

Introducing the latest output from the SocEnv Soils & Stones project...

November 2025

SocEnv Webinar

Introducing the new Soil Management Hierarchies

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An intro to SocEnv

A sustainable future shaped by environmental professionalism

- SocEnv is a **not-for profit umbrella body** with a **Royal Charter**.
- We **bring together professionals** from different sectors, united by their environmental expertise.
- **28 professional bodies** are licensed by SocEnv to award Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv). Some also have license to award Registered Environmental Practitioner (REnvP) and/or Registered Environment Technician (REnvTech).
- There are over **8,500 REnvTech, REnvP and CEnv registrants**.

Interdisciplinary
breadth – we work
with professionals
in a range of roles...

Environmental Manager
Environmental Consultant Flood Risk Specialist Head of Forestry
Agricultural Consultant ESG Director
River Catchment Officer Civil Engineer Project Manager
Geo-Environmental Engineer CEO Environmental Scientist
Associate Director Principal Environmental Engineer
Architectural Technologist Professor Senior Hydrogeologist
Construction Manager QHSE Manager Head of Decarbonisation Farmer
Environment Protection Officer Air Quality Engineer Head of Sustainability
Water Engineer Carbon Management Associate Construction Sustainability Lead
Renewable Energy Manager CSR Director Technical Director Senior Ecologist
Build / Site Manager
Sustainability Programme Officer

And many more...

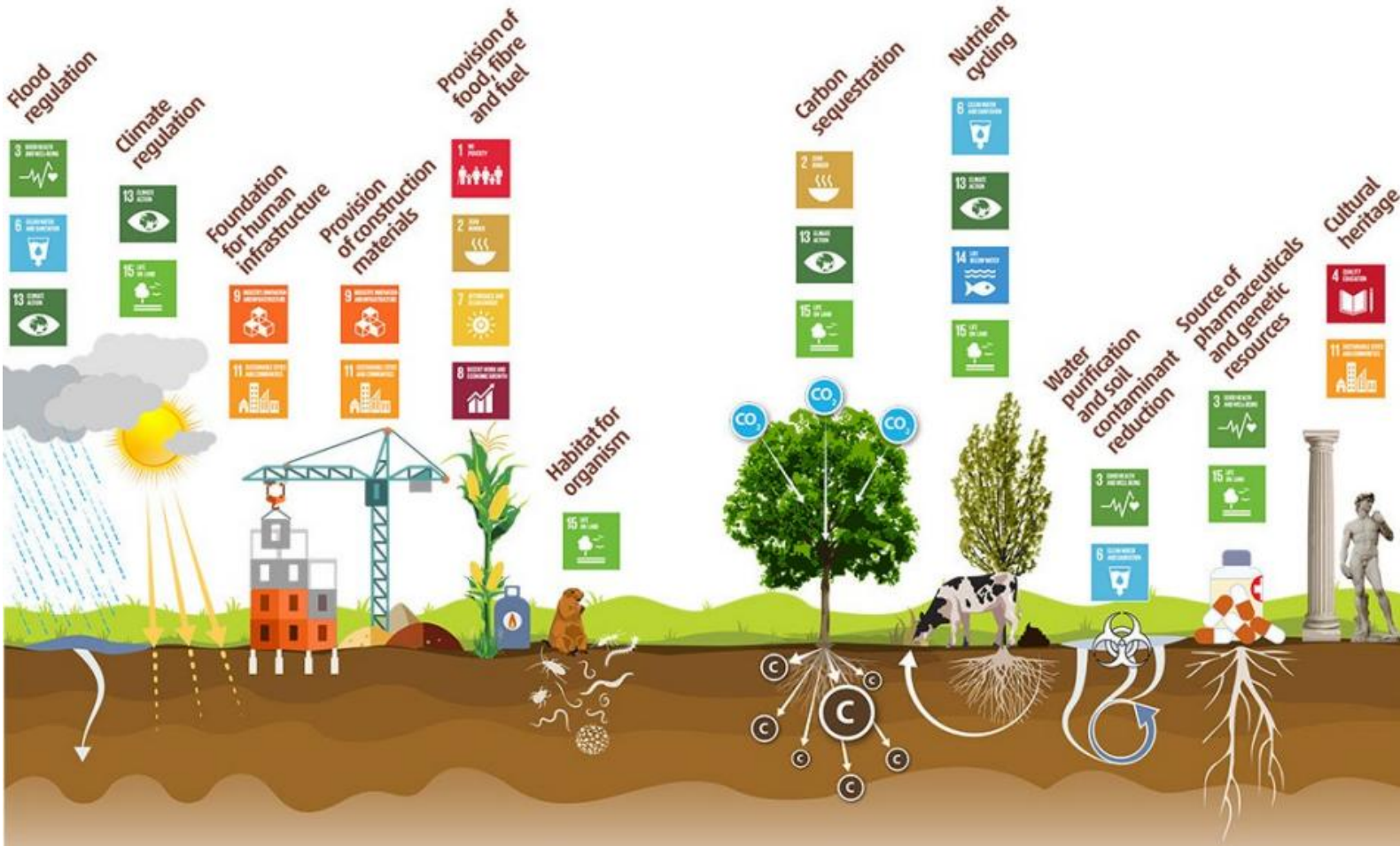
Overview: SocEnv Soils and Stones Project

