

Name of Method: Compatibility appraisal

Summary of Method: Compatibility appraisal is aimed at ensuring that an action is both coherent and consistent with other actions. The appraisal can be documented in a chart, with all actions listed along both the x and y axis. A simple assessment of compatibility/incompatibility/no link can then be made for each action comparison. An example is given below:

1					
2	✓				
3	✓	✓			
4	?	?	-		
5	?	?	?	✓	
	1	2	3	4	5

Where:

1. Conservation of habitats and ecosystems;
2. Conservation and enhancement of designated sites;
3. Minimising waste to landfill;
4. Reduce the need to travel by private car;
5. Support and enhance economies of town centres.

✓ compatible
x incompatible
- no link

Other approaches use terms such as very compatible, compatible, no impact, incompatible, very incompatible and uncertain.

Advantages of Method: Through the identification of incompatibilities, the preferred option can be refined, with significant issues identified and mitigated.

Limitations of Method: The assessment is based on judgement informed by the available data.

References: South West Ecological Surveys, Levett-Therivel sustainability consultants and Oxford Brookes University, 2004. Strategic Environmental Assessment and Biodiversity: Guidance for Practitioners. Report to CCW, EN, EA and RSPB.