

# Moray Soil & Nutrient Network Farm 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting



Balnellan Farm  
15<sup>th</sup> July 2019



# Agenda



13.00 – 13.30 Coffee and networking



13.30 – 14.00 Welcome, introduction and recap of 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> meetings  
***Aileen Buchanan***



14.00 – 15.45 Indoor followed by outdoor session on Grassland:-  
Digestate  
Clover  
Grass/clover mixtures  
***David Lawson***



15.45 – 16.00 Discussion and feedback forms  
***Aileen Buchanan***



# Meeting 1



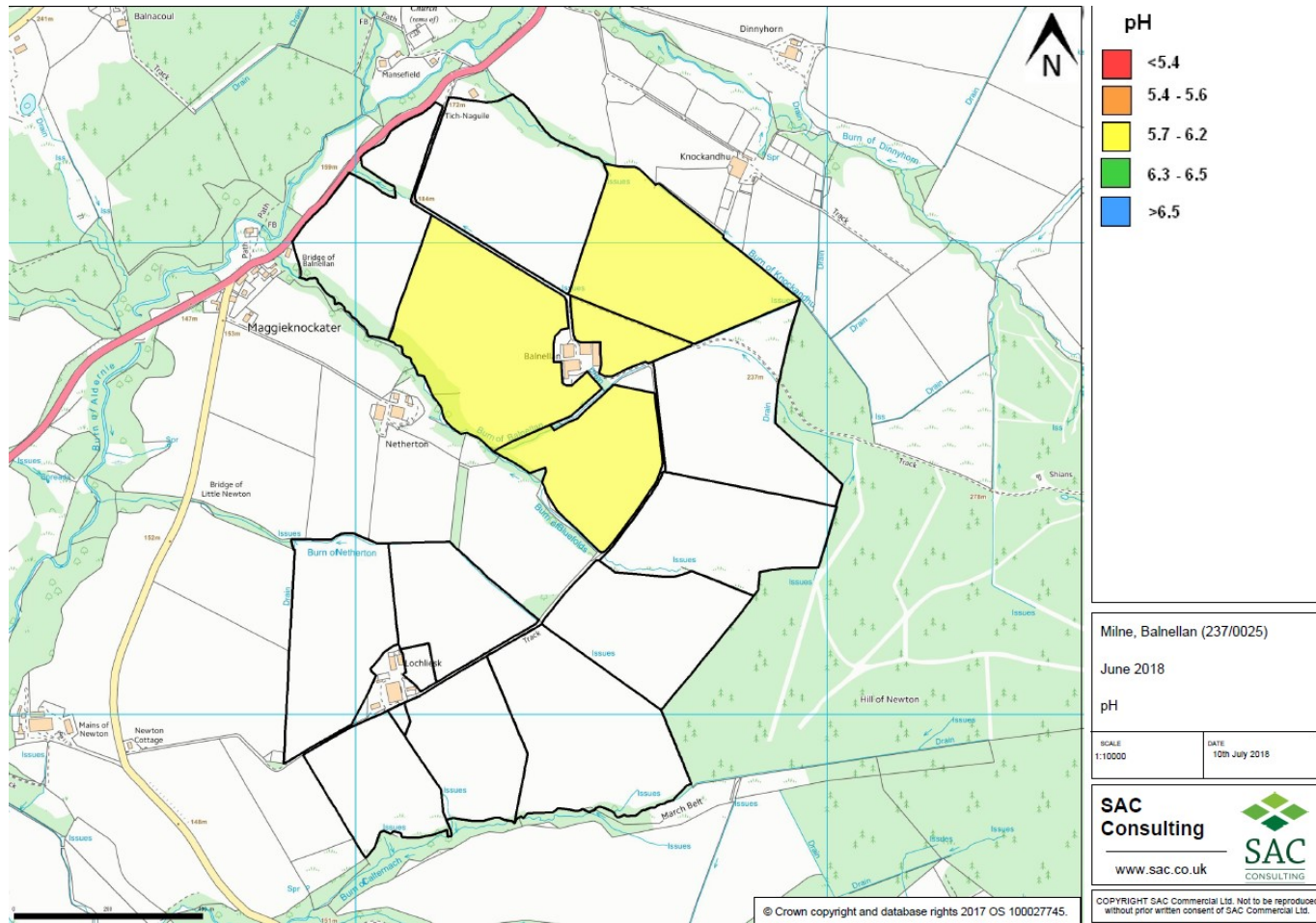
1. Soil analysis
2. Soil structure, texture & compaction

