



**BRITISH SOCIETY
OF SOIL SCIENCE**

Annual Report 2025



www.soils.org.uk

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Foreword from Patron

Hello! As the recently appointed patron of BSSS it is a pleasure to introduce the annual report for this year, give you a brief lowdown on the society's (many!) achievements over the last 12 months and to look ahead to the milestone year of 2027.

The society is growing – not just in numbers – although we now have almost 1000 members – but its impact is growing too. And that has come about through the work the society has done to communicate why the earth beneath our feet is so vital, and why the need to understand it and protect has never been so pressing.

The Soil Matters podcast has helped reach out to audiences beyond the soil science networks, and the soil loan box scheme has proven to be a fun, inclusive way to engage thousands of children and adults – some as far-flung as Hawaii – in the role soil plays in all our lives, wherever we are in the world.

There have been some important accolades too. 250 delegates attended the BSSS conference in December, winning the society the Best Member Engagement Award from the Association of British Professional Conference Organisers. One of our members, Professor Lorna Dawson, is now Professor Dame Lorna Dawson, having received what we believe to be the first ever damehood in soil science. And Andy Morris was elected to be a CSO panel representative for the UNCCD – a powerful platform for knowledge exchange amongst members, partners and international stakeholders. All that AND the Society won the bid to host the Eurosoil conference in 2028 in Edinburgh. Not a bad list of achievements for the last year...!

Looking ahead to next year, 2027 will see the Society celebrating its 80th anniversary. This comes at a time when soil science has arguably never been more important. We want this coming year to be one when the work of the Society and all its members is really recognised and appreciated.

This is the year to join our muddy hands and clear heads together to continue to inform political policy and best practice across the land management sector. This is the year to build public awareness, knowledge and enthusiasm, to be inventive in the way we communicate and collaborate. This is the year to look back with justified pride at what the society and its members have achieved, and to build on that.

Whatever the soil science equivalent is of 'blue sky' thinking – 'Martian regolith' thinking perhaps?! – this is the year to do it. Because those of us who share this remarkable planet of ours with you have never needed you more.

Kate Humble

British Society of Soil Science Patron

“This is the year to build public awareness, knowledge and enthusiasm, to be inventive in the way we communicate and collaborate. This is the year to look back with justified pride at what the society and its members have achieved, and to build on that.”



Introduction from the Chair

Midway through my term as President of the BSSS is a good moment to reflect on where we are. Two goals have shaped much of what we have done so far: improving the experience of our members and raising the recognition of soil science. Last year was full of activity toward both aims.

One of the real pleasures of being a member organisation is seeing the achievements of our community and 2025 gave us plenty to celebrate. The standout news was that Prof Dame Lorna Dawson became the first Damehood in soil science, and probably the first Dame or Knight in the discipline for almost three quarters of a century. Her work in soil forensics has had major influence, not only advancing soil science but shaping the criminal justice system. She has also been a strong and steady supporter of the BSSS for many years through IPSS Council and by helping develop our public voice.

We also had the great news that Dr Dan Evans at Cranfield received a UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship. These awards are among the most competitive for emerging researchers in the UK. Dan has contributed significantly to the Society over the years, including work with the Early Careers Committee and establishing the Early Career Researcher Editorial Board at EJSS, and was just elected President of the EGU Soil Systems Science Division (2027-2029).

Those were only two examples in a year full of member achievements. It was especially encouraging to see so much progress from our Early Career community, especially their employability and new discoveries. Their energy feeds directly into our publications, events, courses, and committees. They are, in many ways, shaping the future of the Society.

When I began my term in 2025, I was very aware that I was standing on the shoulders of those who built up the BSSS over many decades. Membership reached 982 by the end of the year, and we are hopeful that we may pass 1000 soon. We also took active steps to re-engage with members

across the many allied disciplines connected to soil science. Rhizosphere6 in Edinburgh was particularly helpful for this. Seven of the eight local organisers were BSSS members, including two Past Presidents and me. The meeting strengthened our links with specialists working at the soil-root interface, helped us reconnect with long-time members, brought in new members, and provided an opportunity to launch an EJSS special issue.

The BSSS is also very much an international society. Members are based worldwide, some having trained in the UK and others drawn to what we offer. Eurosoil25 gave us another chance to connect with soil scientists across Europe and further afield. Our unanimous success in bidding for Eurosoil28 means the meeting will come to Edinburgh. Across both events we gained around 70 new members and increased interest from exhibitors for our own conferences.

In 2025 we launched the Overseas Collaboration Award in honour of our former Patron, HRH the Duke of Gloucester, who served from 2014 to 2025. We were also delighted to welcome Kate Humble as the new BSSS Patron. She is widely appreciated for her science communication and environmental work, and she has already helped raise the profile of soil science. Her appearance on our Soil Matters podcast was especially valuable in bringing soil science to new audiences.

Soil Matters, launched in 2025, has continued to grow, now with listeners in the thousands. A recent episode on indigenous knowledge in Africa reflects our growing engagement with the Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network Global. Through this partnership we hope to support emerging soil scientists, some of whom may come to the UK for doctoral studies.

On BSSS Council, Past-President Jack Hannam spear-headed the launch of the Policy Sub-Group. It attracted some impressive members and will serve the BSSS well in influencing policies on soil sustainability across agriculture, forestry, industry and the wider environment.

Our outreach programme remained as active as ever. The BSSS had a presence at Groundswell, Open Farm Sunday, the Cereals Show and the Contamination Expo. Schools work continued, including a visit linked to our Annual Conference in Manchester. This was our largest conference yet, following a very successful Early Careers Meeting. The Early Careers Committee delivered a well-pitched and rewarding programme that supported those beginning their soil science careers.

We also celebrated the 40th anniversary of Soil Use and Management at the Annual Conference. Both our journals are growing considerably, with impact factors that are progressing better than most of the competition. In 2025 we appointed two new editors: Prof Leo Condrón for Soil Use and Management, and Prof Roland Bol for the European Journal of Soil Science, who took over from Prof Jenni Dungait after six years in the role. Supporting our journals supports the Society, and they remain central to the advancement and visibility of soil science.

Looking ahead, an important piece of work for 2026 will be the State of Soil Science report. UK soil scientists are among those whose publications most frequently become highly cited (top 1%). We want a clearer understanding of trends across training, employment and research. Are we producing enough soil scientists, and do they have the skills the discipline will need in the future? The report will give us a strong evidence base for discussions with government and for advocating soil science as a distinct and essential field. Education will also be a major area of work this year, including better visibility of training routes and stronger collaboration between further and higher education.

There is much ahead. I hope to see many of you at the World Congress of Soil Science in Nanjing, and earlier in the year at the Global Soil Biodiversity Conference in Canada. These meetings give us a chance to strengthen our networks and contribute to global discussions around sustainable soils.

Finally, I want to thank all those who contribute to the BSSS. Our members are the Society, especially those who serve on Council or give their time to activities such as the Working with Soils courses. I am grateful to Jack Hannam for her support as Past President and delighted that she received two Women Leaders Awards last year. It has also been a pleasure working with President Elect Lizzie Sagoo, who made an immediate impact. Thank you to the Executive Team, who deliver much of what you benefit from as members. They make my role as President much easier. Working with Andy Morris and his team on the strategic vision of the BSSS is hopefully serving our members well and taking it to new levels.

Prof. Paul Hallett President, 2025-2026

“One of the real pleasures of being a member organisation is seeing the achievements of our community and 2025 gave us plenty to celebrate.”



Introduction from the Executive Director

As we close the chapter on 2025, I am once again immensely proud to reflect on what has been an extraordinary and transformative year for the British Society of Soil Science. Building on the momentum of 2024, this year has been marked by innovation, international influence, strengthened partnerships, and record levels of engagement across all areas of our work. Our community continues to demonstrate that soil science is not only a thriving discipline but a vital pillar in addressing the climate, biodiversity, and food security challenges of our time.

Driving Forward Our Strategic Goals

This year saw the launch of our **Soil Matters podcast**, designed to bridge the gap between academic research and practical application. The content spanned subjects ranging from land remediation, regenerative agriculture, long term field experimentation and indigenous peoples and their engagement with soil science. The response has been phenomenal, with over 5,000 international downloads, signalling a strong appetite for accessible, evidence-based soil conversations.

On a personal note, I was honoured to be **elected the Western European CSO Panel Representative for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**, a role that reflects the growing international recognition of the Society's expertise and our commitment to global land stewardship. Through this engagement we have been able to place the sector and the society at the heart of policy making decisions, connecting with a wider international sector network and advising on policy position statements to help inform future COPs.

Our influence in UK policy also continued to advance. Supported by our Policy and Public Affairs Manager, **Ed Hinman**, our members contributed to several key government consultations, including the **Land Use Framework**. We also established a **Policy Sub-Group** to refresh and align our policy priorities, ensuring the Society continues to present a coherent, science led voice to government and industry.

Strengthening Partnerships and Expanding Our Reach

2025 was a significant year for collaboration. We signed several important **Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)**:

- **Marshalls EPAO**, ensuring BSSS members play

a central role in assessing new apprentices entering the sector.

- **CIRIA**, strengthening cross sector learning and shared innovation.
- **GCSAYN**, supporting farmers in low to middle income countries by improving access to research and education in soil science.

Our international presence continued to grow through exhibiting, side events and engagement at **Rhizosphere, Eurosoil 2025, New York Climate Action Week**, including a panel co-hosted with Princeton University, and a BSSS hosted webinar at **London Climate Action Week**. These global engagements contributed to record membership numbers, including increased interest from adjacent disciplines.

We also secured a landmark achievement for the Society and the UK soil science community: **winning the bid to host Eurosoil 2028 in Edinburgh**, where we look forward to welcoming colleagues from around the world in September 2028.

At a national level, our collaboration with the **Geographical Association** led to the launch of a pilot programme in Bedfordshire schools to embed soil literacy into the curriculum, an exciting milestone in our commitment to supporting the education sector.

Advancing Knowledge, Learning and Education

In 2025, our digital learning offer remained strong, with **ten Zoom into Soils sessions** delivered, continuing to provide high quality content for practitioners across the sector.

