

Working group:

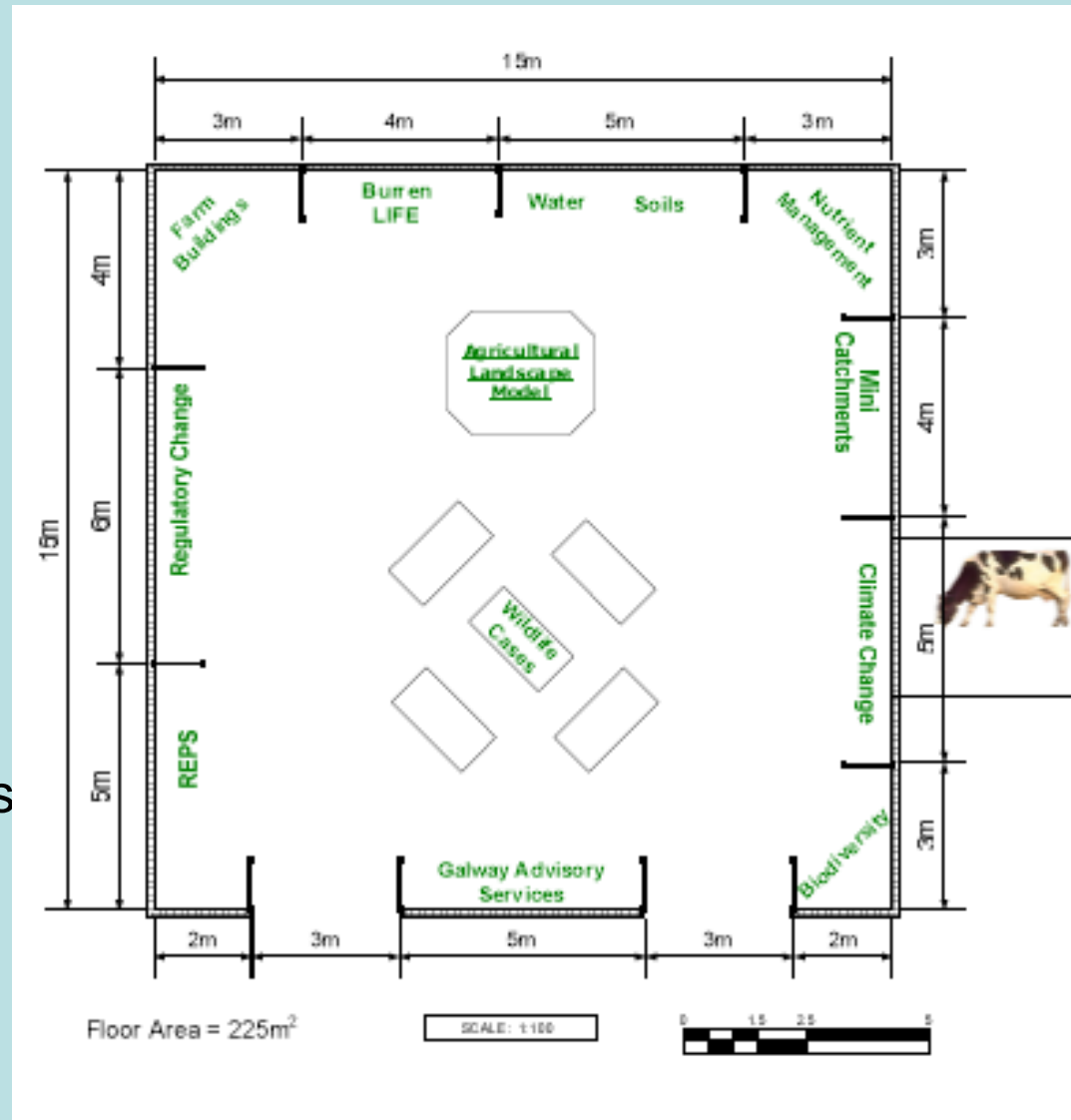
Soil Education

National Societies

- German Society – Working Group on Soil Education
- Hungarian Society – Commission on promotion of Soil Education
- British Society – has just advertised a part-time soil education officer
- Irish Society – developing soil Education webpage

Examples - Ireland

- Farmfest (25,000) – Regional Event
- Ploughing Match – National Event (80,000)
- Scoping study and stakeholder workshop on:
 - Teaching of soils in the national curriculum
 - Universities teaching soils
 - Government bodies employing soil scientist graduates



Examples: - Scotland (W.Towers)

- To raise awareness of the value of soil to society
- To develop methods and language appropriate to different sectors
- To educate
- To convince politicians that our research should have continued funding

 **Soil Health Profile**


Rusty



Age:
Very old, but cosmetic surgery has changed his appearance over the years

Address:
East Scotland

Preferred Occupation:
Arable farmer

Height/Weight:
Weight increases with depth, Height depends on his parents but usually over a metre

Colour:
Tanned/brown

Personality:
Generally friendly, but reacts badly to certain individuals

Notes:
The patient demonstrates an easy going, warm nature, which makes him popular with the plants. His surface appearance is consistent with his nature, Hard working and the picture of health.