- A cross-sector network of environmental professionals.
- Current & aspiring CEnv volunteers committed to safeguarding soils and soil-related materials, for use and reuse (aka 'Soils and Stones').

The project has three key aims:

- (Aim 1) advocate policies that value soils and stones.
- (Aim 2) shape and share good practice for consistent approach.
- (Aim 3) forge connections to facilitate collaborative outcomes.

UN Soils – Healthy soils prerequisite to SDGs



Sectors represented:

- Built Environment
- Infrastructure
- Land management
- Forestry
- Agriculture
- Engineering
- Resource management
- Water

SocEnv Soils and Stones (SandS) report

Published 2021.

Set the scene: state of the 'soils and stones' with urgency needed.

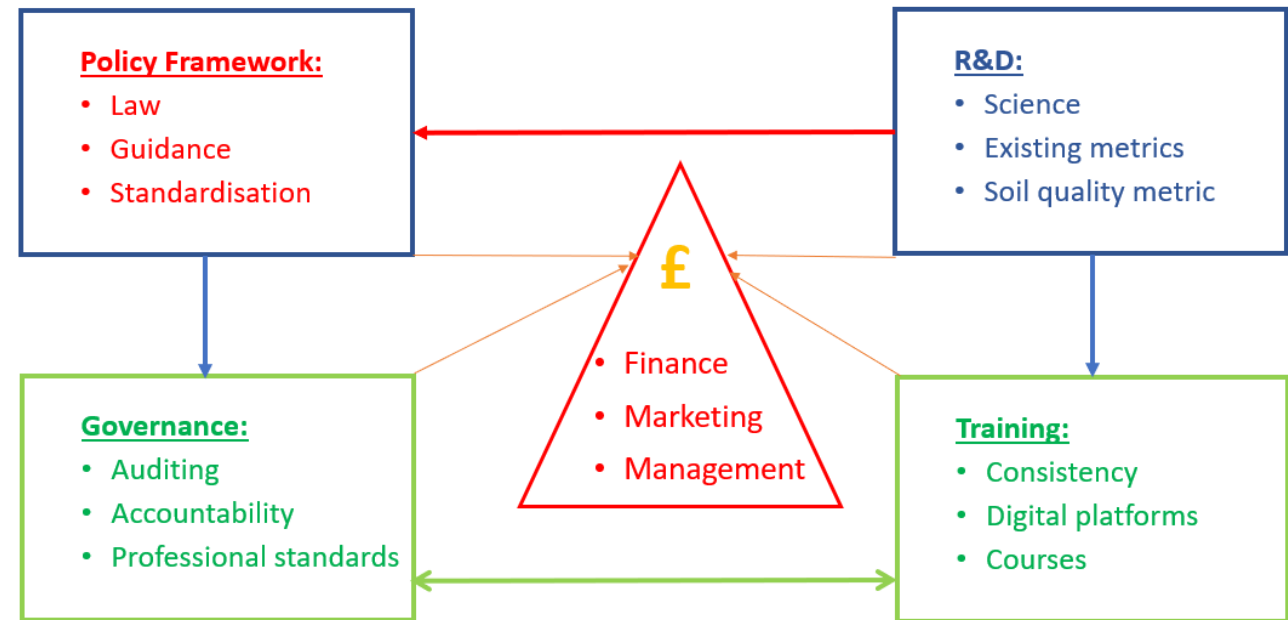
Analysed current issues, provided case studies, signposted to guidance and outlined key policy recommendations.