We launched a new **Soil Management Catchment Course**, with particular thanks to **Dr Marta Cattin** and the team, and piloted innovative new approaches to developing **Guidance Notes**, led by **Dr David Tompkins**, the Early Careers community and the Professional Practice and Development Committee.

Our education and outreach activities also reached new heights, with more than **5,000 learners and organisations engaging with our soil loan boxes**, evidencing the growing interest in soil literacy across schools, communities, and environmental organisations.

For our Early Careers community, we refreshed our offer and launched the **Unearth Your Potential** webinar series, supporting members to

develop their professional skills and deepen their engagement in the soil sector.

Our journals enjoyed another exceptional year, with **record numbers of submissions** and strong publication outputs.

Championing Soil Science

Our influence on the global stage continued to expand through the development of partnerships opportunities with **Drynet**, contributing to a series of educational webinars around NGO capacity building and how to effectively engage with policy makers and the UN conventions. This was coupled with ongoing engagement with mainstream media, including articles in **The Guardian**, helping bring soil science into public conversation.

Prof Paul Hallett, the society's president represented the sector on Enhancing global action for drought resilience, giving expert advice to the **Polish Council to the EU**, signifying our growing international influence.

We launched the Duke of Gloucester award which supports researchers, scientists, and professionals conducting soils-related projects in low to middle income countries. The response we received was fantastic and we were proud to award the grant to Muhammad Ansar Farooq from the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Islamabad, Pakistan.

Acknowledging Our Community

In March, we said farewell to Adrienne Golding and we were pleased to welcome **Dr Khalid Mahmood** into the Business Development Manager role. In September, we were delighted to welcome our second apprentice to the Executive Team, **Ella Nash**, who has joined the Marketing, Communications and Events team. This was a year of exponential growth, where we achieved record numbers in terms of sponsorship revenue and support throughout our various initiatives in 2025.

We were honoured to thank our patron, **HRH The Duke of Gloucester**, for his longstanding support, and delighted to welcome **Kate Humble** as our new patron. Kate has already shown great enthusiasm for working with the sector and supporting the development of our public affairs strategy.

This year also celebrated outstanding achievements across our membership:

- **Prof Dame Lorna Dawson** received her

Damehood in the New Year Honours List.

- **Dr Dan Evans** was awarded the prestigious **UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship**.
- Our Past President, **Prof Jack Hannam**, received several accolades including the **Outstanding Contribution Award, Engineering, Science & Maths Award**, and the **Overall Contribution Award** under the Women's Leadership Awards.

Our year reached an incredible finale with our **Early Careers and Annual Conference**, which saw **record attendance** and showcased the strength, ambition and diversity of our community. This was coupled with the Annual Conference 2024 winning Best Member Engagement at the Association of British Professional Conference Organisers Excellence Awards.

Looking Ahead to 2026

As we look to 2026, I am filled with optimism and excitement. Building on this year's achievements, we are well placed to further strengthen our influence, deepen our partnerships, deliver new learning opportunities, and champion soil science across every part of society. With Eurosoil 2028 and the Society's 80th Anniversary on the horizon, growing international engagement, and an energised, expanding membership, the future of the Society and of soil science is brighter than ever.

Thank you to all our members, volunteers, partners, sponsors and supporters for your unwavering commitment. The continued success of the society depends on the support of its members, together, we will continue to elevate soil science, inspire future generations, and build a sustainable future for soils and society.

Here's to an exciting and impactful 2026.

Andy Morris BSSS Executive Director.



Mission and Vision

*Our **mission** is to support and promote the discovery of new knowledge of soils and their role in global sustainability.*

*Our **vision** is to ensure sustainable soils for people and planet.*

We will achieve our mission and vision by:

- Promoting scientific study and discovery of new knowledge about soil and ensuring it is accessible to a wide audience.
 - Influencing policy and legislation through evidence-based advocacy.
- Supporting our members to develop and continue professional and academic excellence.

The Challenge We Face

To achieve our mission and vision, the Society must address key challenges including:

- Ensuring a sufficient skills base and engagement to deliver sustainable soil management.
- Driving research, evidence collection and professional excellence whilst experiencing the impacts of changes to academic publishing, income and attitudes to work.
- Promoting soil health in the face of geo-political uncertainty, a growing population and changing social attitudes in a world of technological innovation.



Our Strategy

1

Seeking to publicise the key issues for the soil science community

By 2025

We will have delivered a clear legacy from the World Congress including a wider range of active stakeholders and increased resources available to members and non-members. We will use our journals and website as mechanisms to deliver this. We will have become a key contact for UK media on soil-related issues and our science and guidance notes will have expanded into valuable resources for members and stakeholders.

By 2030

Our journals will be recognised as two of the leading international journals relating to soil. We will have become a key contact for international media on soil-related issues and we will expand our guidance and science notes to provide context for an international audience. Our website will include greater guidance and information aimed at scientific and non-scientific audiences.

2

Promoting change through knowledge exchange across all aspects of soil science

By 2025

We will be continuing to provide evidence-based information to policymakers at a national level and have become a contact for governments and stakeholders on soil science issues. We will provide dedicated forums for our members to discuss policy and best-practice issues, allowing us to develop recommendations combining academic and practical perspectives.

By 2030

We will be providing evidence-based information to policymakers at an international level and will take a pro-active approach in responding to international consultations. International stakeholders will seek out our dedicated member forums as advisory groups across the breadth of soil activities.

3

Hosting conferences and meetings focused on soils

By 2025

Using the knowledge and experience we develop from delivering the World Congress, we will deliver an international and interdisciplinary activity by 2025. The activity will recur on a cyclical basis and will establish the Society as a key player in the dissemination of soils-based knowledge globally.

By 2030

The international and interdisciplinary activity will be delivered for a second time and have developed in size and reach. The activity will attract a broader, international audience with support from major stakeholders.

4

Supporting and encouraging the education of soil science

By 2025

We will have delivered a clear legacy from the World Congress including a wider range of active stakeholders and increased in-person and digital resources available to members and non-members. This, alongside increased outreach and engagement work, will lead to an increased awareness of the importance of soil amongst a wide range of communities.

By 2030

We will have delivered large-scale outreach programmes, which aim to increase awareness of soil to audiences which can have a demonstrable impact in its care. As a result, the Society will also be recognised by educators and those already engaged in environmental matters, as a reliable source of information.



Our Strategy CONTINUED

5

Inspiring the future generations of soil scientists

By 2025

We will have developed a clear education and training pathway demonstrating the routes into soil science. We will have understood the gaps that exist and developed new courses and content for those within the sector, where the content does not exist. We will continue to work with external bodies to influence the soil science taught at all levels of the curriculum.

We will continue to provide our Early Careers members with the opportunity to network with their peers face-to-face and virtually and provide support to help them make the transition into Full membership.

By 2030

We will continue to promote the education and training pathway to members, students and those interested in working with soil. We will work closely with other professional and external bodies to embed soil content into peripheral qualifications, to ensure anyone who works in any context with soil, has the skills to do so.

We will recruit Early Careers members from a wider range of specialisms to encourage collaboration. This will support our members' career opportunities whilst encouraging interdisciplinary working.

Throughout our 10-year vision, we will encourage Society membership as a mechanism to support training and development at all career stages.

6

Ensuring high standards of professional practice for those working with soils

By 2025

We will require a minimum number of hours of CPD to be provided by Full and Fellow members each year. This will be closely linked to the CSci requirements to encourage more members to obtain CSci status in addition to Society membership. As a result, our members will be well-respected and highly visible as experts in all aspects of soil and its management.

We will update our corporate membership category to allow organisations to demonstrate the value of membership via outcomes aligned to the Society's mission.

By 2030

Our membership and number of CSci registrants will grow and strengthen as our professional standards are seen as a mark of expertise and are in demand from clients. Our clear education and training pathway will have led to an increase in the number of qualified soil experts and with industry clients specifying our members for soils work. Our external-facing activities will have led to an increase in membership across non-practitioner grades and we will have introduced tangible benefits to encourage membership amongst the non-scientific community.

7

Leading on the social and environmental responsibilities of a contemporary society

By 2025

The Society will have a thorough understanding of its environmental impact across all aspects of its operation and have a clear plan in place to reduce and offset its impact. We will continue to encourage inclusion within our membership by providing diverse role models at events and in our case studies.

By 2030

The Society will be a 'carbon positive' organisation, having minimised its environmental impacts and provided practical support to projects which outweigh any negative operational impacts. Our positive approach to diversity and inclusion will have led to a demonstrable increase in diversity across our membership.



Our Year's Highlights

JANUARY



Prof. Paul Hallett officially became BSSS President

FEBRUARY



Recorded and launched the first episode of our new podcast 'Soil Matters'

MARCH



Kate Humble appointed as BSSS Patron

APRIL



Andy Morris elected as Western European CSO Panel Representative for UNCCD

MAY



Hosted our first training course of the year (Practical Introduction to Soils in GB) at Llysfasi College

JUNE



Exhibited at Rhizosphere6 Conference in Edinburgh and hosted a panel session

JULY



Exhibited at Groundswell

AUGUST



Ella Nash joined Executive Team following Khalid Mahmood earlier in the year

SEPTEMBER



Exhibited at EUROSOIL in Seville and won the bid to host the next conference in 2028

OCTOBER



Held our first Catchment Management course, as well as a further Practical Introduction course

