

# Ley of the land: Integrating leys into cropping systems

## Benefits to soil quality

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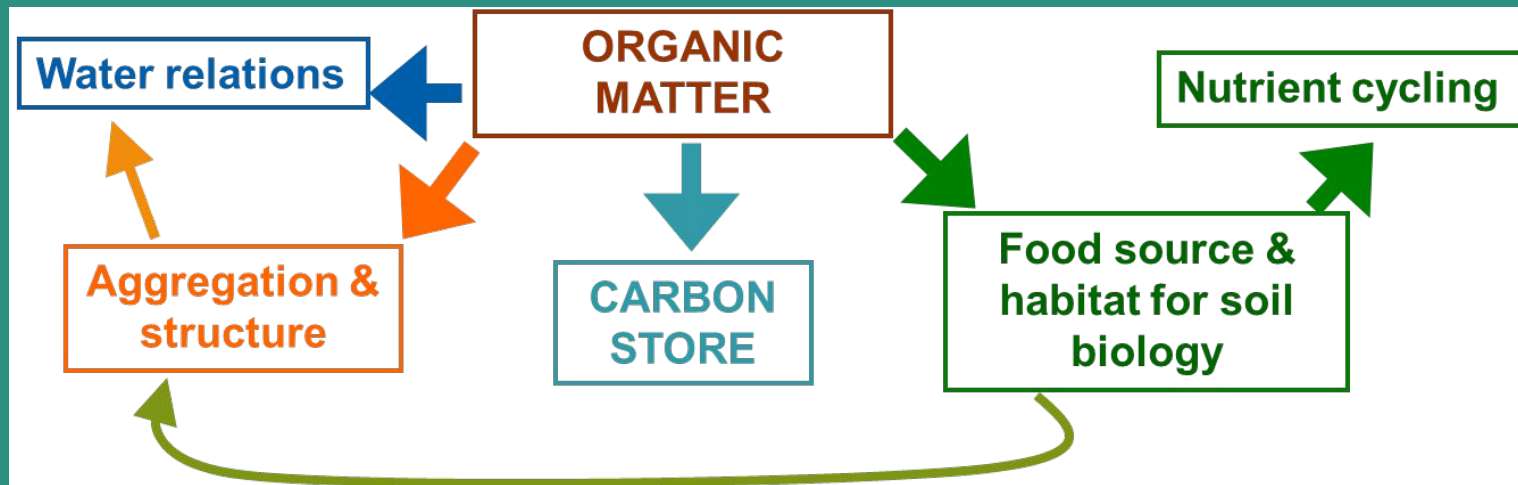


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# Managing soils to maintain soil quality - focus on soil organic matter

The majority of soil functions are driven by biological processes underpinned by SOM decomposition – SOM is the ‘**major currency**’ in soil systems



# Introducing leys and livestock into the rotation

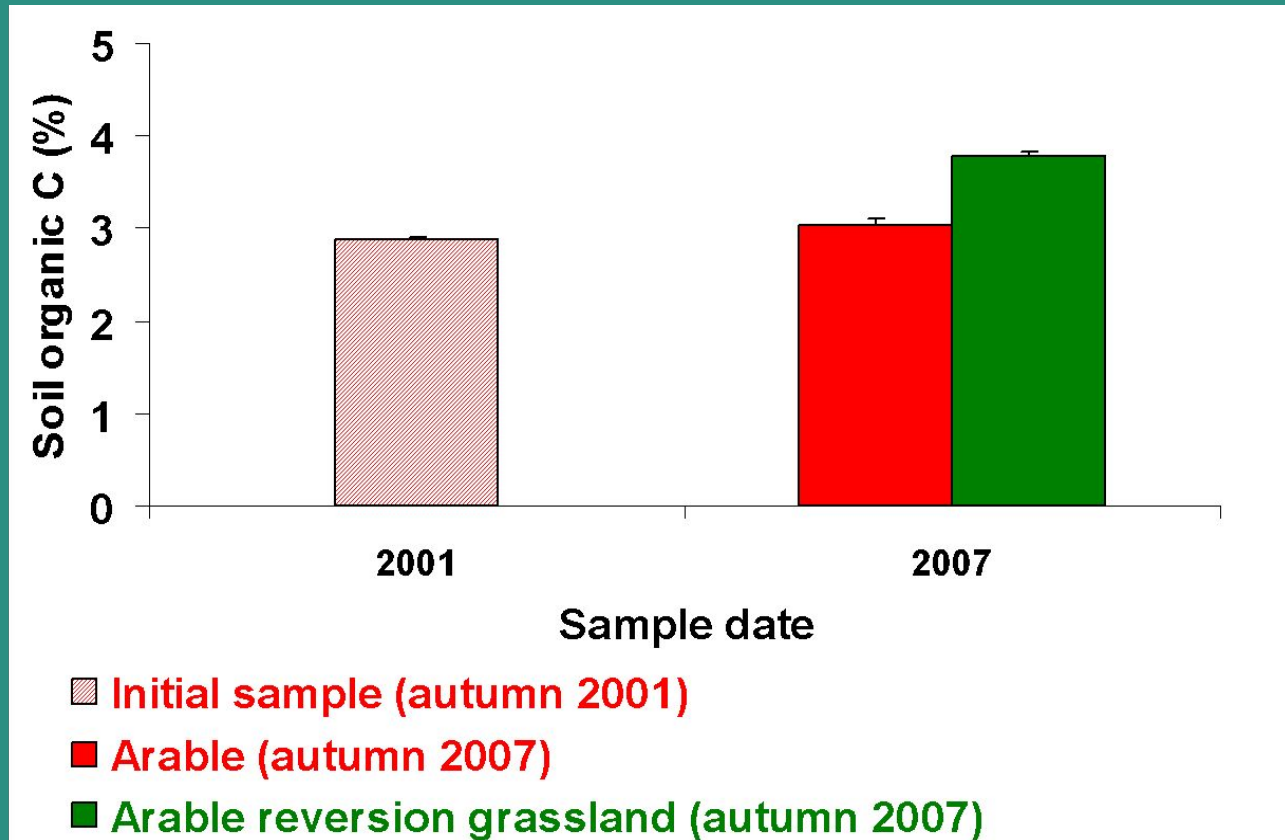


Taking land out of  
cultivation

Manure inputs from  
livestock



# Introducing grass into the rotation – increase in SOM following arable reversion to ungrazed grassland



24% increase in SOC after 6 yrs arable reversion to grassland (heavy clay soil)

# Management of grass/herbal leys

- Length of ley
- Cutting vs grazing
- Grazing intensity
- Sward composition
- Destruction techniques

➔ *Benefits to following crops*



Grass & herbal leys farm network #LeysNetwork



# Thank you



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