TEST PIT
RECORDING BOOKLET
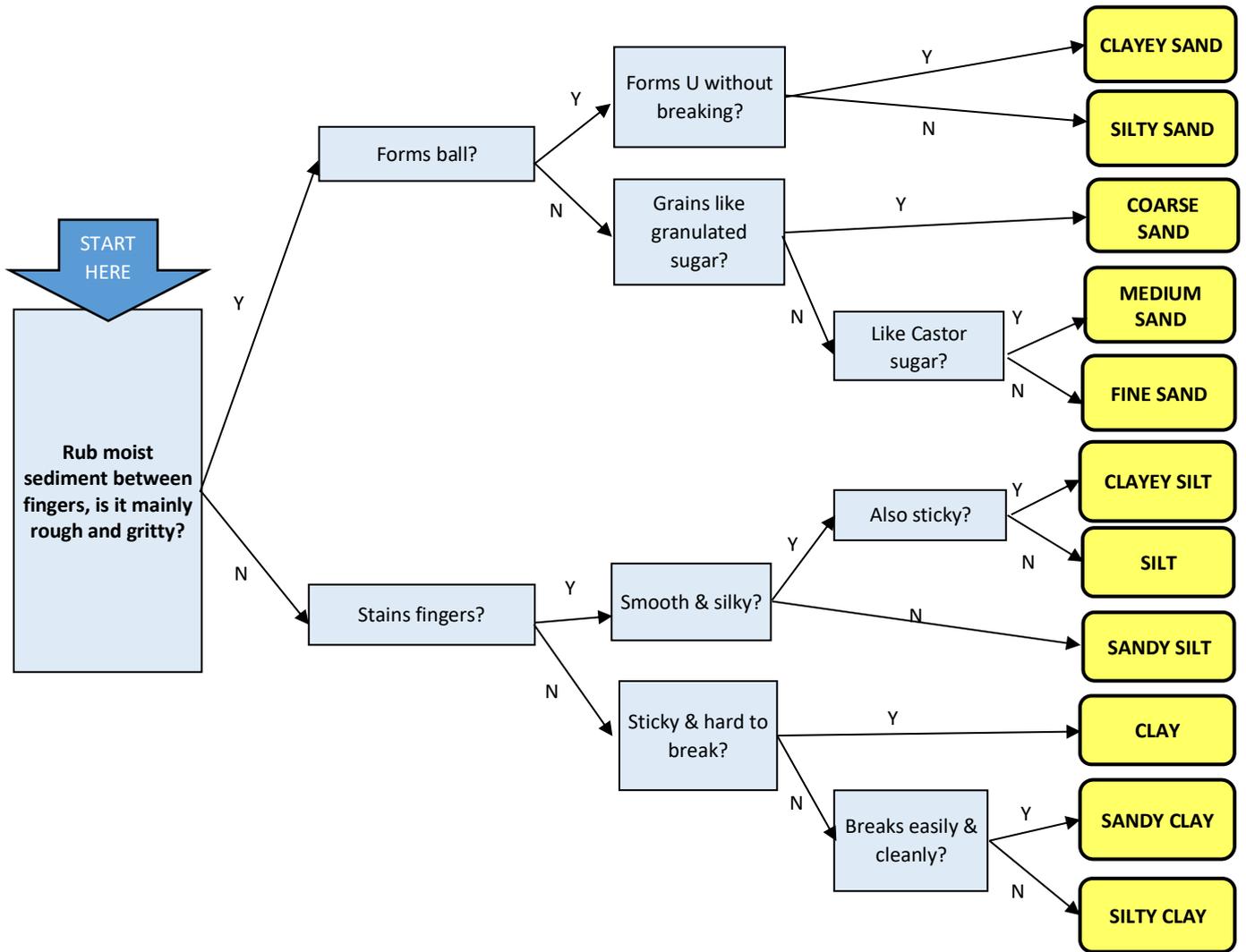
Site Code:		Test Pit number:	

Test Pit location:		Grid reference:	

Test Pit team names:		Date of excavation:	
1.		2.	
3.		4.	
5.		6.	

