

Professor John Catt

John Catt, who died on 7th December, joined Rothamsted in 1963 as Scientific Officer in the Pedology Department where he expanded his doctoral research on the development of soil in Quaternary sediments, for which he was awarded his DSc.

John was born in 1939, and had gained his BSc and PhD in geology at Hull University. In the 1980s he broadened his research further to include remote sensing of crop performance, soil erosion on arable land, and transport of agricultural chemicals and pollutants through the soil into water courses. He later acted as head of the Soils Department and was Deputy Head of Rothamsted.

He retired from Rothamsted in 1998 to become Honorary Fellow and then Professor at University College London. He was a Fellow of the Geological Society and Institute of Geology, and in addition Visiting Professor at Birkbeck College, London, Honorary Professor in the Agricultural University of Prague, Secretary of the Institute of Geology and Editor of Soil Use and Management. He was author of 85 journal papers and numerous scientific reports. His books include 'Soils and Quaternary Geology', 'Soil Management: Problems and Solutions' (with M.A. Fullen) and 'Hertfordshire Geology and Landscape' (editor). In 2015 his contribution to science was recognized in the Distinguished Service Award he received from the Geological Society.

People often remark that John was the perfect gentleman; he will be remembered by many as a kind, wise and supportive colleague and friend.

John's funeral will be at 12.00 noon on 21 December at St Stephens Church, Watling Street, St Albans AL1 2PX.