Approaches to collation of environmental baseline information for soil					
SEA Sub-topic	**Description of current state of the environment**	**Key Trends (past and likely future)**	**Key Targets, limits & thresholds**	**Sources of key information**	**Key information gaps**
Notes on approach: NB: Ensure the scale and level of detail is appropriate to the scale, type and level of detail of the Plan and the potential for significant effects.	• Identify how soil could potentially be affected by the Plan. • Identify sensitive receptors (e.g. designated sites, sensitive soil types) which could be affected by the Plan. • Note whether there are any information gaps or any detailed information that may be required.	• Identify trends in parameters used to describe current state of soils. If not directly available, consider using a long-term series of parameters to determine trends in the Plan area and its surrounds. • Include spatial and sectoral trends if available and identify trends in receptors. • Note whether there are any information gaps.	• Include any current and likely future targets, limits or thresholds. • Consider emerging policy for future changes to targets etc. • Note whether any information on targets/ limits/ thresholds for the area covered by the Plan is unavailable	• National environmental agencies (i.e. SEPA, NIEA, Environment Agency, EPA) • Local authorities • Conservation agencies • Conservation groups • National governments • Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) incl. BGS & GSNI • Tellus Project (Northern Ireland) • National parks • DARD Northern Ireland • Scotland's Environmental and Rural Services (SEARS) • Agri-Food Biosciences Institute • Macaulay Land Use Research Institute • Academic institutions, professional organisations and associations	Note whether there is any information unavailable or not available at appropriate scales for the Plan (e.g. insufficient monitoring sites, no information or trends available)

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Soil Quality	Information on general characteristics of soils (e.g. soil type and origin, land capability) can be found in: • Land capability maps • Soil maps • Land cover	As in notes above	As in notes above	As in notes above and • State of the Environment Reports • Soil Quality Reports • Soil & land capability maps.	As in notes above
Soil Contamination	Useful information includes: • Contaminated sites (location, number, surface area, pollutants) • Part IIA sites (location, number, surface area, pollutants) • Nitrate Vulnerable Zones • Deposition of atmospheric pollution • Land used for organic agriculture • Recycled waste or exogenous organic matter (e.g. sewage sludge, compost, biowaste) applied to soils (type, volume) • Use of fertilisers/ pesticides (type, volume)	As in notes above	As in notes above	As in notes above and • State of the Environment Reports • Soil Quality Reports • Soil & land capability maps. • CLEA soil guideline values / • CIEH soil guideline levels/ • Environment Agency Chemical Standards Database • Local Authorities- Contaminated land department • DoENI • Scottish Government	As in notes above

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Soil Sealing	Useful information includes: • Land use and land cover • Surface area of vacant/ derelict land • Surface area of brownfields and greenfields developed in the Plan area • Surface area which has undergone urbanisation • Volume of removed and re-used soil	As in notes above	As in notes above Areas designated as greenfield belts Land use planning	As in notes above and • State of the Environment Reports • Soil Quality Reports • Local Authorities	Likely to be gaps on areas of sealed soil, reasons for sealing, effects of soil sealing and trends of soil sealing.
Soil erosion (incl. landslides)	Useful information includes: • Soil mass lost by erosion • Erosion risk maps • Number of landslides	As in notes above	As in notes above	As in notes above and • State of the Environment Reports • Soil Quality Reports	Likely to be gaps in soil erosion rates and causes of erosion.
Soil Structural Damage & Compaction	Useful information includes: • Bulk density in topsoils • Land subjected to intensive agricultural activities	As in notes above	As in notes above	As in notes above and • State of the Environment Reports • Soil Quality Reports	As in notes above

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Soil organic matter	Useful information includes: • Topsoil organic carbon/ organic matter content • Areas underlain by peat. • Areas of soil types rich in organic matter • Use of recycled waste or exogenous organic matter • Land covered by the Organic Aid Scheme • Agricultural land subject to good land management practices under the Land Management Contract • Land covered by the Menu Scheme	As in notes above	As in notes above	As in notes above and • State of the Environment Reports • Soil Quality Reports • Organic Reports, • Macaulay Land Use Research Institute • Conservation agencies (i.e. SNH)	May be lack of information on soil organic matter in some areas.