

Appendix 4:
Fieldwork Recording Guidance
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Soil descriptions

Fieldwork Recording Guidance

TEST PITS

- Each one should be 0.30m² and must be dug down until a natural deposit or archaeological horizon is found.
- Do not excavate any features and if any finds occur put back into the test pit.
- If any sensitive finds are discovered i.e. an artefact of monetary value or vulnerable to destruction or a cremation/burial very near to the surface and in danger of damage then phone the director of the project, Klara Spandl immediately and ask for advice before proceeding to do anything.
- Finally back fill the test pit straight after recording.
- Be sensible about entering the field. If it is raining heavily do not go into the field and damage the crops.

WALKOVER SURVEY

- An initial walkover survey of each site will be carried out to ascertain the condition of each monument through a surface inspection to compare it to the known evidence and to look for signs of recent disturbance in the form of fresh and friable remains or recent subsoil.
- Part of the sheet will record the presence of subsoil/friable material with space for a basic description of the type of soil/friable material identified. The location of such material will also be recorded using the GPS system so that the information can be studied in relation to the underlying geology or placement on any slope recorded from the contour data

AUGER SURVEY

- Where greater soil depth makes test pitting an unsuitable method for determining depth, an auger survey will be carried out to record the topsoil depth and matrix.
- Augering will also be undertaken alongside test pit excavations on a number of sites so that the results of the two methodologies can be compared. This will test whether relevant changes in soils can be detected through augering and whether this methodology may be a useful alternative to the excavation of test pits in any future use of the methodologies developed.
- Augering will be undertaken alongside *c* 20% of test pits, to be determined in the field.
- The auger pits will be located in relation to the test pits.

Fieldwork Information Sheet

Site Information

For **OA SITE NO** and **FIELD NO** see map provided.

TYPE - Either put **TP** in here for test pit or **AS** for auger survey.

DATE - Date that the test pit is excavated. This must be filled in so that the itinerary for later fieldwork can be adjusted accordingly.

DEPTH OF TEST PIT/ AUGER SURVEY - This is the full depth and must be in metres.

Layer Information

For each separate layer a description must be given. If you have a mix of two soils, perhaps from ploughing, then describe each soil separately and then put in the **LOWER HORIZON** that they are mixed and any further description under **COMMENTS**. NB. The bottom of the test pit must also be given a layer number and described.

LAYER NO - A unique number to each test pit incrementing from one onwards.

INTERPRETATION - **modern plough soil, older plough soil, other** or for the bottom of a test pit **archaeology, subsoil, natural, alluvium, colluvium**

DESCRIPTION - If interpretation is *other* then put in a description of what it is eg. made up ground etc.

COMPOSITION: SECONDARY TEXTURE - **Silty, Sandy, Clayey**, and if sand **Coarse, Medium, Fine Sand** (See chart)

COMPOSITION: PRIMARY TEXTURE - **Silt, Sand, Clay, Peat** (See chart)

1. COMPACTION - If coarse-grained sediments then use:

Indurated - Broken only with sharp pick blow

Strongly Cemented - Cannot be broken with hands

Weakly Cemented - Pick removes sediments in lumps but can be broken with hands

Compact - Requires mattock for excavation

Loose - Can be excavated with hoe or trowel

Hard - Brittle or very tough

If fine-grained sediments then use:

Stiff - Cannot be moulded with fingers

Firm - Moulded only by strong finger pressure

Soft - Easily moulded with fingers

Very soft - Exudes between fingers when squeezed

Friable - Non-plastic, crumbles in fingers

If peat then use:

Firm - Fibres compressed together

Spongy - Very compressible and open structure

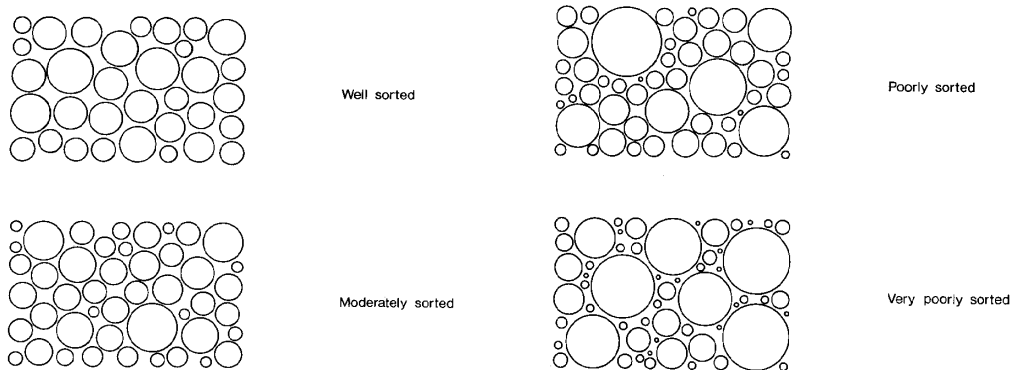
Plastic - Can be moulded in hands and smeared between fingers.