Ten Principles of Good Soils and Stones Management (2023)

Ten Principles **give soils a quantifiable value.**

- How to preserve, remediate & enhance, natural soils as a living system;
- Provide hierarchy of options for excavated soils, stones and dredgings;
- Highlight soil as a material consideration in all land-use & developments.



Evidence to the Soil Health Inquiry (2023)

We were invited to give evidence to the 2023 EFRA Soil Health Inquiry and many of our headline asks featured in the eventual inquiry report recommendations.

- ❖ [Oral evidence](#)
- ❖ [Written evidence](#)
- ❖ [Inquiry recommendations](#)

▶ PLAYER

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee
Tuesday 7 March 2023 Meeting started at 2.30pm



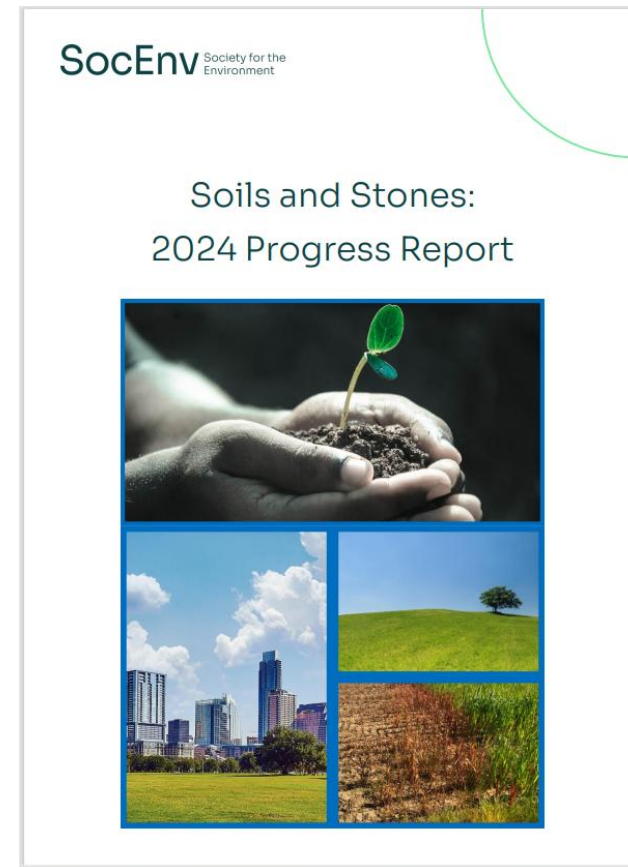
Soils and Stones Triennial Progress Report

Published 2024.

An honest assessment of progress made so far against the 2021 recommendations.

Provides further calls to action through collaboration for soils pan-sectors.

Highlighted case studies that showcased the Ten Principles of good soils & stones management in action.



Challenges and opportunities

- Achieving a common indicator of soil health.
- Affording soils and stones the same legal status as air, water, biodiversity and resource efficiency.
- Defining a risk-based approach to soils ecological health.
- Specifying practical ways of managing soils and stones to promote natural capital, sustainable economic growth, and the creation of skilled jobs.

