REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 07110309 (England and Wales)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1134456

Report of the Trustees and Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025 for British Society of Soil Science (A Company Limited by Guarantee)



British Society of Soil Science
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For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

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British Society of Soil Science
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS
For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

TRUSTEES	Dr J A Hannam Dr E M Sagoo (appointed 1 January 2025) Dr P D Hallett Dr D S Tompkins Mr D Lambeth Mr A Sarkar
COMPANY SECRETARY	Mr A Morris
REGISTERED OFFICE	Building 42a, Cranfield University Cranfield, Bedfordshire MK43 0AL
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	07110309 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1134456

Patron Kate Humble (from 12th May 2025)

Office Staff		
	Mr A Morris	Executive Director
	Mr D Simms	Communications, Marketing and Events Coordinator
	Ms C Wangari	Charity and Membership Administrator
	Mr M Silver	Membership Administration Apprentice
	Ms A Golding	Business Development Manager (until 26th February 2025)
	Mr K Mahmood	Business Development Manager (from 12th May 2025)
	Mr E Hinman	Policy and Public Affairs Manager
	Ms E Nash	Communications, and Marketing Apprentice (from 1st September 2025)

Editorial Team

European Journal of Soil Science

Professor J Dungait	Editor (until 31st December 2025)
Professor G Heuvelink	Deputy Editor
Professor O Schmidt	Deputy Editor
Dr M Farrell	Deputy Editor
Dr D Evans	Social Media Coordinator
Dr. A Gregory	Deputy Editor

Soil Use and Management

Prof L Condron	Editor (from 1st January 2025)
Dr D O'Connor	Deputy Editor
Dr A Unc	Deputy Editor (until 16th May 2025)
Dr A Unc	Reviews, Perspectives and Topical Collections Editor (from 16th May 2025)
Dr L Lobry	Deputy Editor (from 16th May 2025)
Dr J Webb	Deputy Editor
Dr F Nicholson	Social Media Coordinator

British Society of Soil Science
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS
For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Independent Examiner	HB Accountants Plumpton House Plumpton Road Hoddesdon EN11 0LB
Bankers	Co-operative Bank PO Box 250 Skelmersdale WN8 6WT
Website	www.soils.org.uk

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Association History

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. This includes hosting side events at international events and COP conventions where practitioners and policy makers met to discuss the critical global issues relating to soil including; managing soils sustainably, preserving its ecosystem, and mitigating against climate change.

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.

Association Governance

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

BSSS is governed by a Board of Trustees, all of whom signed a declaration of acceptance of office as a Trustee at their first meeting as a Trustee following their appointment. The declaration included any particular responsibilities of the individual Trustee.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Trustees should usually be appointed for a minimum of three and a maximum of six years. Trustees who have, or are due to reach, the end of their term, shall retire from office at the next General
Meeting. The society may by ordinary resolution appoint a person who is willing to act to be a trustee either to fill a vacancy or as an additional trustee.

No person may be appointed as a trustee:

- unless that person has attained the age of 18 years; and
- unless that person or being a corporation, its duly authorised representative has completed an application for membership in a form approved by the trustees;

or in circumstances such that, had he already been a trustee, he would have been disqualified from acting under the provisions of Article 23.

Induction and training of new trustees

Induction:
All trustees are required to sign a declaration of acceptance of office as a trustee at the first meeting of the trustees following their appointment. Such declarations may set out particular responsibilities to be undertaken by an individual trustee.

Training:
By virtue of electing independent trustees to the Society's board of trustees, the Society intends to ensure suitably trained and experienced individuals are recruited to the board of trustees.

The ability to recruit personnel with the required experience, skills and expertise required by the Society enables the trustees to reduce the necessity of additional training required by newly appointed trustees. The necessity for additional skills and training is reviewed internally on a regular basis by the board of trustees.

Depending on the experience of newly appointed trustees the board may provide induction training in this respect, if deemed necessary. The level of experience and participation with the Society sought in the trustees during the recruitment process reduces the level of induction training normally required.

Wider network
The Society is a member of the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) which is a global union of soil scientists. The Society will be working closely with IUSS over the coming years as society's Past President Dr Bruce Lascelles is the president elect for IUSS. Society members receive complimentary membership of IUSS as part of their BSSS subscription.

The Society also has paid memberships with the Royal Society of Biology and the Science Council amongst other organisations.

Related parties
BSSS has been located at Cranfield University since 2009 enabling the society to collaborate with leading experts from the Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute, as well as utilise facilities ranging from its world-class soil labs to the UK's largest Land Information System (LandIS) and World Soil Survey Archive and Catalogue (WOSSAC).

It is important to note that the Society is recognised as a tenant by the University, the BSSS office staff are employed through the University and all of their costs are charged back to the Society.

Risk management
The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:
- A quarterly review of the risks the charity may face;
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the risk review; and
- The implementation of procedures to minimise any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

The current risk register takes particular note of the financial and data management issues. The society is financially supported by the publication of its two journals and so the success of the journals is highlighted as an important risk management area. Public liability remains a crucial area and insurance policies are reviewed annually to ensure adequate cover is in place.

