

Other environmental effects of a Plan on SOIL

Transboundary effects

A Plan could lead to transboundary effects associated with soil (e.g. a Plan in Northern Ireland producing significant environmental effects in the Republic of Ireland). For example air pollution (e.g. particulate matter, sulphur dioxide) generated in Northern Ireland could lead to soil contamination or acidification in the Republic of Ireland.

New receptors

A Plan could also, for example, result in exposing new receptors (e.g. residents/ users) to existing elevated levels of contaminants (e.g. by promoting recreational activities in an area of historic soil contamination). It should be noted that some soils present naturally elevated levels of toxic substances (e.g. metals) or nutrients due to the geochemical characteristics of the underlying geology.

Effects of sectors such as agriculture and forestry on soil can be reduced significantly if good management practice is followed (e.g. Forest and Water Guidelines).