NOVEMBER



Northern Soils Network held annual event in Manchester

DECEMBER



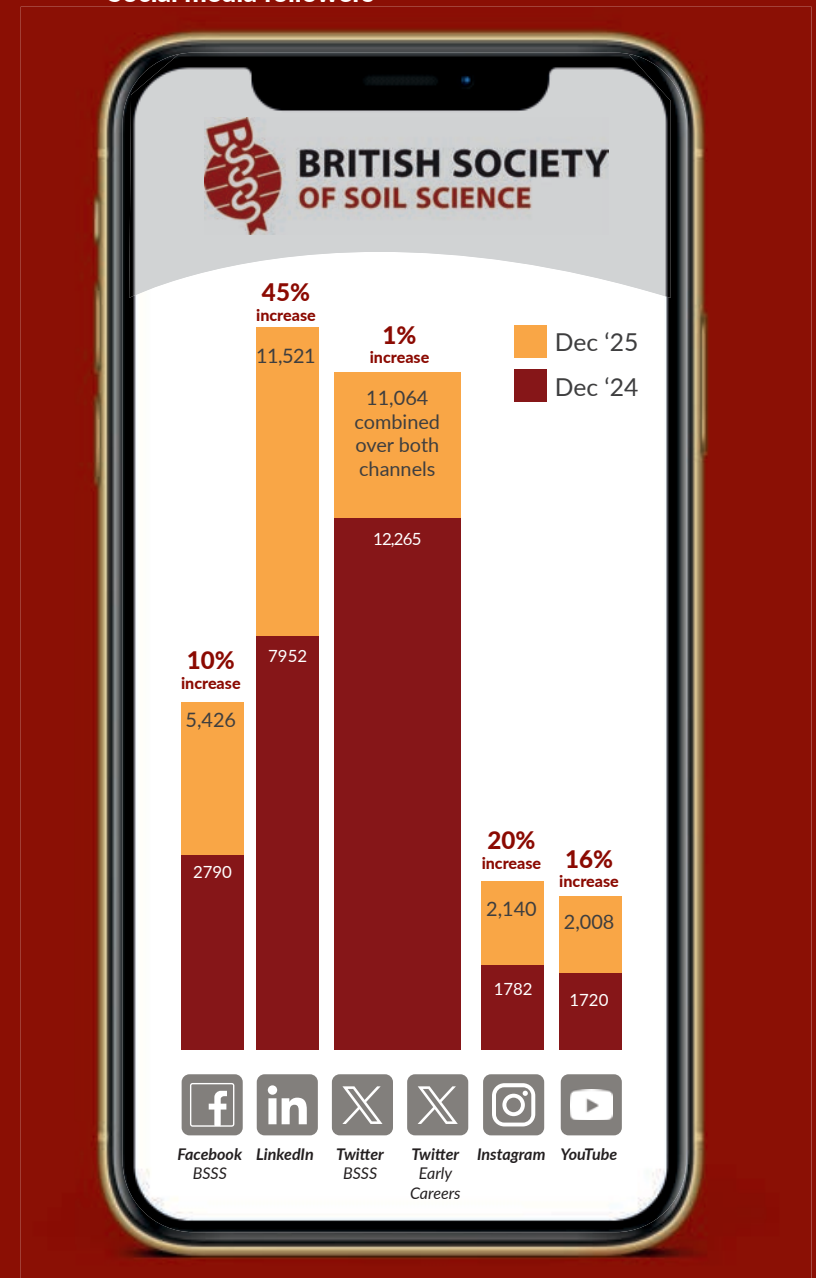
Hosted Early Careers Conference and Annual Conference with over 250 people in total

Our Year in Numbers

Key Numbers



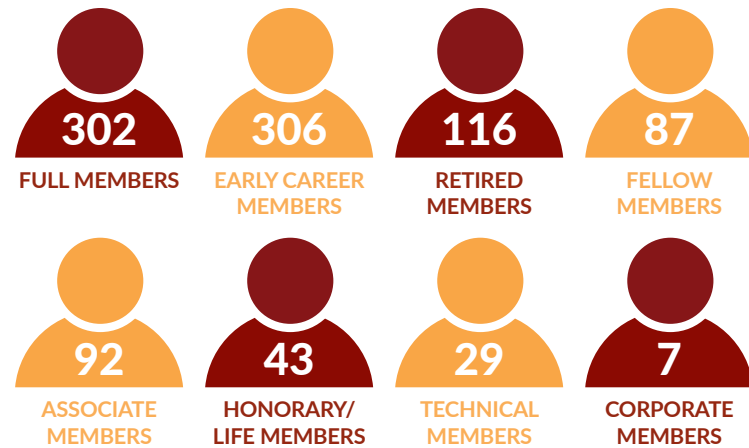
Social media followers



Our Year in Numbers CONTINUED

Members

As of 31 December 2025, the society represented **982** members. This includes 43 Chartered Scientists, and comprised of:



During 2024, BSSS welcomed **188** new members!



BSSS members stretch far and wide across the globe with members in 42 countries.

At the end of 2024, 62.3% of our members were male, 36.9% female, 0.2% gender non-conforming, and 0.2% non-binary with 0.4% preferring not to say.

Amongst our Early Career members, 41.02% of were male, 56.7% female, 0.6% gender non-conforming, 0.3% non-binary and with 1.28% preferring not to say.

Seeking to publicise the key issues for the soil science community

Our Strategy said:

We will raise the profile of the important soil issues via our two prestigious journals, European Journal of Soil Science (EJSS) and Soil Use & Management (SUM), our bi-annual member's newsletter (the Auger), our new website, an enhanced social media presence and by hosting regional, national and international conferences.

We will actively engage with the media by responding quickly to enquiries, providing factsheets and policy notes ensuring we are acknowledged as the UK's leading authority on soil science.

What we set out to achieve:

Launch a podcast series to highlight cutting edge research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Create a Policy sub-committee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Respond to UK Land Use Framework government consultations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Produce a Whitepaper on a relevant topic	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continue to raise the profile of the society journals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Launch a cross sector working group focused on creating a Soil Health Charter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Secure a new Patron for the Society	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Our Achievements:

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Prof Leo Condron begins role as SUM Editor-in-Chief	Published Episode 1 of the Podcast - Bioremediation	Soil Matters Magazine Published	Published Episode 2 of the Podcast - Regenerative Agriculture	BSSS Feature in NFU young farmer magazine	Published Episode 3 of podcast - Soil Health	Offered insights to GSCAYN to inform the UN session at New York HQ for the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development	Published Episode 4 of Podcast - The Secrets Beneath Colt Park Meadows	Ed Hinman Attended Lib Dem conference	Published Episode 5 of Podcast - From Soil to Supper: How Regenerative Farming is Transforming How We Eat	Retender for publication services completed	Appointed Prof Roland Bol as EJSS Editor-in-Chief
Soil Exhibition at Somerset House	Blog marking National Apprenticeship Week	Land Use Framework Consultation Working Group formed	Andy Morris elected to UNCCD as CSO representative for Western Europe	Broadcaster Kate Humble appointed as BSSS Patron	Joined Drynet network to inform NGO capacity building	Andy Morris gave expert interview around skill shortages facing the sector and opportunities for innovation		Ed Himan attended Labour conference	Andy Morris co-leads on consultation with UNCCD civil service organisations for key messages to be drawn up to inform international policy making		Published Episode 6 of Podcast - Old Knowledge and Indigenous Peoples (Part 1)
		Policy Subgroup formally established	Caria and Drynet meeting re UNCCD Science Policy Interface consultation	Expanded SUM Editorial team and appointed Lisa Lobry de Bruyn as Deputy Editor	Desertification and Drought Day video message from Andy Morris	BSSS members deliver panel session on sector training gaps at Natural England conference			BSSS featured in Product Services magazine re engagement at Groundswell and Regenerative Agriculture		
		Cross sector meeting aligning consultation messages with NFU, LI and CIEEM	UNCCD Election announcement published	Published land use framework response							
		Soil Use and Management Mission Statement updated	Dr David Tompkins article in the Guardian re BSSS guidance note for land managers about soil carbon								



ALL YEAR - Promoted both journals via regular 'In Case you Missed It' articles in our members' e-newsletters

ALL YEAR - Continued to promote our grant and award winners with case studies online and in our members e-newsletters

Seeking to publicise the key issues for the soil science community CONTINUED

Our Impact:

- The EJSS Impact Factor was 3.8 and the SUM Impact Factor was 3.7.
- SUM published 156 articles with 357,022 full text views (17% increase)
- EJSS published 218 articles with 580,324 full text views (22% increase)
- In 2025, the society's social media followers continued to grow. Post impressions across all channels grew by 15% to over 750,000. Our social channels now provide us with direct access to over 32,000 organisations and individuals overall.

In 2026, we will:

- Publish Season 2 of Soil Matters
- Establish policy priorities and respond to key governmental consultations
- Publish new guidance notes
- Map the Soil Health Charter
- Develop UK Domestic Policy plan
- Continue to raise the profile of society journals
- Publish new special editions for SUM and EJSS
- Create State of Soil Science Report

CASE STUDY: BSSS LAUNCHES SOIL SCIENCE PODCAST – SOIL MATTERS

In March, BSSS launched a brand new podcast all about soil called Soil Matters.

Soil Matters is dedicated to bridging the gap between scientific research and real world application. Each episode will feature leading experts, researchers, and practitioners discussing the latest findings, innovations, and challenges in soil science. From exploring soil's role in dealing with climate change mitigation and adaptation, to sustainable agriculture, food security and biodiversity, Soil Matters hopes to engage you with content that highlights the importance of soil in shaping our planet's future.

We published 6 episodes in 2025 which spanned subjects ranging from land remediation, regenerative agriculture, long term field experimentation and indigenous peoples and their engagement with soil science. We have welcomed speakers from all over the world including our Patron Kate Humble, farmer Andy Cato, Professor Richard Bardgett, Professor Anna Krzywoszynska, and Marioldy Sanchez Santivañez to name but a few.

The podcast will feature industry experts as we dig deeper into this vital natural resource, unearthing secrets of soil, and discovering why it is essential to the sustainable future of the planet. By exploring innovative projects, case studies and research, together we will understand why Soil Matters.

The response to the podcast has been very positive, with over 5,000 international downloads, signalling a strong appetite for accessible, evidence-based soil conversations.

The podcast is hosted by Paul Lincoln, a City of London guide – leading tours on post-war architecture, landscape and urban design. Paul previously worked for the Landscape Institute where he was Director of Policy and Communications, Deputy Chief Executive, editor of the Institute's journal, and host of the monthly podcast Talking Landscape.

For more information about the podcast and to listen to all the episodes visit: soils.org.uk/soilmatters



Promoting change through knowledge exchange across all aspects of soil science

Our Strategy said:




We will seek to support knowledge exchange in soil science through targeted engagement with industry, policy makers, government and educators. We will promote soil science across a range of disciplines using our website, social media and newsletters, with reference to the appropriate scientific research published in our Journals.


We will make the latest knowledge available to a wider community audience and provide a forum for debate and to develop new partnerships. We will also monitor government progress in developing new policies and ensure we feed into this process.