Advisory Council
BSSS retains an Advisory Council which holds delegated responsibility from the Board of Trustees as detailed in the company By-laws. During 2024, the Council consisted of 17 members, as follows:

Paul Hallett	Trustee and Chair – from 01.01.2025
Nikki Baggaley	Scottish Soil Discussion Group Chair
Chris Cantle	Northern Soils Network – until 01.07.2025
James Rowson	Northern Soils Network – from 01.07.2025
David Tompkins	Professional Practice and Development Chair – from 01.01.2025
Lynda Deeks	South West Soil Discussion Group Chair
Jenni Dungait	Editor, European Journal of Soil Science – until 31.12.2025
Marcelo Galdos	South East England Soil Discussion Group Chair – until 01.07.2025
Izzy Lloyd	South East England Soil Discussion Group Chair – from 01.07.2025
Andrew Morris	Executive Director
Iain Gould	Midlands Soil Discussion Group Chair – until 06.09.2024
Lizzie Sagoo	Trustee and Grants and Awards Committee Chair – from 01.01.2025
Leo Condron	Editor, Soil Use and Management – from 01.01.2025
Jack Hannam	Trustee and Policy Sub-Group Chair – from 01.08.2025
Kara Marsden	Welsh Soils Discussion Group Chair
Mark Nason	Outreach Committee Chair – from 01.01.2025

Danielle Roche	Early Careers Committee Chair – until 01.12.2025
Jessica Brooks	Early Careers Committee Chair – from 01.12.2025
Ashish Malik	Ordinary Council Member
Megan Purchase	Ordinary Council Member – from 01.07.2025

The Council is informed by the following standing committees, each of which have their own Terms of Reference:

- Early Careers Committee
- Outreach Committee
- Grants & Awards Committee
- Professional Practice Committee
- Publications Committee
- Policy Sub-Group

Association Membership

At 31 December 2025, BSSS represented 982 members and 6 corporate members; including 43 chartered scientists. Members of BSSS hail from around the globe with members in 42 countries.

At the end of 2025, 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.

During 2025 there were nine categories of membership:

Fee-Paying Members

- **Early Career Member**
  Open to all registered students of soil science and related disciplines, plus graduates with a recognised degree in soil science or related disciplines but with fewer than five years' professional experience.
- **Associate Member**
  Open to anyone with an interest in soil science who does not meet the criteria for any other category of membership.
- **Technical Member**
  Open to skilled and experienced administrative staff engaged in soil science research, government, NGO and commercial activities, but who are not eligible for full membership.
- **Full Member (M.I. Soil Sci.)**
  Open to scientists and other professionals with a minimum five years' experience in soil science research or application.
- **Fellow (F I Soil Sci.)**
  Fellow is awarded to members who have achieved a level of responsibility and professional expertise with national and international recognition.
- **Corporate Member**
  Corporate membership is awarded to companies within the sector who wish to demonstrate to their staff and customers that they care about soil and are building a collaborative partnership to help safeguard our soil for the future. Each member must pass due diligence conducted by the Professional Practice and Development committee.

Non-Fee-Paying Members

- Retired Member
- Life Member
- Honorary Member

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

The Charities Acts 2011 requires all charities to explain in their Annual Report how their activities provide benefit to the wider public, or sections of it, in achieving their aims. In 2023, the mission and vision for the Society were reviewed. Developed by Board and member consultation, these documents set the Society's direction of travel specifically:

- 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 mission and vision alongside a seven-point, five-year strategy focuses our efforts and activities.

The British Society of Soil Science (BSSS) is the UK's leading body in the area of Soil Science with a global reach. We strive to secure the future of soils by promoting an enhanced understanding of the critical importance of soils in delivering the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals and supplying knowledge, through our science, to support efforts to halt and repair soil degradation. We aim to make a positive difference in the sustainable management and long-term security of soils that is critical to solving the environmental and societal challenges we face today. We achieve our mission through the creation, dissemination and translation of knowledge. Specifically:

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

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.

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 Council set a number of key actions and activities to support us on our journey to achieve our strategy.

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
- Create a Policy sub-committee
- Respond to UK Land Use Framework government consultations
- Produce a Whitepaper on a relevant topic
- Continue to raise the profile of the society journals
- Launch a cross sector working group focused on creating a Soil Health Charter
- Secure a new Patron for the Society

Our 2025 Achievements:

- Jan - Prof Leo Condron begins role as SUM EIC
- Jan - Soil Exhibition at Sommerset House publicised in BSSS comms
- Feb - Episode 1 Podcast - Bioremediation
- Feb - Apprenticeship blog
- Mar - Soil Matters Magazine Published
- Mar - Land Use Framework Consultation Working Group formed
- Mar - Policy Subgroup formally established
- Mar - Cross sector meeting aligning consultation messages with NFU, LI and CIEEM
- Mar - SUM Mission re-written
- Apr - Episode 2 Podcast - Regenerative Agriculture
- Apr - Elected to UNCCD as CSO representative for Western Europe
- Apr - President's update blog
- Apr - Caria and Drynet meeting re UNCCD Science Policy Interface consultation
- Apr - UNCCD Election announcement published
- Apr – Dr David Tompkins article in the Guardian re BSSS guidance note for land managers about soil carbon.
- Apr - Soil journal edition from Landscape Institute featuring input from BSSS members + President
- May - BSSS Feature in NFU young farmer magazine
- May – Broadcaster Kate Humble appointed as BSSS Patron
- May - Expanded SUM Editorial team and appointed Lisa Lobry as Deputy Editor of SUM
- May - Published land use framework response
- Jun – Podcast Episode 3 - Soil Health
- Jun - Joined Drynet network to inform NGO capacity building
- Jun - Desertification and Drought Day video message from ED
- Jul – Appointed Adrian Unc as Special Issues Editor
- Jul - Offered insights to GSCAYN to inform the UN session at New York HQ for the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
- Jul - Andy Morris gave expert interview around skill shortages facing the sector and opportunities for innovation
- Aug - Episode 4 Podcast - The Secrets Beneath Colt Park Meadows
- Sep - Ed Hinman Attended Lib Dem conference
- Sep - Ed Himan attended Labour conference
- Oct - Episode 5 Podcast - From Soil to Supper: How Regenerative Farming is Transforming How We Eat
- Oct - Andy co- leads on consultation with UNCCD civil service organisations for key messages to be drawn up to inform international policy making
- Oct - BSSS featured in Product Services magazine re engagement at Groundswell and Regenerative Agriculture
- Nov - Retender for publication services completed
- Dec – Appointed Prof Roland Bol as EJSS EIC

- Dec - Episode 6 Podcast - Old Knowledge and Indigenous Peoples (Part 1)
- 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

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.

