

Take a closer look at... SOIL

The soil beneath our feet is an incredible, living world - most of it invisible to the eye. Making up the outermost layer of our planet, soil is formed from rock that has been broken down over thousands of years and organic matter made up of decaying plants and animals.

None of our plants, nor the animals that feed on them, would exist if it wasn't for a living soil! One tablespoon of healthy can have more living things in it than the whole population on Earth - that's over 7 billion!

- Soils help support plant life by providing them with nutrients, water and air.
- It takes 500 years to produce just 2 cm of topsoil - we need to look after it!
- Food, clothes, wood, clean water - take a moment to think how soil helps provide us with all these vital supplies.
- There can be up to a staggering 5000 different types of bacteria in one gram of soil - along with fungi they make up the soil's recycling service!
- Worms enrich topsoil by feeding on organic material in the soil and converting it into nutrients for plants. Their tunnels help water flow through the soil and help air get in.

Visit the [British Society of Soil Science](#) for more on soil and the [Council's website](#) for more on Carmarthenshire's amazing wildlife.



Soil profile



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