



BSSS appoints Royal as Patron to help secure soils for the future

The British Society of Soil Science (BSSS) is delighted to announce that His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO will be their new Patron. His Royal Highness takes over the role from Lord De Ramsey.

The appointment comes at an important time for BSSS and soil science as the Society stands at the eve of its 70th anniversary, and His Royal Highness will play a key part in raising awareness of the importance of soils to mankind.

Professor Liz Baggs, BSSS President, said: “it is a great honour for the Society to have a Patron of such high standing. Soil underpins life on earth. It is the basis for most food consumed worldwide, it stores and filters water and captures carbon which will help in combatting climate change. Soil security is tied to food and water security and essential to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals. His Royal Highness will help the Society raise awareness of the importance of soil ahead of the Society hosting the prestigious World Congress of Soil Science in Glasgow in 2022.”

The announcement of HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO is made on World Soil Day, December 5th 2016.

Notes for Press:

- The Society was formed in 1947 by a number of eminent British soil scientists
- It was formed with the aims: to advance the study of soil; to be open to membership from all those with an interest in the study and uses of soil; and to issue an annual publication.
- BSSS is an international membership organisation with approximately 650 members
- <http://www.soils.org.uk/>
- **World Soil Day**
- <http://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/world-soil-day/wsd2016/en/>