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*.

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
- Seek funding to expand the Podcast series
- Exhibit at events aimed at professionals, including EGU, Groundswell, Rhizosphere and Eurosoil
- Strengthen relationships with policymakers, allied organisations and interest groups
- Stand for election as a nominated CSO for UNCCD
- Raise the society's profile at COP 30

Our 2025 Achievements:
- March - Bruce Lascelles speaks at CIRIA event on Sustainable Soils Management
- March - G&A Comm agreed to support attendees of the Eurosoil Conference
- May - Signed MOU with Ciria
- June - Prof Jack Hannam spoke at AquaConSoil 2025
- June - Khalid Mahmood attended Cereals show
- June - Khalid Mahmood attended NEC Birmingham Supply Chain Event
- June - 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
- June – London Climate Action Week webinar - Soil health as a climate mitigation and adaptation strategy
- June - BSSS team members confirmed as Drynet working group to curate newsletter and webinar content to NGO network
- July - Khalid Mahmood - Fruit Focus- NIAB Kent East Malling
- July - Signed MOU with GCSAYN
- Sep - Khalid Mahmood attended - Agro Forestery show
- Sep - Khalid Mahmood attended WWEM and Contamination Expo
- Oct - Scottish Soil Discussion Group webinar
- Nov - Road to COP30 webinar: The Role of Indigenous Peoples in Soil Health Management
- Nov - Road to COP30 webinar: Soils as a Pathway to Net Zero
- Nov - 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
- Dec - Khalid Mahmood attended CUPGRA 36th annual conference
- Dec - Khalid Mahmood attended IFS conference Cambridge
- Dec - ‘What is Soil’ page published by Max Silver
- ALL YEAR - Retained our membership of and contributed to membership bodies including the Science Council and Society Publishers’ Coalition (SocPC)

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 or excellent
- 85% of attendees said that they would use the knowledge learnt as a result of the sessions in their future work

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
- 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 Manchester, alongside a tours and outreach programme
- Deliver sessions at COP 30, Eurosoil, Rhizosphere and EGU

Our 2025 Achievements:
- Jan - Zoom into Soil webinar: What's on the horizon for BSSS
- Feb - Zoom into Soil webinar: Grassland Soil Health
- March - Appointed PCO for Eurosoil Bid
- March - Zoom into Soil webinar: Evidence-based approaches for soil science outreach
- Apr - Paul Hallett appointed to scientific panel for Eurosoil
- Apr - Zoom into Soil webinar: SUM journal and phosphorus use efficiency
- Apr - Meet the editor sessions at EGU
- May - WSDG webinar and discussion event
- May - Launched abstract submission for conference
- May - Zoom into Soil webinar: Soil Carbon and AI
- June - Exhibited and held side event session at Rhizosphere Conference
- June - Zoom into Soil webinar: Perspectives on Sustainable Farming
- July - Exhibited at Groundswell
- July - BSSS AGM and NE Conference
- July - Zoom into Soil webinar: Soils in Construction and Planning
- Aug - Zoom into Soil webinar: Longterm Experiments
- Aug - Andy Morris gave a keynote at the GCSAYN 10th Anniversary Symposium
- Sep - Exhibited at Eurosoil and held side event
- Sep – Won bid to host Eurosoil 28 - Edinburgh
- Sep - BSSS attends New York Climate Action Week, taken part in Regen House events
- Sep - BSSS attend Princeton University Panel with the Julius-Rabinowitz Center for Public Policy & Finance with Khalid Mahmood
- Oct - Zoom into Soil webinar: Monitoring Soil Health
- Nov - NSN regional event in Manchester
- Nov - Eurosoil site visit - Edinburgh
- Nov - Aberdeen site visit - conference 2026
- Dec - Early careers conference, Manchester
- Dec - BSSS Annual conference, Manchester
- Ongoing – Planning for Eurosoil 2028

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 totalling:
  - 29% of attendees were Full/Fellow/Technical members
  - 30% of attendees were Early Career members
  - 35% of attendees were Non-Member delegates

Case study – Annual Conference in Manchester
250 Delegates Attend BSSS Conferences on Resilient Soils
From 1–5 December 2025, soil scientists, researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and enthusiasts gathered at the King's House Conference Centre in Manchester for our Early Careers Conference and Annual Conference. We were delighted to welcome around 250 people in total across the week for a rich mix of keynote lectures, interdisciplinary sessions, poster presentations, and field tours, bringing insights from the built environment to natural ecosystems and agricultural landscapes. Both conferences encompassed the theme of Resilient Soils for a Sustainable Future, so discussed topics such as climate adaptation, flood mitigation, land remediation and biodiversity to understand better the resilience of our soils and how we can effectively manage them. The conferences also provided members and partners with the opportunity to see the latest research and developments within soil science, and also network with an ever-growing soil science community.

A Rich Programme
At our Annual Conference, we were delighted to welcome 200 delegates, building on our record total from the previous year. As you can see, it was a very rich and diverse programme which included an 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 Soils Use and Management anniversary networking event, 2 scientific and 1 cultural tour, and our EGM where we confirmed our new Early Careers Committee Chair. We also had high profile delegates and speakers such as Tony Juniper CBE (Chair of Natural England), Prof. Pete Smith (delivering the invited talk) and Dr. Nils Broothaerts (from the European Commission).