2. MODIFIER - **Light, mid, dark**

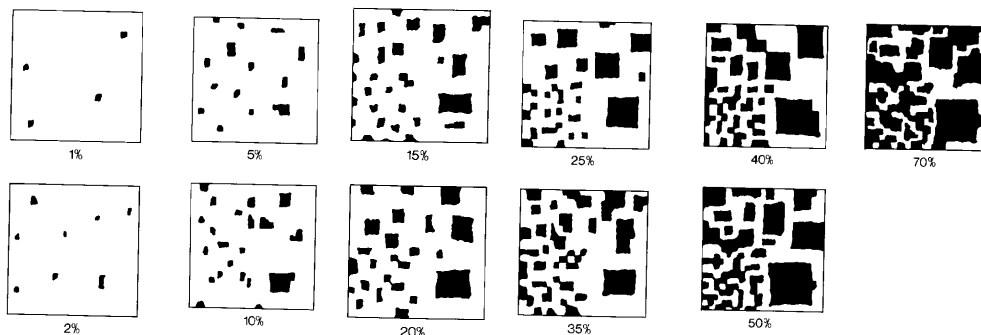
3. HUE - **pinkish, reddish, yellowish, brownish, greenish, bluish, greyish**

4. COLOUR - **pink, yellow, red, brown, green, blue, white, grey, black**

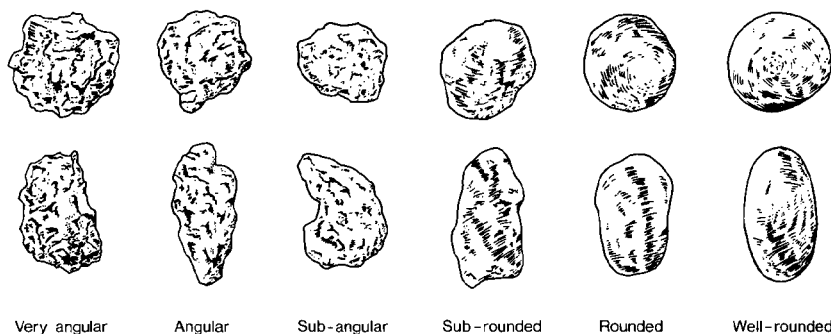
5. SORTING - **Well sorted, Moderately sorted, Poorly sorted, Very poorly sorted**



6. STONINESS: % OF STONES - 1, 2, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 35, 40, 50, 70



7. STONINESS: SHAPE OF STONE - very angular, angular, sub-angular, sub-rounded, rounded, well-rounded



8. STONINESS: SIZE OF STONE - See chart

9. OTHER INCLUSIONS - pottery fragments, charcoal, chalk flecks, other.

10. LOWER HORIZON -

sharp - SH- (change appears over 0-25mm),

clear - CL - (change appears over 25-60mm),

diffuse - DI - (change appears over 60-130mm)

mixed - MI (where soils are mixed together)

and **smooth** - SM - (boundary is plane with few irregularities)

wavy - WA - (boundary has broad shallow pockets)

irregular - IR - (boundary has pockets deeper than they are wide)

broken - BR - (boundary is interrupted)

Extra Information

X and Y - This is for X (eastings) co-ordinates and Y (northings) co-ordinates for any Augur Survey undertaken or if you have to move any test pits due to awkward location.

COMMENTS - Free text box for any extra information, such as evidence of two layers mixed together due to ploughing, more description, anything unusual etc. Also any finds that are found must be recorded here before replacing back into the pit.

Walkover Survey

Site Description

Delete yes or no as appropriate. If there are no earthworks or significant artefact concentrations then choose 'Yes' for **NO TRACE**.

Friable Remains

If yes then choose 'Yes' for **FRIABLE REMAINS** and give each separate friable area a number incrementing from 1.

FA NO - Number incrementing from 1.