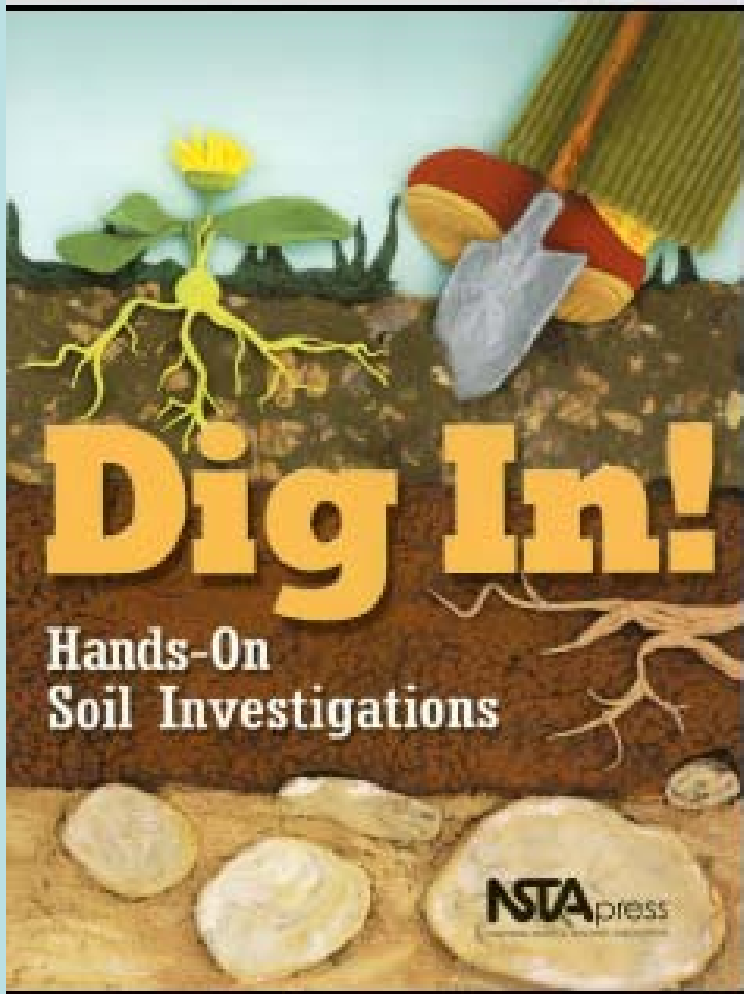
Health advice:
Although healthy, Rusty requires some periodic feeding to keep performing well, but care is required not to overfeed him as this can be bad both for him and for his neighbours (particularly the Waterbodies). He likes to be stimulated by ploughing but don't let him run into rivers or lochs.

To find out more about this patient go to www.macaulay.ac.uk/news/dirtdoctors

Examples – England/Wales

- Soil-net – Defra funded
 - Web based soils teaching material based around the curriculum, with additional case studies and downloads for kids and teachers.
- Soil Photo Library – BSSS funded
 - Incorporation of soil and landscapes photos from around the world to provide a useable resource for students and teachers
- Science and Engineering Week
 - Active engagement with schools in November – teaching the importance of soils to local schools

Example: USDA – 10 Tips on Soil



Science

ecology, biology, chemistry

Social Studies

world trade, land use

Mathematics

soil loss over one hectare

History

settlement of the U.S., dust bowl

Art

soil crayons, acrylic paints

JRC- Soil Education

- Open Days at JRC ~ 40,000 people
- Soil education materials
 - Atlas
 - Jigsaws
 - Calendars
 - Leaflets e.g. soil biodiversity / climate change
- Can we do more to support this activity?

Proposed Objectives:

- Collate information from national societies
 - Linked projects at Uni's/Institutes
- Provide support to JRC in continuing to develop education material
- Assess priority areas for further stakeholder dissemination and produce user-friendly web based information e.g. Soil Framework Directive
- Assess need and funding resources for summer schools for tertiary level and stakeholder education.