



EQUI-FOOD: ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY IMPACT ON URBAN FOOD GROWING FOR BETTER HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

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Background

- Urban food growing identified as beneficial for physical and mental health, diet, sustainability and environment.
- Ample potential in the UK – urban areas could grow up to 8x domestic production.
- Greater soil carbon in urban areas – sensationalising headlines.
- What about roof vs ground level growing?



News > UK > Home News

Britain has only 100 harvests left in its farm soil as scientists warn of growing 'agricultural crisis'

Study shows soil in urban areas is actually much more fertile on average than the intensively over-farmed UK countryside

Research Questions

- RQ1: How do we *simply* measure quality of soil and water in urban ecosystems?
- RQ2: How do we compare perceived quality over measured quality?
- RQ3: How does an understanding of soil quality relate to nature connectedness and benefits to health and wellbeing

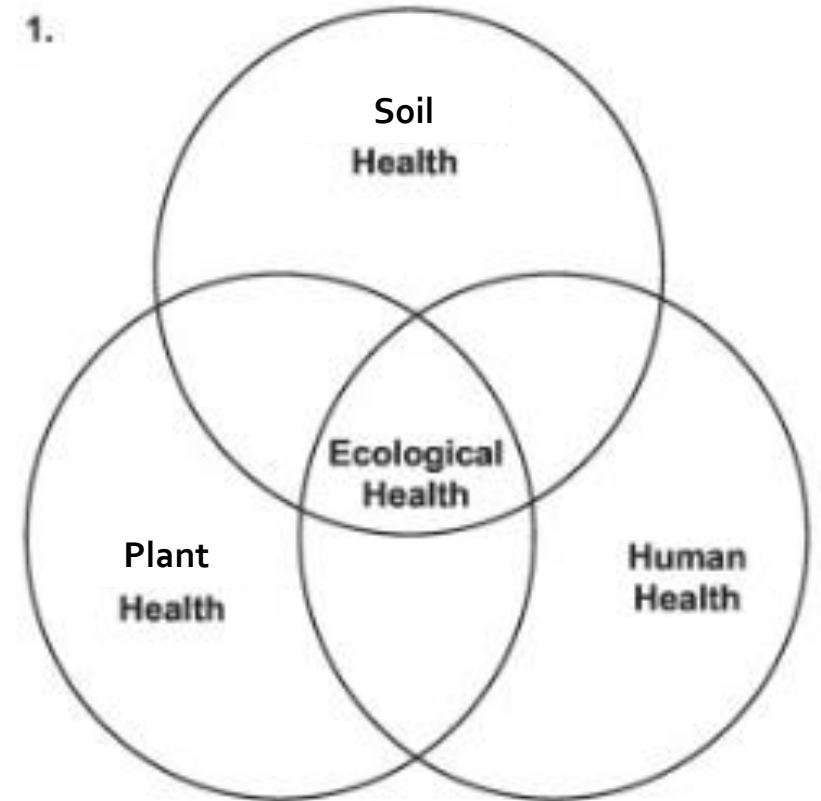




Image credit: SkyGarden, Melbourne

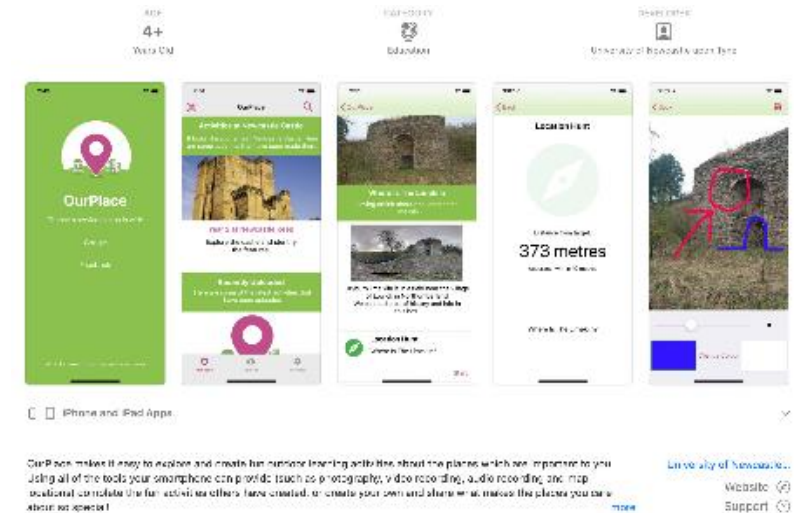


WP₁ – Soil Quality

- Systematic literature review.
- Experimental measurement of soil quality at rooftop/vertical and ground-based growing sites.
- Sites welcome – please get in touch!

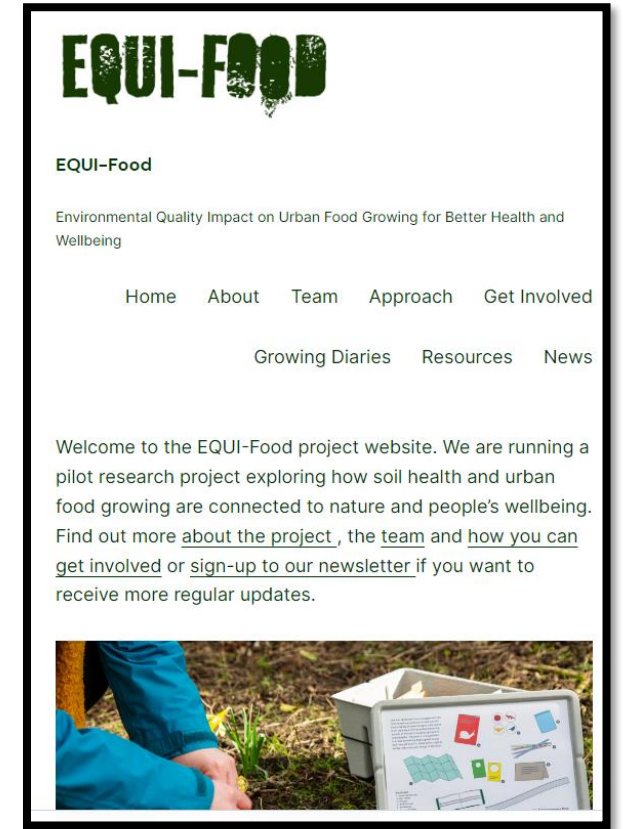
WP2 – Citizen Soil Scientists

- Citizen Science approach to assess the results and feasibility of providing experienced and novice growers with a kit that allows them to simply self-assess and report measures of soil quality at allotment/home food growing sites.



Progress

- Website live – equifood.uk
- Email live EQUI-food@Liverpool.ac.uk
- WP1 – sites secured for soil assessment
 - UoL; Cirencester cathedral; Liverpool community garden; St David's Shopping Centre, Cardiff; Pontypool.
- Ethics approval granted for WP2 and WP3.
- App launched.
- Recruitment launched.
- Study presented at British Ecological Society Conference (Felicity).



THANK YOU

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