SOIL RECORDING GUIDES

GUIDE 1: SOIL COMPOSITION

START HERE

Rub moist sediment between fingers, is it mainly rough and gritty?

- Y → Forms ball?
  - Y → Forms U without breaking?
    - Y → **CLAYEY SAND**
    - N → **SILTY SAND**
  - N → Grains like granulated sugar?
    - Y → **COARSE SAND**
    - N → Like Castor sugar?
      - Y → **MEDIUM SAND**
      - N → **FINE SAND**
- N → Stains fingers?
  - Y → Smooth & silky?
    - Y → Also sticky?
      - Y → **CLAYEY SILT**
      - N → **SILT**
    - N → **SANDY SILT**
  - N → Sticky & hard to break?
    - Y → **CLAY**
    - N → Breaks easily & cleanly?
      - Y → **SANDY CLAY**
      - N → **SILTY CLAY**

GUIDE 2: SOIL COLOUR

Use the following combination of modifier, hue and colour to best describe the Layer (e.g. pale reddish orange).

Modifier	Hue	Colour
Pale	Pinkish	Pink
Mid	Reddish	Red
Dark	Yellowish	Yellow
	Orangeish	Orange
	Brownish	Brown
	Greenish	Green
	Bluish	Blue
	Greyish	Grey
		White
		Black

GUIDE 3: PERCENTAGE OF INCLUSIONS

Use the following guide to help judge the percentage of inclusions in the Layer.

1%   15%   40%
2%   20%   50%
5%   25%   70%
10%   35%
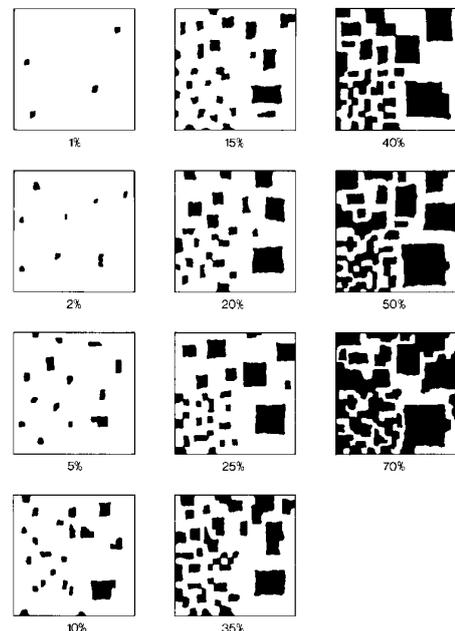
			Site Code:		Test Pit number:	

TEST PIT LOCATION MAP

Map drawn by:

Make an annotated sketch plan of the test-pits location.

- Sho where the test-pit is in relation to features such as houses, boundaries, roads, walls etc. These need to be features that can be found on an Ordnance Survey map.
- Include lines showing the exact distances from the test-pit to permanently identifiable points such as buildings or field corners.
- Draw your test-pit as a square with the corners numbered 1-4, to correlate with the numbers on each Layer plan.
- Draw an arrow showing the direction of North on your map.
- **REMEMBER:** Your plan needs to be understandable to someone who doesn't know the site.

TEST-PIT COMPLETION CHECKLIST		NAME:	
TASK	**COMPLETED**	**TASK**	**COMPLETED**
All Layer sheets completed		Test Pit located with GPS	
Section drawings completed		Test Pit backfilled	
Location map completed		Loaned equipment returned	
Post-excavation photograph taken		Test Pit record form and finds handed in	
All finds bagged and labelled		**SIGNED OFF:**	

LAYER RECORD FORM

Layer recorded by:

	Layer number:	1

1. What depth is the surface of the top of this Layer at the four corners of your test pit (numbered in black boxes below)?

