



STRABOSAMPLES

USER GUIDE

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1 Introduction

1.1 Welcome to StraboSamples

StraboSamples is the part of StraboSpot that keeps track of your physical samples. A geologic sample rarely stays in one place: it is collected and described in the field, cut into thin sections and imaged under the microscope, and sometimes cored and deformed in the laboratory. StraboSpot supports each of those steps with its own application, and StraboSamples gives every sample **one shared record** that all of those applications write to. A sample's full history can therefore be found in one place.

StraboSamples is part of the StraboSpot website (<https://strabospot.org>). There is nothing to install: sign in with your StraboSpot account and open **My Samples** from the account menu.

StraboSamples provides:

- **One record per sample:** When the same sample is uploaded from StraboField, StraboMicro or StraboExperimental, every upload lands on the same record, which lists each project that uses the sample.
- **Automatic records:** Records are created and linked when you upload projects from the applications you already use. There are no extra steps, and your existing sample IDs are kept as they are.
- **My Samples dashboard:** Search, sort and filter all of your samples by application or by sharing status (Section 3).
- **Sample Overview page:** One page per sample with its metadata, links to every project that uses it, and a URL you can share (Section 4).
- **Samples created on the web:** Record samples that have not been used in any application yet, such as samples waiting in the storeroom (Section 5).
- **Parent and child samples:** Record how a hand sample was split into billets, cores, thin sections or mineral separates, and move through that family interactively (Section 6).
- **Per-sample collaboration:** Invite colleagues to view or edit individual samples, separately from project membership (Section 7).
- **Complete change history:** Every change records who made it, when, from which application, and the old and new values (Section 4.6).
- **Spreadsheet import and export:** Update many samples at once from Excel or CSV, review every change before it is saved, and keep your own extra columns (Section 9).
- **Edits flow back:** Changes made on the web are sent back to the linked StraboField data, so the next download into the app includes them (Section 8).

1.2 The StraboSpot Ecosystem

StraboSpot is a digital data system for collecting, managing, integrating and sharing field and laboratory data in the Geological Sciences. It consists of several connected applications:

- **StraboField:** Mobile application for field data collection. Geologists record observations, measurements, images and samples directly in the field.
- **StraboMicro:** Desktop application for microscopy data. Each micrograph belongs to a sample.
- **StraboExperimental:** Web application for laboratory experiment data. Each experiment records the sample it was run on.
- **StraboSamples:** The shared sample records on the StraboSpot website that connect all of the above.

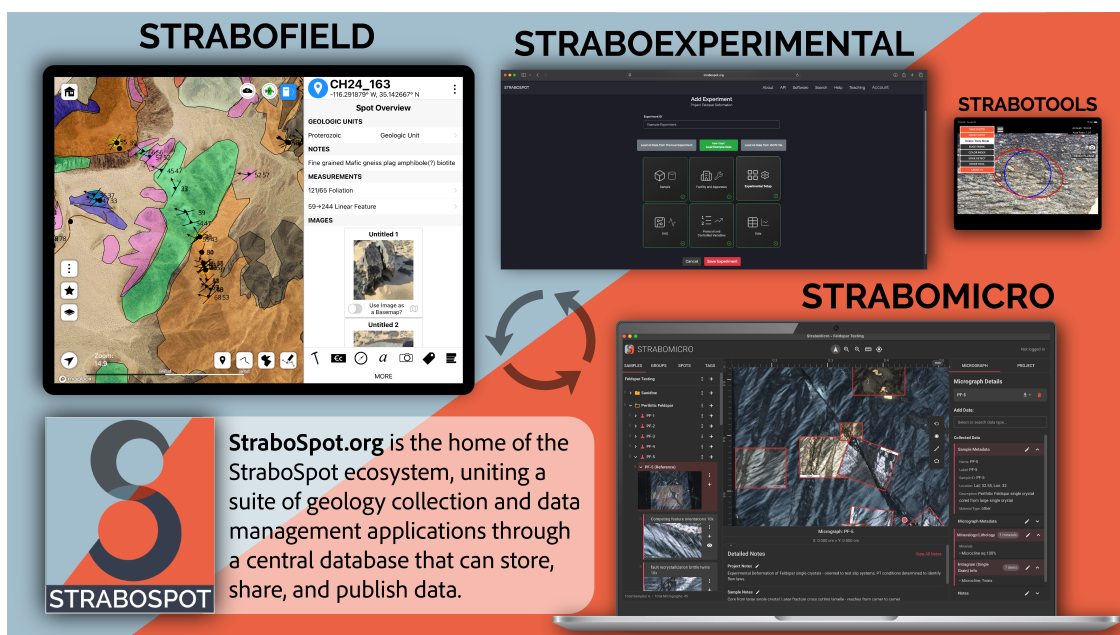


Figure 1. The StraboSpot ecosystem. StraboSamples connects the samples used in StraboField, StraboMicro and StraboExperimental.

All of the applications share one user account and one database infrastructure. A sample collected in StraboField, imaged in StraboMicro and tested in StraboExperimental appears in StraboSamples as a single record with three links.

1.3 How a Sample Comes Together

The examples in this guide follow one sample, an oriented mylonite collected in the eastern Sierra Nevada (demonstration data):

1. **Field:** The sample is collected and described in StraboField. Uploading the project to StraboSpot creates the StraboSamples record.
2. **Microscope:** Thin sections are imaged in StraboMicro, where the sample is chosen with **Link Sample From StraboSamples**. Uploading the StraboMicro project adds it to the same record.

3. **Laboratory:** A core cut from the sample is recorded as a *child* sample of the original and deformed in StraboExperimental, where the experiment is linked to the core.

StraboSamples links the uploads because each application refers to the sample by the same internal identifier under the same owner. The applications take care of this when you choose the sample with **Link Sample From StraboSamples** (see Sections 5.2 and 8). Location stays with the StraboField data it came from, while descriptions, notes and other shared fields can be edited in one place and seen everywhere.

1.4 Key Concepts

- **Sample record:** The single shared entry for one physical sample. It holds the shared metadata (Sample ID, material type, purpose, location, description, notes and so on).
- **Owner:** The StraboSpot account the sample belongs to. Samples created by uploads belong to the person who uploaded the project.
- **Link:** A connection between a sample record and a place where the sample is used: a StraboField spot, a StraboMicro project, or a StraboExperimental experiment. Links are created automatically by uploads.
- **Parent and child:** A relationship between two samples where one was cut, split or prepared from the other.
- **Collaborator:** Another StraboSpot user you have invited to view or edit a particular sample.
- **Changelog:** The history of every change made to a sample.

1.5 IGSN Registration: Coming Soon

In development

An IGSN (International Generic Sample Number) is a permanent, globally unique identifier for a physical sample. We are developing a way to register IGSNs for your samples directly from StraboSamples and to keep your StraboSpot and IGSN records in step. This work is currently being developed and will be available soon.

Until then, if a sample already has an IGSN, you can record it in the sample's **IGSN** field (Section 5.1).

1.6 Getting Help

If you have questions or run into problems, see Section 11, or contact the StraboSpot team through the **Help** page on <https://strabospot.org>.

2 Getting Started

Requirements

StraboSamples runs in your web browser on the StraboSpot website. You need:

- A StraboSpot account. This is the same account you use for StraboField, StraboMicro and StraboExperimental. If you do not have one, create one with `Account > Register` on <https://strabospot.org>.
- A current web browser (Firefox, Chrome, Safari or Edge).

2.1 Opening My Samples

1. Go to <https://strabospot.org> and sign in.
2. Open the account menu at the right end of the menu bar. It is labeled with your name.
3. Choose `My Samples`. It is listed with `My StraboField Data`, `My StraboMicro Data` and `My StraboExperimental Data`.

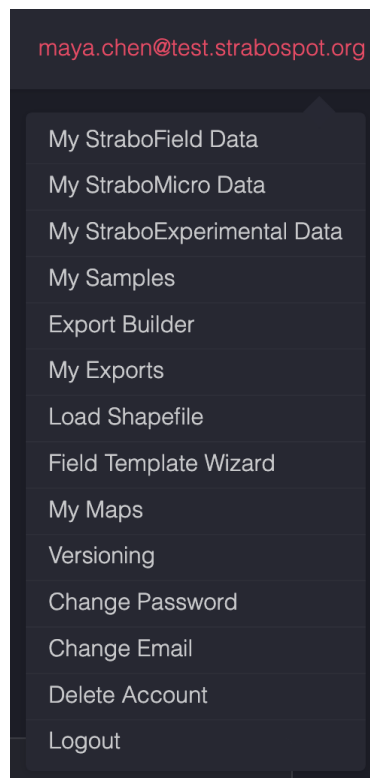


Figure 2. The account menu. `My Samples` opens your samples.

