

Friday 4 December 2020: Soil in Action: Supporting World Soil Day

This year's British Society of Soil Science (BSSS) Annual Conference will support [World Soil Day](#), promoting knowledge exchange and providing insight into the use and management of soil across professional and academic practice.

The conference is available **free of charge** to BSSS members and please register to attend in advance of the event: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7863026972758189836>.

10:00	<p>Sacha Mooney, BSSS President</p> <p>Welcome and Introduction</p>
	Soil in Action: Use Across Professions
10:10	<p>Lorna Dawson (President's Lecture)</p> <p>Natural Justice: the role of soil in the provision of intelligence and evidence</p> <p><i>Forensic soil science is an increasingly important discipline, involving soils, minerals, dusts, plants and rock fragments to provide a chronology of their ownership, custody and/or geographic location. Soil materials have been used as forensic trace evidence for a long time and such traces are extremely useful in a forensic context due to their environmental specificity, high levels of transferability, ability to persist on items such as clothing, footwear, tools and vehicles and their high levels of preservation after long periods of time. As Head of Forensic Soil Science at The James Hutton Institute, Professor Lorna Dawson will cover examples from real case work and from fiction, where evidence from the earth has been of importance in helping to solve crimes and bring about natural justice.</i></p>
10:45	Questions for Lorna Dawson
11:05 - 11:15	Comfort Break
11:15	<p>Martin Ballard (Professional Practice Committee Invited Speaker)</p> <p>Soils and Stones: A View from the Construction Sector</p> <p><i>Working for a major construction company, building on his agricultural and water infrastructure experience, and as Chair of the Society for the Environment's Soils and Stones Task Group, Martin Ballard will set out some of the challenges which organisations face when working with 'soils and stone' in the built environment and the common issues found between sectors. The need for efficient soils and stone use in construction and related sectors presents risk to soil health and material quality whilst mitigating risk from carbon release and waste crime. Martin will set out the impacts which current regulations have and provide perspective from the Soils and Stones Task Group's work.</i></p>

11:35	<p>Alexandre M.J.-C Wadoux (European Journal of Soil Science Invited Speaker)</p> <p>Efficient sampling for geostatistical surveys</p> <p><i>A geostatistical survey for soil requires rational choices regarding the sampling strategy. Based on the article of the same name in the European Journal of Soil Science, Alexandre Wadoux will discuss simple sampling strategies for soil mapping: spatial coverage of the sampling locations with or without close-pairs points, and how do they compare to an optimized sampling strategy. The number of observations required for reliable geostatistical soil mapping will also be briefly discussed.</i></p> <p>Free Open Access of journal article.</p>
11:55	<p>John Boardman (Soil Use and Management Invited Speaker)</p> <p>Off-site impacts of soil erosion and runoff: Why connectivity is more important than erosion rates</p> <p><i>Off-site impacts of soil erosion are of greater social and economic concern in Western Europe than on-site impacts. John Boardman will set out the two related categories these impacts fall into: muddy flooding of properties and ecological impacts on watercourses because of excessive sedimentation and associated pollutants. He will argue that well-connected systems causing off-site damage are not necessarily related to areas of high erosion rates and that emphasis should be on the way in which connections occur. He will suggest that field mapping and observation, aided by remote sensing, are necessary in understanding the impacts.</i></p> <p>Free Open Access of journal article.</p>
12:15 - 12:20	Comfort Break and submit questions
12:20	Questions for Martin Ballard, Alexandre M.J.-C Wadoux and John Boardman
12:40	<p>Launch of UK Soils</p> <p>by Bridget Emmett (UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology)</p> <p><i>UKSoils is an ambitious new initiative that aims to kick-start a nationwide appreciation and understanding of the economic, societal and ecological importance of soil health to support action and research. It will enable better access to robust, independent information, and provide a space for communities to come together to share their knowledge and experiences and develop new innovative practices to improve soil health. UKSoils is a growing group of scientific, campaigning and awareness raising organisations, all with a specialist knowledge of soil health. The group will continually seek new partners to expand the initiative's reach and engagement. The new online community hub launches on Friday 4 December as part of World Soil Day activities.</i></p>
13:00	Concluding remarks and launch of #Grounded
13:15	Close

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