



FIRST NOTICE

PREDICTING THE FUTURE FOR HIGHLY ORGANIC SOILS

BRITISH SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE SPRING CONFERENCE

James Watt Centre 1
Edinburgh Conference Centre
Heriot-Watt University,
Riccarton, Edinburgh

**5 - 7TH May
2009**

Soils with high organic matter content are widespread across the northern latitudes and a valuable natural resource for a diverse range of human needs, from arable and forest production, buffering greenhouse gas emissions and ensuring urban water supplies to supporting our distinctive native habitats and biodiversity for their tourism, recreation and conservation values.

However, as recognised in the developing European Soil Framework Directive and national soil strategies within the UK, these soils, and their vital functions, are under increasing threat from numerous, diverse risks which include climate change, pollution, land development and agricultural intensification.

The pressing challenge for soil science is to determine what options there are for managing these vulnerable soils in a future of multi-dimensional change.

With this in mind, this conference has been organised to provide an up-to-date assessment of our understanding and management of highly organic soils and to identify knowledge gaps through a series of invited talks by international speakers, together with offered presentations and posters, in the following sessions:

- **Impacts of environmental change on the functioning of highly organic soils**
- **Valuing highly organic soils for ecosystem goods and services**
- **Current management and policies regarding highly organic soils**
- **Predicting the future for highly organic soils**

We are now calling for registration, oral presentations and posters. It is the intention of the organisers to publish selected papers from the meeting in a special issue of Soil Use and Management.

Deadline for registration and submission of abstracts is 31st January 2009

Online registration and further information available at
<http://bsss.macaulay.ac.uk>

Email BSSSHOSoil2009@macaulay.ac.uk

Jointly hosted by: Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, The Macaulay Land Use Research Institute and The Scottish Agricultural College and supported by The Scottish Government

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