



# Soils in Planning and Construction Task Force

Our aim is to change the way we consider and manage soils throughout the planning and construction process to prevent soil degradation and promote functioning soils in development.

## Urban soils are under threat

**Loss to landfill** – 51 million tonnes of soil is excavated annually, half of which goes to landfill<sup>1</sup>. As a comparison, approx. 2.6 million tonnes of soil is eroded annually in England.

**Compaction** is common on construction sites, leading to surface water flooding and irreversible damage to soil structure.

**Soil sealing** by impermeable surfaces leads to loss of soil function

**Poor storage** in soil heaps leads to physical and chemical damage and biodiversity loss

**Contamination** risks with building and construction materials

## Task Force Objectives

**Highlight the scale** of soil degradation associated with construction and set out opportunities to address this issue;

**Describe current limitations** of guidance and policy and set out the scientific basis for improvements;

**Engage with experts** across planning, construction and development, design, waste management and soil science;

**Develop and communicate a set of guiding principles** for sustainable soil management in construction

1. Green Construction Board (2020) Zero Avoidable Waste in Construction

## Who we are

We are supported by Lancaster University EPSRC Impact Acceleration Account, Lancaster City Council and Cornwall Council, as well as EPSRC Soil-Value and UKRI Interdisciplinary Circular Economy Centre For Mineral-based Construction Materials.



[www.lancaster.ac.uk/soilstaskforce](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/soilstaskforce)

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