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

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| 101  | 1.m x 1m        | 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. |
Layer below (102)

**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

**Disturbed top spit of clay natural with peat developing a junction with undisturbed natural**

Complete test pit looking west