

Devon & Cornwall Soils Alliance:

Building capability and capacity

#ActOnSoils



The European Agricultural Fund
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Channel Payments for Ecosystem Services
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Devon & Cornwall Soils Alliance: *Building capability and capacity*

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Westcountry Rivers Trust



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**“Despite all our accomplishments,
we owe our existence to a six inch
layer of topsoil and the fact it rains”**



Asset condition

Maintain your car

- Increase fuel efficiency
 - Gets you from A to B
 - Reduces stress
- Less emissions
- Reduced road debris
 - Reduced oil leaks
- Reduced risk to others



Asset condition



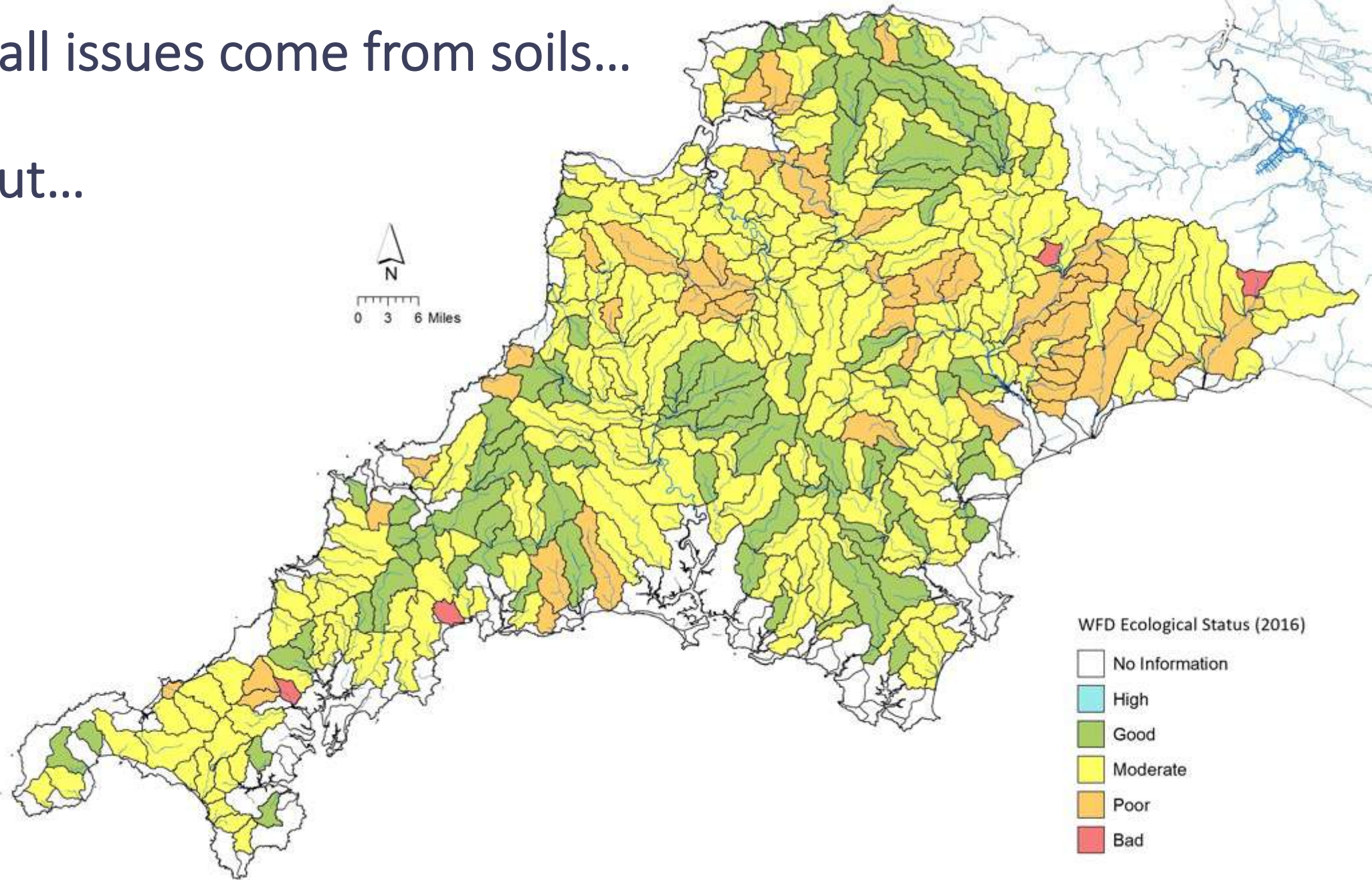
Maintain your soil

- Nutrient efficiency
 - Higher yields
 - Reduced stress
- Maintains summer flows
 - Decreases flood risk
 - Captures carbon
 - Reduces pollution
 - Provides habitat



