><b>Inclusions:</b> 5% charcoal flecks, patch of charcoal, chalk flecks, shells, very few river pebbles 20mm, clinker, few pc burnt broken limestone.</p>	N/A	<p>Obvious burnt patch</p> 

		<p><b>Finds:</b> Post medieval pottery, few pc burnt CBM, glass, fossilised shell, nail, button, pc clay pipe, 2 pc Roman pottery. Few roots, small &amp; large Below (102). [104] &amp; (105) cut into (103). All clear boundaries.</p>		 <p>XX Burnt Patches</p>
[104]	Cut	<p>Very friable, concentrated black patch of charcoal Clear boundary with and cut into (103).</p>	N/A	<p>Hole dug for unknown reason, infilled with disturbed soil above.</p>
(105)	Fill	<p>Burnt black organic matter, very little soil 0.29-0.6m deep. <b>Inclusions:</b> Broken, burnt pebble 50x25x5mm, 1 river pebble 20x10mm, flecks chalk Fill of [104], clear boundary to (103).</p>	/1\	See [104]
(106)	Sondage 1 to N Sondage 2 to NW	<p>Mid yellowish brown sandy clay, firm with friable patches 0.3-0.45 deep. <b>Inclusions:</b> 1% charcoal pieces 10-20mm, flecks chalk, 1% broken river pebbles 10-20mm <b>Finds:</b> Flecks CBM Clear boundary to (103) and (107) Below (103) and part (105)</p>	N/A	 
(107)	Layer	<p>Mid yellowish brown, firm with friable patches 0.55-0.6m deep <b>Inclusions:</b> see finds <b>Finds:</b> Large pieces gryphea, 1 pc Roman pot. Part of sondage 2 (106) Gryphea carefully arranged to straight edge, on flat clay with a thin sand layer above.</p>	N/A	<p>See plan on (106) Footing of surface/ structure (107) from SE</p> 