



Annabel Martin
Farm Advisor
Westcountry Rivers Trust

Worms, Carbon, and Advisors

WORMS, CARBON, AND ADVISORS

ANNABEL@WRT.ORG.UK

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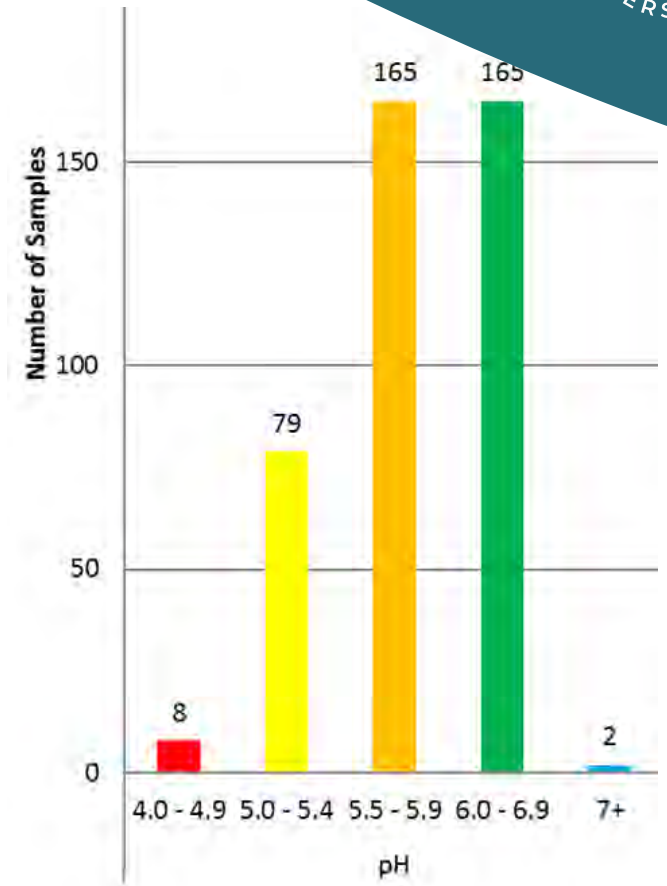


What is the problem?

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Why measure or assess soil quality?