Integrated Perspectives
The Society is committed to the study of soil in its widest aspects and brings together those in academia, in industry, and all those working with, or with an interest in soils. The conference really is the embodiment of this. 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 them 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. The conference welcomed delegates from all over the UK and also internationally (from 4 continents), highlighting the importance and influence of the work that was on show. A popular highlight was our art and culture room that featured artworks, films, ceramics, a 'Singing Compost' set up and VR headsets.

Gala Dinner
At the end of the first day, we organised a Gala Dinner at Manchester Hall, where we were treated to music from musicians from the Royal Northern College of Music. We had 70 delegates at the event which featured a

drinks reception and then a 3-course meal in the Goulbourne Suite, intertwined with Christmas and Manchester-themed music. We welcomed three guest speakers, all from our art and culture room. Daro Montag set the scenefor the evening and explained about his work with Rothamsted and the Broadbalk archive. Later on, Karolina Trdlicova and Emma McKenna highlighted their social science projects and how scientists can engage the general public. The evening was led by Prof. Paul Hallett, and we presented our Outstanding Society Contribution Award or OSCA to Dr. Danni Robb for all her work for our Early Career members.

Scientific Tours
On Friday 4 December, we went on our scientific and cultural 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 tour was led by Professor John Handley, a peatland and habitat specialist, who shared his expertise on how healthy soils support biodiversity, store carbon and contribute to climate resilience. The second tour was at Manchester City Stadium where delegates got an exclusive look on the pitch from the head groundsman at the club, whilst also giving delegates a closer look at the state-of-the-art equipment and seeing how it all works.

Outreach and Engagement
A key theme from both conferences was the social sciences element and how members can translate their science into something that the public can engage with. It was fascinating to see how art and culture could also fit into this space and was a different angle for people to consider. 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 as part of their soils and rocks element of their curriculum. Lead 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. The event was an opportunity to use one of our loan boxes and highlight the experiments that are featured.

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. Thank you to all our partners and sponsors for supporting the event and providing further engagement for 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.

Supporting Early Career Members
The start of the week featured an engaging Early Careers event with workshops and presentations to aid the development and learning of 100 Early Careers members. Sessions on Effective Communication, Soil Classification and Description, as well as Career Pathways in Soil Science equipped many aspiring soil academics and practitioners with the skills and advice needed to thrive in the industry.
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.
Researchers left with fresh ideas on:

- strengthening soil health monitoring,
- integrating soil data into environmental decision-making,
- and applying interdisciplinary approaches to complex soil issues.

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
- Engage with British Science Week
- Host a session at the British Science Festival
- Expand our soil loan boxes
- Engage with a school's pilot delivering soil loan boxes in inner city areas
- Develop relationships and secure MOUs with End Point Assessment Organisations
- Scope course accreditation offering to UK education partners

Our 2025 Achievements:
- Jan - Zoom: What's on the horizon for BSSS
- Jan - Outreach Committee: New members appointed
- Feb - Zoom: Grassland Soil Health
- Mar - Signed EPAO MOU with Marshalls
- Mar - WWS Soil Habitat translocation course working group launched
- Jun - attended and supported Open Farm Sunday events
- Jun - Unearth you potential EC Workshop 1 - Building Your Brand
- Jun - Unearth you potential EC Workshop 2 - Communicating Your Brand
- Aug - Soil Matters Podcast featured on the GCSE Natural History blog for Geography Teachers resources
- Oct – Bespoke Training Course held with FERA
- Oct - Ella Nash launches new approaches to engage a larger audience
- Oct - WWS Catchment Management course - Lancaster
- Oct - WWS Practical Introduction Course - Shuttleworth
- Oct - Geographical Association Inner City Schools pilot launched with BSSS
- Oct - ALC accreditation working group launched
- Nov - ALC Course at Cranfield
- Dec - Record numbers of soil loan boxes engaged with
- 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

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.

Case study – 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.

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 unearth your potential Early Careers CPD webinar series
- Launch new Duke of Gloucester Overseas Collaboration Award
- Deliver Soil Judging Event
- Host the bi-annual EC Conference
- Publish a minimum of three interviews with soil scientists at various stages of their career
- Develop a Public Affairs strategy

Our 2025 Achievements:

- Mar - Career Case Study - Hannah Bowley published
- Mar - Early Career Update - member grades review and offer
- Apr - IFAS meeting to discuss collaboration at COP 30, and sharing knowledge exchange across the organisations
- Jun - Unearth Your Potential – Building Your Brand workshop with Diana Chrouch OBE
- Jun - Unearth Your Potential – Communicating Your Brand workshop with Dan Lambeth
- Sep - Andy Morris presented at the UNCCD Youth Caucus
- Sep - BSSS wins bid to host Eurosoil 2028
- Sep - Geographical Association investigation soil infiltration project kicks off embedding soil literacy into schools pilot
- Oct - Unearth Your Potential Viva workshop with Prof. Bob Rastall
- Dec - BSSS EC awards
- Dec - OSCA award - Danni Robb
- Dec - Dedicated Early Career Annual Conference
- All Year - Published six issues of the Early Career members' newsletter, Eye to the Horizon

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 totalled:

- 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

Case study – ***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 icebreaker 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.