SILOtoSOIL Tool

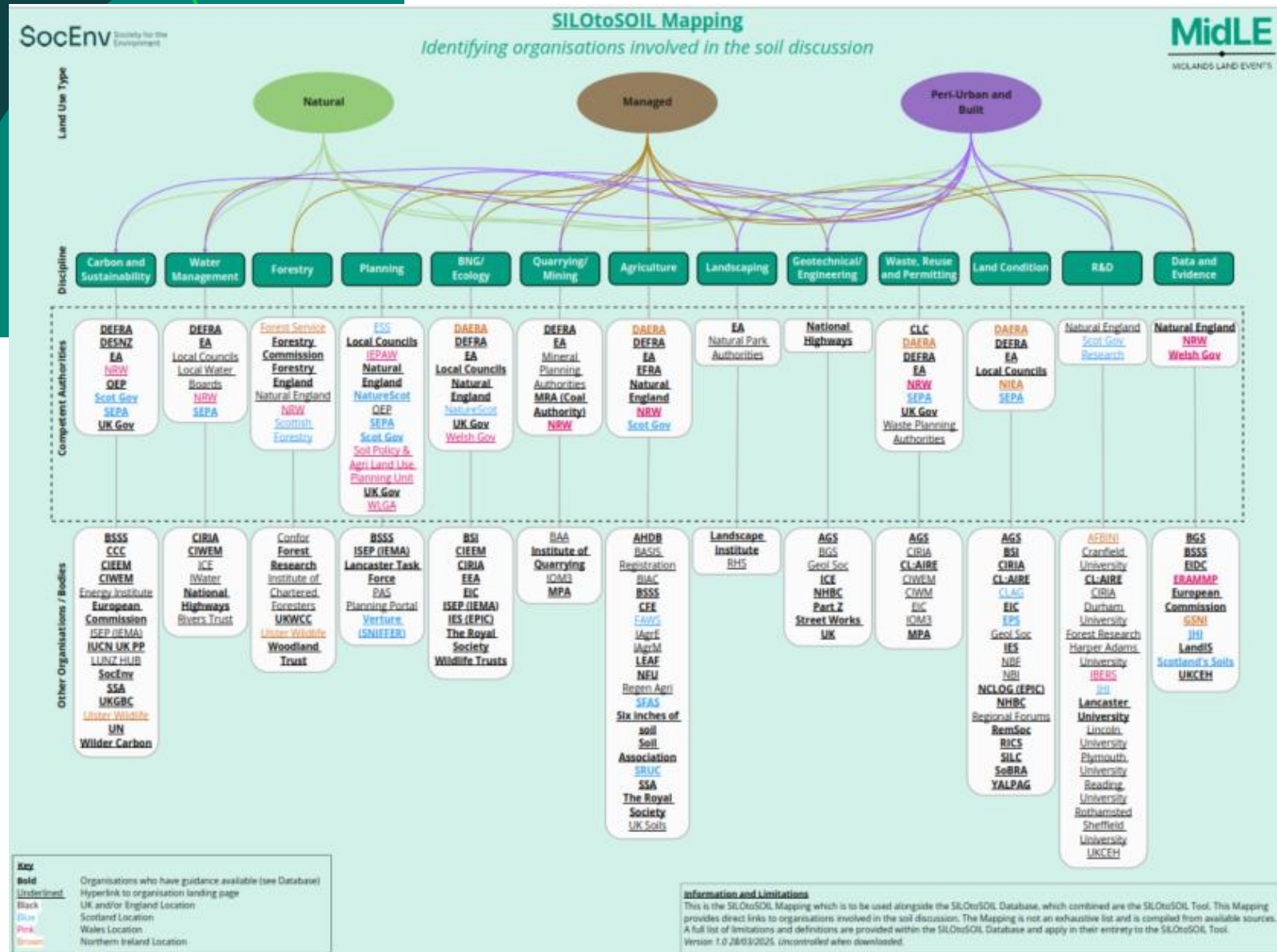
The SILOtoSOIL Tool

In the summer of 2023, the Midlands Land Events (MidLE) "New Future for Soils" event led to the formation of the SILOtoSOIL project, a volunteer-driven initiative dedicated to fostering collaboration in soil management. Working alongside SocEnv, SILOtoSOIL helps to shape a more coordinated approach to soil-related challenges, and are we now pleased to introduce our latest resource - The SILOtoSOIL Tool.

DOWNLOAD THE SILOtoSOIL MAPPING

DOWNLOAD THE SILOtoSOIL DATABASE

- Identifies organisations involved in soil management
- Catalogues soil-related guidance across sectors and administrations
- Launched April 2025



Some Soil Facts

- More than half the world's species live in the soil.
- A teaspoon of healthy soil contains more organisms than there are people on earth.