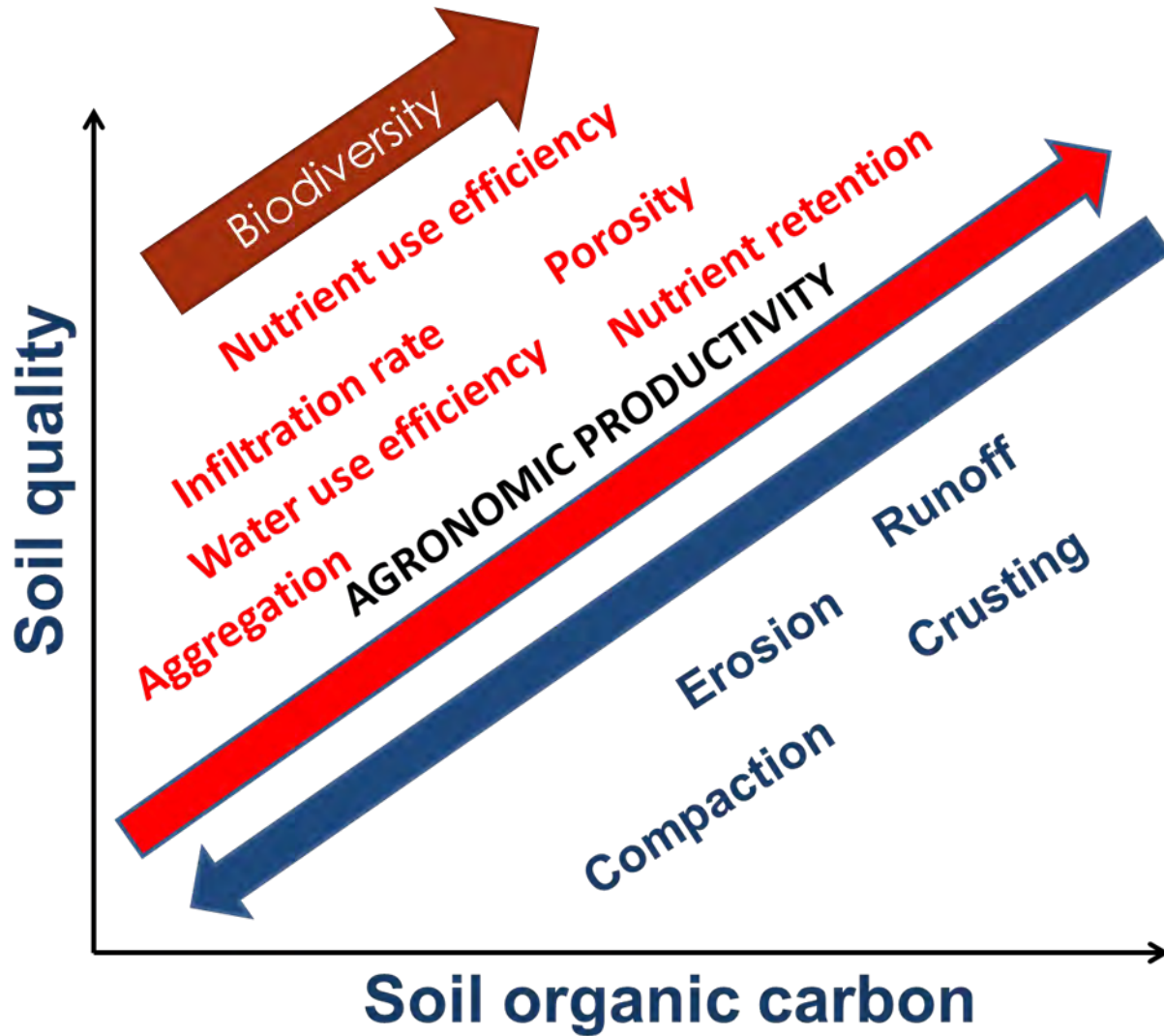
Soil pH	P	K	Mg
6.5	1	2-	3
6.5	0	1	2

What CAN we measure or assess?

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Soil organic carbon (SOC) & environmental quality

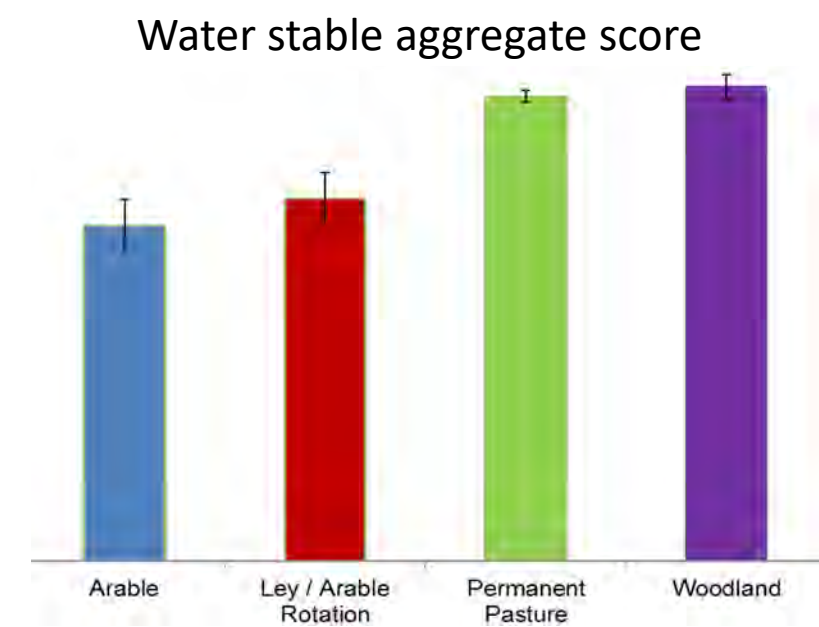
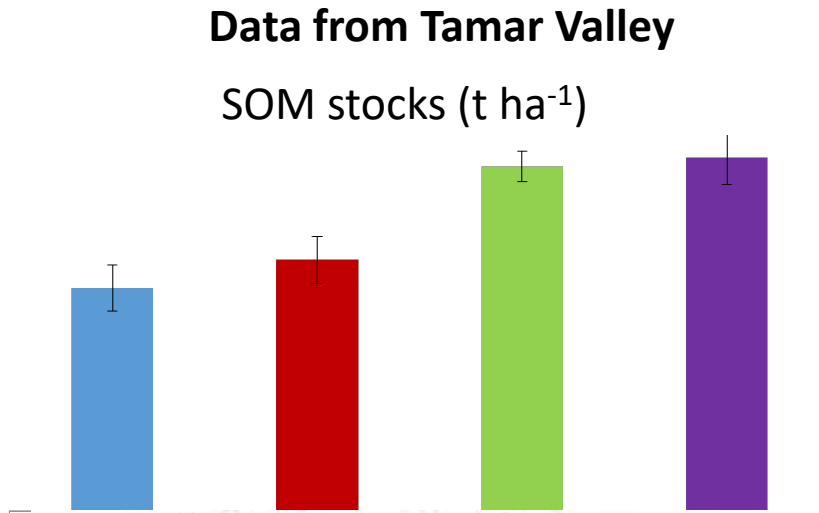