What we set out to achieve:


Expand the case studies to the Invest in Soil series (ongoing)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Seek funding to expand the Podcast series	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Exhibit at events aimed at professionals, including EGU, Groundswell, Rhizosphere and Eurosoil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Strengthen relationships with policymakers, allied organisations and interest groups	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Stand for election as a nominated CSO for UNCCD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Raise the society's profile at COP 30	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Our Achievements:


JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
		Bruce Lascelles speaks at CIRIA event on Sustainable Soils Management	Soil journal edition from Landscape Institute featuring input from BSSS members and President	Signed MOU with CIRIA 	Prof Jack Hannam spoke at AquaConSoil 2025	Fruit Focus- NIAB Kent East Malling 		Khalid Mahmood attended - Agro Forestry show	Scottish Soil Discussion Group webinar	Road to COP30 webinar: The Role of Indigenous Peoples in Soil Health Management	Khalid Mahmood attended CUPGRA 36th annual conference
		Grants and Awards Committee agreed to support attendees of the Eurosoil Conference		BSSS team members confirmed as Drynet working group to curate newsletter and webinar content to NGO network	Khalid Mahmood attended Cereals show	Signed MOU with Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network Global 		Khalid Mahmood attended WWEM and Contamination Expo		Road to COP30 webinar: Soils as a Pathway to Net Zero	Khalid Mahmood attended IFS conference Cambridge
					Khalid Mahmood attended NEC Birmingham Supply Chain Event	Andy Morris gave expert interview around skill shortages facing the sector and opportunities for innovation				Andy Morris creates position statements for COP 17 on Consideration of Priorities for Science-Policy Guidance and the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework	'What is Soil' page published by Max Silver
					Paul Hallett attends a roundtable Enhancing global action for drought resilience under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Giving expert advice to the Polish council to the EU						
					London Climate Action Week webinar - Soil health as a climate mitigation and adaptation strategy						



Cereals show



LCAW webinar



COP30: Net Zero webinar

ALL YEAR - Retained our membership of and contributed to membership bodies including the Science Council and Society Publishers' Coalition (SocPC)

Promoting change through knowledge exchange across all aspects of soil science CONTINUED

Our Impact:

- Engaging with UNCCD and its global partners to advance soil health initiatives and contribute to the achievement of global environmental goals.
- Secured 13 new sponsor relationships for Annual Conference

To Advance the dialogue around COP30 which was held in Brazil, we hosted a two-part webinar series titled “Soils as a Pathway to Net Zero” and “Role of Indigenous People on Soil Health Management.” The series brought together scientists, farmers, policymakers, and sustainability leaders to explore how healthy soils can drive emission reductions, enhance resilience, and create fair financial opportunities for those who steward the land.

- 118 people attended the webinars
- The webinars were viewed over 300 times on Youtube
- 91% of attendees rated the content as good of excellent
- 85% of attendees said that they would use the knowledge learnt as a result of the sessions in their future work

In 2026, we will:

- Engage at international events such as Desertifi'action's, Global Soil Biodiversity Conference, The World Congress of Soil Science and COP17
- Strengthen relationships with policymakers, allied organisations and interest groups
- Consult CSOs and NGOs on COP 17 key messages
- Advise of strategic work of UNCCD CSO panel
- Raise the society's profile with various United Nations conventions (UNCCD and UNFCC)
- Engage in cross sector international webinars offering Knowledge Exchange to the wider sector

CASE STUDY: ANDREW MORRIS ELECTED AS WESTERN EUROPEAN CSO PANEL REPRESENTATIVE FOR UNCCD

The British Society of Soil Science (BSSS) is proud to announce that its Executive Director, Andrew Morris, has been elected as the Western European Civil Society Organisation (CSO) panel representative for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). This prestigious appointment underscores BSSS's ongoing commitment to advocating for soil health and sustainable land management on a global scale.

The UNCCD received an unprecedented 43 nominations for the CSO panel positions—nearly three times the number received in the previous period. After a competitive selection process, BSSS was shortlisted as one of the final four candidates for the Western Europe region, ultimately securing the position through the election process that ran from 28 February to 14 March.

Civil society organisations play a vital role in shaping policy and providing critical insights into the realities of land degradation and climate change worldwide. Through its active participation in UN conventions and initiatives, BSSS has demonstrated a strong commitment to championing soil health as a fundamental component of sustainable development and climate resilience.

Reflecting on his election, Andrew Morris stated:

“Appointment to the CSO panel marks a unique opportunity for both me and the Society to support the CSO network, harness their voice, and work closely with policymakers and the sector to highlight the importance of soil health. By collaborating with key stakeholders, we can drive meaningful change and work towards achieving land degradation neutrality.”

BSSS has a well-established presence at international environmental summits, having attended the COP climate summits as an official non-governmental organisation (NGO) observer for the past four years. At COP29, the Society hosted a successful side event on 'Invest in Soil Health – fostering the future of climate change mitigation and adaptation', which brought together speakers from Africa, South America, India, and Europe to discuss regenerative approaches and climate finance. Additionally, BSSS played a key role at the UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, hosting discussions on effective soil management in response to land degradation, biodiversity loss, and extreme weather events.

Andrew Morris further emphasised the importance of his new role, stating:

“Whilst discussions at global conferences cover a wide range of topics, it is reassuring to see agriculture and food security gaining greater

prominence in the climate agenda. By fostering discussions, partnerships, and initiatives, we will continue to reinforce the importance of soil health in mitigating climate change. It is essential that we unite voices across the sector to facilitate positive discussions that lead to action and policy support. This is crucial for securing the sustainability of our planet and global food security.”

The UNCCD CSO panel serves as a bridge between accredited organisations and the UNCCD secretariat, ensuring that the voices of civil society are represented in decision-making processes. With over 600 organisations accredited with observer status, the panel plays an instrumental role in fostering collaboration and enhancing the impact of civil society contributions.

This appointment is a significant achievement for BSSS, reinforcing its international standing and commitment to soil science and environmental sustainability. The Society looks forward to working closely with UNCCD and its global partners to advance soil health initiatives and contribute to the achievement of global environmental goals.



Hosting conferences and meetings focused on soils

Our Strategy said:

We aim to grow participation in our regional and annual meetings. We will act to develop communication pathways with a wide range of stakeholders and use our meetings to foster debate in the latest scientific and practical issues in soil science.

Working with the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) and other international societies, we were committed to delivering the best possible World Congress of Soil Science in Glasgow in 2022 and ensuring this provides a comprehensive legacy for the Society and its members.

What we set out to achieve:

Host face-to-face Regional Group events and meetings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Continue our free-to-attend Zoom into Soil series, partnering with external organisations as relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Deliver an in-person Annual General Meeting, partnering with Natural England	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Deliver our Annual Conference in Manchester, alongside a tours and outreach programme	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Deliver sessions at COP 30, Eurosoil, Rhizosphere and EGU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Our Achievements:

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Zoom into Soil webinar: What's on the horizon for BSSS	Zoom into Soil webinar: Grassland Soil Health	Appointed PCO for Eurosoil Bid	Paul Hallett appointed to scientific panel for Eurosoil	WSDG webinar and discussion event	Established and held side event session at Rhizosphere Conference	Established at Groundwell	Zoom into Soil webinar: Longterm Experiments	Exhibited at Eurosoil and held side event	Zoom into Soil webinar: Monitoring Soil Health	NSN regional event in Manchester	Early Careers Conference in Manchester
		Zoom into Soil webinar: Evidence-based approaches for soil science out each	Zoom into Soil webinar: SUM journal and phosphorus use efficiency	Launched abstract submission for conference		BSSS AGM hosted at Natural England Conference	Andy Morris gave a keynote at the GCSAYN 10th Anniversary Symposium	Won bid to host Eurosoil 28 in Edinburgh		Eurosoil site visit to Edinburgh	BSSS Annual Conference in Manchester
		Meet the editors sessions at EGU conference	Zoom into Soil webinar: Perspectives on Sustainable Farming	Zoom into Soil webinar: Soil Carbon and AI	Zoom into Soil webinar: Soils in Construction and Planning			BSSS attends New York Climate Action Week, taken part in Regen House events		Aberdeen site visit for 2026 annual conference	



Prof. Paul Hallett presenting at AGM



New York Climate Action Week



Annual Conference

ONGOING – Planning for Eurosoil 2028

Hosting conferences and meetings focused on soils CONTINUED

Our Impact:

Across all of our Zoom into Soil webinars, 87% of attendees stated that the content was good or excellent and 71% of attendees said that they would use the knowledge learnt as a result of the sessions in their future work

- Over 800 people attended our ten webinars and they have been viewed almost 3,000 times on YouTube
- 120 delegates attended (online and in-person) across our 4 regional events for 2025

Annual Conference 2025

- 206 delegates from across 5 continents attended our Annual Conference which comprised of:
 - 1 impact session, 4 discussion panel sessions, 2 keynotes, 28 oral presentations across 5 themes, 7 quickfire presentations, 60 posters with 3 poster sessions, 11 parallel sessions, an art and culture exhibition, the SUM anniversary networking event, 2 scientific and 1 cultural tour and our EGM where we confirmed our new Early Careers Committee Chair.
 - 96% of responders rated the content as Good or Excellent
 - 100% of responders said they gained new knowledge as a result of attending the conference.
 - 98% of responders said they will be able to put the new knowledge gained for the conference into practice.
- The conference also enjoyed a good mix of member, non-members and early careers in attendance totaling:
 - 29% of attendees were Full/Fellow/Technical members
 - 30% of attendees were Early Career members
 - 35% of attendees were Non-Member delegates

In 2025, we will:

- Host face-to-face Regional Group events and meetings
- Continue our free-to-attend Zoom into Soil series, partnering with external organisations as relevant
- Deliver an in-person Annual General Meeting, partnering with Natural England
- Deliver our Annual Conference in Aberdeen, alongside a tours and outreach programme
- Plan Eurosoil 2028

CASE STUDY: ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN MANCHESTER

A Rich Programme

We were delighted to welcome over 200 delegates from 4 continents to King's House Conference Centre in Manchester in December. The event featured a rich and diverse programme where we welcomed high profile delegates and speakers such as Tony Juniper CBE (Chair of Natural England), Prof. Pete Smith (University of Aberdeen) and Dr. Nils Broothaerts (from the European Commission).



