

# Quality Assessment of Environmental Impact Assessments of Wind Farms in the UK

## METHODOLOGY

An Impact Significance Review Package was developed around these themes :

- Qualitative Descriptions
- National & Societal values
- Sensitivity, spatio-temporal factors
- Effectiveness of mitigations
- Commitment & detail of mitigation measures
- Post-monitoring arrangements

## RECOMMENDATION

- Noise assessments should incorporate **more than two levels of significance** to allow **mitigations** & **post-monitoring** to be adequately addressed.

- **Weaknesses** and **uncertainties** of significance methods should be addressed for more transparency.

- More detail should be put into the frameworks of Landscape and Visual Assessments to mitigate the **subjective** aspect.

## INTRODUCTION

Since the introduction of EIAs in 1988, progress has been made but there is still much room for improvement.

As **impact significance** lie at the core of the decision-making process, it is important to analyse this concept. Ambiguous wording of significance contribute to **post-monitoring** being one of the most neglected aspect of EIA.

## AIM

The project consists in a review of the Environmental Impact Statements of 10 wind farms with regards to **Impact Significance** and **Post-Monitoring**.

## RESULTS

- **Post-monitoring** was generally absent even in Noise Assessment despite some thresholds exceedances
- Significance determination methods in **Noise Assessments** are more considerate to sensitivity.
- There are still inconsistencies among the quality of the **magnitude, sensitivity and significance** frameworks in **Landscape and Visual Assessments**.
- Limited levels of significance in **Ecology Assessments** led to vague description of residual effects.

