

Collingham Test Pit 7

The Lodge, 2 Dykes End,
South Collingham, NG23 7LD

19th July 2025

On the 19th July 2025 The Collingham and Local District History Society held the seventh annual test pit day in the garden of The Lodge, 2 Dykes End, South Collingham the home of Rich Roberts and Ann Hudson who kindly gave us permission to dig this years test pit at their home.

The Lodge dates back to the early 18th century and was a two storey cottage positioned to the east of the current north facing front door with the original entrance door now blocked up and hidden behind the climbing hydrangea. There is a inglenook still in place inside the chimney breast but this is now bricked up at the front to form a smaller opening. This cottage was possibly part of a row of cottages which would line up with 6 Dykes End and these cottage which are now demolished would have stood where the current garage building stands today and still has signs of a former chimney and fireplace in the wall.

In the late 18th or early 19th century the three storey east facing wing of the house was built complete with cellars and an entrance hall which runs front to back in the house. Also in the mid 19th century a further two storey extension was built to fill in the gap between the original old cottage and the more recent three storey wing. A large bay window and porch were added later and this would have been the front of the house as this time. A Victorian glasshouse was added to the rear of the three storey part of the house and it is possible that the west brick facade was also rebuilt and evident in the differing bricks on this elevation.

Finally in the 20th century a two storey extension was added to the south east corner to provide a modern kitchen and bathroom.

We believe that based on the 1841 census Henry and Charlotte Hutchinson lived in the house, it was then lived in by John Broadbent who was the doctor in the village until his death in 1901. He was married three times and had eight sons one of whom succeeded him as doctor to the village.

The next occupant was Henry Joseph Wigram who moved in 1901 and was the son of John Wigram who lived at The Manor House on Low Street and it is at this time the house became known as The Lodge.

In the 20th century the house was owned by several families including the Seagrave's, the Curtis's, the Benbow's, the Pease's and the Allen's. The current owners moved in in 2022.

The site of our test pit on the Dykes End side of the house was chosen as there was a 16th century thatched cottage standing there until approximately 1900. The cottage is believed to have been lived in by William and Martha Holland in the 1880s and 1890s. There is a photograph and painting of the cottage which is included in this report below. However by 1920 the OS map shows that the cottage has been demolished and a date stone in the garden wall has the date of 1902 so it seems very likely that the cottage was demolished just prior to this date following the death of John Broadbent in 1901. It was hoped that excavating in this area may shed some light on the history of this now vanished cottage.



19C map showing the location of the demolished cottage



19C photograph of the cottage prior to demolition and the construction of the new boundary wall in 1902, note the position of the central brick chimney.

Despite the forecast of heavy rain we set up our gazebos, one for coffee and cake, one for the washing of finds and one over the test pit location. Our test pit team consisted of Rich and Ann (our hosts), Lawrence, Nigel, Christine and Phil. The final position was agreed and we set out the 1m x 1m test pit position and recorded its position using a grid reference of SK82960/61356 and a "What3Words reference of Supply/Mild/Foot. The turf was then carefully removed and stored in a corner of the garden so it could be replaced in the same order as it was removed. Once we had removed the turf and trowelled the soil surface to confirm that there was nothing immediately below the lawn we completed our first Spit Record Form and prepared to dig the first 25cm spit.



Turf removed

25cm Spit

Digging down through the first 25cm we found we were in a layer of good garden soil with no particular features or layers. But we did find several pieces of Victorian/19C glazed and patterned pottery and terra cotta pottery one piece having letters stamped on it which was likely to be flower pots. There was also brick and tile fragments and pieces of lime plaster together with a small amount of coal pieces which showed that we were hopefully on the site of the old cottage. Once we had reached 25cm the surface was trowelled level and cleaned ready for completing the Spit record Form for this level, whilst there were still no features to record the soil was turning more yellow indicating that we were getting to the bottom of the top soil levels.



25cm spit dug and trowelled up

50cm Spit

Despite the heavy rain we carried on digging the next spit down to 50cm. As we dug we noticed that there was more building debris being excavated. In the north west corner the colour of the soil changed to a more yellowy colour with a lot of lime plaster fragments and it was suspected that this may be the floor of the old cottage beginning to show up. The south east corner revealed bricks which were still in situ although it was unclear what this could be at this stage. The finds were mainly brick fragments and pieces of lime mortar and render, there was also some coal fragments and one piece of early purple glazed pottery, one piece of cream glazed pottery and strangely one piece of what appeared to be roman grey ware pottery, there was one piece of 18C clay pipe stem which equates nicely with the date of the cottage and the pottery finds other than the roman pottery which is a bit of a mystery how it came to be in our excavation. The excavated surface was trowelled and cleaned so it could be photographed and recorded before commencing the next spit of excavation.