Integrated Perspectives

The five abstract themes of soils for people, soils for climate, soils for water, soils for life and advances for soils helped delegates to learn and understand more about soil in these wide aspects and allow delegates to take this into their own research and work. Poster sessions provided emerging researchers and practitioners the chance to share work on contemporary soil challenges, from microbial ecology to landscape-scale soil functions.

Gala Dinner

We organised a Gala Dinner at Manchester Hall where delegates enjoyed a drinks reception and a 3 course meal, whilst being entertained by musicians from the Royal Northern College of Music. We heard from three guest speakers from our art and culture room - Daro Montag, Karolina Trdicova and Emma McKenna - and also presented our Outstanding Society Contribution Award to Dr. Danni Robb.

Scientific Tours

The main scientific tour took place at Bold Moss in St Helens (part of the Mersey Forest) where delegates learnt about the soil management initiatives on the site. The second tour was at Manchester City Stadium where delegates got an exclusive look on the pitch and state of the art equipment from the head groundsman.

Outreach and Engagement

A key theme from the week was the social sciences element and how members can translate their science into something that the public can engage with. A popular highlight was our art and culture room that featured artworks, films, ceramics, a 'Singing Compost' set up and VR headsets. Prior to the conference, we were pleased to visit a local school in Manchester to provide an outreach session for Year 3 and 4 classes. Led by Dr. Lizzie Sagoo and Dr. Marta Cattin, we were able to engage the children by getting their hands dirty and learning about the importance of soil using our loan box resources.

Exhibitors and Sponsors

We had 3 headline sponsors, one of which was our journal, Soil Use and Management, that was celebrating their 40th anniversary. We had 14 exhibitors, several of which also provided their own CPD parallel sessions which really enhanced our programme and was well received by the delegates. It was great to be showcasing exclusive sessions at the conference such as the LandIS Open Access National Soils Portal Launch which was an important industry update for stakeholders and members alike.

Key Takeaways

Soils are increasingly recognised as foundational for global sustainability. With mounting policy focus on land use and soil protection, the BSSS Annual Conference provided a vital forum to share research, build partnerships, and inspire actionable solutions across sectors. Whether you're a soil scientist or new to the Society, the conference reaffirmed a simple truth: healthy soils are indispensable for a resilient and sustainable future.



Supporting and encouraging the education of soil science

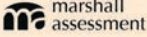




Our Strategy said:

We will support the education of soil science across a wide range of individuals and age groups. We will provide information and resources to teachers, farmers, agronomists, growers, industry and land managers and the public via grants, outreach events, training courses and teaching materials.

What we set out to achieve:

Attend external outreach events including Open Farm Sunday and regional shows	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Engage with British Science Week	<input type="checkbox"/>
Host a session at the British Science Festival	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expand our soil loan boxes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Engage with a school's pilot delivering soil loan boxes in inner city areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop relationships and secure MOUs with End Point Assessment Organisations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scope course accreditation offering to UK education partners	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Our Achievements:

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Zoom: What's on the horizon for BSSS	Zoom: Grassland Soil Health	Signed EPAO MOU with Marshall 	Zoom into Soil webinar: SUM journal and phosphorus use efficiency	Zoom into Soil webinar: Soil Carbon and AI	Attended and supported Open Farm Sunday events 	Zoom into Soil webinar: Soils in Construction and Planning	Soil Matters Podcast featured on the GCSE Natural History blog for Geography Teachers resources	Geographical Association Inner City Schools pilot launched with BSSS	Bespoke Training Course held with FERA	ALC Course at Cranfield	Record numbers of soil loan boxes engaged with
Outreach Committee: New members appointed		WWS Soil Hub at translocation course launched			Zoom into Soil webinar: Perspectives on Sustainable Farming		Zoom into Soil webinar: Longterm Experiments	ALC accreditation working group launched	Ella Nash launches new approaches to engage a larger audience		
		Zoom into Soil webinar: Evidence based approaches for soil science out there						Zoom into Soil webinar: Soils through agriculture, restoration and agroforestry	WWS Catchment Management course - Lancaster		
					 Khalid Mahmood at Open Farm Sunday				WWS Practical Introduction Course - Shuttleworth		 Soil Loan boxes
						 Shuttleworth Course			Zoom into Soil webinar: Monitoring Soil Health		

ALL YEAR – Promoted the scientific work of our members across our social media channels, alongside soil-focused articles and documentaries aimed at the general public

Supporting and encouraging the education of soil science CONTINUED

Our Impact:

- 16 Physical loan boxes were hired, reaching over 12,053 people
- 1 soil science loan box was donated to St John's CE Primary in Dukinfield, Cheshire as part of our Annual Conference legacy
- In the winter of 2025, Dr. Samuel Hibdige and Dr. Emily Guest, who are both Early Career members of BSSS, delivered an interactive lesson about soil science on the island of Maui in Hawaii helping to inspire the new generation about soil science.
- In August 2025, the Environment Agency delivered an exhibition at the London Science Museum, where we helped support them through allowing use of one of our soil science loan boxes. Their activities helped to cover soil health and its impact and importance for food production. This had massive outreach as the event was attended by an estimated 5,000+ people!
- Early in 2025, Susan Young from BSSS' Outreach Committee helped lead a showcase and discussion in her local community about people's experiences with soils. She very kindly wrote a case study about this as well, which you can read about [here](#)

In 2026, we will:

- Exhibit at domestic events such as Groundswell, Cereals and British Science Festival
- Expand our soil loan boxes
- Engage with a school's pilot delivering soil loan boxes in inner city areas
- Scope course accreditation offering to UK education partners
- Expand WWS course offering
- Create an Education Sub-Group to encourage collaboration in Higher Education

CASE STUDY: INTERACTIVE SOIL SCIENCE LESSONS ON MAUI, HAWAII

Over the winter holidays of 2025, Dr Samuel Hibdige and Dr Emily Guest, both postdoctoral researchers at Cranfield University and Early Career members of the British Society of Soil Science (BSSS), had the pleasure of delivering an interactive soil science lesson to a primary school on Maui, one of the Hawaiian Islands.

Here is what they had to say about the highlights of their experience, and the importance of inspiring a new generation of soil scientists:

"As Sam's sister-in-law is a teacher at a local school in Maui, whilst we were on holiday to visit them, we were really keen to introduce her students to what soil is made from, why it matters and how we can look after it better. Using real-world examples from the recent flooding in their local town of Kihei, we explored how poor soil structure can increase surface water runoff, possibly leading to the brown flood waters they had seen running through their own classroom. They were also very familiar with the plastic sheeting left behind in local fields which are now mostly unused after decades of pollution and degradation from sugarcane and pineapple production, where plastics for weed control and harvesting through burning were commonplace.

We discussed how soils are different throughout the world, especially as we had travelled from almost the other side of the globe and explored practical ways to care for soils using the five principles of regenerative agriculture as a basis. We explained how improving soil structure and biology can enhance soil functionality for better water holding capacity and drainage.

To bring the learnings to life, we collected local soils from three contrasting managements: a forest floor, a compacted bare walking path,

and a sample from their teacher's garden! The class carried out the 'Super Sponges' experiment using content from BSSS's website (<https://soils.org.uk/education/soil-explorers-super-sponges-experiment/>), investigating how well each soil absorbed and retained water.

Working in small groups, the children became 'soil detectives', using clues such as soil colour, texture, visible plant material and water-holding capacity to match each sample to its original location. The exercise really encouraged them to think about the link between soil management and how it effects soil functions, ecosystem services, and us!

The pupils were very enthusiastic to get their hands dirty, think about how they might use their new knowledge in their own gardens, and ask us lots of questions – even if some were to simply hear us say 'water bottle' in an English accent!

'Mahalo' (Thank you in Hawaiian) to Mrs Oli and her class for such a warm welcome and for reminding us how inspiring soil can be at any age when we learn more about what lies beneath our feet. We hope we've helped to inspire a new generation of soil scientists who might one day help bring agriculture back to the island, this time in a much more sustainable way through managing soils better.

Thank you also to BSSS for supporting us with these resources which were a basis for our lesson, and for gifting some generous materials which we will be sending out to the students to continue their soil learning journey, including more experiments to do in the classroom, classroom posters and soil story books."



Inspiring the future generations of soil scientists

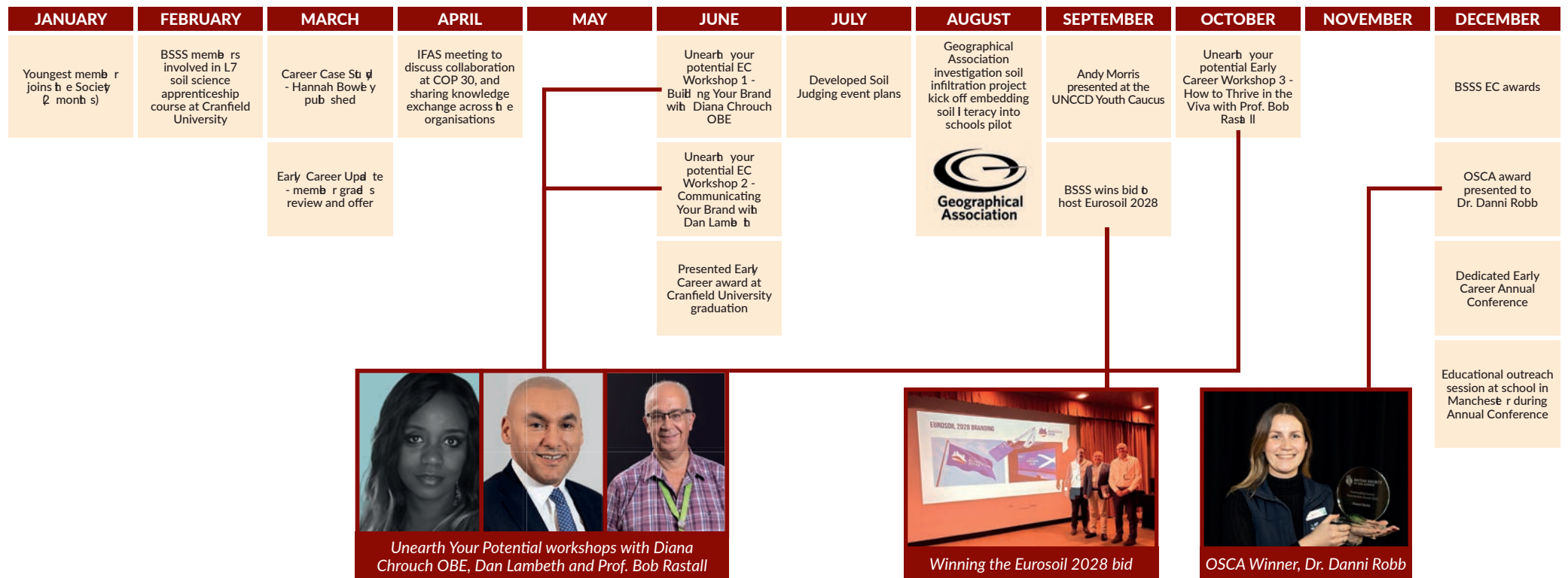
Our Strategy said:

We will continue to support the development of early career (EC) members working in soil science. We will fund a biennial conference dedicated to ECs and give them prominence at our Society Annual meeting. Through our education committee, we will support teachers and engage in community projects to inspire the next generation of soil scientists.

