

Creating resilient catchments: Better Soil Management

Friday 22th June 2018 - Lakeside, Roadford Reservoir, Devon

A one-day workshop to understand and unite the drivers and interests in soil management hosted by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and the CPES & UST projects in collaboration with Local Nature Partnerships, Catchment Partnerships and businesses impacting on soil management

AGENDA

09:30 Arrival

09:55 Introduction by chair – Phillip Rees (Chair of RFCC)

10:00 Key Note – Neil Parish MP for Tiverton and Honiton and Chair of the EFRA Select
Setting the scene for where Soils sit in Defra's perspective and the development of a post-Brexit Domestic Agricultural Policy in terms of regulation and incentives.

10:30 Soils: What are they good for? – Dr Laurence Couldrick, Westcountry Rivers Trust
Soils are the building blocks of life and are vital for so many of the things we value from growing food to reducing floods and protecting water quality but not all soils are the same.

10:50 The state of South West soils – Dr Richard Smith, Environment Agency
Soils in the West Country are at high risk of causing enhanced runoff and flooding. Surveys have shown problems with compaction, particularly during wet years.

11:15 What farmers can do to help – 3 x Farmers/Landlords/Advisors
Over two thirds of our land is farmed and there are many things farmers and landowners can do to actively improve soil management and ultimately soil health.

12:00 Panel Discussion – Led discussion on indicators of soil health and wider questions

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Local Challenge - Drivers for change – Tom Dauben (EA) sets out a catchment example
A tour of one of the many small catchments where poor soil condition is causing flooding

13:40 Sellers corner – What are the barriers farmer's face in adopting measures?
A sub-group including farmers and farm advisors – What prevents mass adoption of best practice? What more could we be doing? What can be done in difficult wet years?

13:40 Buyers corner – What are the barriers in regulation and incentive payments?
A sub-group including farmers regulators and buyers currently or potentially influencing soil management – What's stopping your organisation helping?

14:00 Feedback from groups

14:15 Action Plan for soils – What's your pledge?
In tables discuss what action you can take in your own role and what help you need from others. Each table to feed back to the group to a central pledge register.

14:40 A Review of the day - Richard Stockdale (EA Area Director)

15:00 Close

ATTENDANCE

We are limited on space but if you are interested in attending please email laurence@wrt.org.uk who will be sending out booking forms in the coming months.