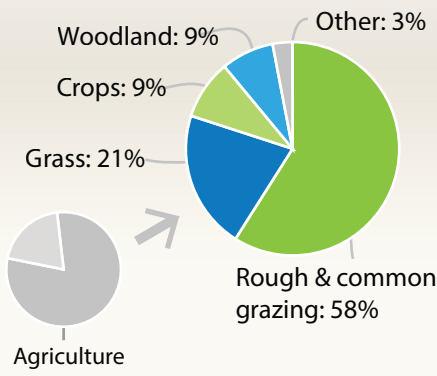
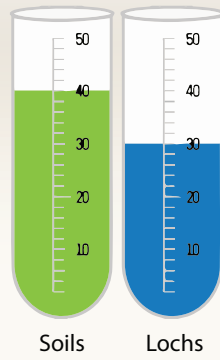


BENEFITS



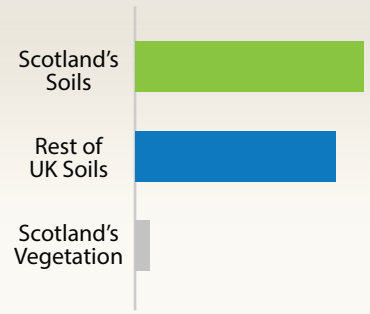
Grows food

Around 80 % of land supports agriculture, more than half of which is used for rough grazing.



Controls water flow & quality

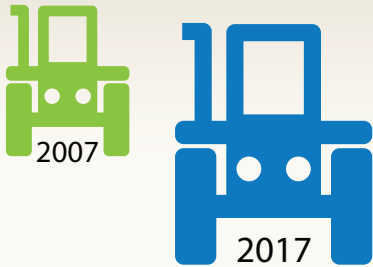
More water is stored in Scotland's soils when they are wet than in all of our freshwater lochs.



Stores carbon

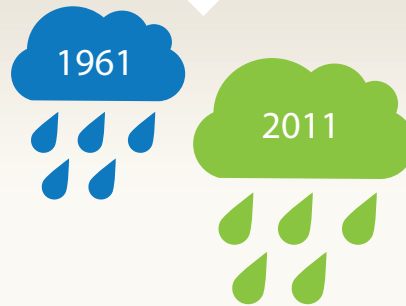
Scotland's soils contain more than 3000 Mt C - more than half the UK's soil carbon store and 60 x more than Scotland's vegetation.

PRESSURES



Land management practices

The average power of tractors has increased by more than 20 % over the last 10 years. Heavier machinery can lead to soil compaction.



Changing weather patterns

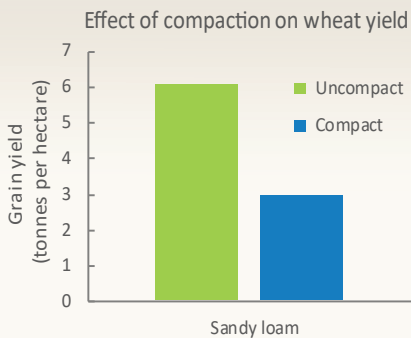
Annual rainfall in Scotland has increased by 27 % over the last 50 years and there are 8 more days of heavy rain in a year.



Development

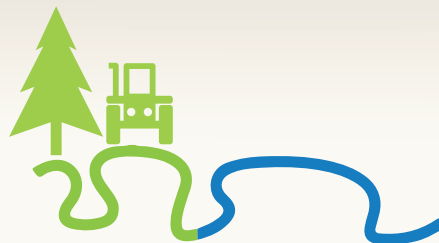
Around 1400 hectares of land is sealed every year, equivalent to approximately 2000 football pitches.

IMPACTS



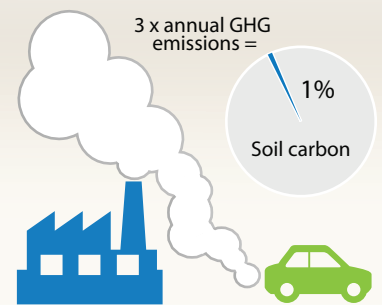
Loss of crop yield

Soil compaction can reduce crop yield by half.



Poor water quality

Erosion, run off and nutrient losses can be 10 x worse from damaged soils than from healthy soils.



Increased GHG emissions

If we lost 1 % of our soil carbon as CO<sub>2</sub> it would triple our annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.