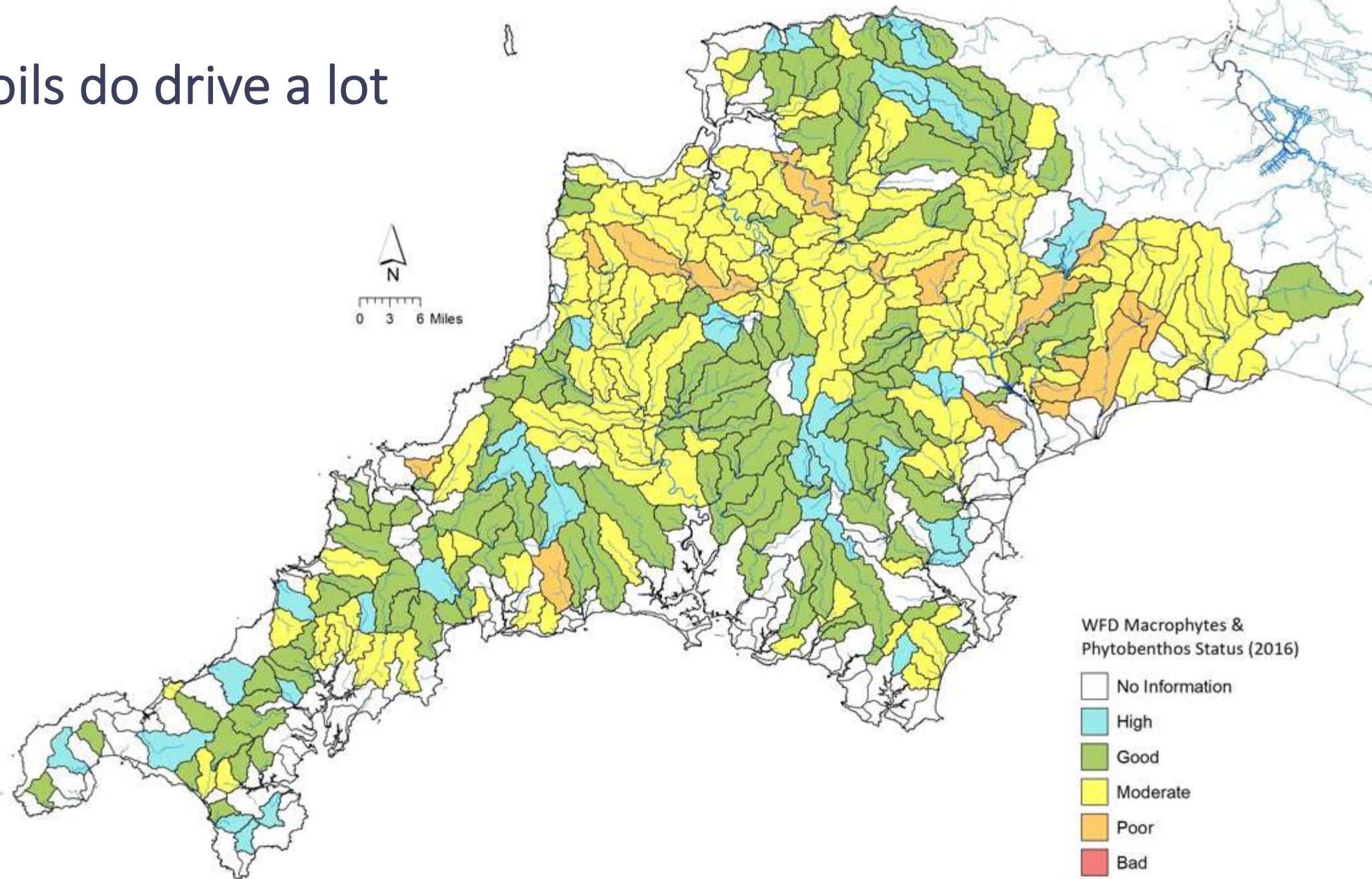
Not all issues come from soils...

.....but...