You can also go straight to https://strabospot.org/my_samples.

2.2 Where Your Samples Come From

The first time you open `My Samples`, you may find that it already contains samples. StraboSamples creates a record for every sample in the projects you have uploaded:

- **StraboField:** Each sample recorded on a spot in an uploaded StraboField project.
- **StraboMicro:** Each sample in an uploaded StraboMicro project.
- **StraboExperimental:** The sample recorded for each experiment in a StraboExperimental project.

When StraboSamples went live in July 2026, records were created for all samples in projects already on StraboSpot, so older projects are included as well. You can also create samples yourself on the website (Section 5.3) or bring in many at once from a spreadsheet (Section 9).

Note

StraboSamples never changes the data in your StraboMicro or StraboExperimental projects, and only changes linked StraboField data when you edit a sample's shared fields on the website (see Section 8.2.1).

2.3 A Quick Tour

StraboSamples has two main pages:

- **My Samples** (Section 3): the list of every sample you own or that has been shared with you, with search, filters and the Import and Export tools.
- **Sample Overview** (Section 4): one page per sample, showing its metadata, its family of parent and child samples, the projects that use it, its collaborators and its change history.

Click **View Sample** on any card in My Samples to open that sample's Overview page.

3 My Samples

My Samples lists every sample you own and every sample another user has shared with you. From here you can find samples, create new ones, import and export spreadsheets, and answer collaboration invitations.

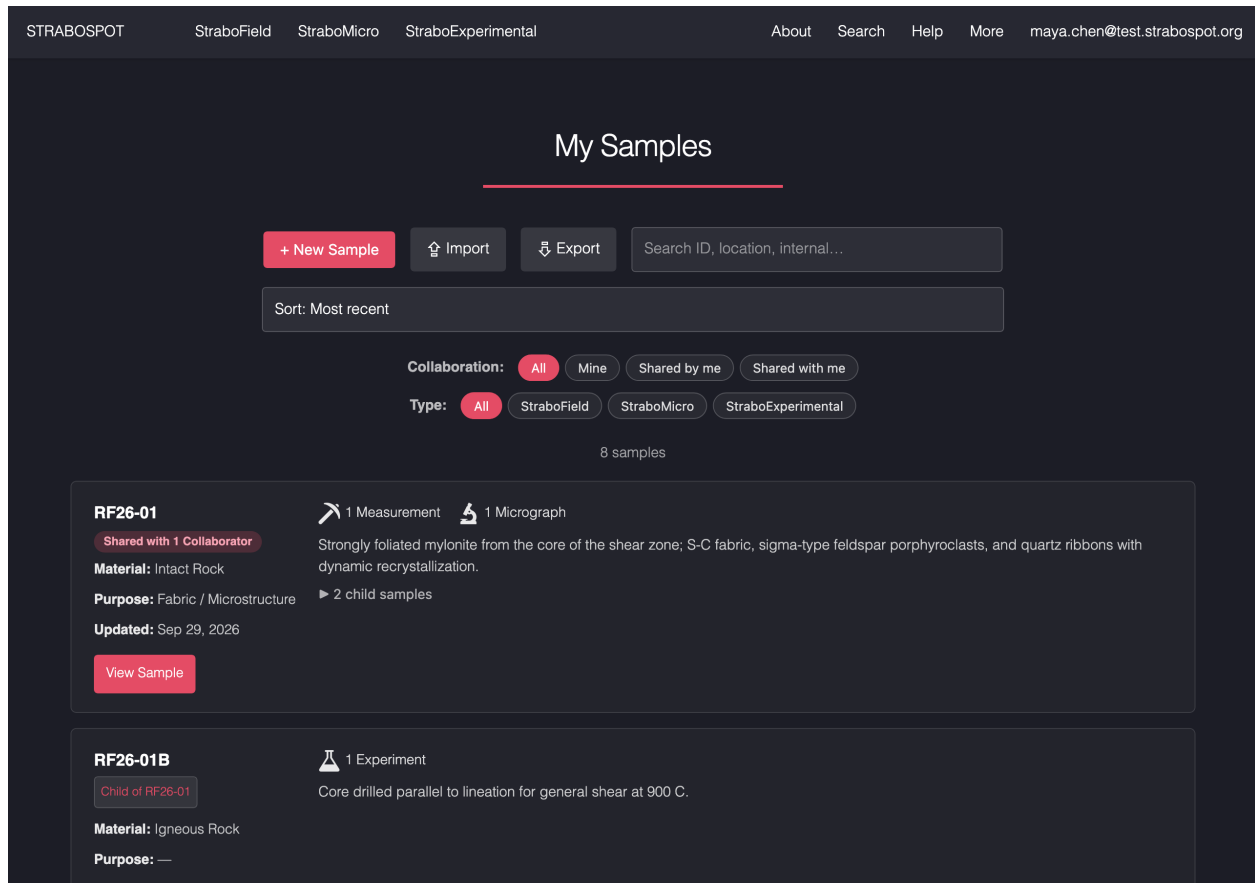


Figure 3. My Samples. The toolbar and filters are at the top, followed by one card per sample.

3.1 Page Layout

From top to bottom, the page contains:

1. **Pending invitations** (only when you have any): invitations from other users to collaborate on their samples. See Section 7.3.
2. **Toolbar**: the **+ New Sample**, **Import** and **Export** buttons, the search box and the sort menu.
3. **Collaboration filter**: **All**, **Mine**, **Shared by me** and **Shared with me**.
4. **Type filter**: **All**, **StraboField**, **StraboMicro** and **StraboExperimental**.
5. **Result count**: how many samples match, with a plain-English summary of the active filters.
6. **Samples**: one listing per sample.

All of your samples are shown on one page; there is no paging. Your search, sort and filter choices are kept in the page address, so you can bookmark a filtered view. When you open

a sample and then click **Back to My Samples**, the list returns with the same filters and scroll position.

3.2 Toolbar

- **+ New Sample:** opens the **Create Sample** form (Section 5.3).
- **Import:** opens the spreadsheet import page (Section 9.4).
- **Export:** downloads all of your samples as a spreadsheet (Section 9.1).
- **Search box:** filters the list as you type (Section 3.3).
- **Sort menu:** orders the cards by **Most recent** (the default, most recently updated first), **Oldest**, **Purpose**, **Material** or **Sample ID**.

3.3 Searching

Type into the search box to narrow the list immediately. The search ignores upper and lower case, and matching text is highlighted on the cards. It looks in:

- Sample ID
- Description and Notes
- Material Type and Sample Purpose
- IGSN
- The sample's internal identifier (the long code at the end of the sample's web address)

Click the ✕ in the search box to clear it.

3.4 Filtering by Collaboration

The **Collaboration** buttons show:

- **All:** every sample in the list.
- **Mine:** samples you own.
- **Shared by me:** samples you own that have at least one collaborator who has accepted your invitation.
- **Shared with me:** samples owned by other users who have invited you to collaborate.

3.5 Filtering by Application

The **Type** chips filter samples by the applications they are used in. A sample is “in” an application when it has at least one link to it (for example, a StraboField spot or a StraboMicro project).

Each application chip has three states. Click a chip repeatedly to move through them:

1. **First click (include):** show only samples used in that application.

2. **Second click (exclude):** hide samples used in that application.
3. **Third click:** clear the chip.

Click **All** to clear every chip at once.

When two or more chips are included, a **Match** control appears:

- **any:** samples used in at least one of the included applications.
- **all:** samples used in every one of the included applications.

Excluded chips always mean “used in none of these”. The result count line describes the combination in words, for example *in StraboField or StraboMicro, not in StraboExperimental*. Excluding all three applications shows samples *with no subsystem links*, such as samples created on the website that have not been used anywhere yet.

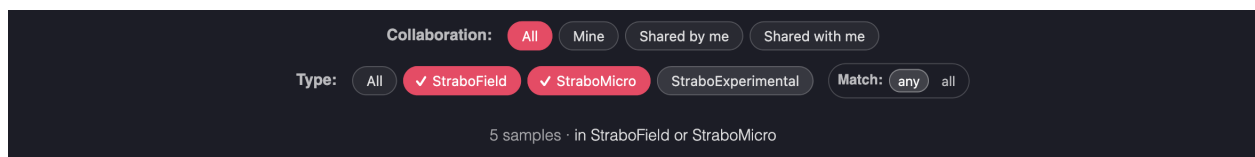


Figure 4. Type filter with StraboField and StraboMicro included. The Match control and the result count line describe the combination.