Nigel standing on the cottage floor level at 50cm

55cm Spit

We would have normally dug another 25cm spit before cleaning and recording our finds however it became clear at 55cm that we had reached the old floor surface of the demolished cottage and it was agreed not to dig through this but record it as it is and only dig down at one edge to establish the depth and construction of this floor. Also we had uncovered an electric cable which crossed north to south on the east side of our test pit so we obviously could not disturb this. Having trowelled and cleaned this surface it was photographed and recorded in the booklet and all the finds passed to the finds washing team. It was time for lunch so we all gathered under the second gazebo to eat the numerous cakes and drink our teas and coffees trying to avoid the worst of the rain which was coming down in buckets at this time.



55cm spit showing the floor construction, electric cable & top of brick chimney base.



Coffee and cake in the rain

75cm Spit

The weather having improved after lunch we returned to the test pit to decide what to do next. It was agreed to initially extend the pit excavation to west and excavate down to 75cm to give us a section through the floor construction to establish its thickness and construction and confirm that the natural soil was underneath this floor construction. We also extended the test pit excavation to the east to try and understand what the brickwork was for. Having excavated this brickwork it seemed to be the base of a chimney/fireplace built of brick unlike the original cottage which was built in the lias stone common in the 16C cottages of the village. This fireplace was probably built in the 18C to replace the original open hearth which these earlier cottages had when originally built with the smoke from these hearths just percolation through the thatch and having no chimney. However due to the risk of fire and as these cottages were improved and updated many were altered to incorporate a brick built chimney either in the middle of the house where the original hearth would have been or attached to the gable end of the house as is the case with The White House on Low Street. This 75cm surface was trowelled and cleaned up for recording and photographs and that concluded our test pit excavations.



75cm slot dug at east side of test pit



Base of chimney/hearth at 55cm in the eastern extension to the test pit



Washing the finds in the rain

Backfilling

We had quite a few visitors by this time as the weather was slightly drier than the morning and we left the pit excavation open so people could see what we had discovered. We also took further measurements and records so we could re open this excavation in the future and be sure that we missed the electrical cable and found the brick chimney/hearth we had found and excavate it fully so we could understand its position and age relative to the old cottage. At 3pm we re filled the pit and replaced the turf and tidied up so it looked like we had never been there and finished off the cakes with a final cup of coffee.



Overall view of the test pit prior to backfilling note the rain dripping off the gazebo!

The Finds

The finds which are photographed in spit level groups below tell us the storey of a Victorian 19C garden overlaying a 18C/17C cottage floor with a 19C/18C brick built chimney/hearth addition, the amount of mortar and broken building materials backs up the cottage being demolished and the lack of stone fragments indicates that this stone was reused to build the garden wall which incorporates the date brick of 1902. It is intriguing that a small sherd of roman pottery has turned up again in one of our test pits and hopefully one day we will find out a bit more about the roman presence in the village. It was also noted that the depth of soil with archaeological finds was only 60cm before we came into natural sand and gravel, this is compared with 100cm in our other test pits which suggests that the eastern side of Collingham may have not been occupied as intensively as the the western side, the lack of any early medieval/Saxon pottery also backs this up.

0-25cm





25-50cm



50-75cm

After washing and photographing all the finds and writing up the Test Pit Recording Booklet I have now added to the back of this report. A copy of which will be available on the CDLHS website and at the History Centre on Swinderby Road, Collingham.

Finally I would like to thank the whole of the Test Pit Team and our hosts Rich and Ann for all their hard work, not only on the day, which was very wet and windy, but also before and after the event helping me moving the gazebos and other equipment to and from the garden. Also to our hardy visitors who braved the weather to come and see what we were up to and discover what we had found in Rich and Anns garden.

