

EOXP TEST PIT 29

East Minchery Farm Allotments

Date of Excavation: 5 November 2011

Area excavated: 1 x 1m

Weather conditions: Overcast, mild and dry

Excavators: Lex Francis, family and friends, JH

Report by: the Team

GPS location and height above sea-level: SP 5448 0258 62.0m OD

Introduction

The test pit was dug in rough grass near the path running through the area, 24m NW of the fence along the railway in a line extended back visually from the corner of the bowling/cinema complex across the railway route. The remains of the Priory are c 500m to the SE; Anglo-Saxon structures were discovered in the school grounds to the north and roman archaeology, connected to the pottery industry, in Greater Leys to the east.

Time to dig the pit was limited and the Project will return to this area in spring 2012. The pit came down very quickly to natural sand but there were traces of post-holes dug into this sand and possible roman and medieval pottery found in the disturbed layer above natural. There remains the possibility that the sand was redeposited and coming back to do more test pits will allow us to check this.

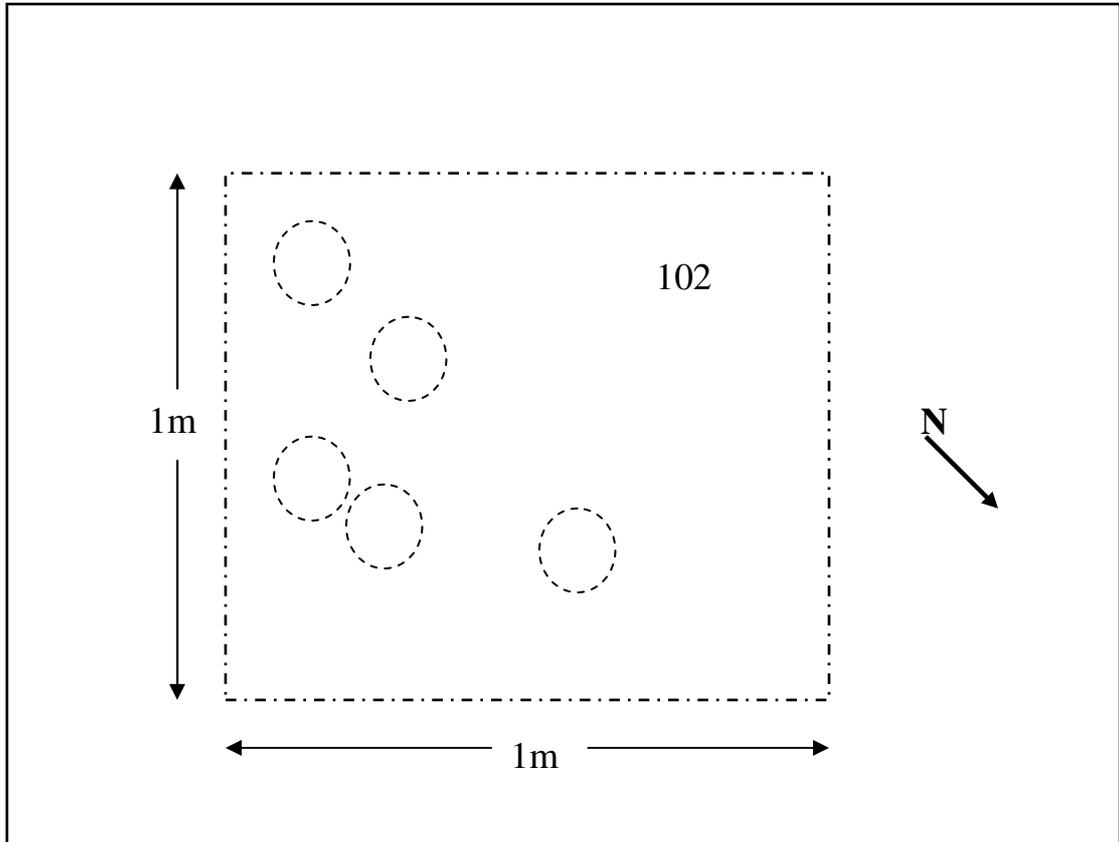
Excavation summary

Test pit 29 was dug to a depth of 0.15m to the natural sand. The sandy silt layer (100) below turf contained charcoal and very occasional pottery sherds, which could include some roman and medieval examples. Five postholes filled with the same sandy silt were cut into the natural sand (102). The truncated postholes were c 0.1m in diameter and c 0.1m, or slightly less, deep in the eastern half of the pit. They may perhaps have been part of a fence line for which the posts had been replaced at least once.

Results

| Spit | Type of deposit | Description | Comments |
|-----------------|------------------------|--|--|
| 100 1.m x 1m | Layer, under thin turf | Turf removed by hand, c 0.05m thick. Damp friable-firm yellow brown sandy silt. 0.1m deep, to 0.15m below surface Inclusions: river pebbles 5%; charcoal flecks 3%; occasional angular limestone chunks. Finds: c 2% overall; occasional abraded pottery possible RB and medieval; clay pipe fragment; iron (Fe) fragments. | Few finds: suggests this area had not been an allotment. Shallow sandy soil, not very organic. |

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|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| | | |  <p>100: facing SW</p> |
| <p>101</p> | <p>Layer: below (100)</p> | <p>Firm yellow sterile sand; but very little excavated.</p> | <p>Natural sand; possibly re-deposited.</p>  <p>Facing SW</p> |



Test Pit 29: excavation complete