3.6 Sample Cards

Each card summarizes one sample.

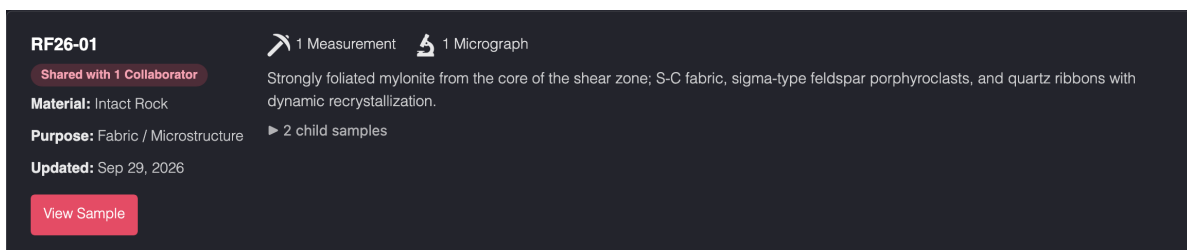


Figure 5. A sample card. The left side holds the sample’s identity and metadata; the right side shows the applications that use it.

The left side of the card shows:

- **Sample ID** in bold.
- **Sharing label:** *Shared with N Collaborators* for your own shared samples, or *Shared by* and the owner’s name for samples shared with you. Unshared samples have no label.
- **Parent label:** *Child of* and the parent’s Sample ID, when the sample has a parent. Click it to open the parent.
- **Material** and **Purpose**.
- **Updated:** when the sample record last changed.
- **View Sample:** opens the Sample Overview page.

The right side shows:

- **Application badges** with counts: **Measurements** for StraboField (the number of linked StraboField spots), **Micrographs** for StraboMicro and **Experiments** for StraboExperimental. A sample with no links shows **No subsystem links yet**.
- The sample's **Description** (or its **Notes** if there is no description), shortened if it is long.

3.6.1 Child Samples

When a sample has child samples, its listing has a toggle such as **2 child samples** with a small arrow. Click it to list the children, each with its Sample ID, material, purpose, update date and a **View Sample** button. Child samples still have their own full listing in the list, so giving a sample a parent never hides it. See Section 6 for more about parent and child samples.

3.7 What You Can Do From the List

The only per-sample action on My Samples is **View Sample**. Editing, sharing and the change history are on each sample's Overview page (Section 4). Export works on all of your samples at once (Section 9.1).

Deleting samples

There is no delete button for samples on the website. A sample that came from an application is removed automatically when you delete it from its project in that application and upload the project again, provided no other project still uses it (see Section 8.6).

4 The Sample Overview Page

Every sample has its own **Sample Overview** page. It brings together the sample's shared meta-data, its parent and child samples, every project that uses it, its collaborators and its change history. Open it with **View Sample** on a card in My Samples, or by following a sample's web address.

The screenshot displays the 'Sample Overview' page for sample RF26-01. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'STRABOSPOT' and links to 'StraboField', 'StraboMicro', and 'StraboExperimental'. A user profile 'maya.chen@test.strabospot.org' is visible. Below the navigation bar, a 'Back to My Samples' link is on the left, and the sample title 'Sample: RF26-01' is centered. A 'Share' button is next to the 'SAMPLE URL: https://strabospot.org/samples/13302/17790000147690'. A 'Collaborate' button with a 'DO' icon is also present. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains 'Sample Metadata' with fields: Sample ID: RF26-01, Sample Owner: Maya Chen, Last Updated: Sep 29, 2026, Material Type: Intact Rock, Sample Purpose: Fabric / Microstructure, Current Sample Location: 37.431820, -118.771240, Description: Strongly foliated mylonite from the core of the shear zone; S-C fabric, sigma-type feldspar porphyroclasts, and quartz ribbons with dynamic recrystallization. Notes: Oriented block, foliation and lineation marked on the top face. Two thin sections and one experiment core cut 2026-08-12. Custom Fields (from tabular import): Field season: 2026, Storage location: Drawer B-14, Thin sections: 3. Below the metadata are 'Edit Metadata' and 'View Changelog' buttons. The right column features a family tree diagram showing RF26-01 as the parent of RF26-01A and RF26-01B. Below the diagram are two project cards. The first card is for 'StraboField' (last updated Sep 29, 2026) with details: Project: Rosy Finch Shear Zone 2026, Dataset: Mono Recesses traverse, Material Type: Intact Rock, Sample Label: RF26-01, In-place-ness: 5 - definitely in place, Notes: Oriented block, foliation and lineation marked on the top face. A 'View StraboField' button is on the right. The second card is for 'StraboMicro' (last updated Sep 29, 2026) with details: Project: RFSZ Quartz Microstructures, Dataset: XZ thin sections, Material Type: Intact Rock. A 'View StraboMicro' button is on the right. A 'Type' filter bar at the bottom shows 'All' selected, with options for 'StraboField', 'StraboMicro', and 'StraboExperimental'.

Figure 6. The Sample Overview page. Sample Metadata and the family tree are at the top, followed by one card for each project that uses the sample.

4.1 Page Layout

From top to bottom, the page contains:

1. **Back to My Samples:** returns to your list with the same filters and scroll position.
2. **Title:** Sample: followed by the Sample ID.

3. **Action row:** the **Share** and **Collaborate** buttons, the sample's web address, and the initials of the sample's collaborators.
4. **Sample Metadata:** the shared fields, any custom fields, and the **Edit Metadata** and **View Changelog** buttons.
5. **Family tree:** to the right of Sample Metadata (Section 6.4).
6. **Type filter and link cards:** one card for each place the sample is used (Section 4.4).

4.2 The Sample's Web Address and the Share Button

Each sample has a permanent web address of the form

```
https://strabospot.org/samples/{owner number}/{sample identifier}
```

The address is shown next to the buttons as `SAMPLE URL`. Click **Share** to copy it to your clipboard; the button briefly shows `Copied!`. You can paste the address into an e-mail, a spreadsheet, a field notebook or a sample label.

Who can open the address depends on the sample's sharing (Section 7.6). If a StraboField project is moved to another account with **Transfer to Other Account**, its samples move with it, and their old addresses forward to the new ones automatically.

4.3 Sample Metadata

The **Sample Metadata** panel shows the sample's shared fields. A field appears only when it has a value:

- **Sample ID**
- **Sample Owner**
- **Last Updated**
- **Material Type**
- **Sample Purpose**
- **Current Sample Location** (latitude, longitude)
- **IGSN**
- **Description**
- **Notes**

Below these, under the heading `Custom Fields (from tabular import)`, are any extra columns you brought in from a spreadsheet (Section 9.6). Custom fields are shown in alphabetical order and can only be changed by importing a spreadsheet again.

Two buttons sit under the panel:

- **Edit Metadata:** change the shared fields and the parent sample (Section 5.4). Shown to the owner and to collaborators with edit permission.

- **View Changelog:** open the sample's change history (Section 4.6).

4.4 Link Cards: Where the Sample Is Used

Below the metadata, the page lists one **link card** for each place the sample is used:

- one card for each StraboField spot that records the sample,
- one card for each StraboMicro project (and dataset) that contains the sample,
- one card for each StraboExperimental experiment run on the sample.

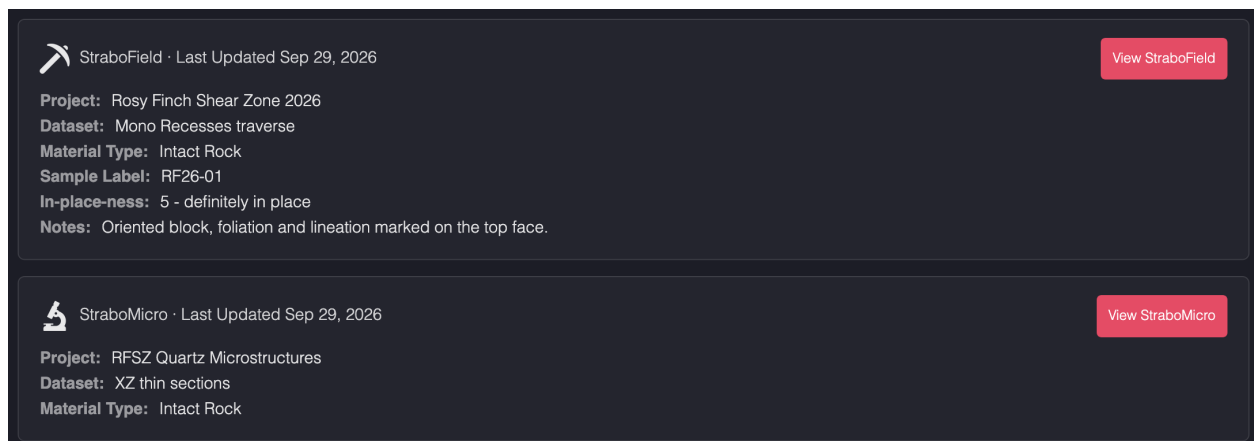


Figure 7. Link cards for a sample used in StraboField and StraboMicro.

