

# **Soils - The Foundation of the Rural Economy?**

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RELU Project: RES-224-25-0107

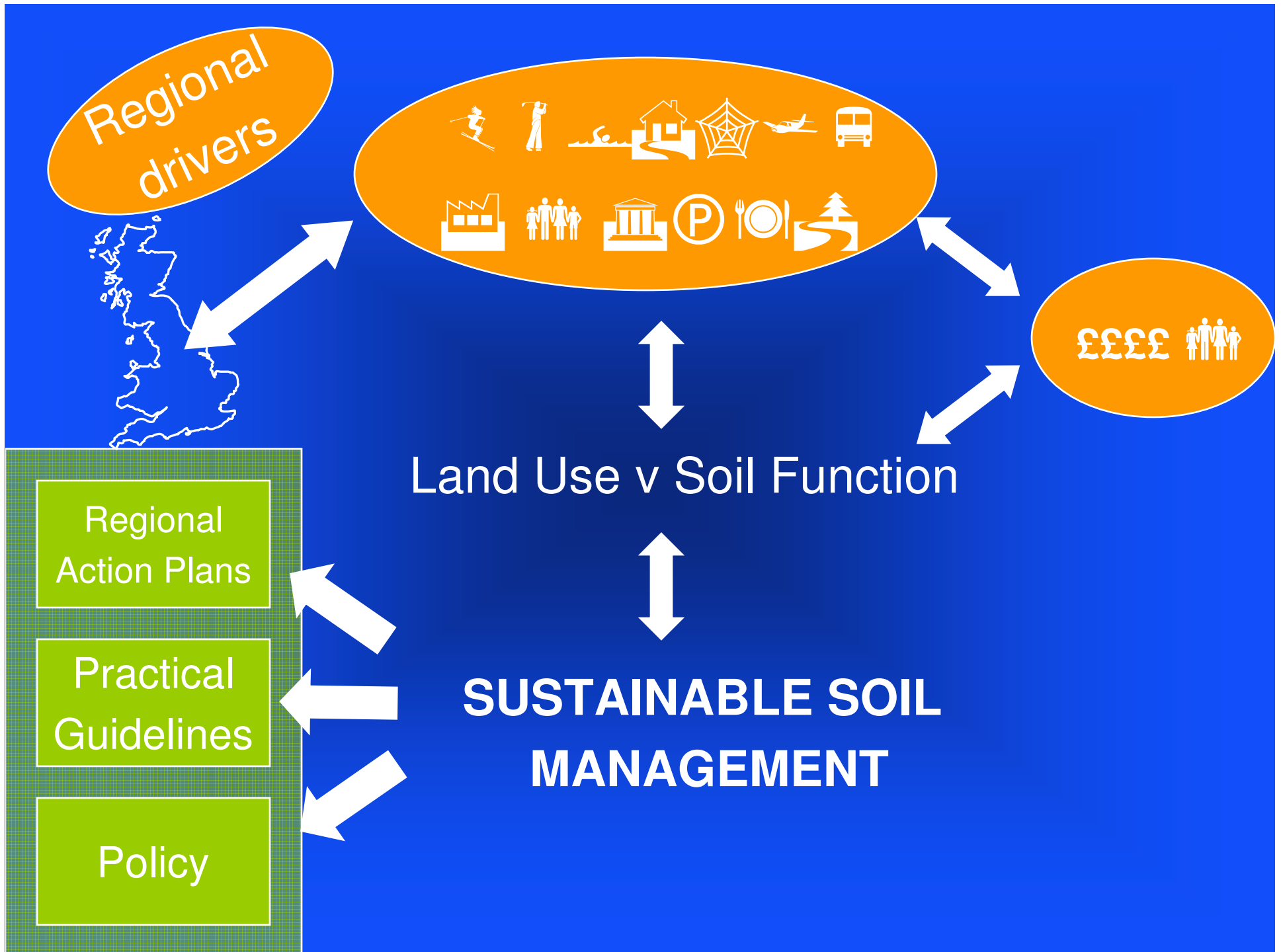


# The Team

- ◆ Rachel Creamer, Bob Rees & Christine Watson, SAC
- ◆ Elizabeth Stockdale, University of Newcastle
- ◆ Keith Goulding, IACR Rothamsted
- ◆ Chris Doyle, Larch Consulting
- ◆ John Fisher, BCPC

## Aim

- ◆ To develop integrated science and social science approaches to the sustainable management of UK soils in order to support developments in UK and EU land management policy.