Phil Docherty

TEST PIT RECORDING BOOKLET

Site Code:	TL 25	Test Pit number:	1
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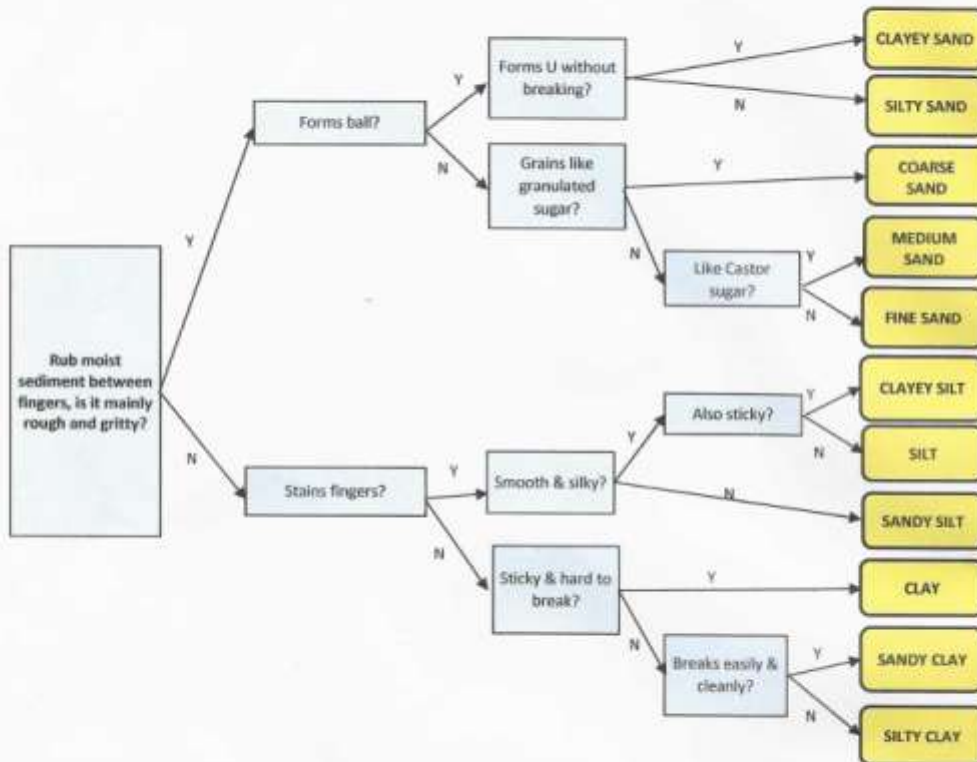
Test Pit location:	FRONT (N) SANDW	Grid reference:	SK82960/61356
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(W3W : SUPPLY + MILD. FOOT)

Test Pit team names:	Date of excavation:
1. PAUL DOHERTY	2. RICH & ANN HUDSON/ROBERTS
3. NISSEL PRIESTLEY	4. CHRISTINE HASMAN
5. JEREMY LODGE	6. LAWRENCE KNOWLES

SOIL RECORDING GUIDES

GUIDE 1: SOIL COMPOSITION



GUIDE 2: SOIL COLOUR

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

Hue	Modifier	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 spit.

Spit recorded
by:

- 1 0cm 2 0cm 3 0cm 4 0cm

1c Below TUNE

2. Make a measured, labelled plan of this spit 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

NO FEATURES FOUND

3

4

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

SANDEN SIL

Site Code:	TL 25	Test Pit number:	1
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ASD	Spit number:	1
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5. What was the soil composition of this spit? Use **GUIDE 1** on page 1.

MID BROWNISH BROWN

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

SANDY SILT

7. What was in this spit (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	Y		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 spit? Tick the relevant boxes and/or list any other finds in the space below.

None	Pottery
Glass	Metal
Flint	Bone
Building material	Shell

NO FINDS

RECORDING CHECKLIST

Task:	Tick when completed:
Draw plan of layer BEFORE starting to dig it.	✓
Dig spit, since <u>spit</u> , keep and record finds (record percentage sieved).	100 %
Place finds in clearly labelled bag (write site code, test pit number and spit number on bag).	✓
Fill in ALL of this SPIT RECORD FORM .	

Spit recorded
by:

Site Code:	TL 25	Test Pit number:	1
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Spit number: 2

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

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

Hand-drawn diagram of a 10x10 grid with a 2x2 header. The header cells contain '1', '2', '3', and '4'. The grid contains the text '↑N' in the top-right cell and 'NO FEATURES FOUND' in the center.