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 Harpur Adams
- Kirk Mason - Best postgraduate final year dissertation on a soil related subject at Harpur Adams
- José Padarian – The Margaret Oliver 'Young Pedometerics 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 MSci 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

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
Douglas Baah	Early Career Conference Grant	£500
Emily Marr	Brian Chambers Soil Fund	£199
Luci Corbett	Early Career Conference Grant	£500
Rahul Yadav	Early Career Conference Grant	£500
Muhammad Farooq	Duke of Gloucester Overseas Collaboration Grant	£3,000
Fiona Pearce	Early Career Conference Grant	£500
Aditi Mishra	Early Career Conference Grant	£500
Katerina Dauksta	Brian Chambers Soil Fund	£2,500
Will Dawson	Early Career Conference Grant	£500
Shamima Akter	Early Career Conference Grant	£500
Emily Brooks	Early Career Conference Grant	£400
Benjamin McCullock	Brian Chambers Soil Fund	£350
Jessica Underwood	Early Career Conference Grant	£500

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
Launch Continued Professional Development (CPD) recording mechanisms
Scope steps for the society to become a chartered body
Design two new Work with Soil courses
Complete member segmentation project

Our 2025 Achievements:
- Jan - Member segmentation kick off project
- Feb - WWS Soil Habitat and relocation working group kick off
- Mar - Launched free to access workforce development webinars with the strategic development network
- Mar - Duke of Gloucester Low to Middle income countries Award launched across partner network, CA4SH, IUSS, UNCCD, Wiley
- May - WWS Practical Introduction to Soils Course in Wales
- May - Elementar joins as corporate member
- Jun - Attendance to the City and Guilds industry panel
- Jul - Presented Member Segmentation results to board
- Jul - Dom Simms undertakes Team leader course
- Aug - Appointed Marcomms Apprentice
- Aug - Appointed Business Development Manager
- Sep - WWS Online Classification course
- Oct – Launched Flood mitigation course
- Oct - State of UK Soil Science report kick off Khalid Mahmood
- Dec - 9 New Fellow Members confirmed
- Dec -188 member applications reviewed including 3 new Chartered Scientists

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.

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.

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 environmental responsible and achieve carbon neutrality where possible.

What we set out to achieve:

- Review ways of working for all our committees
- Appoint ED&I representatives across all committees and board
- Complete ED&I audit and detail areas of improvement and next steps
- Launch ED&I Working group
- Implement ethical investing plan

Our Achievements:

- Jan- Reviewed committee's Terms of References and survey launched
- Feb - Green Ethical Investment fund agreed and launched
- Feb - ED&I Audit kick off
- March - Hedgerow planting exercise at Cranfield University
- Apr - Developed AI engagement policy
- Apr – ED&I initial audit completed and submitted to Science Council
- Jun - Jack Hannam won Outstanding Contribution and Engineering, Science & Maths Award at Women Leaders Awards
- Nov - Andy Morris led a UNCCD CSO consultation to establish key messages for CRIC
- Dec – BSSS won Best Member Engagement Award at ABPCO Awards

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 Chair

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**

To support our strategy, we will undertake the following activities in 2026:

Seeking to publicise the key issues for the soil science community

- 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

Promoting change through knowledge exchange across all aspects of soil science

- Engaging 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

Hosting conferences and meetings focused on soils

- 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

Supporting and encouraging the education of soil science

- Exhibiting 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

Inspiring the future generations of soil scientists

- 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 Cacus to expand podcast content
- Continue to deliver grants and awards recognising excellence in the sector

Ensuring high standards of professional practice for those working with soils

- 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

Leading on the social and environmental responsibilities of a contemporary society

- 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

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The tangible fixed assets net book value of £2,644 (2024: £3,526) and intangible assets net book value of £10,944 (2024: £13,680) remain comparable with the prior year.

The balance sheet position shows an increased net current assets position to £862,178 (2024: £763,923). Cash at bank and in hand increased to £587,970 (2024: £486,392) and there was an increase in debtors to £400,096 (2024: £374,179). Creditors due within one year as at the balance sheet date have increased to £125,888 (2024: £98,596).

At the year end the Society has freely available reserves of £1,458,760 (2024: £1,308,820) which excludes tangible fixed assets and intangible assets. Given the Society's current level of general expenditure of £577,317 (2024: £481,536) this would allow for approximately 30 months (2024: 33 months) of continuing operations without further freely available reserves needing to become available. As at the year end the Society had restricted funds totalling £10,880 (2024: £15,643). The total funds of the Society have increased to £1,472,348 (2024: £1,341,669).

Financial performance

The Society's principal funding sources continue to be income received in respect of publications produced, membership subscriptions, admission fees to meetings and conferences, fees for the provision of training courses and the supplementary investment income. Total incoming resources in the financial year amounted to £711,949 (2024: £646,176).

Expenditure in the year totalled £609,844 (2024: £509,402). Direct costs were £242,502 (2024: £222,402), grants paid were £10,908 (2024: £8,740). Support and governance costs were £356,434 (2024: £278,260).

The net income for the year was £130,679 (2024: £126,643).

Investment policy and objectives
Due to the level of reserves held by the Society the trustees have adopted a policy of spreading bank balances with a variety of banking institutions in order to provide a higher level of protection from the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) should a bank or building society that the charity deals with were to become insolvent.

Reserves policy
The trustees have set a reserves policy, which requires:

- Reserves be maintained at a level which ensures that The British Society of Soil Science core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty; and
- A proportion of reserves be maintained in a readily realisable form.

The trustees seek to maintain a level of reserves by holding bank balances and by investments, which can be sold to release cash. Reviews of cash holdings and investment valuations are considered throughout the year. The calculation of the required level of reserves is an integral part of the organisation's planning, budget and forecast cycle. It takes into account:

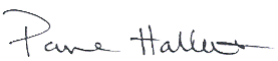
- Risks associated with each stream of income and expenditure being different from that budgeted;
- Planned activity level, including grant giving;
- Organisation's commitments; and
- Outsourced staffing obligations.

Current levels of reserves
Continuing concern over the future stability of academic publishing, changing currency exchange rates and the continuing impact of the global recession suggest that there is significant insecurity over this major source of income for the Society. Therefore, the trustees have elected to hold a minimum of 12 months operating costs (includes staffing, sub-contracted staffing, on-going project and grant giving obligations) as easily accessible cash deposits. These cash reserves will be held in rolling guaranteed fixed deposit accounts separate from any additional investments held by the Society. The current 12-month operating reserve is £614,553.

