

WS5.1 – Soil Detective Toolkit

Part 1: Soil Observation Sheet

Name: _____

Location: _____

Date: _____

Weather: Sunny / Cloudy / Rainy / Windy / Other _____

1. TEXTURE TEST (HAND FEEL)

☐ Sandy ☐ Silty ☐ Clay ☐ Loam

Notes: _____

2. MOISTURE LEVEL

☐ Dry ☐ Slightly Damp ☐ Wet

Notes: _____

3. SMELL TEST

☐ Earthy ☐ Sour ☐ No Smell ☐ Other: _____

Notes: _____

4. COLOUR

☐ Dark Brown ☐ Brown ☐ Reddish ☐ Grey ☐ Pale/White

What might this mean? _____

5. COMPACTION TEST

Was it easy to dig? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Pencil test depth (cm): _____

Notes: _____

6. VISIBLE LIFE (Tick all that apply)

☐ Worms ☐ Insects ☐ Roots ☐ Fungi ☐ Mycelium ☐ Other: _____

7. SURFACE COVER (Tick one or more)

☐ Bare ☐ Mulch ☐ Weeds ☐ Leaf Litter ☐ Grass ☐ Other: _____

8. ORGANIC MATTER

☐ Low ☐ Medium ☐ High

What did you see? _____

9. SKETCH BOX

Draw your soil sample and the life/forms you observed:

[Sketch space – draw your soil layer, roots, worms, etc.]

Use this sheet as part of your Soil Detective investigation. Compare results with other sites or track changes over time.