

Examples of typical environmental protection objectives relevant to soil

Source	Environmental protection objective
Scottish Soil Framework	To promote the sustainable management and protection of soils consistent with the economic, social and environmental needs of Scotland.
Soil Thematic Strategy (COM(2006) 231)	<p>The overall objective is protection and sustainable use of soil, based on the following guiding principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Preventing further soil degradation and preserving its functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When soil is used and its functions are exploited, action has to be taken on soil use and management patterns; and When soil acts as a sink/ receptor of the effects of human activities or environmental phenomena, action has to be taken at source. Restoring degraded soils to a level of functionality consistent at least with current and intended use, while also considering the cost implications of the restoration of soil.
The Sewage Sludge Directive (86/278/EEC)	To encourage the use of sewage sludge in agriculture and to regulate its use in such a way as to prevent harmful effects on soil, vegetation, animals and humans.
The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	To prevent the deterioration of water and protect and enhance aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands and promote the sustainable consumption of water.
The Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	To conserve the natural habitats of wild flora and fauna.
UK	
UK Forestry Standard	<p>To sustainably manage existing woods and forests; including soils.</p> <p>To expand tree cover to increase the many diverse benefits that forests provide.</p>
Forests and Soil Conservation Guidelines 1998	To provide advice to owners and managers on how to conserve the soil as a fundamental resource upon which trees and the whole forest ecosystem depend.
National	
Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations (Scotland) 1999	To determine consent for forestry work which can include afforestation, deforestation, forest roads and forestry quarries.
Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004	To ensure the conservation and enhancement of habitats, species and landscapes.
The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002	<p>To provide a statutory framework to enable transposition of the requirements of EC Directives 96/61 on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (the IPPC Directive) and 96/62 on Ambient Air Quality Assessment and Management;</p> <p>To make additional provision for the prevention and control of environmental pollution; and</p> <p>To introduce measures to allow for the better protection and management of ASSIs.</p>

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Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1990 (SR1990, No245)	To protect the environment, and in particular soil, when sewage sludge is used on agricultural land. To prohibit the use of sludge from sewage treatment works being spread on agricultural land unless specified requirements are fulfilled.

Notes:

This table provides a framework to illustrate how this guidance could be used.