# Regional workshops



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Venue	Indicative land use
Exeter	Tourism, National Park, moorland habitat degradation, dairy farming, land reclamation from mining.
Reading	Urban development, peri-urban pollution, chalk downland, arable agriculture.
Peterborough	Intensive horticulture and arable farming, drought risk, wetland development and reclamation, coastal defence.
Shropshire	Mixed farming systems, urban-rural fringe, amenity and access.
Newcastle	Upland habitats and grazing pressure, urban development, National Park, brownfield sites, land reclamation from coal mining
Bangor	Upland beef/sheep, degradation of upland habitat, National Park, tourism, land management for drinking water supply
Dumfries	Dairy, recovery post-FMD, tourism
Perth/Dundee	Soft fruit production, urban-rural fringe,
Inverness	Beef/sheep, management of upland habitat, horticulture, crafting, peat





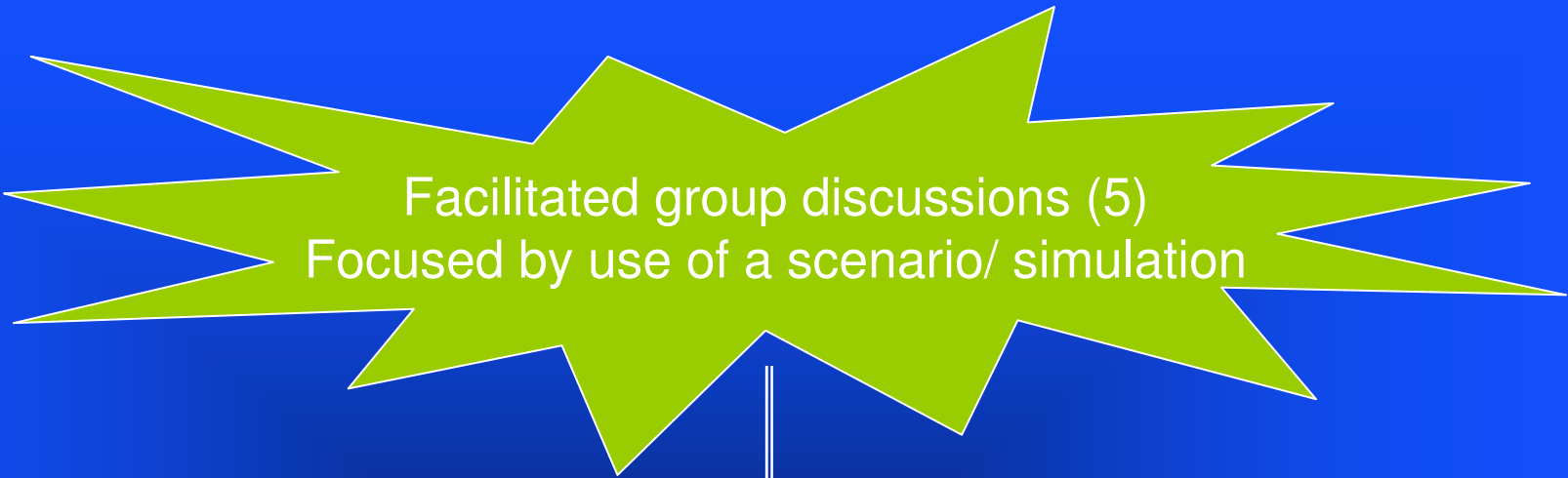
# Stakeholder Groups

- ◆ **Mineral extraction and construction**
- ◆ **Landscapes & Heritage**
- ◆ **Water**
- ◆ **Food & Fibre**
- ◆ **Atmospheric composition**
- ◆ **Waste disposal**
- ◆ **Biodiversity**



# Workshop Activity





Facilitated group discussions (5)  
Focused by use of a scenario/ simulation

- Encourage reflection on, and record of, individual experience and practice
- Explore what values are attributed explicitly or implicitly to soil functions
- Engage in decision-making that results in conflict and/or trade-off between stakeholder priorities

Record of stakeholder values

Distinguishing processes of prioritisation at regional, as well as stakeholder, levels.

Town fringe  
Recreational space

Transport network

River

Farms

Monument (e.g. abandoned village site)

Forestry

Groundwater aquifer

Key wildlife habitat (SSSI)

Upland



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- ◆ **Groups become familiar with the space**
- ◆ **Stakeholders outline their interests/priorities**
- ◆ **Groups link soil functions to stakeholder interests**
- ◆ **DECISION**  
**bypass, pipeline, industrial estate, flood mitigation?**
- ◆ **Groups discuss, prioritise, decide**
- ◆ **Record of process, trade-offs, decisions.**
- ◆ **SUDDEN THREAT**  
**land contamination, rare earthworm discovered?**
- ◆ **Rapid response recorded**

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# BCPC

## Sustainable Agriculture Now!

- ◆ Dissemination event at Glasgow 2005

Welcome to  BCPC

# Links to RELU projects

Soils are one of the media that transfer the effects of land use practices to the river...

(Liz Oughton)

Soils are important but not directly addressed

(Chasca Twyman)

Soils are implicit but we need to draw attention to them

(Hadrian Cook)

Modelling sustainability relies on soils info.

(Keith Matthews)

Project focuses on water quality rather than soils

(Louise Heathwaite)



**Thank you**



SAC