- 95% of the world's food comes from soil.
- Soil is the world's second-largest carbon store after the oceans, and holds 80% of the world's carbon.
- Restoring soil could remove 15% of total fossil fuel emissions.
- More than 24 Billion tonnes of soil are lost globally each year, 2.2 Million tonnes in the UK, mainly through erosion.

How Much do we Value Soil?

	<u>Tonnes</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Total Waste Generated in England in 2022	191,374,096	-
Mineral waste from construction & demolition	60,778,529	32%
Other mineral wastes	5,436,783	3%
Soils	49,730,316	26%
Dredging spoils	19,919,330	10%
<i>All Soils and Stones</i>	135,864,958	71%

A Quarter of all “Waste” generated in England is Soil

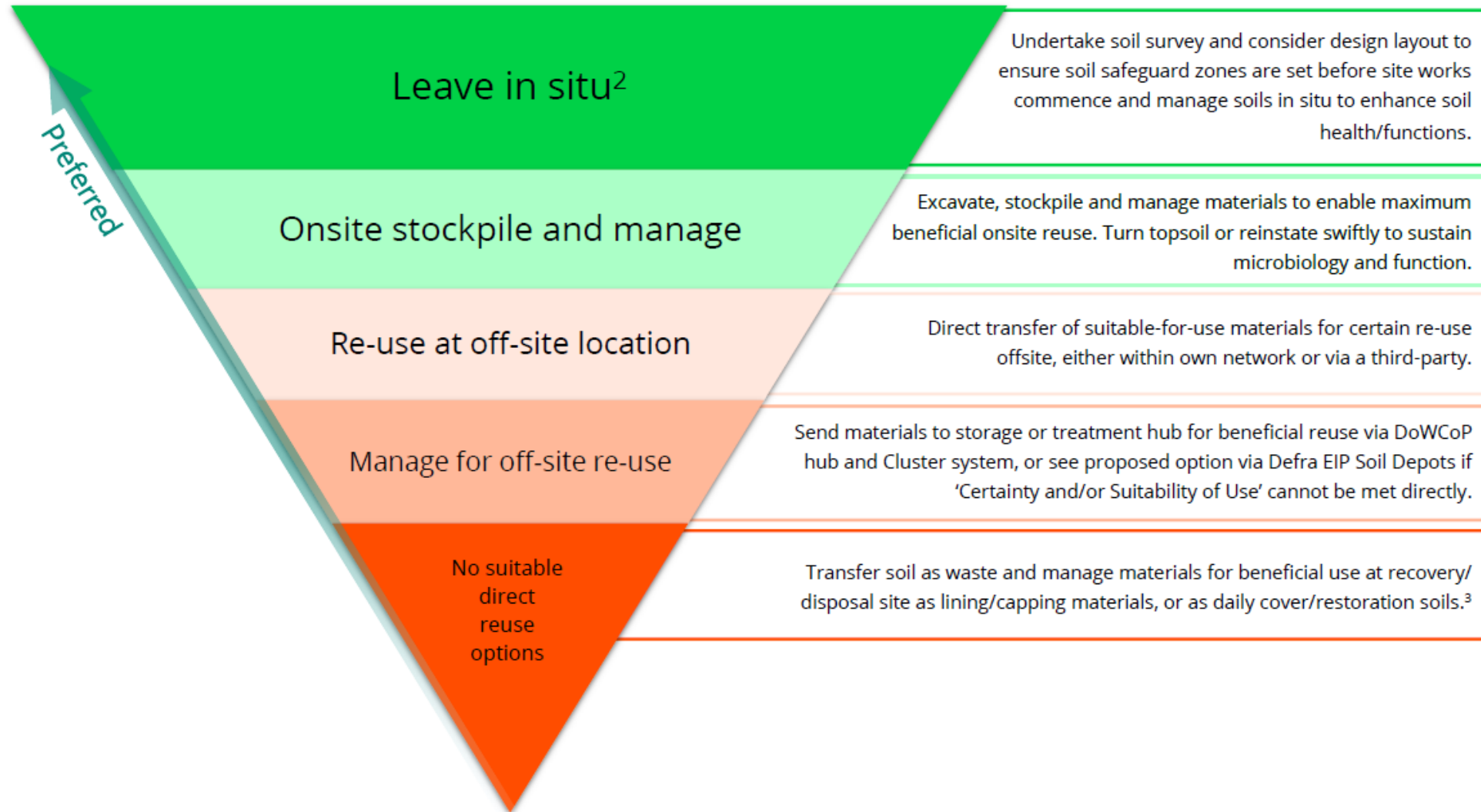
Source: [UK Statistics on Waste dataset September 2024](#)

