Current soil legislation, policy & plans (Scotland & Northern Ireland)			
Policy/ legislation	**Key provisions**	**Applies to Scotland?**	**Applies to Northern Ireland?**
Primary legislation			
2005 - Environmentally Sensitive Areas Designation Order (Northern Ireland)	Aims to conserve and enhance designated natural beauty areas, to conserve flora and fauna and geological and physiographical features of those areas; and to protect buildings and other objects of archaeological, architectural or historic interest in those areas.		✓
2004 - Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act	Increases protection for biological and geological SSSI sites, including peat. Also sets the basis for the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and biodiversity duty.	✓	
2003 - Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act	Enabling legislation in Scotland for the Water Framework Directive and aims to: • Protect and prevent deterioration of the status of water bodies (including surface water and groundwater bodies and wetlands); • Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies with the aim of achieving good water status by 2015; • Prevent or limit the input of pollutants to water and reverse any significant and sustained upward trends in the concentration of pollutants in water; • Achieve compliance with any relevant standards and objectives for protected areas.	✓	
2002 - The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland)2010 SR 20101/92	Makes provisions for preventing and controlling pollution, including data collection/ reporting, authorisation/ permitting relating to soil.		✓
1999 - Water (Northern Ireland) Order A Guide for the Mineral Extraction Industry	Guidance on silt and suspended solids.		✓
1997 - The Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order	Part 3 contains the main legal provisions for the introduction of a contaminated land regime in Northern Ireland and covers a range of waste management activities.		✓

Current soil legislation, policy & plans (Scotland & Northern Ireland)			
Policy/ legislation	**Key provisions**	**Applies to Scotland?**	**Applies to Northern Ireland?**
1997 - The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act	Imposes conditions related to minerals working, loss of soil to development and mineral extraction.	✓	
1990 - Environment Protection Act 1990- Part II A: Contaminated land	Prevention of additional contaminated land and guidance on risk assessment of contaminated soil and remediation.	✓	
1985 - The Food and Environmental Protection Act	Statutory powers to control pesticides to safeguard the environment.		✓
Secondary legislation			
2009 - Environmental Liability (Prevention and Remediation) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland)	The Regulations aim to prevent environmental damage by imposing obligations on operators of economic activities requiring them to prevent, limit or remediate environmental damage. They apply to damage to protected species, natural habitats, areas of special scientific interest (ASSIs), water and land.		✓
2008 - Action Programme for Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (Scotland) Regulations	The purpose of the instrument is to establish a revised action programme for the nitrate vulnerable zones which were designated in Scotland. The aim of the action programme is to prevent or minimise the losses of nitrate from agricultural sources to the water environment (surface waters and groundwater).	✓	
2008 -The Water Environment (Diffuse Pollution) (Scotland) Regulations	Provision of measures to ensure protection from diffuse pollution.	✓	
2006 - Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations (Northern Ireland)	Provision of measures to ensure protection of soil in forest-related projects e.g. deforestation, forest quarry works.		✓
2005 - The Contaminated Land (Scotland) Regulations (SI 2005/658)	Amendment to Environment Protection Act 1990- Part II A: Contaminated land.	✓	

Current soil legislation, policy & plans (Scotland & Northern Ireland)

Policy/ legislation	Key provisions	Applies to Scotland?	Applies to Northern Ireland?
2003 - The Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations (Northern Ireland)	Permitting to protect soil, including from landfill and disposal of wastes to land.		✓
2000 - Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations	Permitting to protect soil, including from landfill and disposal of wastes to land.	✓	
1999 - Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations (Scotland)	Provision of measures to ensure protection of soil in forest-related projects e.g. deforestation, forest quarry works.	✓	
1997 - The Control of Pesticides Regulations (updated by the COPR (Amendment) Regulations 1997 (SI 1997/188))	Controls pesticides and their distribution to protect the human health, flora and fauna, and safeguard the environment.	✓	
1997 - The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 and the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997	Controls the sale, supply, storage, use and advertisement of pesticides to prevent pollution of the environment, or cause harm to humans or animals.		✓
1994 - Waste Management Licensing Regulations (and subsequent amendments)	Covers the collection, storage, treatment and disposal of controlled wastes. Some activities are exempt from licensing if they meet specific requirements.	✓	
1994 - The Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994	Provides for the designation and protection of natural habitats and natural species. Transposes the Habitats Directive into national law.	✓	
1989 - Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (as amended)	Control of sewage sludge in agricultural applications by setting maximum annual applications for metals contained in sludge and maximum permitted metal concentrations in agricultural soil treated with sludge.	✓	
1990 - Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) (SR1990, No245)	Controls application of sewage sludge on soils.		✓
Policy/ Policy Guidance/ Plans			

Current soil legislation, policy & plans (Scotland & Northern Ireland)			
Policy/ legislation	**Key provisions**	**Applies to Scotland?**	**Applies to Northern Ireland?**
2009 - Scottish Soil Framework	Launched in May 2009, the Framework acknowledges the important services soils provide to society and sets out the vision for soil protection in Scotland. It describes the key pressures on soils and raises awareness of the need for policy integration to ensure soils are adequately protected for existing and future generations. It identifies a number of Soil Outcomes and lists a number of Actions through which the Outcomes will be achieved	✓	
Scottish Rural Development Programme 2007 - 2013	Starting in 2008, offers farmers, crofters, business groups a share of funding to help deliver environmental, social and economic benefits to rural Scotland. Delivered by the Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate, SNH and Forestry Commission Scotland.	✓	
2007 - Cross Compliance - Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAEC)	Farmers are required to comply with a number of legal requirements related to the environment, including soil. It contains a number of measures including minimising soil erosion and protection of soil organic matter.	✓	✓
2006 - Scottish Forestry Strategy (and implementation Plan)	This document outlines the key actions that need to be taken by the forest industry and its partners to protect Scotland's soil resource.	✓	
2005 - Prevention of Environmental Pollution from Agricultural Activity (PEPFAA) code (Voluntary Code of practice)	Provides practical measures to help maintain soil organic matter levels and soil structure, to prevent or minimise erosion in cultivated agricultural soils and minimise soil pollution. The Prevention of Environmental Pollution from Agricultural Activity (PEPFAA) is a voluntary code of practice published by the Scottish Government.	✓	
2005 - Farm Soils Plan – Protecting soils and income in Scotland (Voluntary Code of practice)	Provides practical measures for farmers to help maintain soil organic matter levels in cultivated agricultural soils and minimise soil degradation and erosion.	✓	
2004 - UK Forestry Standard	This document sets out the criteria and standards for sustainable forest management in the UK and identifies the protection and enhancement of forest soils as a key requirement.	✓	✓

Current soil legislation, policy & plans (Scotland & Northern Ireland)

Policy/ legislation	Key provisions	Applies to Scotland?	Applies to Northern Ireland?
2001 - Code of Practice for the Agricultural Use of Sewage Sludge	Supporting document to Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations for the UK.	✓	✓
2000 - Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland Wales and Northern Ireland	Sets limits in ambient air of nitrogen and sulphur dioxide in relation to acidification and eutrophication. Transposes the Air Quality Directive into national law.	✓	✓
1998 - Forests and Soil Conservation Guidelines	Provision of management options aimed at maintaining and enhancing soil organic matter, soil structure and soil erosion.	✓	✓