

EOAP Test Pit: 55

Location: 21 Fairacres Rd, Iffley

Date of Excavation: 11/05/13

Area of excavation: 1x1

Weather conditions: Overcast, showers, occasional sunny spells

Excavators: RR, OB, MF, JR

Report by: Olaf Bayer

Location and elevation: E452805 N204713 H61.14m OD

Introduction: One of a series of test pits excavated in 2012/2013 in the Iffley Fields area to locate extent of prehistoric activity identified by A.M. Bell in late 19C/early 20C. The site is located towards the top of a gentle East to West slope overlooking the Thames flood plain (see figure 2). The Fairacres Road area was open fields until c.1900 (see figure 3).

Excavation summary: No separate plans and sections drawn, sketches on reverse of sheets. Five contexts observed. Context (100), (101) and (102) represented garden soil and levelling. (103) is thought likely to be 19C ploughsoil. A single sherd of Roman greyware was recovered from this deposit. Undisturbed natural deposits (104) were encountered at a depth of c.0.90m. No prehistoric finds were located within this test pit. However, a neighbour from no. 18 Fairacres Road showed a small side and end scraper struck from mid-grey nodular flint and measuring approx. 20x22mm, which he thinks comes from the garden of no. 18.

Results:

Context	Type	Description	Soil sample	Comments/photo
100	layer	Matrix: Compacted, dry mid orangey brown, clay 40%, sand 60% Inclusions: Occ charcoal, occ. Rounded river pebbles, poorly sorted 10mm-40mm, occ.water rolled flint. Finds: Occ. v. degraded CBM-red brick not retained, glass 1pc., modern ceramic 1 pc.,.Fe nail, modern, 1 pc Depth: 0.07m Boundaries: Clear to (101) Contamination: Lots of roots, frequent worms Excavated: Mattock, trowel	N/A	Topsoil/garden soil

101	layer	<p>Matrix: Compacted, firm, dry mid orangey brown (lighter than (100)), Sand 75%, clay 25%</p> <p>Inclusions: Very frequent flint, poorly sorted 10mm - 30mm. Very frequent rounded river pebbles, poorly sorted 10mm-45mm. Occ. Limestone pieces 20mm-50mm. Occ charcoal.</p> <p>Finds: Occ. CBM-degraded and abraded. Coke/slag.</p> <p>Depth: 0.07m</p> <p>Boundaries: Clear to (102) below</p> <p>Contamination: Occ. roots</p> <p>Excavated: Mattock/trowel</p>	N/A	<p>Material brought in to cover layer of hardcore</p> 
102	layer	<p>Matrix: Compacted dark blackish brown, clay 60% sand >35%, silt <=5% with light grey clay lenses.</p> <p>Inclusions: Frequent charcoal, occ. rounded river pebbles 20-60mm, poorly sorted. V. occ. fossil shell.</p> <p>Finds: Frequent CBM, occ. bone. V. frequent clear window glass, blue & white ceramic</p> <p>Depth: 0.15m</p> <p>Boundaries: Clear to (103) above</p> <p>Contamination: Occ. roots</p> <p>Excavated: Mattock, trowel</p>	N/A	<p>Layer of hardcore</p> 
103	Son dage at N end of test pit	<p>Matrix: Friable to compacted, medium reddish brown, silt 20%, sand 50% Clay 30% with grey lenses. Slightly more humic than previous layer.</p> <p>Inclusions: Small rounded pebbles 10% 5-8mm, occ. charcoal 5%</p> <p>Finds: Modern pottery, occ.bone, modern glass (greenhouse?). 1 sherd Roman grey ware, occ. shell</p> <p>Depth: 0.16m</p> <p>Boundaries: Indistinct to (104) below</p> <p>Contamination: Occ. worms, some roots</p> <p>Excavated: Mattock, trowel</p>	N/A	<p>Possible 19C plough soil</p>

<p>104</p>	<p>Son dage in NW corn er</p>	<p>Matrix: Friable, orangey brown clayey silt, 60% silt 40% clay Inclusions: Small rounded pebbles 0.5-5mm, occ.shell, 1 pc. gryphaea Finds: None Depth: 0.52m Boundaries: Unclear with (103) and natural grey clay. Contamination: Odd worm still present Excavated: Spade</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Plough soil (103) and subsoil/natural (104) natural deposits (facing north)</p> 
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Figure 1: Round side and end scraper on mid-grey flint, possibly from garden of no.18 Fairacres Rd (large squares 5mm)



Figure 2: Test pit 55 location and topography

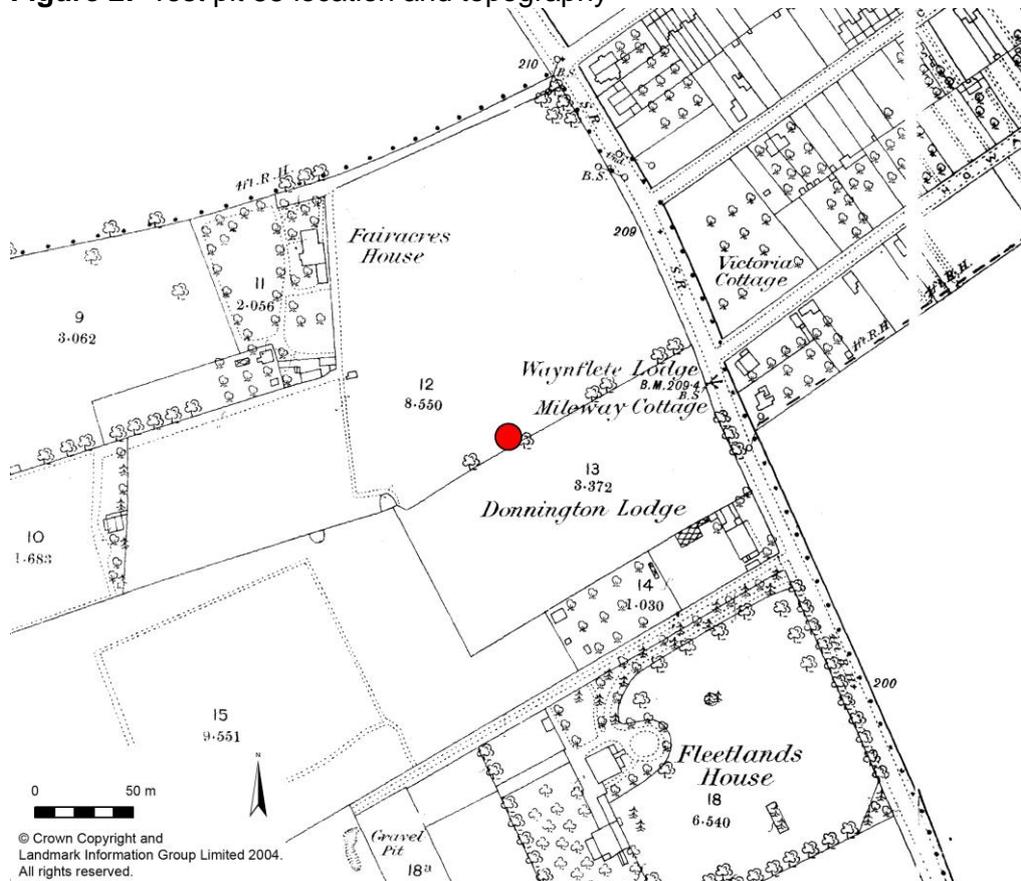


Figure 3: Test pit 55 c.1880 (Ordnance Survey First Edition Mapping)