



**BSSS Event - Spatial datasets for soil in the UK –
Scottish Soil Discussion Group (SSDG) and Northern Soil Network (NSN)**

Event Date: Thursday 22nd February 2018 (10.00 am till 4.30 pm)

Event Venue: Life Centre in Newcastle

Registration: £15 for BSSS members, £32 for non-members

Event Description:

The Scottish Soils Discussion Group and the Northern Soils Network will be hosting a joint meeting in Newcastle to promote and discuss the range of spatial soils datasets available around the UK, highlighting factors such as licensing and metadata which have an effect on the quality and usefulness of such datasets and the maps and models derived from them.

The objectives of this meeting are:

- To showcase the range of soil-related datasets currently being used across the UK, particularly relating to modelling, mapping, and visualisation.
- To provide a forum for people in different organisations to discuss ongoing and future activities (e.g. Digital Soil Mapping) and to develop ideas for future collaboration and research.
- To increase people's awareness of differing licensing and metadata issues associated across a range of different organisations.
- To identify ways in which current work is being used for the benefit of society and in policy development, and how these can be improved in the future.

Proposed agenda for the meeting

1. Arrival and registration
2. Welcome and opening of meeting:
 - the positives and negatives of Open Science and Open Data (Matt Aitkenhead, JHI)
 - Metadata – current affairs and issues (Caroline Keay, Cranfield University)
 - What datasets currently exist (Rick Stuart, CEH / EIDC)
 - Use of datasets (Cranfield TBC)
 - The issues of licensing (Russell Lawley, BGS)
3. Open discussion led by MA:
 - Improve understanding of what spatial data is out there.
 - Software/tools/methods/approaches (Open Source GIS/R etc.)
4. Overview of key datasets and tools available, followed by demonstration carousel: participants to identify their own tools / datasets write them up on the wall and discuss with other attendees.
5. Poster session before lunch: 1-2 minute overview per poster (voluntary to present), with time to discuss and network in greater depth over lunch.
6. Introduction to round-table discussion - identify key issues from the group, giving everyone opportunities to focus on their favourite topics over lunch.
7. Round table discussion - top topics allocated to tables - 25 mins per table, rotate twice, with 10 mins for feedback from tables at the end.
8. Plenary talk to end with something inspiring!
9. Action planning session: outputs from event.