7. What was in this spit (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	Y		Flecks	Small	Med	Large
Charcoal	Y		Flecks	Small	Med	Large
Sand	Y		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

None		Pottery	✓
Glass		Metal	
Flint		Bone	
Building material	✓	Shell	

COAL

NO FEATURES FOUND BUT SMALL
PIECES OF VICTORIAN (19C) POT,
TERRA COTTA POT (FOOTING POT?),
LIME PLASTER & BUILDING MATERIAL
(BRICK & RENDER)

Task:	Tick when completed:
Draw plan of layer BEFORE starting to dig it.	✓
Dig spit, save <u>spill</u> , keep and record finds (record percentage sieved).	100 %
Place finds in clearly labelled bag (write site code, test pit number and spit number on bag).	✓
Fill in ALL of this SPIT RECORD FORM .	

SPIT RECORD FORM

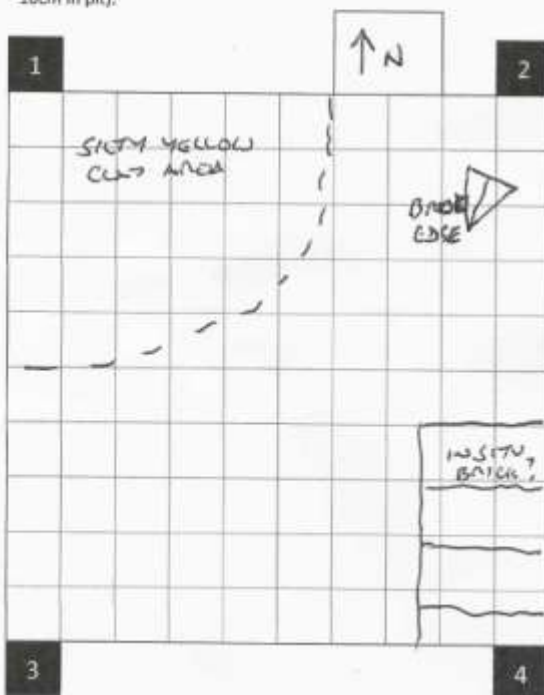
Spit recorded by:

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

1 SO 2 SO 3 SO 4 SO

2. Make a measured, labelled plan of this spit 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.



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

TOP OF DEMOLISHED BRICK WALL WITH MORTAR JOINTING IN ONE CORNER. YELLOWISH SLIGHTLY CLAYEY AREA IN OTHER NW CORNER WITH FLECKS OF CHARCOAL, THIS COULD BE THE COARSE FLOOR LEVEL

Site Code: TL 25 Test Pit number: 1

RJD Spit number: 3

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

SANDY SILT

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

MID YELLOWISH BROWN

7. What was in this spit (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 spit? Tick the relevant boxes and/or list any other finds in the space below.

None		Pottery	
Glass		Metal	
Flint		Bone	
Building material	✓	Shell	
CHUNKS OF LIME MORTAR & TERRA COTTA BRICK/TILE BTJ			

RECORDING CHECKLIST

Task:	Tick when completed:
Draw plan of layer BEFORE starting to dig it.	✓
Dig spit, save spit, keep and record finds (record percentage sieved).	100 %
Place finds in clearly labelled bag (write site code, test pit number and spit number on bag).	✓
Fill in ALL of this SPIT RECORD FORM.	

SPIT RECORD FORM

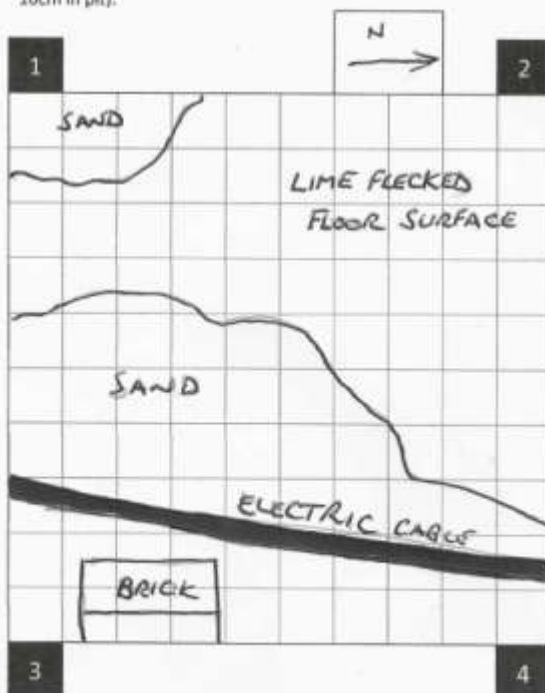
Spit recorded by:

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

1 SS 2 SS 3 SS 4 SS

2. Make a measured, labelled plan of this spit 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.



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

Site Code: TL25 Test Pit number: 1

PJSD

Spit number: 3A

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

SANDY SILT

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

DARK YELLOWISH BROWN

7. What was in this spit (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	Y		Flecks	Small	Med	Large
Charcoal	Y		Flecks	Small	Med	Large
Sand	Y		Flecks	Small	Med	Large
Clay	N		Flecks	Small	Med	Large
Roots	N		Flecks	Small	Med	Large
			Flecks	Small	Med	Large
			Flecks	Small	Med	Large
			Flecks	Small	Med	Large

8. What finds were in this spit? 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 spit, sieve ^{keep} spill , keep and record finds (record percentage sieved).	100 %
Place finds in clearly labelled bag (write site code, test pit number and spit number on bag).	✓
Fill in ALL of this SPIT RECORD FORM.	

Site Code:	TL 25	Test Pit number:	1
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SPIT RECORD FORM

Spit recorded by:

AJED

Spit number: 4

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

1 75 2 75 3 75 4 75

2. Make a measured, labelled plan of this spit 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.



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

WE ONLY DUG 20CM STAMP ALONG THE WEST SIDE OF THE TEST PIT SO AS TO NOT DISTURB THE COTTAGE FLOOR LEVEL TOO MUCH. ONCE THROUGH THE FLOOR WE WENT STRAIGHT INTO THE NATURAL SAND & GRAVEL WITH NO FINDS AT ALL.

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

FINE SAND

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

MID YELLOWISH ORANGE

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

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

8. What finds were in this spit? 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 spit, sieve spoil, keep and record finds (record percentage sieved).	100 %
Place finds in clearly labelled bag (write site code, test pit number and spit number on bag).	☒
Fill in ALL of this SPIT RECORD FORM.	

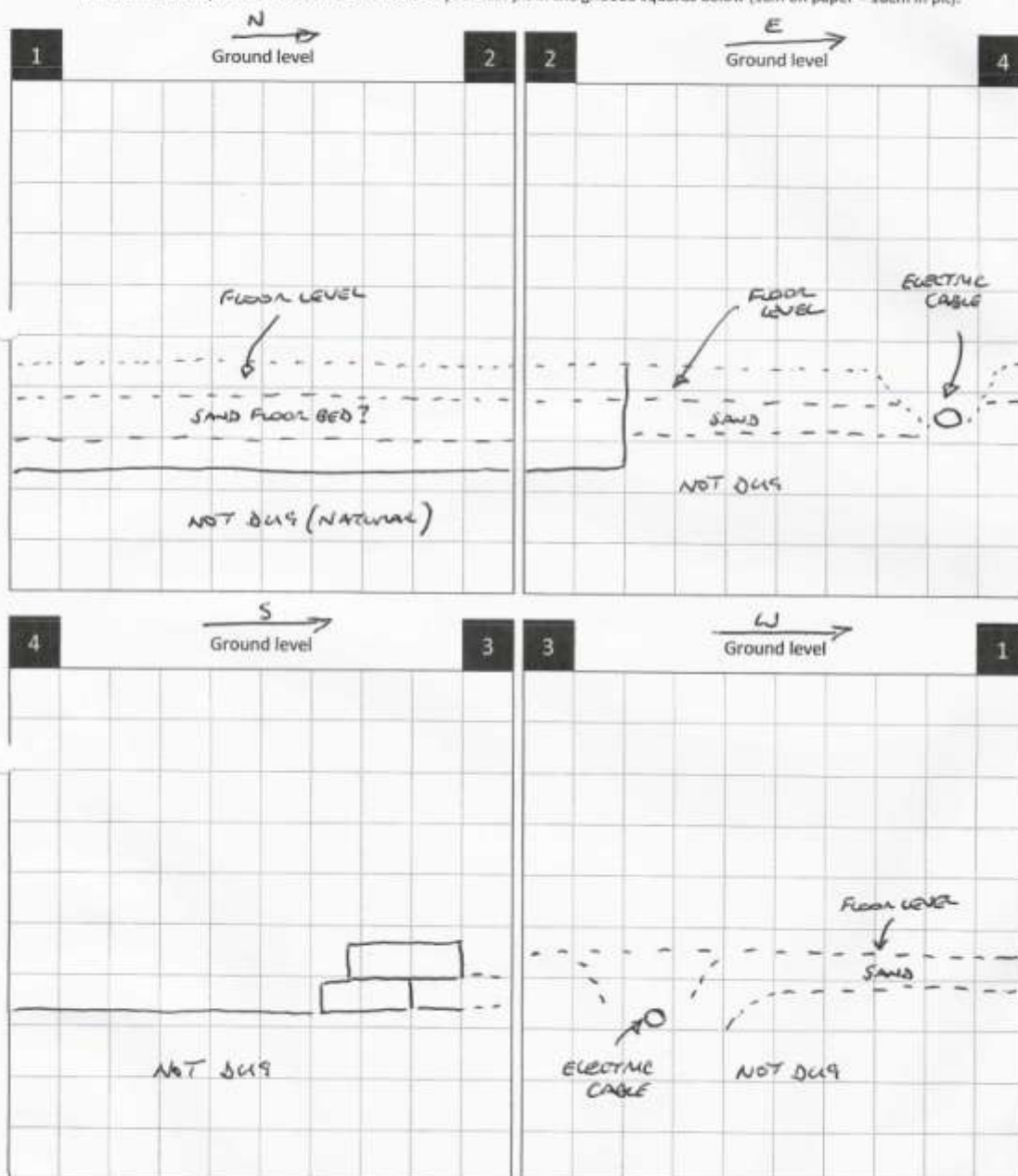
Site Code:	TL 25	Test Pit number:	1
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SECTION DRAWINGS FORM