Why We Created the Soil Management Hierarchies

- Offer frameworks to guide soil management within the two respective settings.
- Clearly identify actions from most to least desirable, based on the impact these actions have on soil health and resource use efficiency.
- Designed to assist users in determining the most sustainable approaches to soil management, as early as possible in resource strategy development or project design.

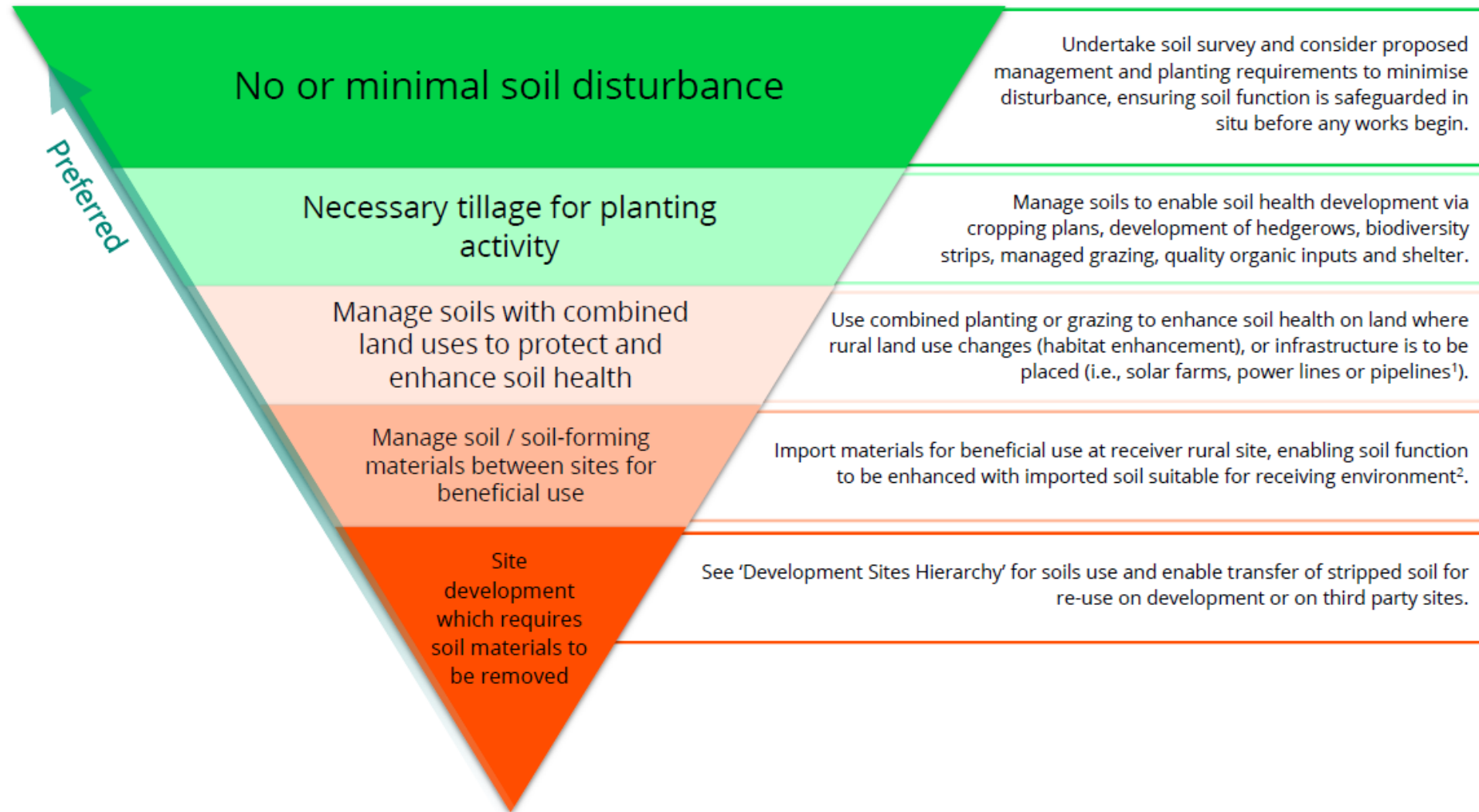
Soil Management Hierarchy for Development Sites¹

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



Soil Management Hierarchy in Rural Settings

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



Soil Management Challenges

- Can we introduce planning policy at all levels that covers sustainable soil management; National policies, local plans, planning permissions?
- How will we apply the Soil Management Hierarchy?
- How can we maximize the value of soil during construction work?
- How do we include soil ecosystem in BNG assessments?
- How can we consider soil carbon offsets to achieve net zero?
- Is soil health woven into potential Nature-based Solutions ?
- How can we influence Government policy (e.g., New NPPF, Revised EIP, Landfill tax)?

Is the EU Leading the Way?

- The Recent signing off by the EU parliament of the EU Soil Monitoring Directive.
- Aimed at improving soil health and function, and preventing soil contamination, soil sealing and soil degradation.

The Challenge for UK Government

- Recognising the importance of Soil and setting that in a legislative frame.
- Cross department joined up policy on soil health, soil use, soil security and aligned policy and regulations.
- Enabling beneficial management, use and reuse of soils across sectors.
- Implementing EIP targets with regards to soil.

Useful Background Reading

- [Soils and Stones project output](#)
- [SILotoSOIL tool](#)
- [Lancaster Soils Taskforce](#)
- [Definition of Waste: Code of Practice](#)
- [UK Soil Health Inquiry recommendations](#)
- [EU Soil Monitoring Directive](#)
- [Environmental Policy Forum – 10 priorities including ‘Ensure soils are treated as a valuable resource’](#)
- [BSSS Working with Soil Guidance Note on Benefitting from Soil Management in Development and Construction](#)

Q&A

Join us/ get in
touch:

Email

SoilsandStones@socenv.org.uk

Registration 101

Q&A drop-in for professionals interested in
or applying for registration

CEnv

Chartered
Environmentalist

20.11.2025 | 08:30-09:30

[Register >>](#)



Environment Top 5

Exploring the future of resource management

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