

# UK Soils: A Call to Action

Soils are the foundation of both our food system and the natural environment. They are the source of over 95% of the food we eat, store more water than our rivers, more carbon than the atmosphere and are home to a quarter of all life on earth.

Our soils are under threat. 2.9 million tonnes of soil in England and Wales are lost to erosion every year. The annual costs of flooding, water pollution and carbon loss caused by degraded soils is in the billions.

Throughout the party conference season and in the run up to the General Election, we call on all political parties to place soils at the heart of their environment and farming manifestos by committing to the following:

## OUR ASKS

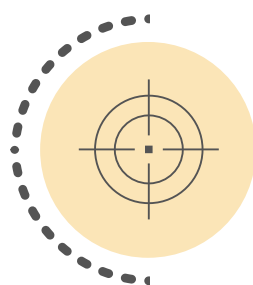
### 1 AMBITION

A coherent, ambitious strategy for nationwide soil protection and improvement that reflects their importance and value to society



### 2 TARGETS

Clear strategic targets, across all land types and uses, against which soil health can be measured, enhanced and maintained



### 3 REGULATION

A robust, soils-focused regulatory framework underpinned by a commitment to long-term enforcement and communication



### 4 MONITORING

A systematic monitoring programme at different scales, which identifies soil health changes over time, to inform future approaches to sustainable soil management, locally, nationally and internationally



### 5 INCENTIVISATION

Proportionate economic incentives for farmers and land managers, to invest in soil management that reflect both the cost of implementation and the services soils provide



### 6 STANDARDS

Rigorous standards for ecosystem markets that will generate tangible, permanent environmental benefits and a fair income for land managers



### 7 ADVICE

An independent outreach and engagement advisory service able to support land managers in implementing sustainable soil management activities



### 8 RESEARCH

A UK-wide, strategic programme of research and investment in soils to understand and mitigate the threats soils face, integrated with land managers and policy makers to ensure our most up-to-date evidence is integrated into both policy and practice.