What we set out to achieve:

Launch Uneath Your Potential Early Careers CPD webinar series	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Launch new Duke of Gloucester Overseas Collaboration Award	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Deliver Soil Judging Event	<input type="checkbox"/>
Host the bi-annual EC Conference	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publish a minimum of three interviews with soil scientists at various stages of their career	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop a Public Affairs strategy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Our Achievements:



ALL YEAR - Published six issues of the Early Career members' newsletter, Eye to the Horizon

Inspiring the future generations of soil scientists CONTINUED

Our Impact:

2025 saw continued engagement with our Early Career members which included our training provision equipping our Early Career members with future fit skills, launching the 'Unearth Your Potential' webinar series, organising and delivering the biennial Early Careers Conference, and extensive engagement at our Annual Conference. The engagement across these outputs totaled:

- 39 Early Career members attended Working with Soil courses
- 59 Early Career members attended the Annual conference
- 17 oral presenters from the Early Career member grade presented at the conference
- 4 Early Career members chaired sessions at the Annual Conference
- Average open rate of 57% and average click rate of 17% for Eye to the Horizon

In 2026, we will:

- Continue unearth your potential Early Careers CPD webinar series
- Scope Low to Middle Income Countries offer
- Support a team of early career members at the World Congress Soil Judging Competition
- Refresh member benefits for Early Careers membership grades
- Publish a minimum of three interviews with soil scientists at various stages of their career
- Develop strategic MOUs with UNCCD Youth Caucus to expand podcast content
- Continue to deliver grants and awards recognising excellence in the sector

CASE STUDY: EARLY CAREERS CONFERENCE - BLOG FROM DR. CHRISTINA VAN MIDDEN

The EC conference held during the first week of December 2025 was a mix of workshops and presentations, giving delegates the stage to showcase their projects. The theme was resilient soils for a sustainable future, inviting delegates to present work on soils for climate, people, water, life and advances for soil.

With dedicated poster sessions and oral presentations, it gave delegates the chance to discuss their work with peers. Posters and presentations were judged with prizes awarded for best talk and poster. Many congratulations to Catherine Martinez for best oral presentation, Sara Trojahn for best poster and Abbie Rogers for delegates choice on best poster.

The conference started with a social bingo session, acting as an ice-breaker for the delegates to network. Further workshops focused on effective communication in a range of scenarios and audiences to equip delegates with tools to communicate both within and outside of academic audiences. A soils profile workshop aimed to demystify soil classification and allowed delegates to get their hands dirty by assessing multiple soil cores.

The following day, Past-President Prof. Jack Hannam gave an excellent keynote speech on her career journey, providing helpful tips and insights. This set the scene for a career session designed to showcase multiple pathways into soil science careers, with a great panel discussing among many items, the skills they found most useful in their disciplines.

At the end of the conference, the outgoing chair of the EC committee, Dr Dannielle Robb, was presented with the Outstanding Society Contribution Award. This was well deserved for her hard work on the committee to generate events and provide information useful for early career members, her efforts to get the first UK soil judging competition underway and her passionate dedication to soil science.

On a final note, it was very pleasing to hear from a delegate in the annual conference (that immediately followed the EC conference), was their observation that the EC members who had stayed on formed groups with each other. This showed that we had achieved our intention for the EC conference to provide a space for delegates to meet and connect with peers, connections that could last throughout their careers.



WINNER - BEST ORAL PRESENTATION
Catherine Martinez



WINNER - BEST POSTER
Sara Trojahn



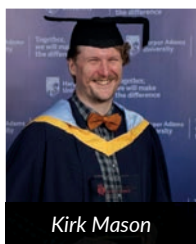
DELEGATES' CHOICE BEST POSTER
Abbie Rogers

Award Winners

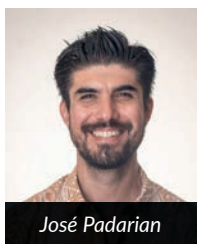
BSSS is proud to sponsor a prize and trophy for a number of awards within academic institutions, which are presented to students based on criteria set with each one.

The 2025 award winners each received two years' Society membership as part of their prize:

- **William Baker** - Best undergraduate final year dissertation on a soil related subject at Harper Adams
- **Kirk Mason** - Best postgraduate final year dissertation on a soil related subject at Harper Adams
- **José Padarian** - The Margaret Oliver 'Young Pedometrics Award'
- **Issy Trigg** - Undergraduate Award at Lancaster University
- **Rosemond Owiah** - Most Promising Soil Scientist at Cranfield University
- **Allison Duquette** - Outstanding performance in a soil science-based Honours or MSc project at University of Aberdeen
- **George Fitch** - Outstanding Performance in a Soil Science Based MSc Project at SRUC
- **Gabriella Marzano** - Outstanding Performance in a Soil Science related project at University of Nottingham



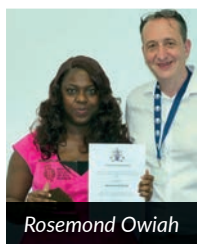
Kirk Mason



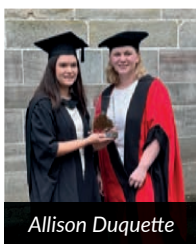
José Padarian



Issy Trigg



Rosemond Owiah



Allison Duquette



Gabriella Marzano

We were delighted to present our Outstanding Society Contribution Award (OSCA) to outgoing Early Careers Committee Chair, Dr. Danni Robb, for all her work for BSSS Early Career members and their development.



Grant recipients

The following grants were awarded in 2025, supporting members and organisations to develop soil science skills. Case studies from grants given are regularly published on our website. Find out more about the activities we have been supporting at: www.soils.org.uk/education/case-studies/

NAME	GRANT	AMOUNT
Christian Brooke Hollingbery	Brian Chambers Soil Fund	£459.00
Douglas Baah	Early Career Conference Grant	£500.00
Emily Marr	Brian Chambers Soil Fund	£199.00
Luci Corbett	Early Career Conference Grant	£500.00
Rahul Yadav	Early Career Conference Grant	£500.00
Muhammad Farooq	Duke of Gloucester Overseas Collaboration Grant	£3,000.00
Fiona Pearce	Early Career Conference Grant	£500.00
Aditi Mishra	Early Career Conference Grant	£500.00
Katerina Dauksta	Brian Chambers Soil Fund	£2,500.00
Will Dawson	Early Career Conference Grant	£500.00
Shamima Akter	Early Career Conference Grant	£500.00
Emily Brooks	Early Career Conference Grant	£500.00
Benjamin McCulloch	Brian Chambers Soil Fund	£350.00
Jessica Underwood	Early Career Conference Grant	£500.00

Ensuring high standards of professional practice for those working with soils



Our Strategy said:

We will provide dedicated training courses such as our Working with Soils series, as well as industry focused events in support of Continued Professional Development, providing high professional standards and assisting with maintaining Chartered Scientist registration.

What we set out to achieve:

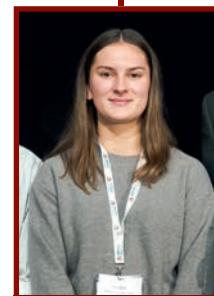
Deliver Working with Soil training courses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Launch Continued Professional Development (CPD) recording mechanisms	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scope steps for the society to become a chartered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Design two new Work with Soil courses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Complete member segmentation project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Our Achievements:

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Member segmentation kick off project	WWS Soil Habitat and relocation working group kick off	Launched free to access workforce development webinars with best strategic development network	Appointed Business Development Manager	WWS Practical Introduction to Soils Course in Wales	Attendance to the City and Guild industry panel	Presented Member Segmentation results to board	Appointed Marcomms Apprentice	WWS Online Classification course	Launched Flood mitigation course	WWS ALC Course at Cranfield University	9 New Fellow Members confirmed
		Duke of Gloucester Low to Middle income counties Award launched across partner network, CA4SH, IUSS, UNCCD, Wiley		Elementar joins as corporate member		2 new Honorary members confirmed			State of UK Soil Science report kick off		188 member applications reviewed including 3 new Chartered Scientists
									WWS Practical Introduction course at Shuttleworth		



Business Development Manager Khalid Mahmood



Marcomms Apprentice Ella Nash



188 member applications reviewed

Ensuring high standards of professional practice for those working with soils CONTINUED

Our Impact :

- 98 delegates attended BSSS courses
- 80 training hours provided
- 100% of delegates rated the technical content of our Working with Soil courses as good or excellent
- Developed a new course on Catchment Management

In 2026, we will:

- Deliver a number of Working with Soil training courses
- Launch new Work with Soil courses
- Refresh Corporate Member offer
- Launch Sponsor due diligence process
- Promote the importance of effective engagement in CPD

CASE STUDY: WORKING WITH SOIL COURSES

We delivered 5 training courses in 2025 as part of our Working with Soil programme. There were two Practical Introduction to Soils in Great Britain courses held at Coleg Cambria Llysfasi and Shuttleworth College. We held an Introduction to Soil Classification course online and also hosted an Introduction to Agricultural Land Classification course at Cranfield University.

