



# The OPAL Soil and Earthworm Survey

Upload your results to the OPAL website  
[www.opalexplornature.org](http://www.opalexplornature.org)

## A Site characteristics

1. Date of survey \_\_\_\_\_

3. Who are you doing the Soil Survey with today?  Primary school  Secondary school  Friends or family  
 College / university  Youth group  Adult volunteer group  Other

3. Do you think soil and earthworms are important?  yes  no

4. Record the location of your site (postcode / OS grid reference / GPS reading).

Further help is available on the OPAL website if you are unsure of the exact location.

5. Choose the best description of your sampling site. Please tick one.

Garden  Parkland  Playing field  Wood or forest  Heath or moorland  
 Ploughed field  Grassy verge  Industrial site  Open grassy field  Other \_\_\_\_\_

6. What is the surrounding area like?  urban  suburban  countryside

7. How far is the nearest road?

Less than 20 metres  20-100 metres  More than 100 metres *Name of road* \_\_\_\_\_

8. Can you see any of the following signs of pollution? Tick all those that apply.

Storage tanks  Rubbish  Industrial chimneys  Discharge pipes  Foam on water surface  Other

9. What is the weather like today?



10. How much of the ground in your sample square is covered in living plants (including grass)?

All bare earth  Mostly bare earth  Half earth, half plants  Mostly covered with plants  Totally covered with plants

## B The soil pit and earthworms

Use the Earthworm Identification Guide to help.

11. How many worms did you find in the soil pit? Immatures  Adults

12. How long did it take the water to drain away from the soil pit?  Less than 3 minutes? \_\_\_\_\_ minutes \_\_\_\_\_ seconds  
 More than 3 minutes

13. How many deep burrowing worms did you find? Immatures  Adults

## C Soil properties

14. How many plant roots are there in the soil you have removed?  No roots  A few roots  Lots of roots

15. Can you see any objects in the soil that do not look like they should naturally be there? Select all that apply.

Construction material  Metal  Glass  Cut wood  Other  None

16. Push the pointed end of a pencil or pen into the soil surface.  
How hard was it to push into the soil?

Easy  Difficult  Very difficult

