Table 1: Where to find soils data and information to help implement the UKFS on Soil at key stages of the forest management cycle

UKFS Requirements and Guidelines for soils at each forest management stage		Existing data which can help provide background information	How to obtain further detail required
Pre-application and scoping stage			
Peat depth	Soil Guideline 24: Avoid establishing new forests on soils with peat exceeding 50 cm in depth and on sites that would compromise the hydrology of adjacent bog or wetland habitats	Carbon and peatland 2016 map - areas where peat is likely to be found (but not its depth)	Peat survey
	Soil Guideline 25: Consider the balance of benefits for carbon and other ecosystem services before making the decision to restock on soils with peat exceeding 50 cm in depth	No suitable map available	Peat survey
Vulnerability to erosion	Soil Guideline 19: Consider planting woodland to protect erosion-prone soils and intercept sediment-laden run-off	OS mapping layer (scale 1:10,000) available on most digital maps, to identify gradient	Soil survey alongside aerial photography, topography and vegetation
Risk of slope failure	Soil Guideline 18: On steep slopes where there is a risk of slope failure or serious erosion, consider alternatives to clearfelling	OS mapping layer (scale 1:10,000) available on most digital maps, to identify gradient	Interpretation using soil type alongside aerial photography, topography and vegetation
Work plan stage			
Soil type and suitability	Soil Good Forestry Practice Requirement 1: The quality of forest soil should be protected or enhanced in terms of its physical, chemical and biological properties	National soil map of Scotland (covers the whole of Scotland at a scale of 1:250,000) Soil map of Scotland (partial cover) (covers agricultural areas and adjacent uplands at a scale of 1:25,000) The soil types in parts of the National Forest Estate can be found on the UK Soil Observatory website	Use field evidence (e.g. from soil pits) and interpretation (e.g. from topography, vegetation and current land use)
Vulnerability to erosion	Soil Guideline 16: Address the risks of soil erosion as part of the forest and operational planning processes	OS mapping layer (scale 1:10,000) available on most digital maps, to identify gradient	Interpretation using soil type alongside aerial photography, topography and vegetation
Soil fertility	Soil Guideline 21: Choose tree species and silvicultural systems that are well suited to the site and, with the exception of short rotation forestry or short rotation coppice, do not require continuing inputs of fertilisers	Ecological Site Classification Decision Support System (ESC-DSS)	For ESC, use evidence collected from field surveys rather than default values
Risk of increased acidification	Soil Guideline 2: On soils classified as at high risk of increased soil and water acidification (regardless of water body status) avoid short rotation forestry or short rotation coppice, and the harvesting of whole trees, forest residues and tree stumps	Map of Catchments vulnerable to acidification	Not needed
Forest operations			
Soil fertility	Soil Good forestry practice Requirement 2: Forest soil fertility levels should be maintained to safeguard the soil's character and productive potential	No maps suitable for forestry are available	Soil survey
	Soil Guideline 20: Ensure the removal of forest products from the site, including non-timber products, does not deplete site fertility or soil carbon over the long term and maintains the site potential		
	Soil Guideline 22: Minimise the use of inorganic fertilisers and confine these to areas where analysis clearly shows management benefits		
Vulnerability to compaction or erosion	Soil Guideline 10: On sites vulnerable to compaction and erosion, consider the weather and aim to carry out operations during dry periods; plan ahead for changes in the weather that could affect site conditions	OS mapping layer (scale 1:10,000) available on most digital maps	Interpretation using soil type alongside aerial photography, topography and vegetation
Soil acidity	Soil Guideline 3: On brownfield sites, consider ameliorating excess soil acidity by incorporating alkaline materials	No maps available	Soil analysis of selected samples
Risk of increased acidification	Soil Guideline 1: Avoid filling trenches, created for mounding on restock sites, with fresh brash. This applies only to soils that are at high risk of increased acidification and / or to catchments identified by SEPA as failing or at risk of failing good status due to acidification	Map of Catchments vulnerable to acidification Water classification hub – catchments identified as failing / at risk of failing good status due to acidification	Not needed