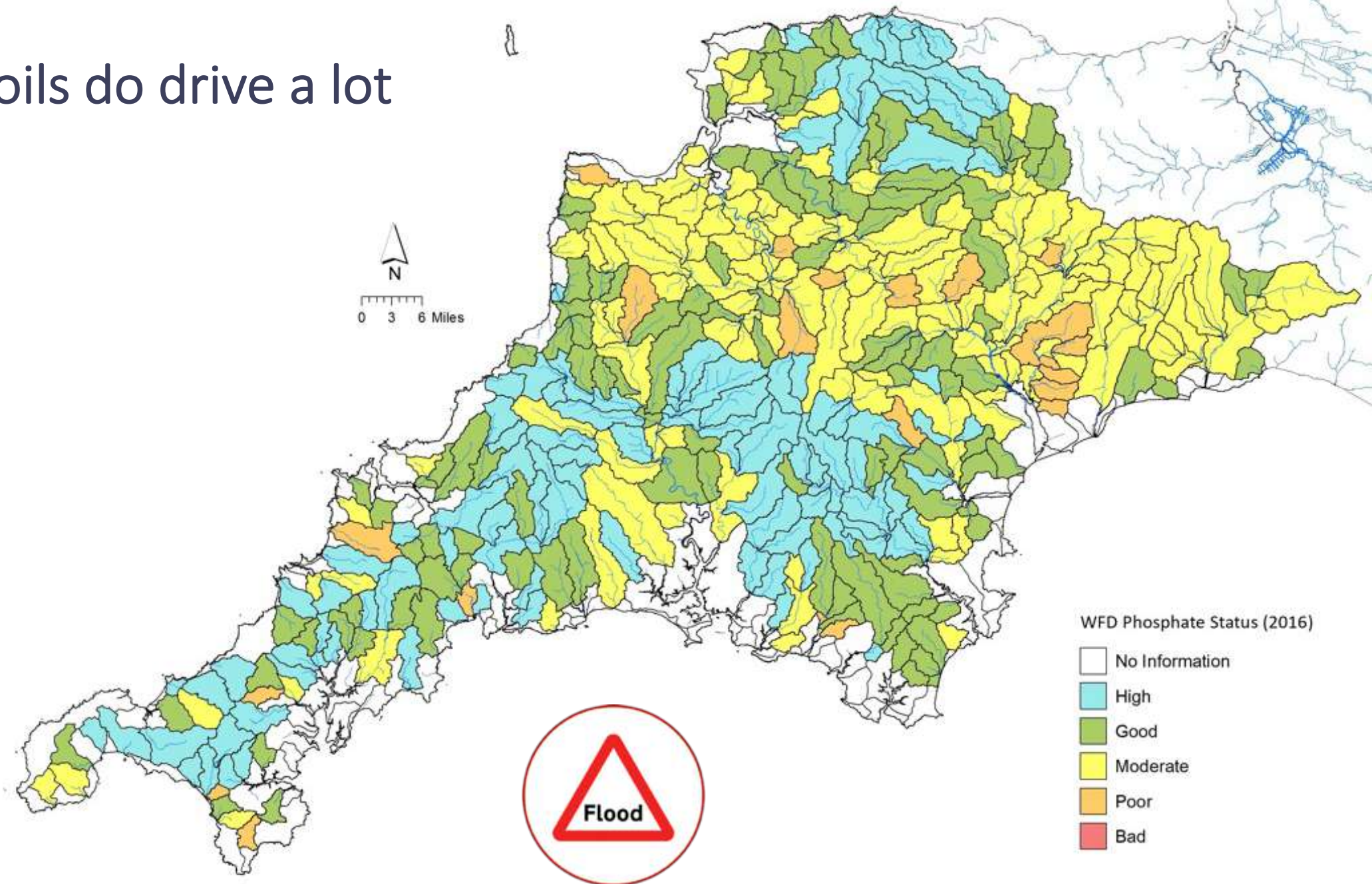


....soils do drive a lot





....soils do drive a lot



WFD Phosphate Status (2016)