Each card shows:

- The application's icon and name, and when that application's copy of the sample was last updated.
- The **Project** and **Dataset** (StraboField and StraboMicro) or the **Experiment** (StraboExperimental).
- The fields that application keeps for its own copy of the sample, such as **Material Type**, **Sample Label**, **In-place-ness** and **Notes**.
- A **View** button (**View StraboField**, **View StraboMicro** or **View StraboExperimental**) that opens the project in a new browser tab:
 - StraboField: the dataset page for the dataset containing the spot.
 - StraboMicro: the StraboMicro project viewer.
 - StraboExperimental: the experiment viewer, which also offers JSON and PDF downloads.

The **View** button is grayed out when the project is private and belongs to someone else, or when the project can no longer be found. Hold the pointer over the button to see the reason.

Use the **Type** tabs above the cards (**All**, **StraboField**, **StraboMicro**, **StraboExperimental**) to show only one application's cards.

A sample that is not used anywhere yet shows **No subsystem links yet**. Links are added automatically when you upload a project that uses the sample (Section 8).

4.5 Collaborators on the Overview Page

The initials of each collaborator who has accepted an invitation appear in the action row. Hold the pointer over a set of initials to see the person's name and permission level (**edit** or **readOnly**). The owner manages collaborators with the **Collaborate** button (Section 7).

4.6 The Changelog

StraboSamples records every change to a sample. Click **View Changelog** to open the history in a window.

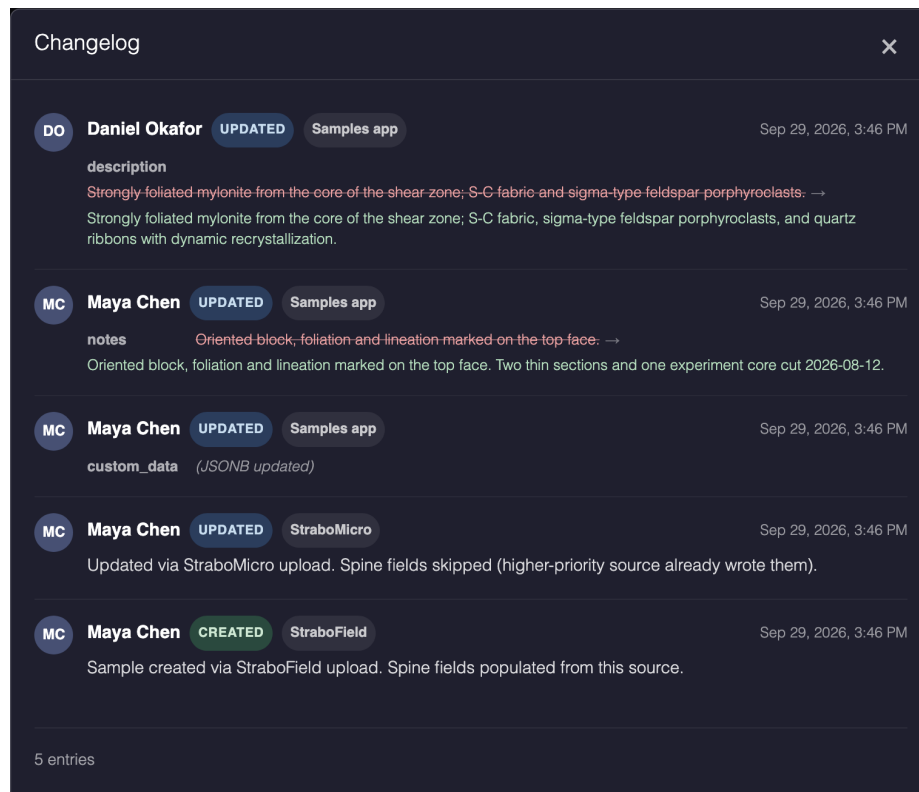


Figure 8. The Changelog. Each entry shows who made the change, when, where it came from, and the old and new values.

Entries are listed newest first, 50 at a time; click **Load more** to see older entries. Each entry shows:

- The person who made the change (initials and name).
- The **kind of change**:
 - **Created**: the sample record was created, on the website or by an upload.
 - **Updated**: one or more fields changed. Each field is listed with its old value (struck through) and its new value.
 - **Parent set / Parent cleared**: the sample's parent changed.
 - **Composition, Parameters, Documents**: a StraboExperimental upload replaced the sample's composition, parameter or document lists.

- **Field writeback**: a change made on the website was sent back to the linked StraboField spot (Section 8.2.1).
- The **source** of the change: `Samples` app (the website), `StraboField`, `StraboMicro` or `StraboExperimental`.
- The date and time.

Changes that arrive through uploads are labeled with the application they came from, so you can tell a colleague's edit on the website from a value that changed in the field app. Some entries use the database names of fields (for example `display_sample_type`) rather than the labels shown on the page.

The changelog is available to the owner and to collaborators who have accepted an invitation. Changes to the list of collaborators are not recorded in the changelog.

5 Creating and Editing Samples

Most samples arrive in StraboSamples automatically when you upload projects. You can also create samples directly on the website, for example to record samples that have not been used in any application yet, and you can edit the shared fields of any sample you own or have been given edit permission for.

5.1 Sample Fields

The same shared fields are used when you create a sample, edit a sample, or import a spreadsheet:

Field	Description
Sample ID*	The name you use for the sample, for example RF26-01. Required. Up to 500 characters.
IGSN	The sample's International Generic Sample Number, if it already has one. Free text. See Section 1.5.
Material Type	What the sample is made of. Choose from the list below, or choose <i>Other (free text)...</i> and type your own value.
Sample Purpose	Why the sample was collected. Choose from the list below, or choose <i>Other (free text)...</i> and type your own value.
Latitude	Decimal degrees, from -90 to 90 (south is negative).
Longitude	Decimal degrees, from -180 to 180 (west is negative).
Description	A description of the sample. Up to 4,000 characters.
Notes	Any other notes. Up to 4,000 characters.
Parent Sample	The sample this one was cut, split or prepared from (Section 6). Optional.

**Required field.*

5.1.1 Material Type Choices

Common (Field / Micro)

- Intact Rock
- Fragmented Rock
- Sediment
- Tephra
- Carbon or Animal

Experimental

- Glass
- Ice
- Ceramic
- Plastic
- Metal
- Soil
- Mineral
- Igneous Rock
- Sedimentary Rock
- Metamorphic Rock
- Epos Lithologies
- Standards
- Commodity

The **Common** choices are the ones used by StraboField and StraboMicro; the **Experimental** choices come from StraboExperimental. See Section 8.2.1 for how these are handled when a sample is linked to StraboField.

5.1.2 Sample Purpose Choices

- Fabric / Microstructure
- Petrology
- Geochronology
- Geochemistry
- Active Eruption
- Microbeam
- Particle Size
- DRE Density
- Clast Density
- Particle Shape
- Cryptotephra

5.2 Sample IDs and Sample Identity

Every sample has two kinds of identification:

- The **Sample ID** is the name you and your colleagues use for the sample, such as RF26-01. You can change it at any time.
- The **internal identifier** is a code that StraboSpot assigns when the sample is first created, either a long number (samples from StraboField and StraboMicro) or a longer code of letters and digits (samples from StraboExperimental, the website and spreadsheet imports). It never changes, and it appears at the end of the sample's web address.

A sample record is identified by its **internal identifier together with its owner**. Two applications' samples become one record when they carry the same internal identifier under the same owner. The Sample ID is *not* used for matching:

- Typing the same Sample ID in two applications does not link the samples; it creates two records with the same name. To link them, choose the existing sample with **Link Sample From StraboSamples** in the application (Section 8).
- Two samples can have the same Sample ID. To avoid confusion, give each physical sample its own Sample ID.
- Another user's sample is always a different record, even if it came from a copy of the same project.