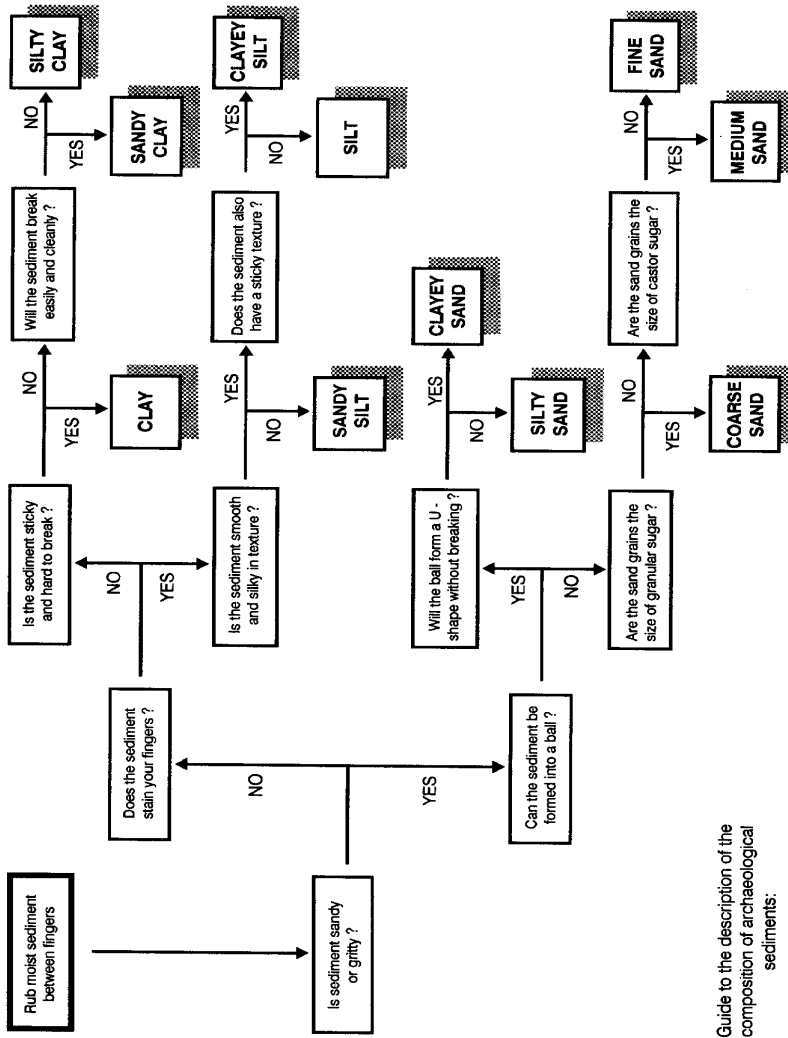
TYPE - Subsoil, Other

DESCRIPTION - If other then describe eg. shell patch etc.

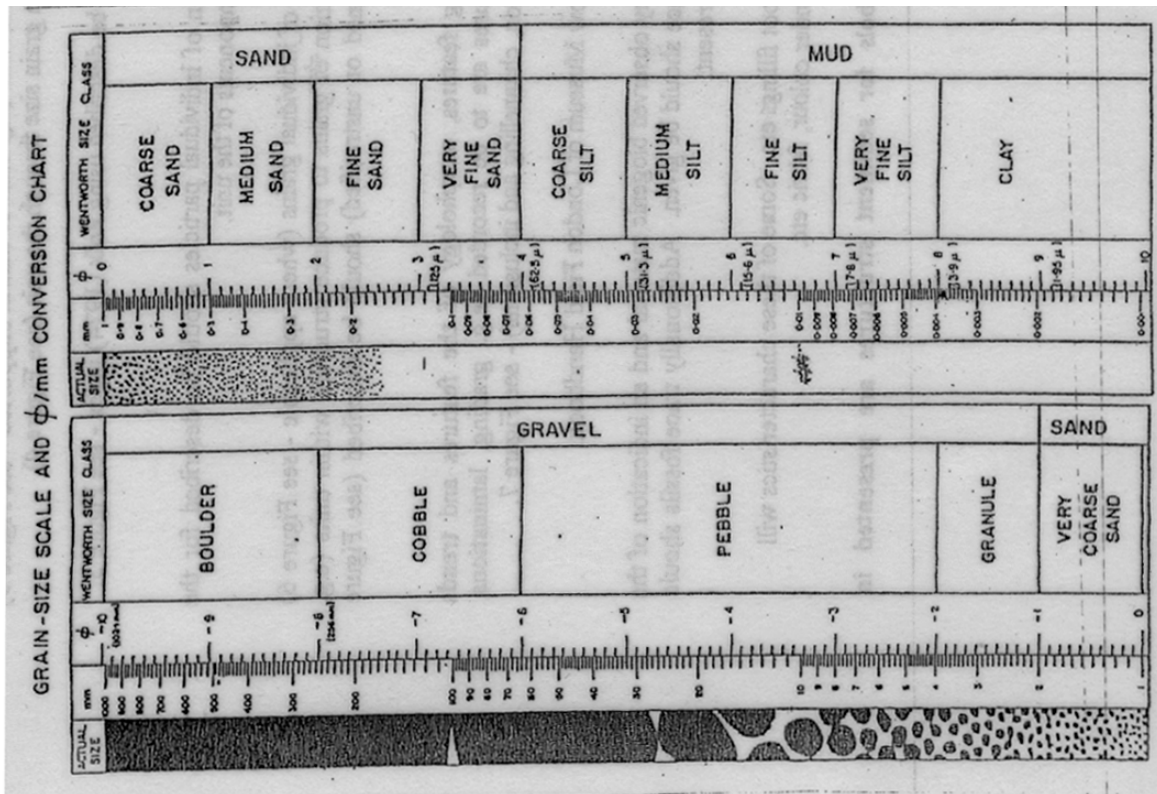
X - from the GPS write down the X co-ordinates or eastings to the nearest metre (6 figures)

