Table 1. Attributes examined and recorded in thin section micromorphological analysis, and details of Access database.

General attributes analysed

General information on context, deposit, and sample number etc.
Boundary between deposits
Deposit thickness
Microstructure type (pattern of voids in deposit)
Particle size
Sorting
Coarse/fine material arrangement (depositional geometry)
Groundmass
Fine material
Pedofeatures (Post-depositional alterations)

Inclusions: Plant remains
             Dung
             Other inclusions

Interpretation: Origin
             Deposition
             Plant use and taphonomy
             Activity
             Natural events and post-depositional alterations
             Comments
             Comparisons

Information recorded on Access database Form 1 (Thin Section Information)

Global Index number
Site
Field section number
Thin section sample number
Microstratigraphic unit number
Vertical context
Location [Horizontal context]
Phase
Site Unit no.
Flotation object no.
Site deposit type no.
Micromorphological deposit type no.
Purity
Context type [code]
Context interpretation
Adjacent features
Field description and interpretation
Deposit type [micromorphological brief description of salient characteristics]
Data entry [date]

Boundary: sharpness: description: measurement:
                     form
                     contrast
                     interpretation

Deposit thickness   min: max:

[Sub-table with multiple entries if needed]
Microstructure type

        total porosity
        void: type
                abundance: min: max:
                size: min: max:
                shape
                regularity of walls
                degree of accommodation
                orientation: basic referred related
                distribution: basic referred related

        Ped: type
                grade of pedality
                abundance: min: max:
                size: min: max:
                surface roughness
                degree of accommodation
                distribution: basic   referred

Particle size: min: max:

Sorting: fabric
      specific inclusion types

[Thin Section Information main form]

Coarse/fine limit
Coarse/fine ratio
Coarse/fine abundance
Coarse/fine related distribution: type
                            abundance min: max:

[Sub-table with multiple entries if needed]
Groundmass b-fabric: type
                            abundance min: max:
                            size/thickness
                            continuity
                            orientation
                            distribution

[Sub-table with multiple entries if needed]
Fine material: type
                abundance min: max:
                colour PPL
                colour XPL
                colour RL
                limpidity
                primary fluorescence

Coarse material fabric

[Sub-table with multiple entries if needed]

Pedofeatures:
    type
    group
    sub-group
    abundance %: min: max:
    size mm: min: max:
    morphology
    boundary sharpness
    boundary roughness
    boundary contrast
    degree of accommodation
    colour: PPL   XPL   RL
    birefringence
    orientation: basic, referred and related
    distribution: basic, referred and related
    occurrence
    variability

Interpretation

Origin
Deposition
Plant use and taphonomy
Activity
Natural events and post-depositional alterations
Comments
Comparisons

Access database Form 2 (Inclusions)

Global Index number:
Thin section no:
Unit no.:

Inclusions

All inclusions:
Orientation: basic
                  referred
                  related

Distribution: basic
                  referred
                  related

[Sub-table with multiple entries if needed]
Specific types of inclusions which may differ in orientation or distribution from the rest of the inclusions:

                  type of inclusion:
Orientation: basic
                  referred
                  related

Distribution: basic
                  referred
                  related

[Sub-table with multiple entries if needed]
Plant remains: type [charred, siliceous, melted silica, calcareous ashes, pseudomorphic voids, desiccated, other]
                  abundance: min: max:
                  size: min: max:
                  shape
                  internal structure
                  plant part
                  plant identification
                  colour: PPL   XPL   RL
                  opacity
                  birefringence
                  primary fluorescence
                  preservation/alteration [description in text] [code: 1-3]

[Sub-table with multiple entries if needed]
Dung/coprolite remains:

type number
type description
abundance %:   min: max:
size mm: min: max:
shape
internal characteristics
colour: PPL   XPL   RL
birefringence
primary fluorescence

[Sub-table with multiple entries if needed]
Inclusions: type
abundance %:   min: max:
size mm: min: max:
shape
internal characteristics
orientation: basic, referred, related
distribution: basic, referred, related
colour: PPL   XPL   RL
opacity
internal structure
birefringence
primary fluorescence
preservation/alteration [description in text] [code]
identification

[Other inclusions include the following categories and types and are recorded in one sub-table which can have multiple entries:]

Inclusions category	Inclusions type
Other organic remains:	organic aggregates, spores, bacteria, hyphae
Inorganic remains:	bone, shell, diatoms
Artefacts:	flint, obsidian, grindstone fragments, pottery
Anthopogenic aggregates:	building materials, burnt aggregates
Mineral aggregates:	water-laid aggregates or crusts; soil
Rock fragments:	calcareous, volcanic glass
Minerals:	quartz, feldspars, biotite, muscovite, olivines etc.
Other inclusions:	

abundance %:   min: max:
size mm: min: max:
shape
colour: PPL   XPL   RL
opacity
internal structure
birefringence
primary fluorescence
preservation/alteration
comments