5.3 Creating a Sample

1. On **My Samples**, click **+ New Sample**. The **Create Sample** form opens.
2. Enter a **Sample ID**. This is the only required field.
3. Fill in any of the other fields (Section 5.1). Latitude and longitude are typed as decimal degrees.
4. To make the new sample a child of an existing sample, start typing the parent's Sample ID in **Parent Sample (optional)** and choose it from the list. The form shows **Selected parent:** and the name; click ✕ to remove it.
5. Click **Create Sample**.

Figure 9. The Create Sample form.

The new sample's Overview page opens in a new browser tab, and its card is added to the top of My Samples. If nothing opens, check whether your browser blocked a pop-up window.

To close the form without saving, click **Cancel**, click **x**, press **Esc**, or click outside the form.

Messages you may see:

- `Sample ID is required.:` enter a Sample ID.
- `Latitude must be a number between -90 and 90. or Longitude must be a number between -180 and 180.:` check the coordinates. Use decimal degrees, not degrees and minutes.
- `The selected parent sample is not accessible.:` the parent was deleted, or its owner stopped sharing it with you. Choose another parent.

5.4 Editing a Sample

You can edit a sample if you own it or if its owner has invited you with edit permission.

1. Open the sample's Overview page.
2. Click **Edit Metadata** under **Sample Metadata**. The **Edit Sample Metadata** window opens with the current values.
3. Change any of the fields. Clearing a field and saving removes its value.
4. Click **Save Changes**.

Figure 10. The Edit Sample Metadata window.

The page updates in place, and the change is recorded in the changelog (Section 4.6).

5.4.1 Values From Other Lists

If a sample's Material Type or Sample Purpose came from an application with a value that is not in the website's list, the Edit window opens with **Other (free text)**... selected and the value filled in. You can keep it or choose a value from the list.

5.4.2 Locations Managed by StraboField

When a sample is linked to a StraboField spot, its location comes from the spot. **Latitude** and **Longitude** are then grayed out in the Edit window, with the message **Location is managed by StraboField**. To change the location, edit the spot's location in the StraboField project and upload it again.

5.4.3 Custom Fields

Custom fields cannot be changed in the Edit window. Change them by importing a spreadsheet (Section 9.6).

5.4.4 Edits and Uploads

Samples used in StraboField, StraboMicro or StraboExperimental share their fields with those applications. Keep in mind:

- Edits you make on the website are sent back to the linked StraboField spot, so they appear in StraboField the next time the project is downloaded into the app (Section [8.2.1](#)).
- Uploading a project again from an application can overwrite shared fields you edited on the website, if the sample has different values in the application. The changelog shows every such change, with the application it came from (Section [8.5](#)).

6 Sample Families

Samples are often divided. A hand sample may be cut into billets for thin sections, cored for a deformation experiment, or crushed for mineral separates. StraboSamples records these relationships as **parent** and **child** samples: the child was cut, split or prepared from the parent.

For example, the demonstration sample RF26-01 has two children: RF26-01A, a billet cut for thin sections, and RF26-01B, a core used in a StraboExperimental deformation experiment.

6.1 Rules for Parents and Children

- A sample can have **one parent** and **any number of children**.
- Families can be several generations deep (a child can have its own children).
- A sample cannot be its own ancestor. StraboSamples refuses a parent that would create a loop.
- To set or change a sample's parent you need **edit** permission on the child. You only need to be able to **view** the parent, so a parent can be a sample another user has shared with you, even read-only.

6.2 Making a Child Sample

Parents are always set on the **child**. There are two ways:

- **When creating a sample on the website:** choose the parent in **Parent Sample (optional)** in the **Create Sample** form (Section 5.3).
- **For an existing sample:** use **Edit Metadata** on the child's Overview page (Section 6.3).

Spreadsheet imports do not set parents in this version.

6.3 Setting, Changing or Removing a Parent

1. Open the child sample's Overview page and click **Edit Metadata**.
2. In **Parent Sample**, the current parent is shown as **Parent :** and its name.
 - To **choose a new parent**, type part of its Sample ID in the search box and pick it from the list. The window shows **New parent :** and the name. The list includes your own samples and samples shared with you.
 - To **remove the parent**, click **×** next to the current parent. The window shows **Parent will be removed on save.**
3. Click **Save Changes**.

The parent change is saved first. If it cannot be saved, nothing else in the window is saved either, and the message ends with **No changes were saved**. Messages you may see:

- That sample is a descendant of this one: the sample you chose is already a child (or grandchild) of this sample, so it cannot also be its parent.
- You no longer have access to the selected parent sample.: the parent's owner stopped sharing it with you.
- Select a parent sample from the search results, or remove the parent.: type part of a Sample ID and click one of the results; typing the name alone is not enough.

6.4 The Family Tree

The Overview page shows a small **family tree** to the right of Sample Metadata. The current sample is the red circle in the center, its parent is above it, and its children fan out below.

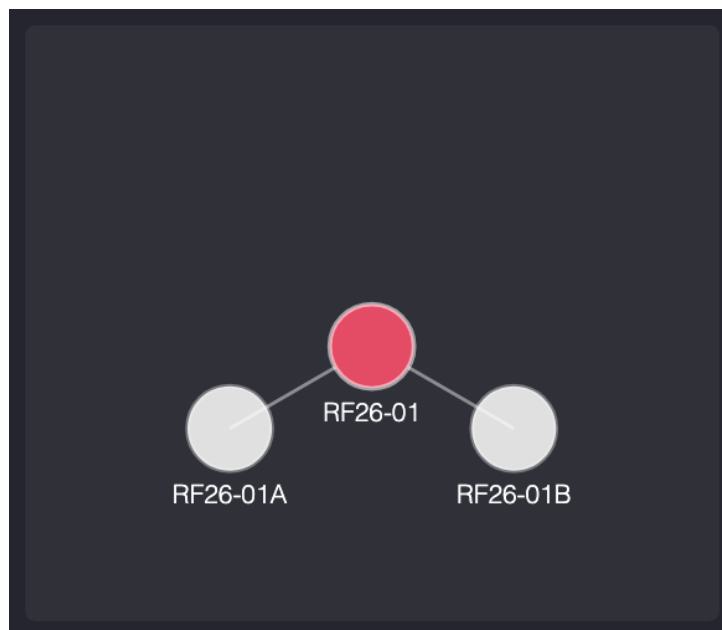


Figure 11. The family tree for RF26-01, showing its two child samples.

- **Hover** over a sample to see its name, material and purpose.
- **Click** a parent or child to move the tree to that sample, so you can explore further up or down the family. The Sample Metadata panel keeps showing the page's own sample.
- While exploring, a bar shows **Return to** (back to the page's own sample) and **Open** (go to the Overview page of the sample now in the center).

The tree shows one generation up and one generation down at a time; click through to see grandparents or grandchildren. Long names are shortened in the tree. If the parent belongs to someone who has not shared it with you, it is drawn as a gray dashed circle labeled (inaccessible).

6.5 Families on My Samples

On My Samples, a child's card shows **Child of** and the parent's Sample ID, and a parent's card has a toggle that lists its children (Section 3.6.1).

7 Sharing and Collaboration

You can invite other StraboSpot users to collaborate on individual samples. Sample collaboration is separate from project collaboration: you can share one sample without sharing the projects it belongs to.

7.1 Permission Levels

Role	What they can do
Owner	Everything: view, edit, set the parent, view the changelog, and manage collaborators.
Collaborator, Can edit	View the sample, edit its metadata (including its parent), and view the changelog.
Collaborator, Read-only	View the sample and its changelog.

Only the owner can invite, change or remove collaborators. Collaborators cannot share the sample further.

7.2 Inviting Collaborators

1. Open the sample's Overview page and click **Collaborate**. The **Manage Collaborators** window opens.
2. Under **Invite New Collaborators**, enter one or more e-mail addresses in **Email addresses**, one per line or separated by commas.
3. Choose a **Permission level**: **Can edit** (the default) or **Read-only**.
4. Click **Send Invites**.