Sections recorded by:

RGL

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



Site Code:	TL 25	Test Pit number:	1
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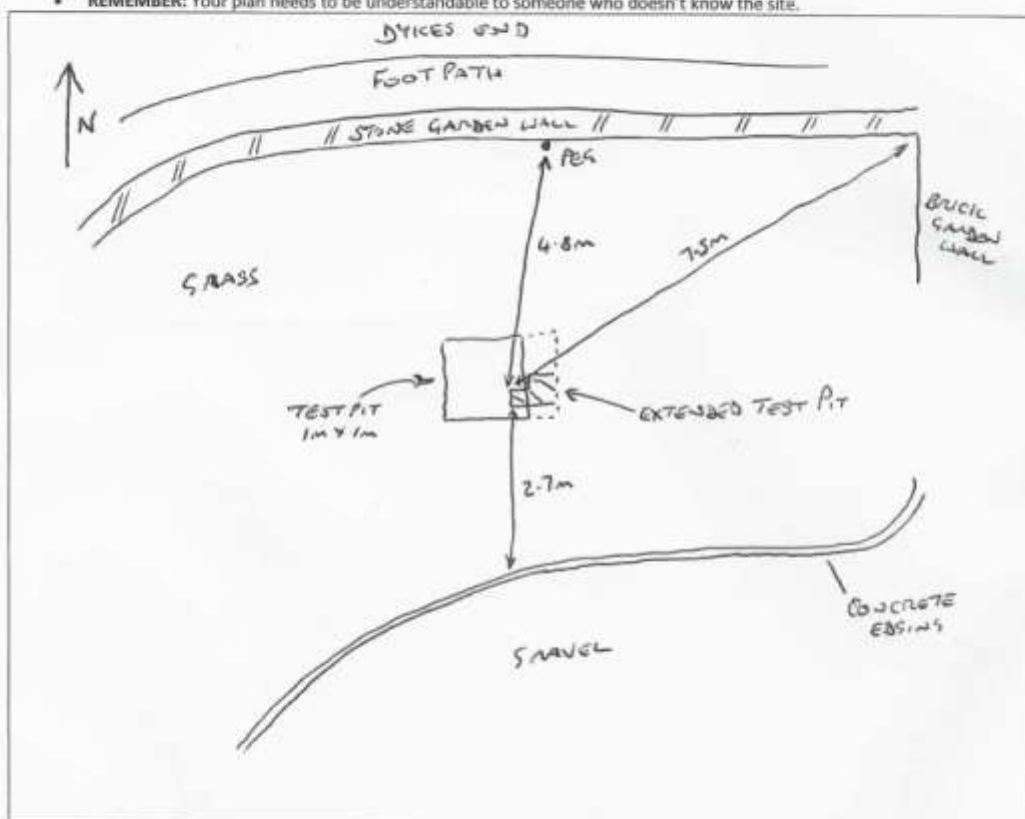
TEST PIT LOCATION MAP

Map drawn by:

AJGD

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

- Show 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 spit 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.



SUPERVISOR'S CHECKLIST		NAME:	AJGD
TASK	COMPLETED	TASK	COMPLETED
All spit 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:	AJGD