2025 saw the launch of a new course in our portfolio: A Practical Introduction to the Role of Soils in Catchment Management which was held at Lancaster University. This hands-on, two-day course is designed to fill key knowledge and skills gaps in the application of soil science for improving water quality and quantity outcomes.

98 delegates in total attended the courses that were held between April and November.

We also provided a bespoke training course in soil classification to FERA.

Two key aspects of our long-term strategy are supporting and encouraging the education of soil science, and ensuring high standards of professional practice for those working with soils. We are pleased to be fulfilling this strategy and continuing to provide soils training and education to BSSS members and partners in the industry.

Throughout 2025, our working groups played a crucial role in refreshing our Working with Soil offer, ensuring that our training provision remains future fit for a rapidly evolving sector, with work currently being undertaken to launch new courses in soil habitat translocation and biodiversity gains whilst exploring ways to launch accredited courses around Agriculture Land Classification.



Practical Introduction to Soils in Great Britain - Llysfasi



Practical Introduction to Soils in Great Britain - Shuttleworth

Leading on the social and environmental responsibilities of a contemporary society

Our Strategy said:

We will provide leadership in the areas concerning the socio-economic responsibilities of a modern Society. We will ensure all members have equality of opportunity, irrespective of age, race, disability, sex, religion or other protected characteristics. We will ensure our activities are planned with issues of equality, inclusion and diversity at the forefront of all decision making and that we act environmentally responsibly and achieve carbon neutrality where possible.

What we set out to achieve:

Review ways of working for all our committees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Appoint ED&I representatives across all committees and board	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Complete ED&I audit and detail areas of improvement and next steps	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Launch ED&I Working group	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implement ethical investing plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Our Achievements:

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Reviewed committee's Terms of References and survey launched	Green Ethical Investment fund agreed and launched	Hedgerow planting exercise at Cranfield University	Developed AI engagement policy	Recruited new members to join the Working with Soil team	Jack Hannam won Outstanding Contribution and Engineering, Science & Maths Award at Women Leaders Award	Appointed Adrian Uncles as Special Issues Editor	Appointed Marcomms Apprentice to Executive Team	Appointed Lisa Lobry de Bruyn as SUM Deputy Editor		Andy Morris led a UNCCD CSO consultation to establish key messages for CRIC	BSSS won Best Member Engagement Award at ABPCO Awards
	ED&I Audit kick off	Duke of Gloucester Low to Middle income counties Award launched across partner network, CA4SH, IUSS, UNCCD, Wiley	ED&I initial audit completed and submitted to Science Council								
			Appointed Kate Humbat as Patron								



Duke of Gloucester award launched



Jack Hannam at the Women Leaders Awards



Winners at the ABPCO Awards

Leading on the social and environmental responsibilities of a contemporary society CONTINUED

Our Impact :

Zoom into Soil

- 9 Female Presenters
- 14 Male Presenters
- 2 Female Chairs
- 3 Male Chairs

Annual Conference

- 27 Female Presenters
- 44 Male Presenters
- 7 Female Chairs
- 4 Male Chairs

Early Careers Conference

- 24 Female Presenters
- 17 Male Presenters
- 6 Female Chairs
- 1 Male Chairs

In 2026, we will:

- Launch ED&I working group and launch ED&I project
- Refresh comms strategy and refresh imagery
- Run president elect campaign
- Align committees more closely to society outputs and ED&I strategies

CASE STUDY: BSSS WINS MEMBER ENGAGEMENT AWARD

In December, we were delighted to win the Association of British Professional Conference Organisers (ABPCO) Award for Best Member Engagement for our 2024 Annual Conference.

The conference in Cardiff included initiatives such as a Talking Soil Bench, a conference programme shaped by members, cultural & scientific excursions, and schools and youth engagement.

The event placed our members' voices, ideas, and identities at the centre of the programme and projected them into the wider

community through creative engagement. From conference to castle, classroom to cricket ground, BSSS members were empowered as collaborators and ambassadors for the Society's mission.

We are thrilled to have been recognised for our long-lasting relationships with our members and their invaluable engagement with the Society. Thank you to all our fantastic members for engaging with us and all the incredible work you do.

ENGAGEMENT AREA	OUTCOME	EVIDENCE
Conference Attendance	Over 200 delegates, record post-COVID	Registration data
Talking Soil Bench	>1,000 listens; >150 in-person public interactions	Bench analytics & feedback
Speaker Participation	>90% members; highly rated content	Delegate survey & peer review
School Engagement	5 Cardiff schools reached	Teacher feedback, materials distributed
Member Satisfaction	94% said event exceeded expectations	Post-event survey



“This was the most engaging BSSS event I’ve ever attended. I felt heard, involved, and proud to be part of it.”

Member feedback

Our Journals

We publish two journals in partnership with Wiley; the European Journal of Soil Science and Soil Use and Management

European Journal of Soil Science

The European Journal of Soil Science (EJSS) is an international journal dedicated to advancing the theoretical and mechanistic understanding of soil properties and processes – from molecular to global scales, in natural and managed environments – through measurement and modelling.

Citation Impact

CiteScore	(Scopus): 9.1
Journal Citation Indicator	(Clarivate): 0.85
Journal Impact Factor	(Clarivate): 3.8

Publication

Full Text Views:	580,324
Total articles published:	218

Editor-in-Chief

Roland Bol, Institute of Bio- and Geosciences, Agrosphere (IBG-3), Forschungszentrum Jülich, Jülich, Germany. Formerly Prof. Jenni Dungait.

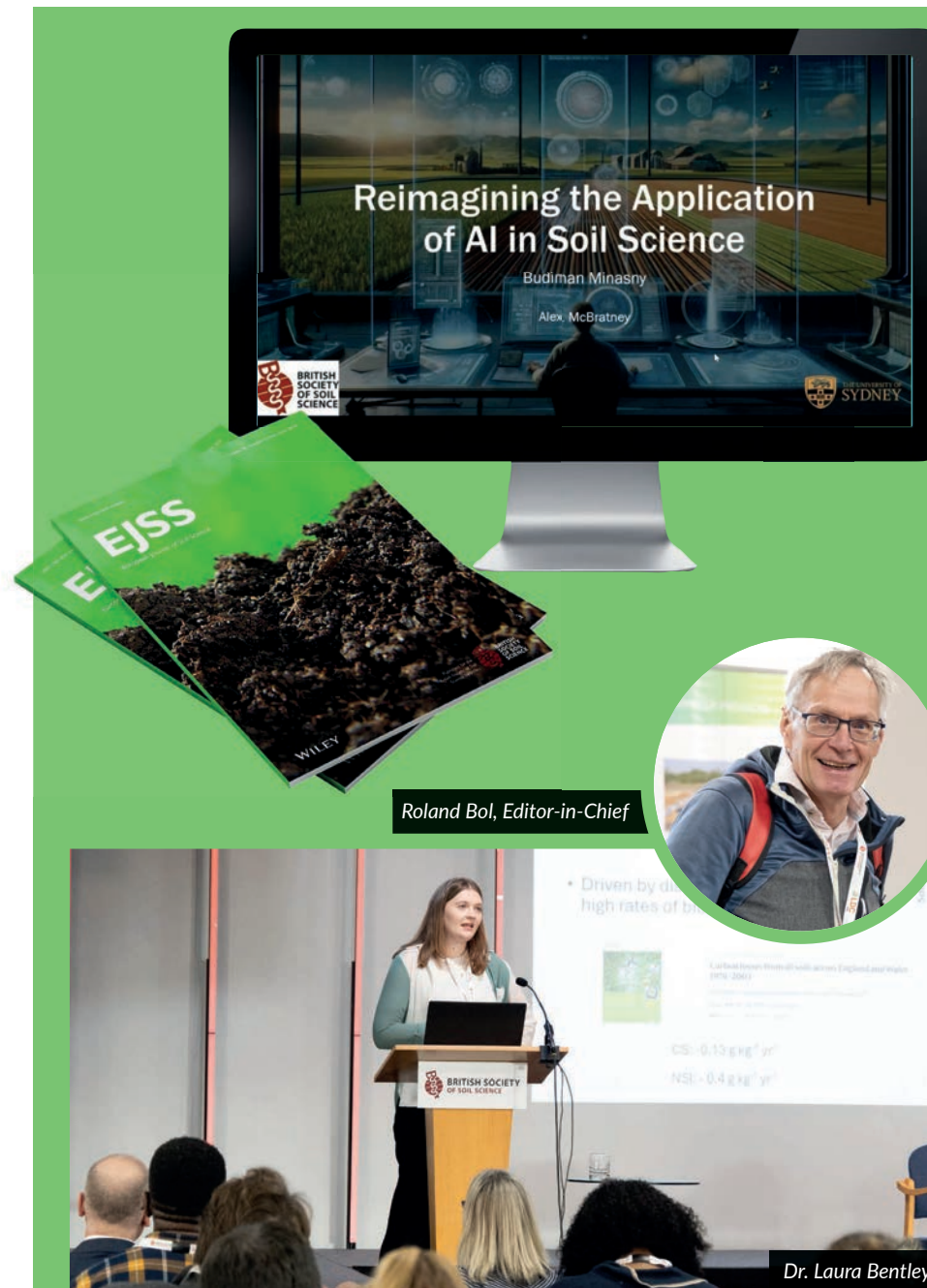
Deputy Editors

- Mark Farrell, CSIRO, Adelaide, Australia
- Andy Gregory, Rothamsted Research, Harpenden, UK
- Hailong He, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada; Northwest A&F University, Yangling, China
- Gerard Heuvelink, ISRIC-World Soil Information & Wageningen University, The Netherlands
- Olaf Schmidt, University College Dublin (UCD), Dublin, Ireland

Following on from their 75th anniversary in 2024, EJSS enjoyed another strong year with a record year of papers and special issues published. A notable paper was the highly anticipated Russell Review on 'Artificial Intelligence in Soil Science' written by Alexandre M.J.-C. Wadoux. The paper was written on invitation, as part of the EJSS 75th anniversary celebrations and provides a fascinating insight into Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its role in soil science. This Russell Review examines the role of AI in soil science over past decades and explores how AI will transform soil science in the future. Through a systematic literature review, Alexandre identifies the soil science domains where AI has made the most significant contributions.