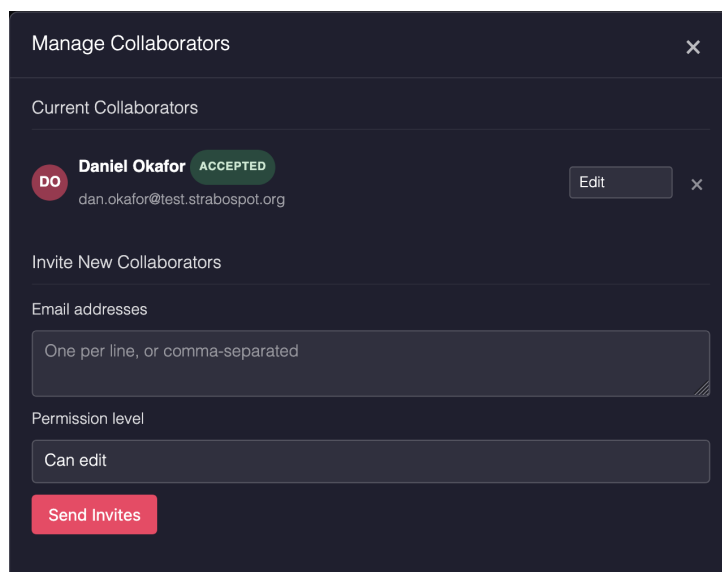


Figure 12. The Manage Collaborators window.

Each address gets a result line:

- **Invited**: the invitation was created.
- **Re-invited (was previously removed)**: the person had been removed, or had declined, and is invited again.
- **Already a collaborator**: nothing changed.
- **No StraboSpot user with this email**: invitations can only go to existing StraboSpot accounts. Ask the person to register, or check which e-mail address they use for StraboSpot.
- **Cannot invite the owner**.

Important

StraboSamples does not send an e-mail when you invite someone. Let your colleague know about the invitation; they will find it at the top of their **My Samples** page.

7.3 Accepting or Declining an Invitation

When someone invites you, a banner at the top of **My Samples** says **You have N pending sample invitation(s)**. Each invitation shows who invited you, the sample, and the permission level offered.

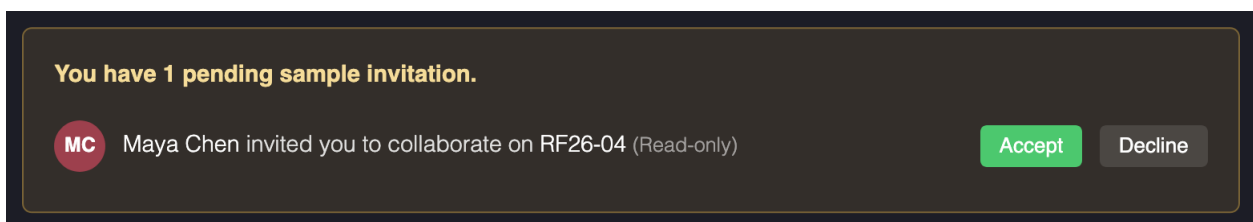


Figure 13. A pending invitation on My Samples.

- Click **Accept** to add the sample to your list. It appears with **Shared by** and the owner's name, and in the **Shared with me** filter.
- Click **Decline** to remove the invitation. The owner can invite you again later.

You cannot accept an invitation to a sample whose internal identifier matches a sample you already own; you will see **You already own a sample with this ID**. This can happen when you both have copies of the same project.

7.4 Managing Collaborators

In the **Manage Collaborators** window, **Current Collaborators** lists everyone you have invited, with their name, e-mail address, and status (**Accepted** or **Pending**).

- To **change a permission level**, choose **Edit** or **Read-only** in the person's menu. The change is saved immediately.

- To **remove a collaborator**, click ✕ next to their name and confirm. A pending invitation can be withdrawn the same way.

7.5 Collaborators From Shared Projects

When a sample is first created by uploading a StraboField or StraboMicro project that has collaborators, those project collaborators become collaborators on the sample automatically, already accepted, with the same permission level they have on the project. This is a one-time copy when the sample is created: later changes to the project's collaborators do not change the sample's collaborators. Manage them on the sample with **Collaborate** as usual.

7.6 Who Can See a Sample

- **You and your collaborators** see the sample in My Samples and can open its Overview page.
- **Public samples:** a sample is **public** when at least one project that uses it is public in StraboField, StraboMicro or StraboExperimental. Anyone, including visitors who are not signed in, can open a public sample's Overview page from its web address.

Visitors who are not signed in see a read-only page: the sample's metadata and custom fields, its family tree (public relatives only), and link cards for public projects only. They do not see the collaborators, the changelog or any editing buttons.

If a visitor who is not signed in opens a sample that is not public, they see **Sample not found or not public**. with a **Log in** button. After signing in they are taken back to the sample.

Making a project public publishes its samples

When you make a project public, the Overview pages of its samples become public too, including their notes and custom fields. Review your samples' notes before making a project public.

8 Linking Across StraboSpot Applications

StraboSamples is fed by the applications you already use. This section explains how samples from StraboField, StraboMicro and StraboExperimental become StraboSamples records, how one sample is linked across applications, and how edits travel between the website and the applications.

8.1 How Links Are Made

Links are created **automatically when you upload**. There is no separate linking step on the website:

- **StraboField**: uploading a project creates or updates a sample record for every sample recorded on its spots, and links the record to each spot.
- **StraboMicro**: uploading a project creates or updates a sample record for every sample in the project, and links the record to the project and dataset.
- **StraboExperimental**: saving an experiment that has sample information creates or updates a sample record and links it to the experiment. An experiment with an empty sample section does not create a sample.

An application's sample joins an **existing** record when it carries that record's internal identifier under the same owner (Section 5.2). You do this by **choosing the sample from StraboSamples inside the application**: StraboMicro and StraboExperimental each have a **Link Sample From StraboSamples** button that lists your StraboSamples records, so you can link a StraboMicro sample or an experiment to a sample that already exists (Sections 8.3 and 8.4). The application then keeps the identifier, and every later upload lands on the same record.

Important

Giving two samples the same Sample ID in different applications does **not** link them. Always link with **Link Sample From StraboSamples**.

Once linked, the sample's Overview page shows one link card for each project or experiment that uses it (Section 4.4).

8.2 StraboField

Samples recorded in StraboField, whether as their own sample spot or as a sample on an ordinary spot, become StraboSamples records when the project is uploaded. StraboField is the main source of a sample's **location**: the sample takes its latitude and longitude from the spot.

8.2.1 Edits on the Website Flow Back to StraboField

When you edit a StraboField sample's shared fields on the website, StraboSamples writes the change back into the StraboField spot on the server. The next time the project is downloaded into StraboField, the app shows the new values. The fields written back are:

- Sample ID
- IGSN
- Description and Notes
- Material Type and Sample Purpose

Some values cannot be written back, because StraboField does not have them in its lists:

- The **Experimental** material types (Section 5.1.1). StraboSamples converts the closest ones (for example, *Igneous Rock*) to a StraboField value; the rest are kept on the website only.
- Values entered with *Other (free text)*....

When a value is not written back, the changelog shows a *Field writeback* entry explaining which field was skipped. The next upload from StraboField then brings back the app's own value.

8.2.2 Location

The location of a StraboField sample belongs to its spot. It cannot be changed on the website or by spreadsheet import (Section 5.4.2). Edit the spot's location in StraboField and upload the project.

8.2.3 Which Change Wins

The most recent change wins. An edit on the website is newer than the copy of the spot on your device, so an upload that does not include newer changes to that spot does not undo it. If you later edit the spot in StraboField, that newer edit replaces the website values when you upload.

Tip

After editing StraboField samples on the website, download the project into StraboField before you continue working on those spots in the field.

8.3 StraboMicro

Samples in an uploaded StraboMicro project become StraboSamples records, linked to the project and dataset. In StraboMicro, the **New Sample** and **Edit Sample** windows have a **Link Sample From StraboSamples** button (shown when you are signed in). It opens a searchable list of your StraboSamples records; choose one to link the StraboMicro sample to it. An already-linked sample offers **Link to Different Sample** and **Unlink from StraboSamples**.

When a StraboMicro sample is linked to a sample that came from StraboField, its main fields are locked in StraboMicro and are edited in StraboField or on the website instead.

Edits made on the website (Sample ID, description, notes, location, material type and purpose) appear in the StraboMicro project when it is viewed or downloaded from StraboSpot, and in its

project PDF, which is regenerated automatically. Clearing a field on the website does not clear it in StraboMicro.

8.4 StraboExperimental

In StraboExperimental, the **Sample Info** section of an experiment has a **Link Sample From StraboSamples** button.

1. Click **Link Sample From StraboSamples**. A window lists your samples from StraboField, StraboMicro and StraboExperimental.
2. Search by name, IGSN or description, and click a sample. Samples already linked to experiments show how many.
3. The experiment's sample fields are filled from the StraboSamples record (Sample Name, IGSN, description, location and parent information). Material Type is not filled in; choose it yourself.

