

Examples of typical environmental problems related to soil identified for different scales of Plan		
Level of Plan	Environmental Problems & Sensitive Areas	Examples of Evidence
Soil contamination		
National Plan (e.g. Scottish Soil Framework)	Soil contamination by atmospheric deposition of pollutants (e.g. oxides of nitrogen and sulphur) leading to acidification of soils.	Exceedance of air pollutant limits in the Plan area set by the National Air Quality Strategy.
Regional Plan (e.g. Regional Agricultural Strategy)	Use of pesticides within agricultural, and potential for misuse or leakages resulting in pollution incidents.	River Basin Management Plans, catchment management plans and rural development programmes.
Local Plan (e.g. Local Development Plan/ Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy)	Soil contamination in urban areas in a Council.	Local Authority Development Plans. Local Authority- Contaminated Land Department
Soil sealing/ loss		
Regional Plan (e.g. Regional Development Plan/ Joint Structure Plan)	Increased development of land on the fringes of urban areas.	Identification of local recharge areas as part of River Basin Management Plans.
Soil structural degradation & compaction		
National Plan (e.g. National Forestry Strategy)	Heavy machinery used by the forestry industry causing structural degradation and compaction.	State of the Environment reports (inc. national soil reports).
Regional Plan (e.g. Regional Agricultural Strategy)	Possible reduction in crop yields and water holding capacity due to increased compaction of arable land.	Agricultural Plans for arable cropping in eastern Scotland, including Farm Soils Plans.
Soil organic matter		
National Plan (e.g. National Forestry Strategy/ National Biodiversity Action Plan)	Potential for some soil preparation techniques in forestry to lead to losses in organic carbon content in soils across Scotland.	State of the Environment reports (inc. national soil reports). Scottish Forestry Strategy.
Regional Plan (Regional Renewable Energy Strategy)	Increased peat erosion in upland areas, resulting in increased dissolved organic carbon in streams.	River Basin Management Plans Monitoring of water and soil quality in Highland areas.

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