- No Information
- High
- Good
- Moderate
- Poor
- Bad



Catchment Resilience Event - 22nd June 2018

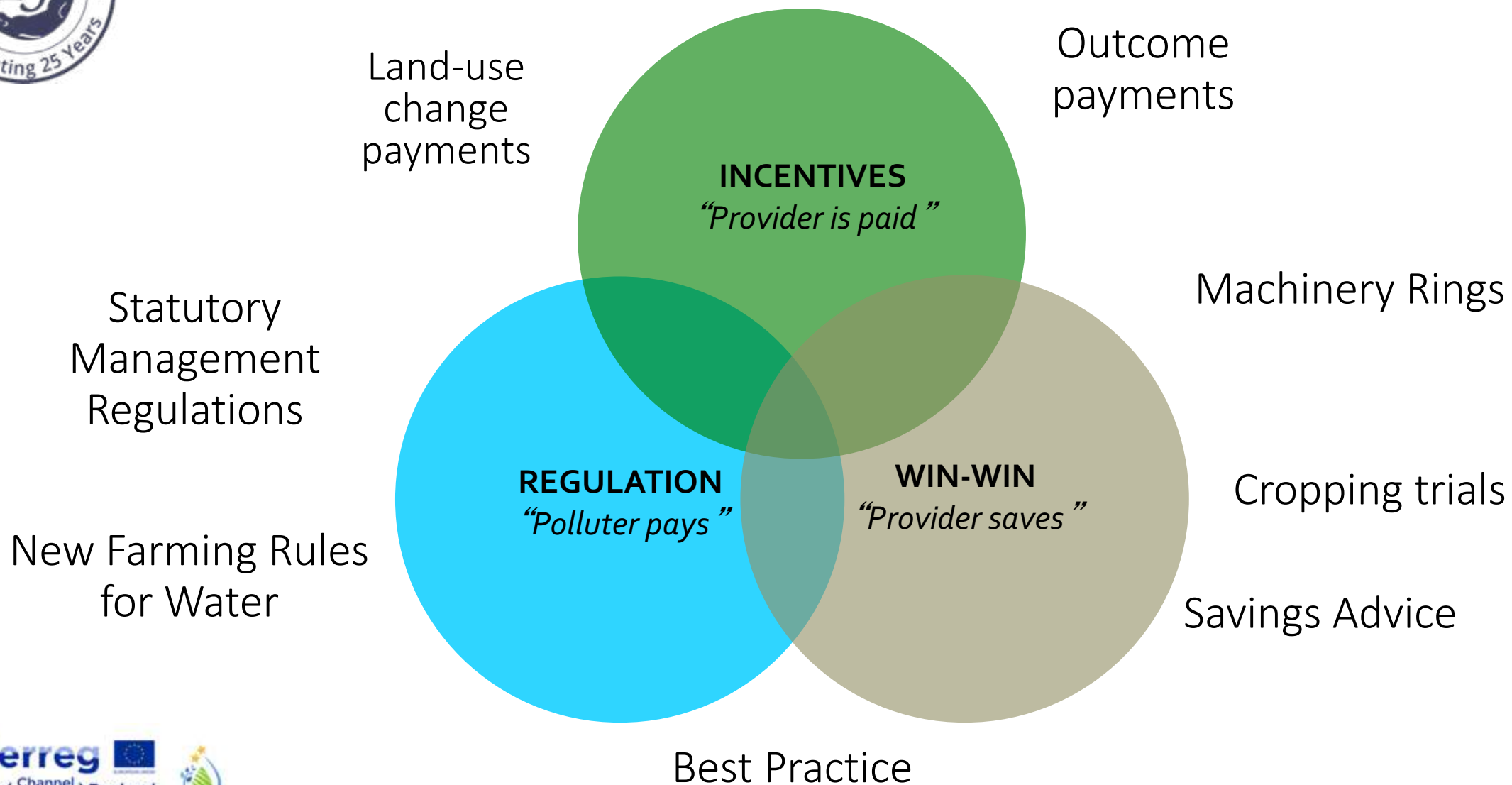
1. Demand and Supply often dictates risky cropping practices
2. Conflicting and mixed government messaging
3. General awareness especially within hard to reach farmers
4. Investment/Debt/retirement
5. Self-compliance, assurance and regulation
6. Resistance to change
7. Short termism
8. Machinery availability
9. Forestry not properly targeted in high risk areas
10. Integration across multiple sectors and partnerships

