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Station one:

Prepare your soil sample!

To get our soil ready for the experiment we need to sieve and then grind it into a fine powder.

1. Take a handful of soil and sieve it. Empty what is left in the sieve into a tray or bowl and label the bowl with the number that is on your bag of soil.
2. Use the mortar and pestle to grind up the soil you've sieved into a nice fine powder.
3. Measure out 5 grams of your soil on the scales (use a beaker and remember to tare the scales!)
4. Pour your soil into a test tube

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Station two:

Make your solution

Key word: SOLUTION – something that has been dissolved in water

1. Use the pipette to drop 5ml of water into your test tube
2. Put the cork in the top of the test tube, and gently swirl the test tube for 30 seconds to mix the soil and the water
3. Let the test tube stand for another minute
4. Pull out the cork and use the pipette to take out a small amount of the solution.

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Station three:

The results!

1. Pull off a small strip of litmus paper – it doesn't need to be any bigger than 2cm!
2. Take one drop of your solution and drop it onto the piece of litmus paper. Leave it for 30 seconds
3. Assess the colour and decide what the pH of your soil sample is.
4. Write down your results on the chart – remember to note what context number your soil sample is from

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Station four:

The rest of the soil!

1. We now need to analyse the rest of our soil sample.
2. Take the stuff that was left in the sieve and place it under one of the magnifying glasses
3. Look for tiny artefacts like small pieces of metal, bone, glass or pottery
4. Organise anything you find in the trays and separate them into different groups – these things can tell us so much about the archaeology, and can give us clues about what certain areas of the site were used for.