



Press Release not for release until 5pm, 6th April 2010

The British Society of Soil Science and the Institute of Professional Soil Scientists unite to form a single voice for Soil Science

Kathryn Allton Executive Officer of the British Society of Soil Science said “The creation of a single soil science organisation will enable stronger, more effective representation and help support all aspects of soil science into the future”.

The creation of a single organisation to represent soil science has been supported by members of both the original unincorporated bodies who voted unanimously in favour of the merger at separate Annual General Meetings in 2009. The British Society of Soil Science will continue to be fully inclusive and engage with all. The Institute of Professional Soil Scientists will continue to support the needs of the professional membership, especially as the body licensed to award Chartered Scientist (CSci) status to members, and will retain its distinct identity as a trading name of the British Society of Soil Science.

The British Society of Soil Science is a charity created by the unification of the former unincorporated British Society of Soil Science and Institute of Professional Soil Scientists. It will build on the heritage and reputation of these two organisations to champion the study and development of Soil Science, and will provide expert guidance and opinion.

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Notes for editors

About the British Society of Soil Scientists

The British Society of Soil Science is a membership organisation and a charity whose mission is “**to advance the study of soil and to promote a better understanding of soil, nationally and internationally**”. Together with its professional body the Institute of Professional Soil Scientists (IPSS), the Society will achieve this through:

- Promoting the understanding, relevance and use of soil science and the dissemination of research findings;
- Enhancing soil education and developing soil scientists;
- Supporting standards of practice

Please also see BSSS Strategic Plan 2010-2015 (<http://www.soils.org.uk/>) and Charity No. 1134456

(<http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/SHOWCHARITY/RegisterOfCharities/CharityFramework.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1134456&SubsidiaryNumber=0>)

About the President: Professor Keith Goulding F.I. Soil Sci., CSci

Keith trained in Chemistry and Mathematics at Exeter University before moving into agricultural research, studying a Master of Science degree in Soil Chemistry at the University of Reading

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followed by a Doctor of Philosophy on ion exchange in soil at Imperial College, London. Keith joined Rothamsted Research in 1974 and is now Head of the Department of Soil Science and also manages the Cross-Institute Programme for Sustainable Soil Function (SoilCIP) which links research on soil science at Rothamsted with that at North Wyke Research. His current research focuses on nutrient cycling in the losses of nitrogen to air and water and their environmental impact, with a strong emphasis on policy-relevant research.

Keith is a visiting Professor at the University of Nottingham and China Agricultural University, Beijing. He is a member of the Society of Chemical Industry, a Fellow of the Institute of Professional Soil Scientists and a Chartered Scientist. He was awarded the Royal Agricultural Society of England's Research Medal in 2003 for research into diffuse pollution from agriculture and, with two colleagues at Rothamsted, received a certificate for their contribution towards the award of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize to the IPCC.

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