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

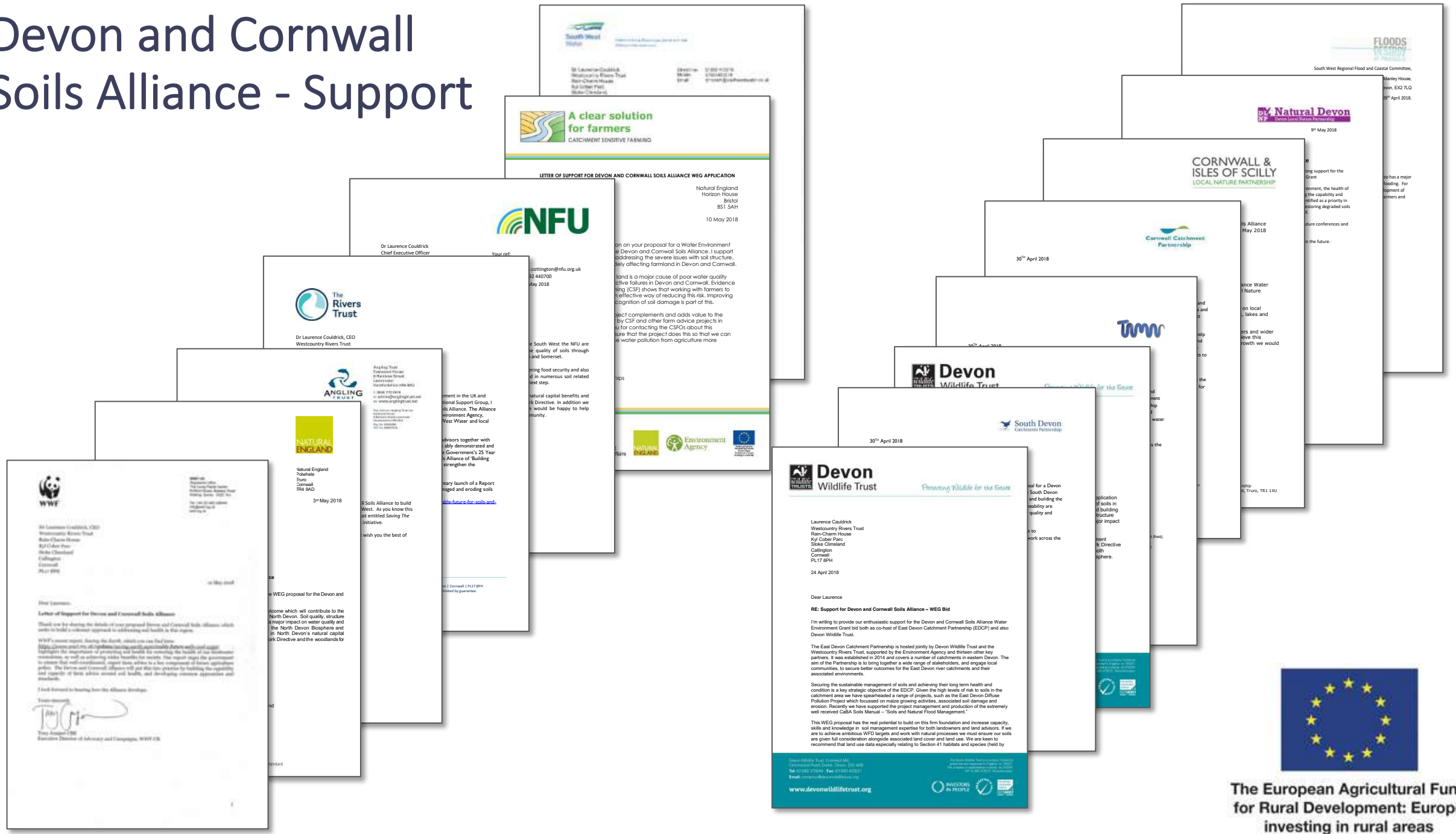




Working together



Devon and Cornwall Soils Alliance - Support



Devon and Cornwall Soils Alliance – Further Linkages



1. Communicate the initiative outcomes to political, media and stakeholder communities
2. Identify universal themes/messages that are relevant to ongoing policy development in this area, in particular the importance of education about soil health
3. Create a platform for community building, sharing best practice and peer2peer knowledge and experience between catchment schemes across the country

Amplify the results of our work and make sure they reach the right audiences and turn the messages that emerge along the way into universal lessons for application elsewhere.



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Devon and Cornwall Soils Alliance - Approach