The level of reserve held is calculated and monitored every 12 months by the Treasurer Trustee (or Executive Officer) and any amendments required are ratified by the full Board of Trustees in line with the Society's articles of Association. This policy is reviewed annually.

Going concern
The trustees do not consider there to be any material uncertainties about the Society's ability to continue and therefore consider the charity to be a going concern. The financial statements are therefore prepared under this basis.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 27th May 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



Prof Paul Hallett – Trustee

BRITISH SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF BRITISH SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE

We report to the trustees on our examination of the financial statements of British Society of Soil Science (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied ourselves that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and are eligible for independent examination, we report in respect of our examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out our examination we have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000, the independent examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. We confirm that we are qualified to undertake the examination because we are a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

We have completed our examination. We confirm that no matters have come to our attention in connection with the examination giving us cause to believe that in any material respect:

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006.
2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

We have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

HB Accountants
28 Plumpton House
Plumpton Road
Hoddesdon
Hertfordshire
EN11 0LB

Date: 01st May 2026

BRITISH SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Current financial year	Notes	Unrestricted funds general 2025 £	Unrestricted funds Designated funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and grants		21,040	-	-	21,040	6,699
Charitable activities	**3**	582,475	45,796	-	628,271	575,123
Investments	**4**	62,487	-	-	62,487	64,112
Other income	**5**	151	-	-	151	242
Total income		666,153	45,796	-	711,949	646,176
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	**6**	577,317	27,764	4,763	609,844	509,402
Total expenditure		577,317	27,764	4,763	609,844	509,402
Net gains/(losses) on investments	**11**	28,574	-	-	28,574	(10,131)
Net income/(expenditure)		117,410	18,032	(4,763)	130,679	126,643
Transfers between funds		(9,387)	9,387	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		108,023	27,419	(4,763)	130,679	126,643
Reconciliation of funds:						
Fund balances at 1 January 2025		686,130	639,896	15,643	1,341,669	1,215,026
Fund balances at 31 December 2025		794,153	667,315	10,880	1,472,348	1,341,669

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

BRITISH SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)
(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Prior financial year	Notes	Unrestricted funds general 2024 £	Unrestricted funds Designated funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and grants		3,199	-	3,500	6,699
Charitable activities	**3**	545,618	29,505	-	575,123
Investments	**4**	64,112	-	-	64,112
Other income	**5**	242	-	-	242
Total income		613,171	29,505	3,500	646,176
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	**6**	481,536	24,159	3,707	509,402
Total expenditure		481,536	24,159	3,707	509,402
Net losses on investments	**11**	(10,131)	-	-	(10,131)
Net income/(expenditure)		121,504	5,346	(207)	126,643
Transfers between funds		(236,037)	236,037	-	-
Net movement in funds		(114,533)	241,383	(207)	126,643
Reconciliation of funds:					
Fund balances at 1 January 2024		800,663	398,513	15,850	1,215,026
Fund balances at 31 December 2024		686,130	639,896	15,643	1,341,669

BRITISH SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	**12**		10,944		13,680
Tangible assets	**13**		2,644		3,526
Investments	**14**		596,582		560,540
			610,170		577,746
Current assets					
Stocks	**15**	-		1,948	
Debtors	**16**	400,096		374,179	
Cash at bank and in hand		587,970		486,392	
		988,066		862,519	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**17**	(125,888)		(98,596)	
Net current assets			862,178		763,923
Total assets less current liabilities			1,472,348		1,341,669
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	**19**		10,880		15,643
Unrestricted funds - general			794,153		686,130
Unrestricted funds - Designated funds	**20**		667,315		639,896
			1,472,348		1,341,669

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 27th May 2026

Dr P.D. Hallett
Trustee

Company registration number 07110309 (England and Wales)

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

British Society of Soil Science is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Building 42A, Cranfield University, Cranfield, Bedfordshire, MK43 0AL.

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a statement of cash flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of investments at fair value.

The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Donations and grants are recognised when they have been communicated and received in writing with notification of both the amount and the settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either these conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Subscriptions income is initially recognised on the date on which it is invoiced. Subscriptions invoiced in advance of the subscription period are recognised as deferred income until the accounting period to which the subscription relates. Subscription receipts received in advance of the subscription being invoiced are recognised as a creditor until the accounting period to which the subscription relates and the invoice is raised.

Income relating to conferences and meetings occurring within the accounting period are recognised as income within the accounting period during which they take place. Income relating to conferences and meetings received in advance of the event date are recognised as deferred income until the accounting period during which they occur.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Royalty income derived from the publications made by BSSS are intially recognised when the charity has fulfilled its obligations under the agreements with the relevant publisher and the income can be measured reliably. Balances owed to the charity are invoiced upon confirmation that the royalties income is agreed with the publisher. Royalty income is accrued for as at the financial reporting date when the amounts due to the charity have been agreed with the publisher subsequent to the financial reporting date, but before the issue of the financial statements for that period.

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be reliably measured.
Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.
Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued for as expenditure.

Support and governance costs that are incurred by the charity have been allocated to the following activities using the following percentages:
Membership and subscriptions - 30%
Publications - 20%
Meetings and conferences - 50%.
This approach, and estimates used above, have been used on the basis that they are considered to reflect the additional support costs incurred by the charity to facilitate this activity, which in turn provides a public benefit and income to the charity in order to further meet its future objectives.

