

Summary of Charterhouse Square Tree Root Test Pits

XTE12

(Heather Knight)

A series of test pits were monitored on 7th July 2014 for the purpose of understanding the extent of tree roots within the footprint of the two proposed community excavation trenches within Charterhouse Square garden. The site has been recorded using the site code XTE12.

The test pits were located in the corners of the proposed trenches. Only three of the test pits in the southern trench, which is the larger of the two trenches, could be excavated as a known electricity cable runs diagonally across the north-western corner of the trench.

Test Pit 1

Location	South-west corner of the southern community trench in Charterhouse Square
Dimensions	1m by 1m by 1m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	17.60mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	17.30mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	16.60mOD
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	16.60mOD
Top of surviving natural observed at	N/A
Level of base of trench	16.60mOD

At the base of the test pit was a dump deposit [1008]. It was a mod compact dark grey sandy silt with frequent pebbles and pea grit and occasional cbm fragments. Above which was [1005], a 0.15m thick compact layer of 18th/19th-century demolition debris consisting of frogged yellow stock brick fragments and frogged dark reddish purple brick fragments and grey stone floor slab fragments. This layer was sealed by [1004], a moderately compact dark grey brown sandy silt with lighter brownish yellow patches. It contained frequent cbm, window glass, pottery, ctp and bone fragments. Above [1004] was [1001], a mid brownish grey clay and gravel dumped layer containing frequent cbm, pot, ctp, bone and oyster fragments, occasional large flint nodules and occasional small chalk fragments. Layer [1001] was 0.15m thick and was sealed beneath 0.25m of top soil and turf.



Fig 1 Test pit 1 - looking north

Test Pit 2

Location	South-east corner of the southern community trench in Charterhouse Square
Dimensions	1m by 1m by 1m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	17.60mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	17.30mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	16.60mOD
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	16.60mOD
Top of surviving natural observed at	N/A
Level of base of trench	16.60mOD

At the base of the test pit was a dump deposit [1007]. It was a mod compact very dark grey sandy silt with frequent pebbles and pea grit and occasional cbm fragments. Above which was [1006], a 0.3m thick mod compact very dark grey sandy silt with frequent cbm (tile) fragments. This layer was sealed by [1002] a mid yellowish brown clay and gravel dumped layer containing frequent cbm, pot, ctp, bone and oyster fragments, occasional large flint nodules and occasional small chalk fragments and was sealed beneath 0.25m of top soil and turf.



Fig 2 Test pit 2 - looking north

Test Pit 3

Location	North-east corner of the southern community trench in Charterhouse Square
Dimensions	1m by 1m by 0.8m depth (when I left it on Monday afternoon)
Modern ground level/top of slab	17.60mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	17.30mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	16.60mOD
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	16.80mOD
Top of surviving natural observed at	N/A
Level of base of trench	16.80mOD

At the base of the test pit was a dump deposit [1003], a soft dark mid grey deposit of fine sand and cinders with black and dark grey mottles. It contained occasional oyster shell fragments and clay patches. It was sealed by [1002] a mid yellowish brown clay and gravel dumped layer containing frequent cbm, pot, ctp, bone and oyster fragments and occasional small chalk fragments and was sealed beneath 0.3m of top soil and turf.



Fig 3 Test pit 3 - looking north

The two test pits at the southern end of the northern community trench had just been started on Monday afternoon.



Fig 4 Test pits at the southern end of the northern community trench - looking south-west

It was apparent from all the test pits that the 18th and 19th century dump deposits which were encountered all contained a varied assemblage of pottery, animal bone, oyster shell, ctp as can be seen from the finds recovered from Test pit 2 in Fig 5 and Test pit 3 in Fig 6



Fig 5 Finds from Test pit 2



Fig 6 Finds from Test pit 3