

Examples of typical SEA objectives and assessment criteria for soil

SEA topic	SEA objective	
Soil	To maintain or improve soil quality and prevent any further degradation of soils	
SEA sub-topic	SEA sub-objective	Example assessment criteria Will the Plan ...
Soil Quality	To improve soil quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ... maintain or improve organic matter content of soils? • ... maintain or improve pH levels of soils? • ... reduce levels of acidification of soils? • ... maintain or improve bulk density of soils? • ... maintain appropriate nutrient levels in soils? • ... reduce pollution levels in soil? • ... promote good/ best land management practices?
SEA sub-topic	SEA sub-objective	Example assessment criteria Will the Plan ...
Soil Contamination	To reduce levels of soil contamination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ... prevent input of pollutants to soils? • ... promote the remediation of contaminated soils? • ... reduce use of pesticides & fertilisers or persistence of chemicals in soils? • ... reduce contamination of soils with heavy metals, persistent organic and other pollutants? • ... ensure that recycled waste (e.g. sewage sludge, biowaste) applied to soils will not lead to significant soil contamination? • ... promote restoration of contaminated soils in mining and former industrial areas? • ... promote good/ best land management practices?
Soil sealing/ removal	To reduce soil sealing and soil loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ... reduce levels of soil sealing? • ... reduce loss of soils to mineral workings? • ... promote the development of brownfield sites? • ... reduce the sealing of good quality/ versatile soils? • ... promote re-use of soils removed for development? • ... mitigate effects of soil sealing by using construction techniques that preserve soil functions? • ... promote the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)? • ... promote good/ best land management practices?
Soil erosion	To reduce soil erosion (including landslides)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ... reduce soil erosion¹ caused through action of water? • ... reduce soil erosion¹ caused through action of wind? • ... reduce soil erosion¹ in fragile systems (e.g. coasts, mountainous areas)? • ... reduce erosion of productive soils¹? • ... ensure the use of suitable soils (depending on use)? • ... promote water infiltration? • ... promote the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)? • ... promote protective vegetation cover and/ or organic debris cover? • ... reduce the risk of landslides? • ... prevent potentially harmful practices to avoid soil erosion? • ... promote good/ best land management practices?

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Soil structural degradation & compaction	To reduce soil structural degradation and compaction of soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ... reduce structural degradation and compaction of soils? • ... prevent potentially harmful practices to avoid soil compaction? • ... promote good/ best land management practices?
Soil organic matter	To conserve, or reduce loss of, organic matter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ... maintain or increase soil organic matter in soils? • ... promote sustainable agricultural practices (e.g. maintenance/ management of grasslands, crop residues management, use of manure/ compost/ sewage sludge, crop rotation management)? • ... prevent potentially harmful agricultural practices? • ... promote organic agriculture? • ... promote good/ best land management practices?

Note:

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

¹Accelerated erosion caused by human activities