Mean SOC stocks (t/ha) for each management type.
Error bars are standard error of the mean of 3 replicates in each field.

Soil aggregate stability in water and SOC



Grassland soil (high %SOC)



Arable soil (low %SOC)



Soil Aggregate Stability is a good proxy for Soil Organic Carbon and is a useful addition alongside other measures of soil health

Soil Carbon in t/ha is important for investors so benchmarking is needed



Highfield Arable/Grass Rotation Experiment Rothamsted (Est 1949)

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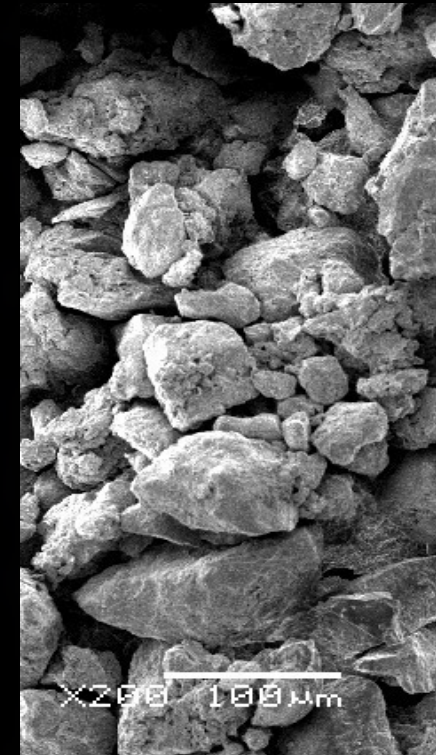
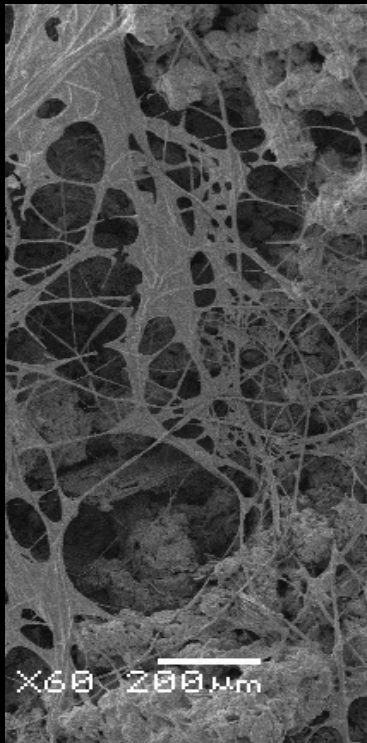


Grassland

Arable (60 years)

SOC 30g/kg

SOC 15g/kg



Are results meaningful
and palatable?

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People not paper!