A linked experiment shows **Linked to StraboSamples** with the sample's name, which links to its Overview page, and **Change** and **Unlink** buttons. If the sample also comes from StraboField or StraboMicro, its identity fields (Sample Name, IGSN, Sample ID and Description) are locked in the experiment; material, composition, parameters and documents stay editable. **Unlink** keeps the values in the form; when the experiment is saved, its sample becomes a separate sample record.

Samples shared with you by another user cannot be linked from StraboExperimental yet; they are grayed out in the list.

Several experiments can use the same sample (for example, repeat runs on one core). The experimental details shown on the sample's Overview page are those of the experiment saved most recently. Website edits to the sample's name, IGSN, description, location and material type appear when experiments are viewed on StraboSpot and in their PDFs; the saved experiment itself is not changed.

8.5 When Applications Disagree

Each application keeps its own copy of a sample's details, shown on its link card. For the shared fields (Sample ID, IGSN, description, notes, location, material type and purpose), StraboSamples uses this order of priority:

StraboField then **StraboMicro** then **StraboExperimental**

An upload from a lower-priority application never overwrites shared fields once a higher-priority application has supplied the sample. For example, once a sample has come from StraboField, uploading a StraboMicro project does not change its description. Each upload that changes a shared field is recorded in the changelog with the application it came from.

8.6 Removing Samples in the Applications

StraboSamples follows what happens in the applications:

- When you remove a sample from a project (or delete the spot, experiment or project) and upload, that link is removed from the sample record.
- When the **last** link is removed and no other application uses the sample, the sample record is deleted from StraboSamples, together with its custom fields, collaborators and changelog. Its child samples are kept, but no longer have a parent.
- When other applications still use the sample, the record stays and only the removed link disappears.
- A StraboExperimental experiment that was linked to an existing sample only removes its link; the sample itself stays.
- Samples created on the website or by spreadsheet import are never deleted this way.

8.7 Finding a Sample's Projects

From a sample's Overview page, use the **View** button on each link card to open the StraboField dataset, the StraboMicro project or the StraboExperimental experiment (Section 4.4). In the other direction, the StraboExperimental experiment overview has a **StraboSamples** row with a link to [View this sample in StraboSamples](#).

9 Spreadsheet Import and Export

You can download your samples as a spreadsheet, edit them in Excel or another spreadsheet program, and upload the file again to create or update many samples at once. Every change is shown for review before anything is saved, and uploads never delete samples.

9.1 Exporting Your Samples

On **My Samples**, click **Export**. An Excel workbook (`.xlsx`) with all of the samples you own downloads immediately. Samples that other users have shared with you are not included.

The **Import** page (Section 9.4) offers the same export, plus a CSV version (**Export as .csv**) and an empty template.

9.1.1 The Workbook

The exported workbook has three sheets:

- **Data:** one row per sample. This is the only sheet that is read when you upload the file.
- **Vocabulary:** the standard Material Type and Sample Purpose values.
- **Instructions:** a short guide to filling in the sheet.

The **Material Type** and **Sample Purpose** cells offer drop-down lists of the standard values. You can still type your own value; the spreadsheet warns that it is not a standard value, and it imports as free text.

To prevent accidents, the header row, the internal identifiers of exported samples, and the export-only columns are locked; new rows stay editable. To sort or filter the sheet, choose `Review > Unprotect Sheet` in Excel (there is no password).

9.2 Spreadsheet Columns

Column	Meaning
<code>strabo_internal_id</code>	The sample's internal identifier. Leave it unchanged on exported rows; this is how the upload finds the sample to update. Leave it blank on new rows to create new samples.
<code>sample_id</code>	The Sample ID. Required for new rows.
<code>igsn</code>	The sample's IGSN, if it has one.
<code>material_type</code>	Material Type (standard value or free text).
<code>sampling_purpose</code>	Sample Purpose (standard value or free text).
<code>description</code>	Description.
<code>notes</code>	Notes.
<code>latitude</code>	Decimal degrees, -90 to 90 .
<code>longitude</code>	Decimal degrees, -180 to 180 .

Column	Meaning
<code>linked_systems</code>	<i>Export only.</i> The applications that use the sample, for example <code>field</code> , <code>microx2</code> . Ignored on upload.
<code>modified_at</code>	<i>Export only.</i> When the sample last changed. Ignored on upload.
<i>(your own columns)</i>	Custom fields (Section 9.6).

Column names are matched loosely: upper or lower case, spaces, hyphens and text in parentheses do not matter, and common alternatives are recognized, such as `name` or `sample_name` for `sample_id`, `material` for `material_type`, `purpose` for `sampling_purpose`, `lat` for `latitude`, and `lon`, `lng` or `long` for `longitude`. Standard values are also matched without regard to case.

9.3 Blank Cells and Missing Columns

The upload treats an empty cell and a missing column differently:

- **Empty cell** in a column that is in the file: that field is **cleared** on the sample.
- **Column left out** of the file: that field is **left as it is** on every sample.

To update only some fields, delete the other columns before uploading. The `sample_id` column cannot have empty cells on existing samples; remove the whole column to leave Sample IDs untouched.

9.4 Importing a Spreadsheet

On **My Samples**, click **Import** to open the **Import Samples** page.

Figure 14. The Import Samples page.

1. **Get a file to fill out.** Under **1. Get a file to fill out**, choose **Download template (.xlsx)** for an empty sheet, or **Export my samples (.xlsx)** or **Export as .csv** to start from your existing samples.
2. **Edit the file.** Change values on existing rows, add new rows with a blank `strabo_internal_id`, and add any custom columns you want.
3. **Upload it.** Under **2. Upload it back**, click **Choose file...**, select your `.xlsx` or `.csv` file (up to 15 MB), and click **Upload & review**.
4. **Review the changes** (Section 9.5).
5. **Confirm.** Click **Confirm import**. The button shows how many samples will be created and updated.

When the import finishes, the page shows how many samples were created, updated and unchanged. Click **Back to My Samples** or **Import another file**. Every change is recorded in each sample's changelog, and new samples receive internal identifiers, which appear in your next export.

9.5 Reviewing an Import

Nothing is saved until you confirm. The review page shows:

- **Counts:** how many rows are new, updated and unchanged.
- **Errors:** problems that must be fixed in the file. Each error gives the row, the column and the problem. Imports are all-or-nothing: nothing is saved while any row has an error. Fix the file and click **Upload a corrected file**.
- **What will change:** the new samples that will be created, and a table of every changed value on existing samples, with the current value and the new value. (`blank`) means the field is empty now; (`cleared`) means the upload will empty it.
- **Values we don't recognize:** Material Type or Sample Purpose values that are not in the standard lists. For each, choose `Keep as free text` or `Map to` a standard value. A close match, such as a misspelling, is suggested.
- **Custom columns:** columns that are not standard StraboSpot columns. For each, choose `Import as custom field` (the default) or `Ignore`.
- **Warnings:** things worth checking that do not block the import.

Click **Cancel** to abandon the import. A review stays available for 24 hours; after that, upload the file again.

9.6 Custom Fields

Any column that is not a standard StraboSpot column can be imported as a **custom field**, for example `storage_box`, `collector` or `thin_section_count`. Custom fields:

- appear on the sample's Overview page under `Custom Fields` (from `tabular import`);

STRABOSPOT
StraboField
StraboMicro
StraboExperimental
About
Search
Help
More
maya.chen@test.strabospot.org

Import Samples

Review: RosyFinch_samples.csv

2 new
2 updated
6 unchanged

Ignored read-only columns: linked_systems, modified_at

What will change

Creating 2 new samples: RF26-06, RF26-07

Row	Sample	Column	Current value	New value
5	RF26-02	notes	(blank)	Re-sampled 2026-09-30; second block in Drawer B-15.
		Storage location	(blank)	Drawer B-15
		Collector	(blank)	M. Chen
6	RF26-03	Storage location	(blank)	Drawer B-15
		Collector	(blank)	D. Okafor

Values we don't recognize

Map each to a standard value, or keep it as free text — both are fine.

Intact rok
(material_type, 1 row)

Map to: Intact Rock

Custom columns

These aren't standard StraboSpot columns. Import them as custom fields (they round-trip on export), or ignore them.

Field season
☒ Import as custom field
☐ Ignore

Storage location
☒ Import as custom field
☐ Ignore

Thin sections
☒ Import as custom field
☐ Ignore

Collector
☒ Import as custom field
☐ Ignore

Confirm import (2 new, 2 updated)
Cancel

Figure 15. Reviewing an import before confirming it.

- are included as columns in your exports, so they survive a round trip;
- can only be added, changed or cleared by importing a spreadsheet;
- are limited to 50 per sample.

