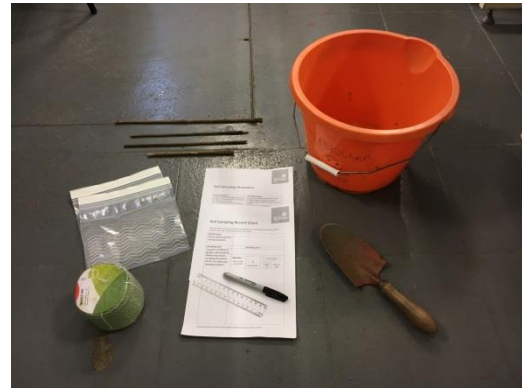


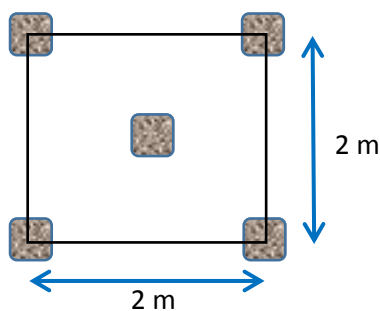
# Soil Sampling Procedure

In your sampling kit	You will also need
2 sealable polyethylene bags (15 x 23 cm)	A spade or trowel (stainless steel if possible)
String marked in 2 m intervals	A plastic bucket or large mixing bowl
Soil sampling record sheet	4 canes or other markers (twigs are ideal)
Envelope (addressed to the university)	A ruler and a permanent marker pen

All your apparatus should be clean and rust-free.



1. Select an area to collect your soil sample.  
Ideally this should be grass-covered e.g. a lawn or playing field. It should be a clear open space away from buildings, roads and car parks; not under trees; and avoiding waterlogged areas.
2. Mark out a 2 metre square using the string provided and canes or twigs.
3. Clear away any loose debris (litter etc) inside your sampling square.
4. Write the name of your school and the date clearly on both sampling bags.
5. Use the procedure on the back of this sheet to collect five **individual soil samples**, one from each of the four corners and one from the centre of your marked sampling square.



**PLEASE TURN OVER**

At each point:

- a. Carefully cut through just the surface grass and roots in an area roughly 15 cm square and remove the square of turf to reveal the bare soil. Put this to one side.
- b. Dig down to a depth of roughly 10 cm – check the depth with your ruler – and place all of the soil removed into your bucket or mixing bowl. Add all five individual samples to the same bucket or bowl.



6. When all five samples have been collected, mix them together thoroughly to create your **bulk soil sample**.
7. Transfer approximately 250 g of your bulk soil sample into one of the polyethylene bags.
8. Use the rest of the soil to fill up the holes and put the turf back on top tidily. The sampling area should be left in the same state you found it.
9. Seal the bag and place it inside the second bag so that the sample is double sealed.
10. Complete your soil sampling record sheet
11. Post your soil sample **and your completed sampling record sheet** in the envelope provided to:



Dr Christine M Davidson  
Analysis of Soils in Scottish Schools Project  
Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry  
University of Strathclyde  
295 Cathedral Street  
GLASGOW G60 5ER, UK

**ALWAYS WASH YOUR HANDS AFTER HANDLING SOIL**