A collective of like-minded private, public and third sector organisations and individuals with a shared interest in improving the health of our soils across Devon and Cornwall by working in partnership to:

BUILD CAPABILITY

Soils advice and knowledge of farming across the region is highly variable - The DCSA aims to improve this by delivering training and mentoring through farm advisory projects.

BUILD CAPACITY

There are 80+ advisors within the public, private and third sector but the need for soil management advice is significantly more than this.



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Devon and Cornwall Soils Alliance - Project

It is not a political lobbying group but rather a place to encourage join up
As an alliance we want it to work through existing projects and partnerships

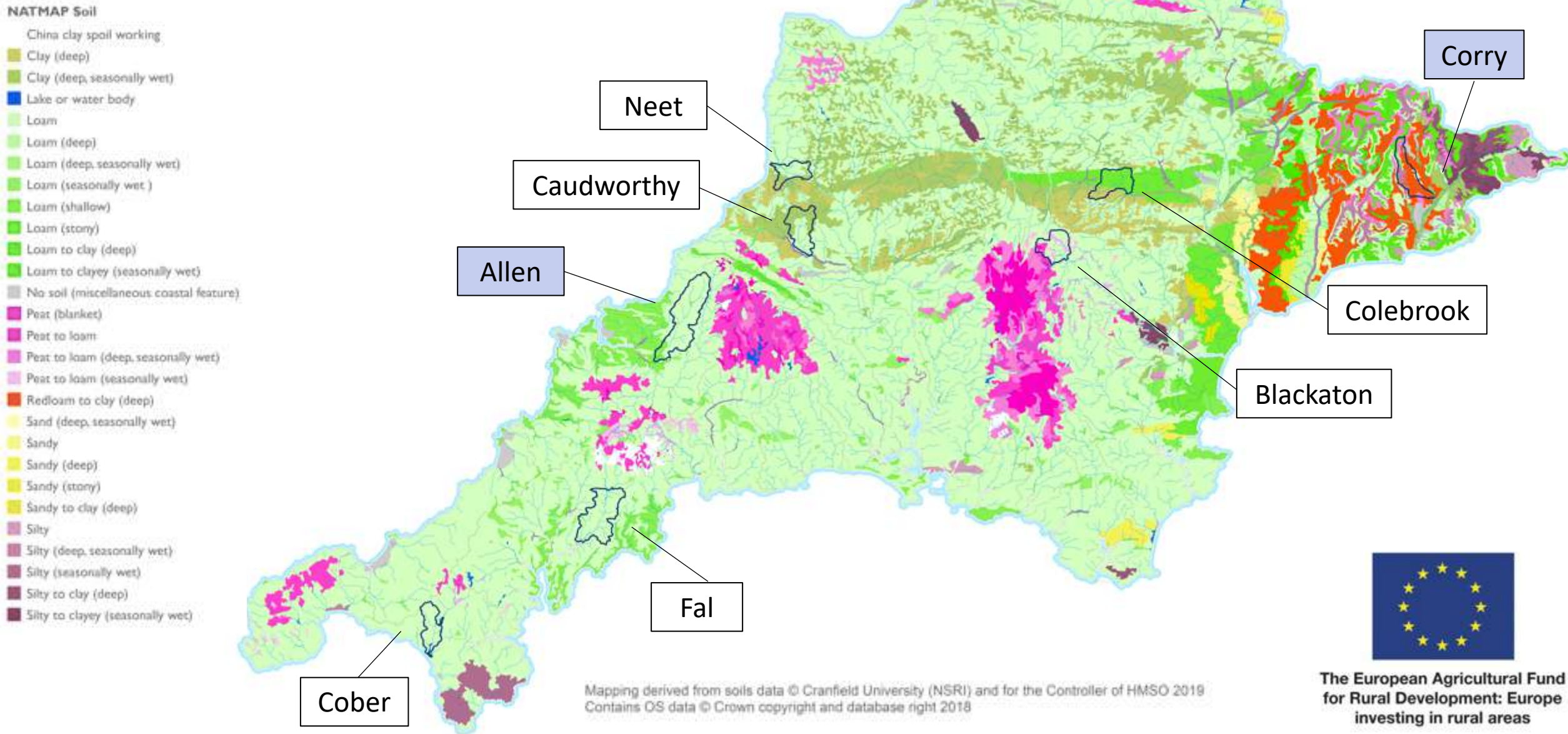
However, as a WEG project it has some direct outputs:

- **40+ advisors trained** – 1-day training - we provide the trainer, you provide your time. No previous experience necessary but you should be active on farms
- **10+ mentors** – BSSS and Richard Smith mentoring 7-days cumulatively - Already trained in soils advice and will utilise advice in the future and train future trainees
- **2 demonstration SAC remediation areas** – Axe (Corry Brook) and Camel (Allen) to showcase farmer and advisor led techniques to remedy compacted soils
 - **7 feasibility reports** – Farm visit work in catchments across Devon and Cornwall to highlight the diversity of soils across region

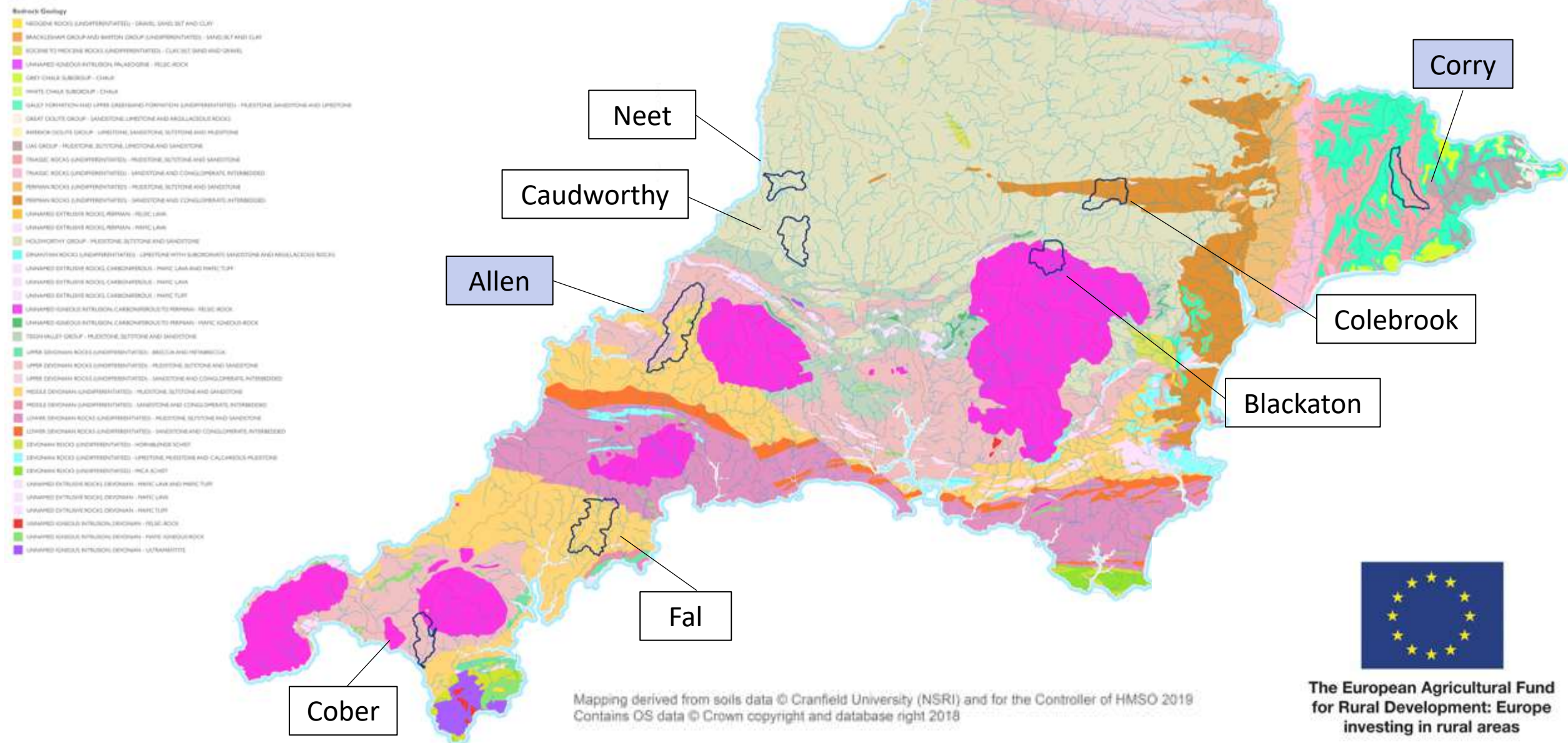


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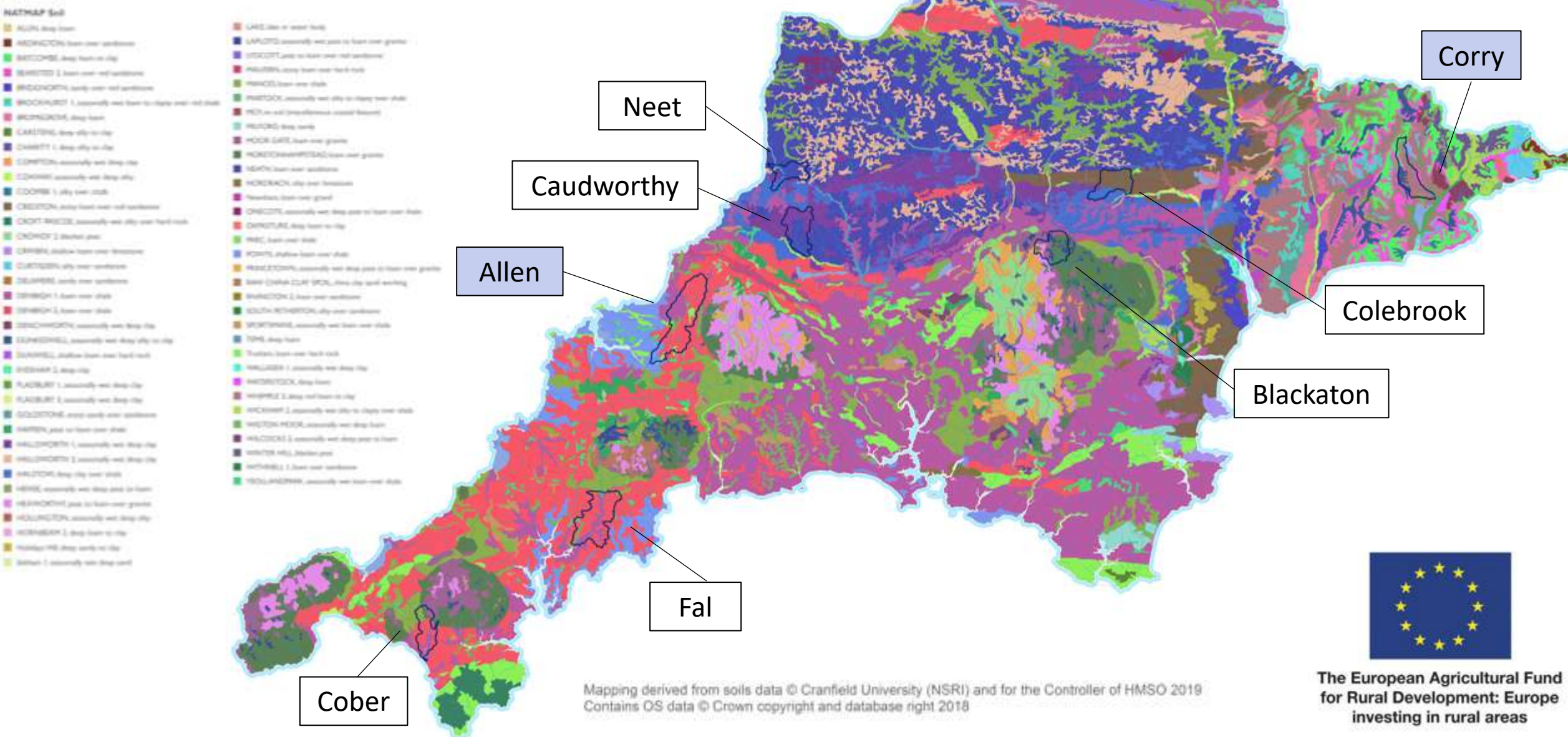
Devon and Cornwall Soils Alliance - Basic soil



