FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Course – 23 – 25 November 2021

The British Society of Soil Science (BSSS) is delighted to announce that it will be running the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Course virtually this year, taking place over three morning sessions from **23 - 25 November**.

Agricultural Land Classification (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. The training course, designed and presented by agricultural land classification (ALC) experts from Natural England and the Welsh Government, offers a unique opportunity to learn about the background and technical basis of the current ALC guidelines.

By the end of the course, delegates 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
- what a report should contain to be verified by the Natural England and Welsh Government statutory consultees on planning applications involving soils and agriculture.

The course will include the opportunity for delegates to work within a group to undertake an ALC grading desk exercise to apply what they have learned.

This course is designed for:

- soil scientists who wish to extend their experience to (or refresh an existing awareness of) Agricultural Land Classification
- those commissioning ALC surveys from specialists, and
- planners reviewing ALC reports.

The virtual course will consist of three consecutive half-day morning sessions (Tuesday 23 to Thursday 25 November) and a further question and answer session two weeks later (Tuesday 7 December).

President of the British Society of Soil Science, Dr Bruce Lascelles, said *"The Agricultural Land Classification system is the means we have to assess the quality of agricultural land and as such is a critical component in the assessment of project impacts on this important receptor. Impacts on our agricultural land is a huge issue for so many sectors and accurate data can help minimise this through avoidance of the best and most versatile land. The BSSS course is a fantastic opportunity to learn from trusted experts and enhance your knowledge on this important system"*.

For further details of the course, please visit the BSSS website or contact admin@soils.org.uk.

www.soils.org.uk

Ends

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<u>**Notes for Editors**</u>

- The British Society of Soil Science (BSSS) is an established international membership organisation and charity committed to the study of soil in its widest aspects. The society brings together those working within academia, and practitioners implementing soil science in industry. Soil scientists' research findings are essential for investigating the feasibility of agricultural, landscaping, construction, conservation and archaeological projects. BSSS members are employed by both private and public sector institutions including academic universities, conservation charities, construction companies and consultancies.
- If any of your members, colleagues or network would like to book a place on the ALC course, BSSS are offering a reduced rate of £375 per person (non-member rate is £425). When registering for the course, please choose the *Affiliated Members* option and enter the code **WWSALC21** when prompted; https://britishsocietyofsoilscience.wildapricot.org/event-4302230.