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

RECHMANDATION

- 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.

SOLENT

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

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.

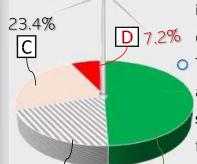
AIM

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.

49.4% Limited levels of significance in Ecology Assessments led to vague description of residual effects.





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