

Name of Method: Risk assessment

Summary of Method: The method essentially enables the probability and severity of risk from a given activity to be assessed. The process involves the identification of possible hazards associated with the activities together with the identification and analysis of the consequences for the receptor. The method can also be used to compare alternatives of different options, by comparing the risk inherent in each option.

The result of the assessment can include the following:

- Quantified assessment of probability of a certain effect;
- A quantitative statement of consequence;
- A qualitative statement of adverse effect;
- A mixed quantitative and qualitative statement of adverse effect.

As such, the certainty in the conclusions drawn can vary.

Advantages of Method: Provides a clear assessment of risk of impact, both the likelihood of it occurring and the significance should it occur.

Limitations of Method: The extrapolation in the process can lead to uncertainties, the degree of which depending on the assumptions made.

References: Countryside Council for Wales, 1999. The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations, 1994. Likely Significant Effect.
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English Nature, 1999. Habitat Regulations Guidance Note 3.
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