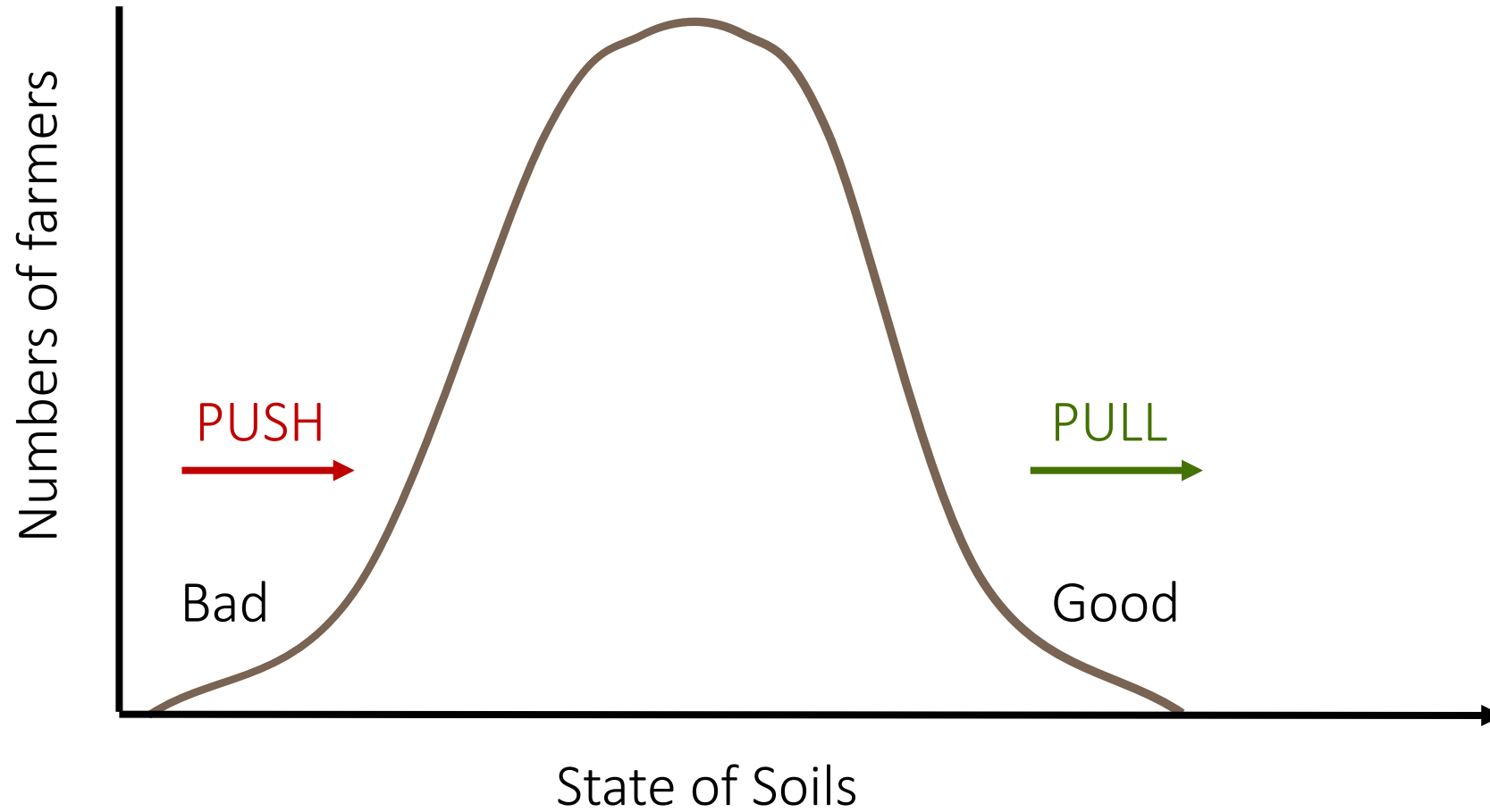
Devon and Cornwall Soils Alliance - Geology



Devon and Cornwall Soils Alliance – Soil series



Devon and Cornwall Soils Alliance – Farm types



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DCSA Affiliate – Anyone interested in being part of the DCSA and would like to keep up to date with soils work across the area. No specific commitment but keen to promote soils.

DCSA Trainees – Anyone actively working with farmers who would like to increase their knowledge of soils including understanding soil and sub-soil health, identifying soil loss and basic improvements any farmer can make. This will also cover the New Farming Rules for Water.

DCSA Mentors – Any advisor, actively working with farmers with significant experience and qualifications in soil management, who would like to increase their knowledge of different soils types across the region and further their ability to give in-depth soil advice as well as offer training to future DCSA Trainees.

Devon and Cornwall Soils Alliance



Thanks for listening - @LaurenceWRT
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