1.6 Intangible fixed assets other than goodwill

Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Amortisation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Website development costs	10% straight line

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	25% reducing balance
Computer equipment	25% reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.8 Fixed asset investments

Investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

1.9 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.11 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.12 Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

1.13 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.14 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds general 2025 £	Unrestricted funds Designated funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds general 2024 £	Unrestricted funds Designated funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Membership and subscriptions	71,899	-	71,899	53,128	-	53,128
Publications	423,199	-	423,199	415,691	-	415,691
Meetings and conferences	87,377	-	87,377	76,799	-	76,799
Training courses	-	45,796	45,796	-	29,505	29,505
	582,475	45,796	628,271	545,618	29,505	575,123

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Income from listed investments	47,099	48,481
Interest receivable	15,388	15,631
	62,487	64,112

5 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Other income	151	242

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Membership and subscriptions	Publications	Meetings and conferences	Training	Provision of grants	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct costs						
Direct costs	12,105	85,336	120,390	27,764	-	245,595
Irrecoverable VAT and penalty	(928)	(619)	(1,546)	-	-	(3,093)
	11,177	84,717	118,844	27,764	-	242,502
Grant funding of activities (see note 7)	-	-	-	-	10,908	10,908
Share of support and governance costs (see note 8)						
Support	105,760	70,506	176,266	-	-	352,532
Governance	1,171	780	1,951	-	-	3,902
	118,108	156,003	297,061	27,764	10,908	609,844
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds - general	118,108	156,003	295,806	-	7,400	577,317
Unrestricted funds - Designated funds	-	-	-	27,764	-	27,764
Restricted funds	-	-	1,255	-	3,508	4,763
	118,108	156,003	297,061	27,764	10,908	609,844

6 Expenditure on charitable activities (continued)

Previous year:	Membership and subscriptions	Publications	Meetings and conferences	Training	Provision of grants	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct costs						
Direct costs	10,548	79,019	65,965	24,159	-	179,691
Irrecoverable VAT and penalty	12,813	8,542	21,356	-	-	42,711
	23,361	87,561	87,321	24,159	-	222,402
Grant funding of activities (see note 7)	-	-	-	-	8,740	8,740
Share of support and governance costs (see note 8)						
Support	82,017	54,677	136,694	-	-	273,388
Governance	1,462	974	2,436	-	-	4,872
	106,840	143,212	226,451	24,159	8,740	509,402
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds - general	106,840	143,212	225,994	-	5,490	481,536
Unrestricted funds - Designated funds	-	-	-	24,159	-	24,159
Restricted funds	-	-	457	-	3,250	3,707
	106,840	143,212	226,451	24,159	8,740	509,402

7 Grants payable

	2025	2025
	£	£
Grants to individuals	10,908	8,740

8 Support costs allocated to activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Staff costs	271,867	200,177
Depreciation	3,618	3,291
Other staff costs	39,492	29,694
Insurance	8,182	7,488
Rent	3,209	3,065
Office costs	2,588	2,129
Computer and website expenses	16,336	14,254
Bank charges	2,661	2,321
Legal and professional fees	2,635	8,084
Sundry expenses	1,944	2,885
Governance costs	3,902	4,872
	356,434	278,260
Analysed between:		
Membership and subscriptions (30%)	106,931	83,479
Publications (20%)	71,286	55,651
Meetings and conferences (50%)	178,217	139,130
	356,434	278,260

Governance costs comprise:	2025 £	2024 £
Accountancy	3,400	3,300
Board and Council expenses	502	1,572
	3,902	4,872

9 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

Trustees have been reimbursed for the costs of travel and accommodation expenses incurred in attending various meetings and conferences.
In the year the transactions and amounts owing to them were as follows:
Dr P.D. Hallett: Expenses £97 and amount due £Nil
Dr J. Hannam: Expenses £109 and amount due £78
Dr E.M. Sagoo: Expenses £57 and amount due £126

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
	6	5

Employment costs	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	207,510	154,606
Social security costs	21,973	15,483
Other pension costs	42,384	30,088
	271,867	200,177

The charity is based at Cranfield University and the office staff are employed by the University as agreed by the Board of Trustees and Cranfield University in 2009. The costs for staff provided are charged to the charity by the University.

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
£60,000 - £70,000	1	1

11 Gains and losses on investments

Gains/(losses) arising on:	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Revaluation of investments	28,574	(10,131)

12 Intangible fixed assets

	Website development costs £
Cost	
At 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025	27,360
Amortisation and impairment	
At 1 January 2025	13,680
Amortisation charged for the year	2,736
At 31 December 2025	16,416
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2025	10,944
At 31 December 2024	13,680

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 January 2025	3,282	6,683	9,965
At 31 December 2025	3,282	6,683	9,965
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 January 2025	2,244	4,195	6,439
Depreciation charged in the year	260	622	882
At 31 December 2025	2,504	4,817	7,321
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2025	778	1,866	2,644
At 31 December 2024	1,038	2,488	3,526

14 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 January 2025	560,540
Additions	323,723
Valuation changes	28,574
Disposals	(316,255)
At 31 December 2025	596,582
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2025	596,582
At 31 December 2024	560,540

15 Stocks

	2025 £	2024 £
Goods for resale	-	1,948

16 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	5,275	10,315
Other debtors	27,496	10,676
Prepayments and accrued income	367,325	353,188
	400,096	374,179

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	53,750	70,027
Other creditors	-	10,498
Accruals and deferred income	72,138	18,071
	125,888	98,596

18 Retirement benefit schemes

	2025	2024
Defined contribution schemes	**£**	**£**
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	42,384	30,088

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

19 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 January 2025	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£
Brian Chambers Soils Fund	13,100	-	(3,508)	9,592
Soil Science Loan Boxes Fund	2,543	-	(1,255)	1,288
	15,643	-	(4,763)	10,880

Previous year:	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£
Brian Chambers Soils Fund	15,850	500	(3,250)	13,100
Soil science loan boxes fund	-	3,000	(457)	2,543
	15,850	3,500	(3,707)	15,643

The Brian Chambers Soils Fund was established in memory of Professor Brian Chambers, a former President and Fellow of the Institute of Professional Soil Scientists (IPSS) and member of BSSS, who worked tirelessly to apply science to the complex problems of soil, nutrient and manure management. This fund is supported by donations to the fund and thereon provides grants to help fund the learning and development costs of students and early career scientists. The grants aim to encourage the skills and knowledge needed to manage soils effectively to meet the demands of modern farming systems essential for the future of the future sustainability of agriculture.

