



WORKING WITH SOIL

setting standards in soil science



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The British Society of Soil Science (BSSS) launched the **Working with Soil** scheme in 2011 to help define professional standards in practical, applied soil science. The professional competency documents are now being translated into an integrated training programme.

Working with Soil has three objectives:

- An active, sustainable professional soil science community recruiting high-quality young scientist and engineers,
- A larger market place for professional soil science skills,
- Greater recognition of the value of soil science as a profession and career by society, governments and industry

Our starting point for the **Working with Soil** training programme has been the fundamental skills involved in examining and interpreting individual soils profiles and then soil variability in the field.

Agricultural Land Classification (England and Wales)

This two day training course offers you a unique opportunity to refresh your skills or learn how to conduct and present an agricultural land classification survey. It is currently the only course available in the UK and has been designed and is presented by agricultural land classification (ALC) experts from Natural England and The Welsh Government.

ALC has a formal role in the planning system in England and Wales and is designed to prevent the loss of our best and most versatile land in line with the principles of sustainable development. We originally launched this course in response to criticism of the standard of many ALC reports currently being submitted with applications for land development.

By the end of the two days you will learn:

- about how the ALC system has developed over time, its underlying principles and its role within the planning system – the WHAT, WHY and WHEN of ALC
- all the details of how land is graded – the HOW of ALC
- how to present ALC results as an expert witness
- what a report should contain

As well as taught sessions, you will carry out a group ALC grading desk exercise to apply what you have learned and further enhance your ability and confidence. You will receive a detailed, comprehensive course book and electronic versions of the ALC Guidelines and Meteorological Office ALC climatic data along with a course certificate.

This two day course carries CPD points for various professional practice schemes.

For more details: www.soils.org.uk