Devon and Cornwall Soils Alliance

Building capability and capacity in soils advice across the peninsular



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TRAINING & MENTORING

Over 250 members

Soil mentor training day

Uplands, Culm and East Devon Events

Soil types training events at Langaford

Annual conferences at Roadford

Online events & conference

Soil carbon practical



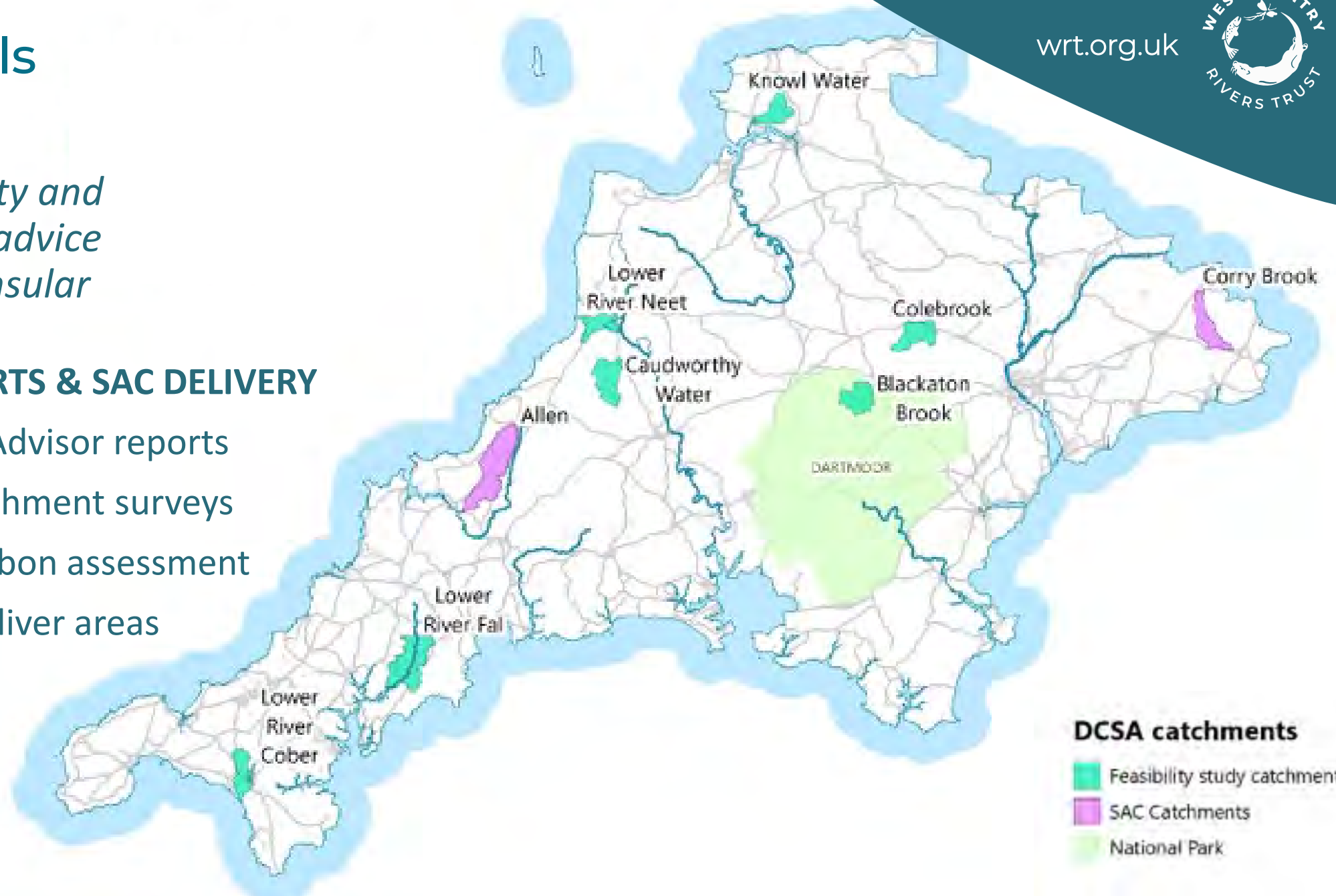
The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development: Europe
investing in rural areas

Devon and Cornwall Soils Alliance

Building capability and capacity in soils advice across the peninsula

FEASIBILITY REPORTS & SAC DELIVERY

- 7 Regulator/Advisor reports
- 10 Micro-catchment surveys
- 1 D&C Soil Carbon assessment
- 2 SAC deliver areas



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Summary

1. Engagement with farmers over soil health is crucial
2. Experienced advisors that understand soils, farming and farmers is needed
3. Soil Carbon should never be the only way to assess soil health
4. Information on soil health needs to be communicated in practical way
5. The Devon and Cornwall Soils Alliance will continue to do this



Thank You



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