The Soil Science Loan Boxes Fund was set up by a gift to be used to cover the costs of running the loan boxes scheme.

20 Unrestricted funds - Designated funds

These are unrestricted funds which are material to the charity's activities.

	At 1 January 2025	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Operational Fund	605,166	-	-	9,387	614,553
Training courses	34,730	45,796	(27,764)	-	52,762
	639,896	45,796	(27,764)	9,387	667,315

Previous year:	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Operational Fund	369,129	-	-	236,037	605,166
Training courses	29,384	29,505	(24,159)	-	34,730
	398,513	29,505	(24,159)	236,037	639,896

The Operational Fund is a fund established in order to ring-fence the level of reserves the charity shall require to operate for an estimated period of twelve months. These funds have been invested by the charity and are accessed when necessary.

The Training Fund has been created to comply with VAT regulations as the income can only be spent on training.

21 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 January 2025	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	686,130	666,153	(577,317)	(9,387)	28,574	794,153

Previous year:	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	800,663	613,171	(481,536)	(236,037)	(10,131)	686,130

22 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds general	Unrestricted funds Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2025
	£	£	£	£
At 31 December 2025:				
Intangible fixed assets	10,944	-	-	10,944
Tangible assets	2,644	-	-	2,644
Investments	-	596,582	-	596,582
Current assets/(liabilities)	780,565	70,733	10,880	862,178
	794,153	667,315	10,880	1,472,348

	Unrestricted funds general	Unrestricted funds Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£
At 31 December 2024:				
Intangible fixed assets	13,680	-	-	13,680
Tangible assets	3,526	-	-	3,526
Investments	-	560,540	-	560,540
Current assets/(liabilities)	668,924	79,356	15,643	763,923
	686,130	639,896	15,643	1,341,669

23 Related party transactions

Transactions with related parties
During the year the charity entered into the following transactions with related parties:

Cranfield University is considered to be a related party based on the rationale explained in the Report of the Trustees. During the year they invoiced the charity for various costs, net of VAT, which were incurred in the year. These were salaries £271,867 (2024: £200,177), payroll costs £33,923 (2024: £24,728) and other expenses £5,594 (2024: £7,917). At the balance sheet date the charity owed £51,139 (2024: £58,675) to Cranfield University in respect of these costs.

The were no other related party transactions in both the current and prior financial years.

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HB Accountants

Plumpton House

Plumpton Road

Hoddesdon

Herts.

EN11 0LB

Dear Sirs

British Society of Soil Science

The following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience such as we consider necessary in connection with your independent examination of the charity's financial statements for the period ended 31 December 2025. These enquiries have included inspection of supporting documentation where appropriate. All representations are made to the best of our knowledge and belief.

General

1 We acknowledge that the work performed by you is substantially less in scope than an audit performed in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) and that you do not express an audit opinion.

2 We confirm that the charity was entitled to exemption under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 the requirement to have its financial statements for the financial period ended 31 December 2025 audited.

3 We have fulfilled our responsibilities as trustees as set out in the terms of your engagement letter dated 5 February 2024, under the Charities Act 2011 for preparing financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and for making accurate representations to you.

4 All the transactions undertaken by the charity have been properly reflected and recorded in the accounting records.

British Society of Soil Science
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5 All the accounting records have been made available to you for the purpose of your independent examination. We have provided you with unrestricted access to all appropriate persons within the charity, and with all other records and related information requested, including minutes of all management and trustee meetings and correspondence with The Charity Commission.

6 The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions.

Assets and liabilities

7 The charity has satisfactory title to all assets and there are no liens or encumbrances on the charity's assets, except for those that are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

8 All actual liabilities, contingent liabilities and guarantees given to third parties have been recorded or disclosed as appropriate.

9 We have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value and where relevant the fair value measurements or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.

Accounting estimates

10 Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.

Loans and arrangements

11 The charity has not granted any advances or credits to, or made guarantees on behalf of the trustees, other than those disclosed in the financial statements.

Legal claims

12 We have disclosed to you all claims in connection with litigation that have been, or are expected to be, received and such matters, as appropriate, have been properly accounted for, and disclosed in, the financial statements.

Laws and regulations

13 We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

Related parties

14 Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in the financial statements. We have disclosed to you all relevant information concerning such relationships and transactions and are not aware of any other matters which require disclosure in order to comply with legislative and accounting standards requirements.

Subsequent events

British Society of Soil Science
Cranfield University, Building 42A, Room GO6
Cranfield, Bedfordshire MK43 0AL

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15 All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements which require adjustment or disclosure have been properly accounted for and disclosed.

Going concern

16 We believe that the charity's financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis on the grounds that current and future sources of funding or support will be more than adequate for the charity's needs. We have considered a period of twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements. We believe that no further disclosures relating to the charity's ability to continue as a going concern need to be made in the financial statements.

Grants and donations

17 All grants, donations and other income, the receipt of which is subject to specific terms or conditions, have been notified to you. There have been no breaches of terms or conditions in the application of such income.

Yours faithfully

Dr P.D. Hallett

Signed on behalf of the board of Trustees

Date: 15th July 2026