To coincide with this, we were pleased to host a webinar in partnership with EJSS to feature two exciting papers on Soil Carbon and Artificial Intelligence. Professor Budiman Minasny discussed his paper on 'Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence Applications in Soil Science'. Dr. Laura Bentley discussed the findings from her paper on 'First Signs that National Cropland Organic Carbon Loss is Reversing in British Topsoils' following on from the UKCEH Countryside Survey. Laura also presented these findings at the BSSS Annual Conference in December.

Towards the end of the year, we welcomed a new Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Roland Bol following the retirement of Prof. Jenni Dungait after six years in the role. The Society would like to take the opportunity to thank Jenni for all her work and dedication to the journal. We look forward to seeing what the future holds in the next chapter of EJSS's success.



Our Journals

We publish two journals in partnership with Wiley; the European Journal of Soil Science and Soil Use and Management

Soil Use and Management

Soil Use and Management publishes novel research in soil science or soil-focused research within agricultural science, environmental science, and policy studies. Manuscripts should present new and significant information and insight on the influence of natural and anthropogenic processes on the function, productivity, health, and sustainability of managed soil systems. This includes the role of soil stewardship in addressing global issues such as mitigation of and adaptation to ongoing climate change, environmental quality, food security, and progress towards achievement of specific sustainable development goals.

Citation Impact

CiteScore	(Scopus): 6.7
Journal Citation Indicator	(Clarivate): 0.79
Journal Impact Factor	(Clarivate): 3.7

Publication

Full Text Views:	357,022
Total articles published:	156

Editor-in-Chief

Leo Condon, Lincoln University, New Zealand

Alan Wild Reviews, Perspectives and Topical Collections Editor

Adrian Unc, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada

Deputy Editors

- Lisa Lobry de Bruyn, University of New England, Armidale, Australia
- David O'Connor, Royal Agricultural University, UK
- J. Webb, Shropshire, UK

In 2025, we marked SUM's 40th anniversary with a special collection of 40 selected papers, aptly titled 40@40. These papers follow the development of applied soil research, from its traditional agricultural origins to its broader role in tackling global environmental challenges and societal concerns. Over the period, SUM has evolved from a strong, UK-centric focussed journal to one with significant international reach. SUM marked the occasion as one of the headline sponsors at the 2025 Annual Conference where they also held a side session covering the 40 years of the journal.

In May we welcomed a fourth Deputy Editor to the Soil Use and Management (SUM) team, Prof Lisa Lobry de Bruyn, based in Australia, an expanding geographical market for the journal, Lisa brings new expertise to and insights to the team, with specialisms in Social Sciences. We also expanded the scope of the editorial team with Prof Adrian Unc becoming a Special Issues editor, launching the Alan Wild Reviews, which will build on the success and impact of SUM.

We were also pleased to host a webinar in partnership with SUM where the Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Leo Condon, outlined his future plans for the journal and Pietro Sica highlighted a leading paper from the journal on phosphorus use efficiency.



Corporate members

We are delighted to have collaborative partnerships with 6 organisations who have joined our Corporate Membership scheme.

Becoming a Corporate Member of the British Society of Soil Science demonstrates to your staff and customers that you care about soil and are building a collaborative partnership to help safeguard our soil for the future. In 2025, we welcomed Elementar to this exclusive group, after exhibiting at our 2024 conference and choosing to work with us further.



ADAS is the leading agricultural R&D and consultancy business in the UK, with over 80 specialisms including soil science, crop physiology, crop protection, nutrition, horticulture, sustainable supply chains, ecology, economics, policy, modelling, informatics, GIS and web/software development. We were pleased to collaborate with them via a Zoom into Soil webinar on Grassland Soil Health and also at the Groundswell Show where we shared a stand and soil pit and engaged with lots of delegates and organisations about soil.



Arcadis is the world's leading company delivering sustainable design, engineering, and consultancy solutions for natural and built assets. They have more than 34,000 people, in over 30 countries, dedicated to improving quality of life. We were pleased to collaborate with them on a Zoom into Soil webinar on Soils in Planning and Construction, and they were also sponsors at our Annual Conference, Early Careers Conference and Gala Dinner.



As a specialist postgraduate university, Cranfield is recognised worldwide by industry, government and academia for their research and teaching in plants, soil, water and air. They contribute to enhancing natural capital and ensuring that global food systems are more resilient for the future. We were pleased to collaborate with them on a Zoom into Soil webinar on Soils through agriculture, restoration and agroforestry, and they were also session sponsors and exhibitors at the Annual Conference.



The Ecological Continuity Trust (ECT) was formed in 2008 and is a unique ecological research charity working across the UK to support long-term ecological field experiments and monitoring. ECT currently maintains a national register of 36 active LTEs across 37 sites in all four nations of the UK. We were pleased to collaborate with them on a Zoom into Soil webinar on Long-term experiments, a podcast episode featuring Richard Bardgett at Colt Park Meadows, and also at the Annual Conference where they delivered a session on Evaluating Biodiversity Net Gain Using Long-term Ecological Field Experiments.



Rothamsted Research is the longest-running agricultural research institute in the world with a proud history of groundbreaking discoveries. Rothamsted is home to three unique resources, open to researchers from all over the world: The Long-Term Experiments, Rothamsted Insect Survey and the North Wyke Farm Platform. We were pleased to collaborate with them on a Zoom into Soil webinar on Regenerative Agriculture and were pleased to welcome presenters from the organisation at our Annual Conference.



Elementar is one of the leading manufacturers in high-performance analysis of organic and inorganic elements. They incorporate more than 125 years of experience in the development and manufacturing of high-class analytical instrumentation. Continuous innovation, creative solutions and comprehensive support form their foundation, ensuring their products continue to advance science across agriculture, chemical, environmental, energy, materials, and forensics markets in more than 80 countries. We were pleased to collaborate with them on a Zoom into Soil Webinar on Monitoring Soil Health and they were also exhibitors and ran a side session at the Annual Conference.



Soil data repository to become open access

Cranfield University and Defra have agreed to develop a new open-access portal for soil and related environmental data for England and Wales, including the National Soil Map of England and Wales (NATMAP). The new system, due to launch in April 2026, will be derived from Cranfield's LandIS (Land Information System) and will provide free access to a substantial body of nationally important soil data.

LandIS is one of the largest environmental information systems of its kind in Europe and is widely recognised as the definitive source of national soils information in the UK. By opening access to these datasets, the initiative aims to strengthen the evidence base for soil and environmental science and support better management and protection of soils and the wider environment.

Dan Evans, Senior Lecturer in Soil Science and UKRI Future Leaders Fellow, said: "We want this new portal to be shaped by the needs of the user community. As people begin to explore the system, their feedback will be essential in helping us improve it and ensure it continues to develop in ways that support soil science, land management, and environmental decision making."

Find out more: landis.org.uk

Our People

Our Trustees

Paul Hallett
President 2025/26

Jack Hannam
– Immediate Past President (until 31 December 2026)

Lizzie Sagoo
President-Elect

David Tompkins
Professional Practice & Development Committee Trustee

Anirban Sarkar
Finance Trustee

Dan Lambeth
Marketing, Communications and Policymaking Trustee

Our Executive Office

Andrew Morris
Executive Director

Khalid Mahmood
Partnerships and Development Manager

Dominic Simms
Communications, Marketing and Events Coordinator

Christine Wangari
Charity and Membership Administrator

Max Silver
Membership Administration Apprentice

Ed Hinman
Policy and Public Affairs Manager

Ella Nash
Marketing and Events Apprentice

Our Council

Paul Hallett (President, Council Chair, and Publications Chair)

Lizzie Sagoo ((President Elect and Grants & Awards Chair)

Jack Hannam (Past President, ED&I Chair, and Policy Sub-Group Chair)

Andrew Morris (Executive Director)

David Tompkins (Professional Practice & Development Committee Chair)

Leo Condron (Editor, Soil Use and Management)

Roland Bol (Editor, European Journal of Soil Science)

Mark Nason (Outreach Committee Chair)

Jess Brook (Early Careers Chair)

Kara Marsden (Welsh Soils Discussion Group Chair)

Nikki Baggaley (Scottish Soil Discussion Group Chair)

James Rowson (Northern Soils Network Chair)

Lynda Deeks (South West England Soil Discussion Group Chair)

Isobel Lloyd (South East England Soil Discussion Group Chair)

Megan Purchase (Ordinary Council Member)

Ashish Malik (Ordinary Council Member)

Our Committees

Our committees are led and managed by our volunteers who deliver the strategy of the Society through the groups. Thank you to all of our volunteers who give their time to our various committees.

The Chair of each Committee is also a member of the Society Council.

Early Careers Committee
Chair: Jess Brook

Outreach Committee
Chair: Mark Nason

Grants and Awards Committee
Chair: Lizzie Sagoo

Professional Practice and Development Committee
Chair: David Tompkins

Publications Committee
Chair: Paul Hallett

Our Regional Groups

We operate six Regional Groups to meet the needs of our members in different parts of the country. Each of the Regional Group Chairs is also a member of the BSSS Council and implements the Society's strategy, regionally.

Midlands Soil Discussion Group
Chair: Currently vacant

Northern Soil Network
Chair: James Rowson

Scottish Soil Discussion Group
Chair: Nikki Baggaley

South East England Regional Group (SEESOIL)
Chair: Isobel Lloyd

South West Soils Discussion Group (SWSDG)
Chair: Lynda Deeks

Welsh Soil Discussion Group
Chair: Kara Marsden

About Us

The British Society of Soil Science (BSSS) was founded in 1947 and is an established international membership organisation and charity committed to the study of soil in its widest aspects. The society brings together those working within academia, practitioners implementing soil science in industry and all those working with, or with an interest in soils.

Research on soils and enhanced understanding and engagement with soils is essential for agricultural, landscaping, construction, remediation, conservation and archaeological projects, as well as policy direction on critical topics such as climate change.

We promote research and education, both academically and in practice, and build collaborative partnerships to help safeguard our soil for the future. Anyone with an interest in soil is welcome to become a member and attend our conferences and webinars, receive complimentary access to our two scientific journals, the European Journal of Soil Science and Soil Use and Management and a host of other benefits.

Thank you to our Corporate Members, Partners, Sponsors and Donors



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