1 0cm	**2** 0cm	**3** 0cm	**4** 0cm

2. Make a measured, labelled plan of this Layer in the gridded square below (1cm on paper = 10cm in pit).

3. Draw an arrow in the box below pointing in the direction of North on your plan.

1						2
3						4

4. Describe what you've drawn on the plan. Add any notes which help explain what you have shown on your plan.

5. What was the soil composition of this Layer? Use **GUIDE 1** on page 1.

6. What colour was this Layer? Use **GUIDE 2** on page 1.

7. What was in this Layer (apart from finds)? Write non-listed inclusions into blank rows if necessary. **GUIDE 3.**

	Present y/n	%	Inclusion size (tick all boxes that apply)			
Stone			Flecks	Small	Med	Large
Charcoal			Flecks	Small	Med	Large
Sand			Flecks	Small	Med	Large
Clay			Flecks	Small	Med	Large
Roots			Flecks	Small	Med	Large
			Flecks	Small	Med	Large
			Flecks	Small	Med	Large
			Flecks	Small	Med	Large

8. What finds were in this Layer? Tick the relevant boxes and/or list any other finds in the space below.

None		Pottery	
Glass		Metal	
Flint		Bone	
Building material		Shell	

RECORDING CHECKLIST	
Task:	**Tick when completed:**
Draw plan of layer **BEFORE** starting to dig it.	
Dig Layer, sieve spoil, keep and record finds (record percentage sieved).	%
Place finds in clearly labelled bag (write site code, test pit number and Layer number on bag).	
Fill in **ALL** of this **LAYER RECORD FORM**.	

Site Code:		Test Pit number:	
		Layer number:	

LAYER RECORD FORM

Layer recorded by:

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1	2	3	4

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3. Draw an arrow in the box below pointing in the direction of North on your plan.

```
 1                         2



 3                         4
```

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LAYER RECORD FORM

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1   **2**

3   **4**

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| 3 | | | | | | | | 4 |

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2

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1	2	3	4

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```
1                          2



3                          4
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LAYER RECORD FORM

Layer recorded by:

Site Code:		Test Pit number:	

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1	2	3	4

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1

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Site Code:		Test Pit number:	

		Layer number:	

LAYER RECORD FORM

Layer recorded by:

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1	2	3	4

2. Make a measured, labelled plan of this Layer in the gridded square below (1cm on paper = 10cm in pit).

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1							2
3							4

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Fill in **ALL** of this **LAYER RECORD FORM**.	

Site Code:		Test Pit number:	

FINAL LAYER RECORD FORM

Layer recorded by:		Layer number:	

1. What depth is the surface of the top of this Layer at the four corners of your test pit (numbered in black boxes below)?

1	**2**	**3**	**4**

2. Make a measured, labelled plan of this Layer in the gridded square below (1cm on paper = 10cm in pit).

3. Draw an arrow in the box below pointing in the direction of North on your plan.

1   **2**

3   **4**

4. Describe what you've drawn on the plan. Add any notes which help explain what you have shown on your plan.

5. Did you excavate your test pit to natural? If not, explain why you stopped digging.

6. How well did your test pit go? What do you think it revealed? Did you have any problems digging the pit which might affect the results? Use this space to record any thoughts that might be useful when writing up the excavation.

RECORDING CHECKLIST	
Task (complete all of these BEFORE backfilling the test pit):	**Tick when completed:**
Photograph your finished pit (make sure the photograph has your test pit number, a scale and a north arrow).	
Draw plan of the bottom of the test pit.	
Complete section drawings of all four sides of your test pit.	
Ensure all finds are in clearly labelled bags (write site code, test pit number and Layer number on bag).	
Fill in **ALL** of this **FINAL LAYER RECORD FORM**.	

Site Code:		Test Pit number:	

SECTION DRAWINGS FORM

Sections recorded by:

Make a measured, labelled section of each side of your test pit in the gridded squares below (1cm on paper = 10cm in pit).

1	Ground level	2

2	Ground level	4

4	Ground level	3

3	Ground level	1