Y - from the GPS write down the Y co-ordinates or northings to the nearest metre (6 figures)

COMMENTS - Free text box for any extra information



Guide to the description of the composition of archaeological sediments:



Fieldwork Recording Pro-forma

TEST PITTING/AUGER SURVEY				
OA SITE NO		TYPE		DATE
FIELD NO		No.		Depth of Test Pit/Auger Survey (in metres)
Layer No				
Depth				
Interpretation				
Description				
Composition: Secondary Texture				
Composition: Primary Texture				
1. Compaction				
2. Modifier				
3. Hue				
4. Colour				
5. Sorting				
6. Stoniness: % of Stones				
7. Stoniness: Shape of Stone				
8. Stoniness: Size of Stone				
9. Other Inclusions				
10. Lower Horizon				
X		Comments		
Y				
WALKOVER SURVEY				
SITE DESCRIPTION (DELETE YES OR NO AS APPROPRIATE)				
Upstanding Earthworks (>0.5m)	Yes / No	Eroded Earthworks (<0.5m)	Yes / No	
Significant Artefact Concentration	Yes / No	No Trace	Yes / No	
FRIABLE REMAINS				
Friable Artefacts		Yes / No		
FA No	Type	Description	X	Y
Comments				

CONTINUATION SHEET**TEST PITTING/AUGER SURVEY**

OA SITE NO		TYPE		DATE	
FIELD NO		No.		SHEET NO	

Layer No			
Depth			
Interpretation			
Description			
Composition: Secondary Texture			
Composition: Primary Texture			
1. Compaction			
2. Modifier			
3. Hue			
4. Colour			
5. Sorting			
6. Stoniness: % of Stones			
7. Stoniness: Shape of Stone			
8. Stoniness: Size of Stone			
9. Other Inclusions			
10. Lower Horizon			

Comments**WALKOVER SURVEY****FRIABLE REMAINS**

Friable Artefacts		Yes / No	
FA No	Type	Description	X Y

Comments

Soil Descriptions

Soil Textures

Sand	Predominantly (>85%) sand. Well drained, poor nutrient and water retention, high leaching risk. Easily cultivated but very little, if any, structure. Very high risk of erosion.
Loamy sand	Similar to sand but begins to hold together.
Sandy loam	A mixture of sand with a little silt and clay. Can form a good structure that is not easily damaged especially if there is sufficient organic matter present. Good water availability, moderate nutrient retention, well-drained with high leaching risk. Easily cultivated. Moderate risk of erosion
Sandy silt loam	A mixture of sand and silt with very little clay. Will form a reasonable but weak structure that is easily damaged. Good water availability but low nutrient retention. Well-drained with high leaching risk. Easily cultivated. High risk of erosion
Silt loam	Predominantly silt with very little sand or clay. Forms a weak structure that is easily damaged. Excellent water availability but only moderate nutrient retention. Moderately well-drained with high leaching risk. Easily cultivated. High risk of erosion.
Sandy clay loam	Mixture of sand and clay with some silt, forms a strong structure that may be compacted if the soil is used when wet. Reasonably good water availability and nutrient retention, but often imperfect drainage. Fairly low risk of leaching or erosion. Needs careful management but will give good yields.
Clay loam	Equal mix of sand, silt and clay, forms a strong structure that may be compacted if the soil is used when wet. Good water availability and high nutrient retention but imperfect drainage. Low risk of leaching or erosion. Needs careful management but will give very good yields.
Silty clay loam	Mixture of silt and clay with some sand, forms a good structure that may be compacted if the soil is used when wet. Very good water availability, good nutrient retention but imperfect drainage. Low risk of leaching or erosion. Needs careful management but will give very good yields.
Sandy clay	Mainly clay and sand, forms a strong structure but danger of compaction. Reasonably good water availability and high nutrient retention but often with very poor drainage; very low risk of leaching or erosion. Very difficult to manage.
Silty clay	Mainly clay and silt, forms a strong structure but danger of compaction. Good water availability and high nutrient retention but very poor drainage; very low risk of leaching or erosion. Very difficult to manage.
Clay	Mainly clay, forms a strong structure but danger of compaction. Good water availability and high nutrient retention but very poor drainage; very low risk of leaching or erosion. Difficult to cultivate but gives very good yields.

Soil texture triangle