Soil pits

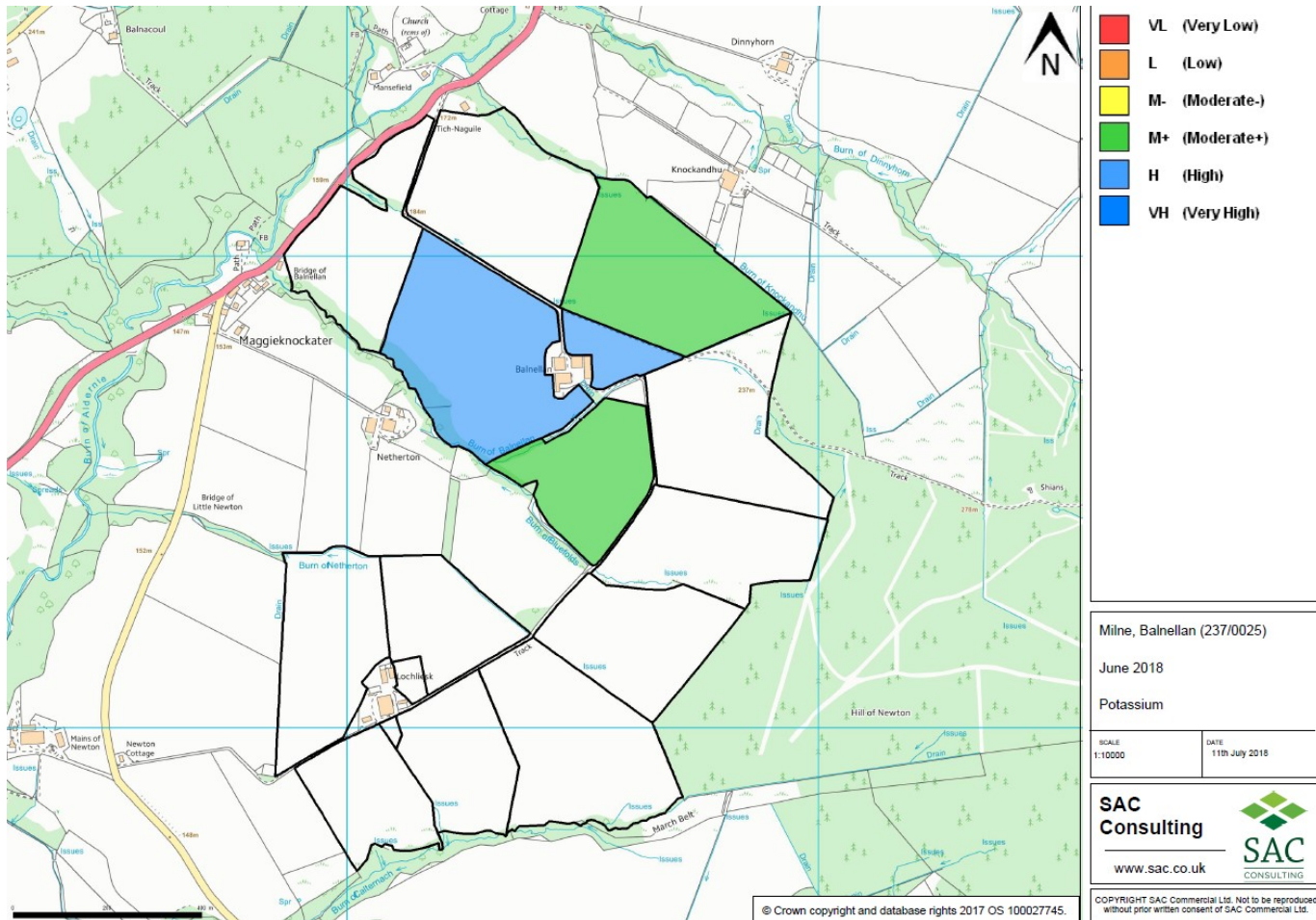
Machinery



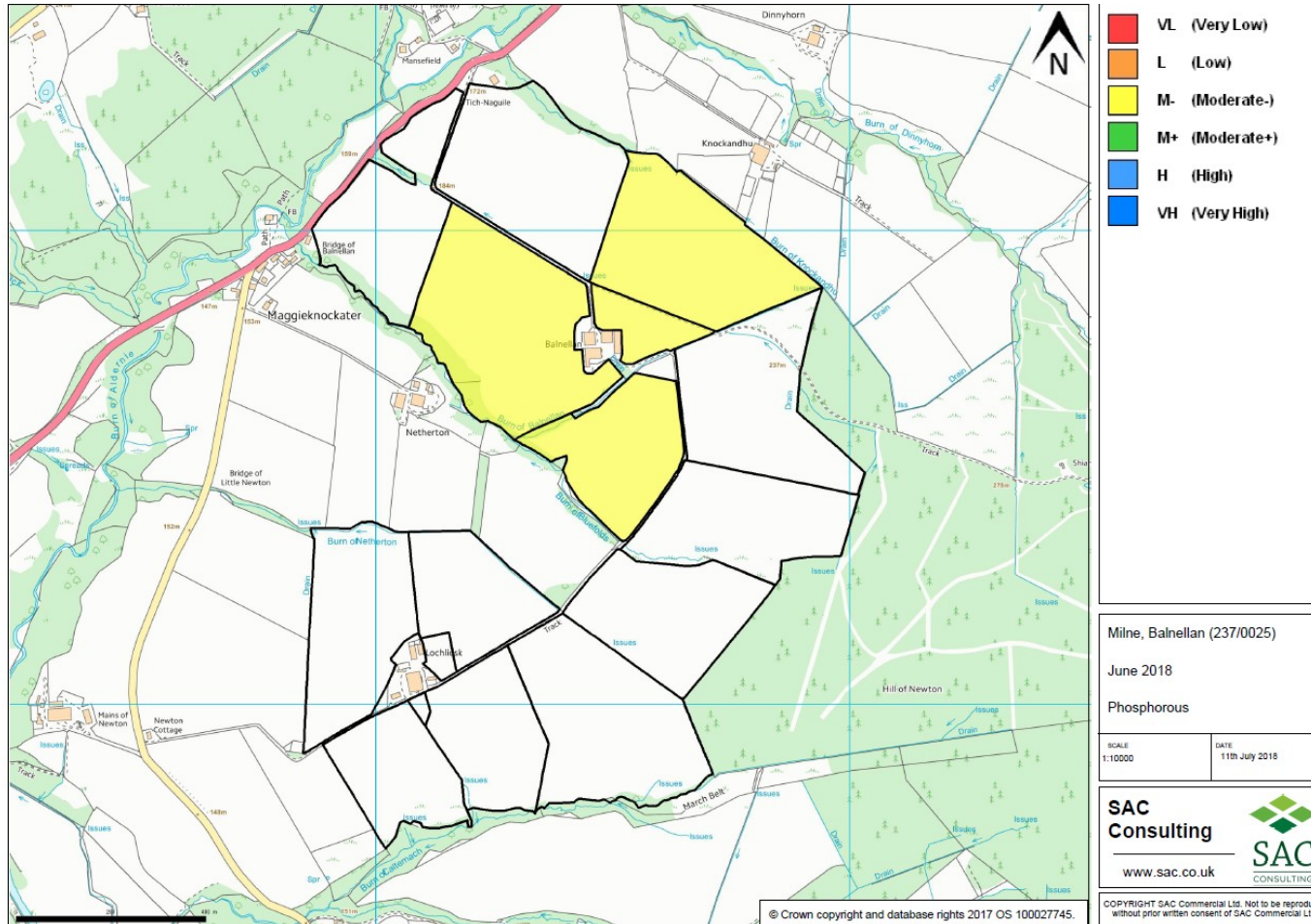
# pH June 2018



# K – June 2018



# P – June 2018





# Take-Home Messages



- Soil structure, use spade first to check where and at what depth the problem is before using machine
- Soil must be in the correct condition before remediation is carried out
- Deep subsoiling should be carried out carefully to avoid making the problem worse

# Take-Home Messages



- Use gravel filled drains in heavy soil to remove water from sub soiler channels
- Check pH status of soil regularly
- Plan cropping carefully where pH is below optimum
- Allow time (up to 2 years) from lime application to allow lime to be fully active



# Meeting 2



- Soil biology
- Soil health
- Use of organic manures – slurry, FYM & distillery by-products

# Take-Home Messages



- Soil biology is important to the efficiency of the soil to support good yields
- The more diversity within the soil the healthier the soil
- Earthworms are a good indicator of the health of the soil – both for nutrients and structure
- You need to monitor your soils to manage them

# Take-Home Messages



- More organic matter helps increase the soil biology
- Keep soil analysis up to date
- Have up to date analysis of all organic manures to be used on the farm
- Balance organic manures with crop requirements

# Take-Home Messages



- Do not over apply organic manures as this can be detrimental to crop growth and the environment
- Make sure any imported manures to the farm are beneficial



# Thank You

