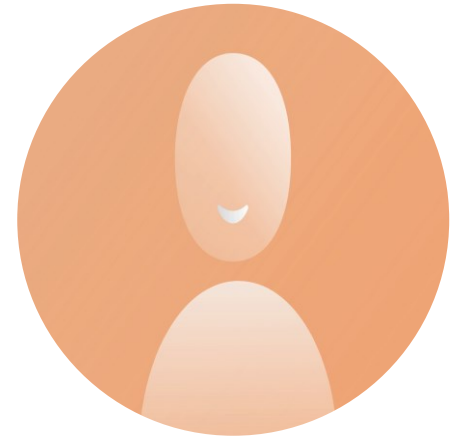




Scotland's centre of expertise connecting  
climate change research and policy



# landscape, soils and climate – action in Scotland

Dr Sarah Govan

Project manager – climate and land use

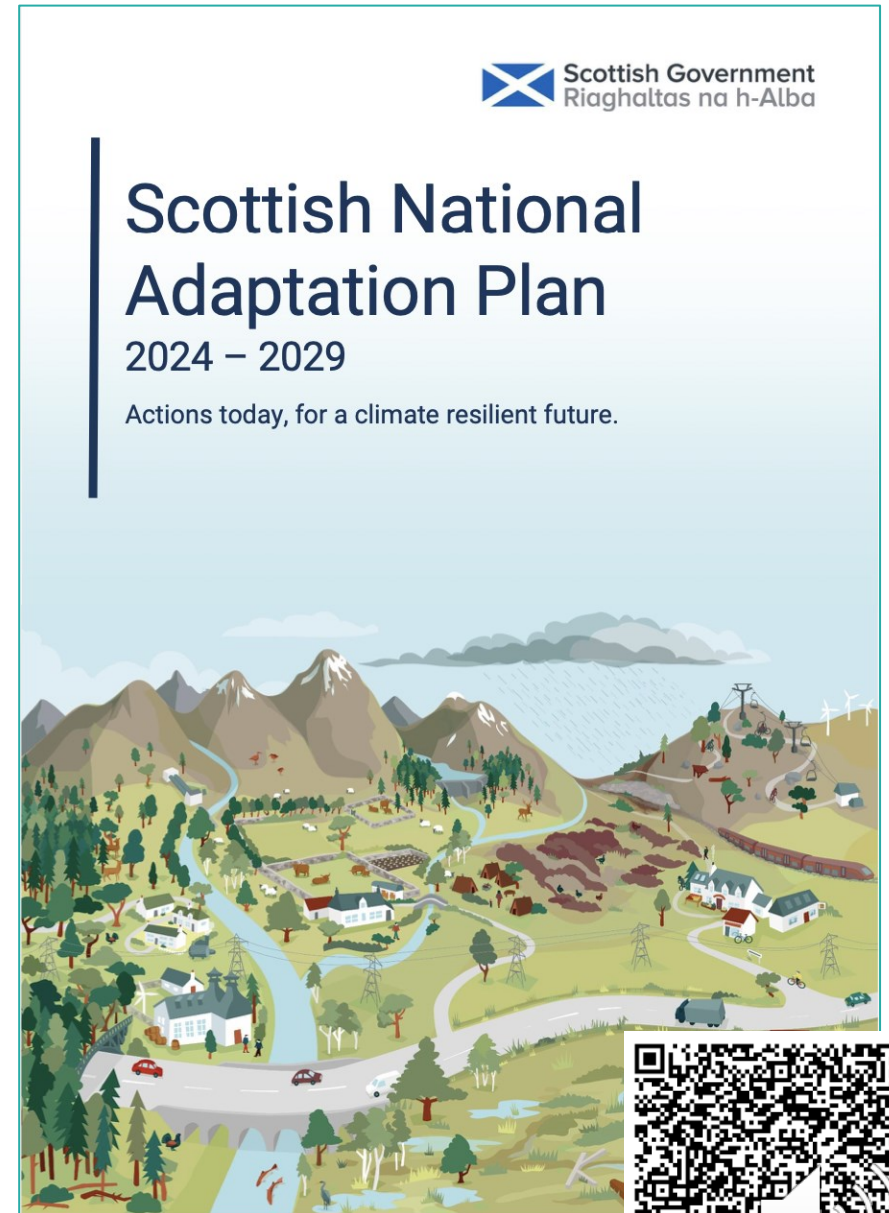
[Sarah.Govan@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Sarah.Govan@ed.ac.uk)



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# Healthy soils in a changing climate

- A post-doctoral research project to support the development of a routemap which drives the future security of soil health in Scotland
- Reporting March 2025
- Dr Sarah Buckingham (SAC) & Dr Nikki Baggaley (JHI)
- See <https://www.climateexchange.org.uk> for updates



# Scotland's soils

Scotland's soils part of Scotland's environment

Go

[Home](#) [Soils in Scotland](#) [Maps](#) [Resources](#) [About us](#) [News](#)

## Welcome to Scotland's soils

Scotland's soils are an important natural resource. They play an essential part in all of our lives, providing us with a wide range of benefits. Some of these benefits are obvious, like growing food, while many are less clear, like filtering water, reducing flood risk and influencing climate.