9.7 Rules and Limits

- **Rows are matched by internal identifier only**, never by Sample ID. A row with a blank `strabo_internal_id` always creates a new sample, so uploading the same new rows

twice creates the samples twice.

- You can only update samples you own. An identifier that does not belong to one of your samples is an error.
- Each identifier may appear only once in a file.
- Latitude and longitude must be numbers in range and must be given together (or both left blank).
- The location of a sample linked to StraboField cannot be changed by import (Section 8.2.2).
- Parent samples cannot be set by import in this version; use the website (Section 6.3).
- Uploads never delete samples. Rows you remove from the file are simply not changed.
- Limits: 15 MB per file, 20,000 rows, 10,000 characters per cell, 50 custom fields per sample.

An import goes through the same steps as editing on the website: changes are written back to linked StraboField spots and appear in StraboMicro and StraboExperimental views (Section 8).

9.8 CSV Files

CSV files work like the workbook's **Data** sheet. Exported CSV files use UTF-8 encoding, which Excel opens correctly. When uploading, files saved in other common encodings (such as Excel's default Windows encoding) are also read correctly.

9.9 Export Builder

The **Export Builder** (account menu) can also produce a samples workbook for the samples on chosen StraboField spots, using its **Sample list** option. That workbook adds read-only columns naming the StraboField project, dataset and spot of each sample. It can be uploaded on the Import page like any other export; the extra columns are ignored.

10 Finding Samples in StraboSearch

StraboSearch ([Search](#) > [Search All Strabo Data](#)) searches the projects of every StraboSpot application. It uses StraboSamples to find projects by the samples they contain, so you can ask, for example, “which projects have a geochronology sample?”.

10.1 Sample Search Criteria

StraboSearch offers these sample criteria:

- **Sample Name / ID:** find projects containing a sample with a given name.
- **IGSN:** find projects containing a sample with a given IGSN.
- **Sample Type / Purpose:** find projects with samples of a given material type or sample purpose.
- **Has Data Type: Samples:** find projects that contain any samples.

10.2 Results

StraboSearch results are **projects**, not individual samples. The result summary counts the matching samples, and each project card shows how many samples it contains. A sample used in several projects is counted under each of them.

StraboSearch covers public projects for everyone, plus your own projects and projects shared with you when you are signed in.

Note

Samples that are not used in any project, such as samples created on the website and not yet used in an application, do not appear in StraboSearch. Find them on My Samples instead (Section 3.3).

To open a sample’s own Overview page, find it on My Samples (your own and shared samples) or follow its web address (Section 4.2).

11 Troubleshooting and FAQs

11.1 Getting Help

If you have a problem with StraboSamples, contact the StraboSpot team through the [Help](#) page on <https://strabospot.org>. Include the web address of the sample involved (use the **Share** button to copy it) and describe what you did and what you expected to happen.

11.2 Common Issues and Fixes

1. A sample from my project is missing from My Samples:

- Make sure the project has been uploaded to StraboSpot. Samples are created by uploads, not by work saved only on your device.
- In StraboExperimental, check that the experiment's sample section has been filled in.
- Check that no filters are active: click **All** under **Collaboration** and **Type**, and clear the search box.

2. The same sample appears twice: StraboSamples links samples by their internal identifier, not by Sample ID, so a sample entered separately in two applications becomes two records even when the names match. In StraboMicro and StraboExperimental, use **Link Sample From StraboSamples** to link the sample to the existing record and upload again (Sections 5.2 and 8). Samples created on the website or by spreadsheet import always get their own record.

3. I cannot change a sample's latitude or longitude: the sample is linked to a StraboField spot, which manages its location. Edit the spot's location in StraboField and upload the project (Section 5.4.2).

4. My edit on the website was replaced: a later upload from an application changed the field. Open **View Changelog** to see which application made the change and when (Sections 4.6 and 8.5).

5. My change did not reach StraboField: Experimental material types and **Other** free-text values cannot be written back to StraboField. The changelog shows a **Field writeback** entry when this happens (Section 8.2.1). For changes that were written back, download the project into StraboField again.

6. The View button on a link card is grayed out: the project is private and belongs to another user, or it no longer exists. Hold the pointer over the button to see which.

7. My colleague did not receive an invitation: StraboSamples does not send invitation e-mails. Ask your colleague to open **My Samples**, where pending invitations are shown at the top. If you saw **No StraboSpot user with this email**, ask which e-mail address they use for their StraboSpot account.

8. A spreadsheet import shows errors: imports are all-or-nothing. Fix every listed row in your file and click **Upload a corrected file**. Common causes are a changed or copied

`strabo_internal_id`, an empty `sample_id` on a new row, and latitude or longitude given without the other.

9. **An import created duplicate samples:** new rows (with a blank `strabo_internal_id`) always create new samples. After an import, export again before making further changes, so the new rows carry their identifiers.
10. **A new sample did not open after I clicked Create Sample:** the Overview page opens in a new browser tab. If your browser blocked it, allow pop-ups for strabospot.org. The sample was still created and is at the top of My Samples.
11. **A visitor sees “Sample not found or not public”:** the sample is not in any public project. Invite them as a collaborator, or make one of the sample’s projects public (Section 7.6).

11.3 Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to do anything to put my samples into StraboSamples?

No. Uploading your StraboField, StraboMicro and StraboExperimental projects creates and links the records automatically.

Does StraboSamples change my project data?

Only edits you make to a StraboField sample’s shared fields on the website are written back into the StraboField data on the server. StraboMicro and StraboExperimental projects are never changed; website edits are shown on top of them when they are viewed on StraboSpot.

Can I delete a sample?

Not from the website. A sample that comes from an application is removed when you remove it from its project and upload, provided no other application uses it (Section 8.6).

Is sharing a sample the same as sharing a project?

No. Sample collaborators can see and edit only the samples you share with them, not the projects those samples belong to. Project collaborators are copied to a sample once, when it is first created by an upload (Section 7.5).

Can collaborators share my sample with others?

No. Only the owner can invite, change or remove collaborators.

Can I register an IGSN for my sample?

Not yet. IGSN registration is being developed and will be available soon (Section 1.5). You can already record an existing IGSN in the **IGSN** field.

Why is my sample public?

A sample is public when at least one project that uses it is public (Section 7.6).

12 Appendices

12.1 Appendix A: Quick Reference

To do this	Go here
See all of your samples	Account menu, My Samples
Create a sample	My Samples, + New Sample
Open a sample	My Samples, View Sample
Edit a sample or set its parent	Sample Overview, Edit Metadata
See a sample's history	Sample Overview, View Changelog
Copy a sample's web address	Sample Overview, Share
Invite collaborators	Sample Overview, Collaborate
Accept an invitation	Banner at the top of My Samples
Open a project that uses a sample	Sample Overview, View on the link card
Download all your samples	My Samples, Export
Create or update many samples	My Samples, Import
Add custom fields	Spreadsheet import
Link an application's sample to an existing record	Link Sample From StraboSamples in StraboMicro or StraboExperimental
Find projects by their samples	Search > Search All Strabo Data

12.2 Appendix B: Glossary

Changelog The history of every change to a sample: who, when, from which application, and the old and new values.

Child sample A sample cut, split or prepared from another sample (its parent).

Collaborator A StraboSpot user the owner has invited to view ([Read-only](#)) or edit ([Can edit](#)) a sample.

Custom field An extra value on a sample, added from a spreadsheet column that is not a standard StraboSpot column.

IGSN International Generic Sample Number: a permanent, globally unique identifier for a physical sample. IGSN registration from StraboSamples is coming soon.

Internal identifier The permanent code StraboSpot assigns to a sample record. Together with the owner, it identifies the record. Shown at the end of the sample's web address and in the `strabo_internal_id` spreadsheet column.

Link A connection between a sample record and a place where it is used: a StraboField spot, a StraboMicro project or a StraboExperimental experiment.

Link card A card on the Sample Overview page for one link, with a button that opens the project.

Owner The StraboSpot account a sample belongs to.

Parent sample The sample a child sample was cut, split or prepared from.

Public sample A sample used in at least one public project. Its Overview page can be viewed by anyone.

Sample ID The name of a sample, such as RF26-01. Not necessarily unique.

Sample Overview The web page for a single sample.

Shared fields The fields kept once for a sample and shared by all applications: Sample ID, IGSN, Material Type, Sample Purpose, location, Description and Notes.

StraboSearch The StraboSpot search for projects across all applications.

Writeback Sending an edit made on the website back into the linked StraboField spot.