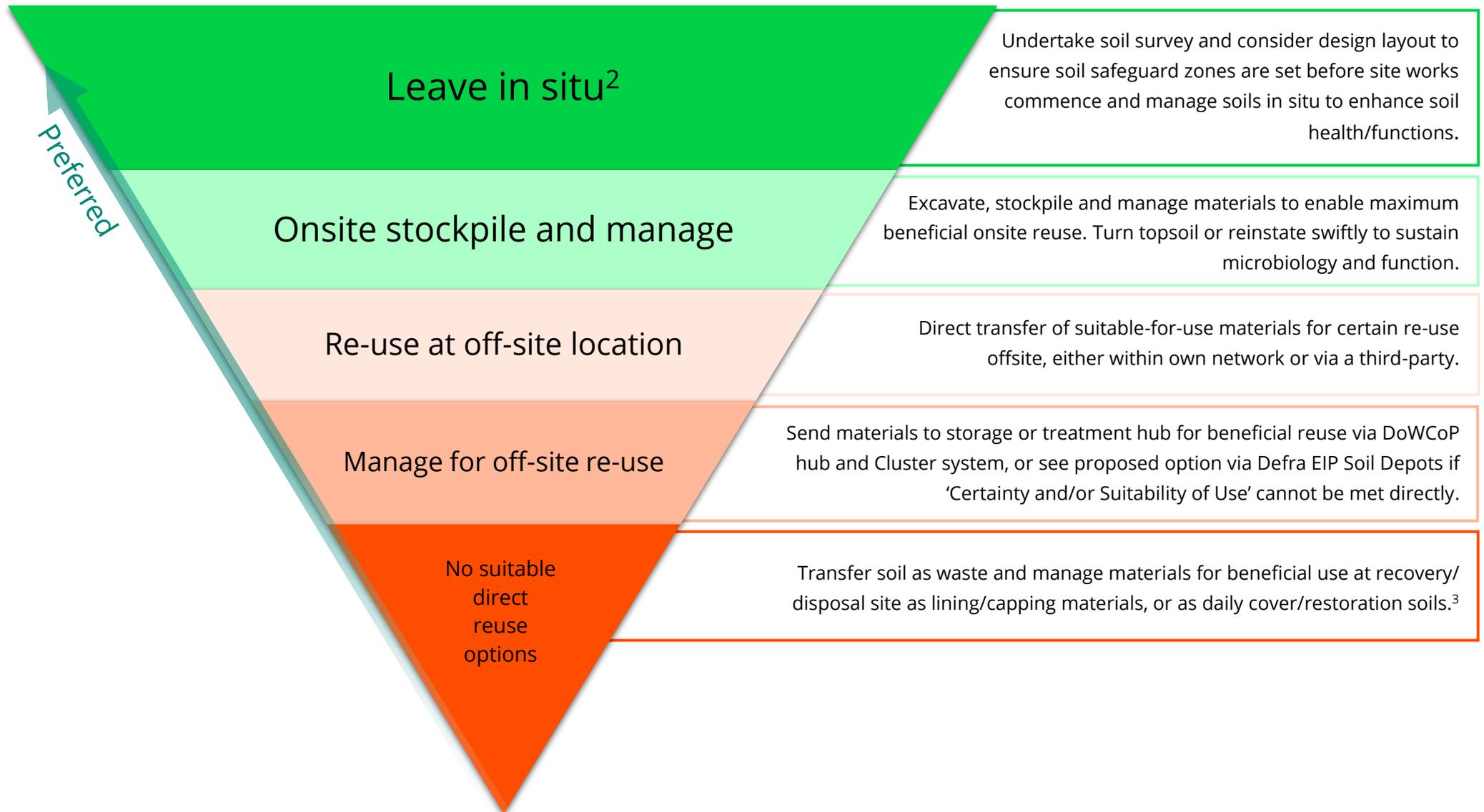


# Soil Management Hierarchy for Development Sites<sup>1</sup>

Developed by the [SocEnv Soils and Stones Project](#)



## Notes

**Manage all materials under appropriate schemes for materials management – DoWCoP (UK)/Soil Passport Scheme and Resource Frameworks with Certainty and Suitability of Use conditions met.**

- <sup>1</sup> This hierarchy has been devised to aid development/redevelopment of urban/peri-urban sites. Although many of the steps are applicable, the hierarchy is not specifically designed for agricultural soils. See ‘Soil Management Hierarchy in Rural Settings’ for guidance on management of agricultural soils.
- <sup>2</sup> Where ground is polluted but can be remediated in situ then the remediation activity should ensure pollutants are managed in a risk-based manner, but that other soil functions are also safeguarded where possible.
- <sup>3</sup> Disposal of soils to landfill as a waste should be considered a last resort once all other solutions have been exhausted. Imported topsoil should be stockpiled and retained and managed for future landscaping works on landfill completion. Other options can include offsite treatment/storage and return to sites for re-use via a [CL:AIRE](#) Hub and Cluster approach.
- <sup>4</sup> All works should be undertaken with the wider environmental setting in mind and relevant monitoring and safeguards to prevent silt runoff, dust and odour emissions. For longer term stockpiles, cover vegetation can assist with management.
- <sup>5</sup> Reuse of materials on brownfield sites or direct transfers of suitable materials can be undertaken under the CL:AIRE DoWCoP/Soil Passport Scheme in England and Wales, or in other jurisdictions as agreed locally with relevant regulators if approved under a project specific Materials Management Plan (MMP) and International Soil Passport (see CL:AIRE website for further details). The MMP should be drafted before any excavation works commences on site. See CL:AIRE website for further details on MMPs.
- <sup>6</sup> Soil Depots are under development in England under the Defra Environment Improvement Plan 2023. Details of the CL:AIRE Earthbanks project supporting this are on the CL:AIRE website.