This website provides data and information on Scotland's soils. You can look at a range of maps and download the data associated with these maps. We also point to other useful sources of data and information. You can find out about what soils do for us, how well they do it and what happens when they are damaged.



### National soil map of Scotland

National coverage of the main soil types across Scotland

[Find out more](#)



### Carbon and peatland 2016

The distribution of carbon and peatland classes across the whole of Scotland

[Find out more](#)



### Resources for land managers & developers

Information for agriculture, forestry, planning & development

[Find out more](#)



### Soil risk maps

Risk maps show areas of soil at risk of erosion, runoff, leaching and compaction

[Find out more](#)



### Land capability for agriculture

Provides information on how well a piece of land could grow crops

[Find out more](#)



### World Congress of Soil Science

Leading international soil science conference came to Glasgow in 2022

[Find out more](#)

## The Scottish Soil Framework



climateXchange

Scotland's centre of expertise connecting climate change research and policy

### Soil governance in Scotland: mapping the institutional architecture - update

Michaela Roberts and Natalie Rees, James Hutton Institute  
January 2022

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.7488/era/1911>

#### 1 Executive summary

##### 1.1 Aims

Sustainable management and protection of soils is a priority for Scotland. Soils are a valuable but vulnerable natural asset and underpin environmental, economic, and social functions. The importance of soils is mirrored in the wide range of regulations, policy and guidance that have evolved over time.

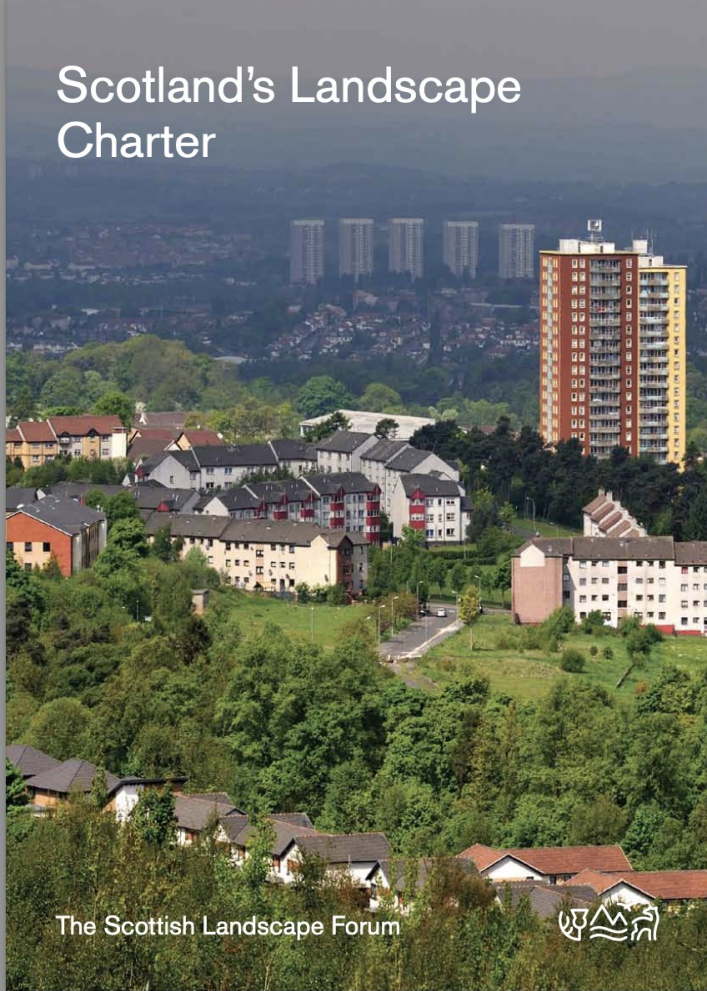
This report updates ClimateXChange's previous [Soil Governance in Scotland](#) report (McKee 2016) to reflect changes in policy and legislation for the conservation and management of soil in Scotland, with extensions to consider soil carbon and biodiversity.

##### 1.2 Key findings

- Since the 2018 report, 29 soil related policies have been updated or introduced across a range of legislative areas, including: agriculture; climate change; forestry; planning; diseases and pest control; plant health and genetically modified organisms (GMOs).
- Soil biodiversity is included in legislation either as a part of biodiversity as a whole or as a part of soil health.







# Updating Scotland's Landscape Charter

- First published in 2009, as Scotland's response to the European Landscape Convention
- SLA conducting the review – nearing completion

*to reflect significant changes to the Scottish Government's policy environment since 2010, to highlight Scotland's commitment to the European Landscape Convention, and to demonstrate commitment to sensitively managing the significant landscape change needed to address the climate and nature emergencies we face'*

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Landscape and the Islands

