

EOXP TEST PIT 39

Location: 4 Bergamot Place, Greater Leys

Date of Excavation: 12/13 May 2012

Area excavated: 1m x 1m

Weather conditions: Very fine

Excavators: Sue Cooke, Louise Bailey, Catriona Manners, Olaf Bayer

Report by: the team

GPS location and height above sea-level: SP 5582 0216, c 65m OD

Introduction

The test pit was dug in the lawn of the back garden. The house is part of a modern housing development which is less c 20 years old. Prior to the house being built it was farmland. This area is known to be part of a Romano-British pottery industrial area, with nearby Roman road to Alchester.

Excavation summary

Test pit 29 was dug to a depth of 0.35m with a sondage across the western half down to the natural clay at c 0.4m. The area had clearly been truncated and levelled when the estate was built and a good deal of builders' material was encountered in the upper layers. The natural clay was very damp and marked by developing peat patches. Finds were generally few. The clayey silt (101) below garden topsoil and turf layer (100) below turf contained charcoal, some worn Roman pottery (including a fragment of mortarium) and flint. Layer (102) below contained fewer finds and more modern material. The clay layer in the sondage (103) contained almost nothing: a little flint and two sherds of pottery.

Results

Spit	Type of deposit	Description	Comments
101 1.m x 1.m	Layer, under turf and topsoil (100)	Damp friable-firm mid brown clayey silt. 0.1m deep, to 0.2m below surface Inclusions: river pebbles 3%; charcoal flecks 3%; occasional angular limestone chunks. Finds: modern builders debris; occasional abraded pottery including RB; bone fragments; flint; c 2% overall	Few finds: disturbed farmland soil. Shallow clayey soil, not very organic. 
102	Layer below (101)	Damp, firm mid-light brown silty clay, 0.1m deep to c 0.3m below surface Inclusions: river pebbles 3%; charcoal flecks 3%; occasional angular limestone chunks. Finds: more modern builders debris; white glazed pottery; Fe; glass; clay pipe; flint; > 2% overall	Clayey, disturbed sub-soil.

101: facing N

<p>103</p>	<p>Layer below (102)</p>	<p>Firm yellowish brown clay with peat developing; 0.1m deep in sondage to c 0.4m below surface Inclusions: occasional angular limestone chunks and flecks; v occasional gravel. Finds: one piece flint, two abraded pottery fragments</p> 	<p>Disturbed top spit of clay natural with peat developing a junction with undisturbed natural</p>  <p>Complete test pit looking west</p>
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