

# Assessment at the neighbourhood level

Criteria, indicators and targets galore...  
but how to get them in perspective?

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# Sustainability appraisal stages

1. Identifying sustainability criteria
2. Selecting indicators
3. Measuring magnitude of impact
4. Assessing significance
5. Assessing indirect and cumulative impacts
6. Assessing interactions and compatibility
7. Assess the potential for mitigation
8. Reach conclusions

# Criteria and their assessment

- Environmental capital
- Transport efficiency
- Socially inclusive accessibility
- Feasibility and acceptability
- Robustness
- Official data sources
- Model outputs?
- Design analysis
- Mapping and GIS
- Stakeholder views
- Consistency assessment

# Gaining an overview – multi-criteria assessment

- Ranking methods: *first, second, third...*
- Reductive methods: *e.g. cost benefit*
- Weighting methods: *e.g. BREEAM*
- Directional methods: *getting better or worse*  
*e.g. current UK plan appraisals*
- Threshold methods: *identifying trigger levels*  
*e.g. Sustainability Threshold Analysis*

# Weighting v. thresholds

## Weighting systems –

- Easily grasped and managed
- But distorting at the extremes
- Liable to polarization of views
- Encourage trade-offs not creative synthesis

## Threshold systems –

- Easily grasped and managed
- Avoid distortion and are action-oriented
- Liable to achieve consensus
- Encourage creative synthesis not trade-offs

# Illustrative assessment framework

## Development potential

Criteria	<b>RED</b> Unacceptable	<b>ORANGE</b> Problematic	<b>YELLOW</b> Conditional	<b>GREEN</b> Acceptable	<b>BLUE</b> Desirable
<b>Water</b>	High flood risk – EA zone 3c	High flood risk – EA zones 3a & b	Low-medium flood risk – EA zone 2	No flood risk – EA Zone 1	Solves Current flood problem
<b>Market</b>	Unmarketable	Depends on getting subsidy	So long as S106 is cheap	No problem	Highly desirable

# The STA process for **SOLUTIONS**

- Agree the appraisal framework with partners and stakeholders
- Measure and grade baseline situation for each study area
- Measure and grade the alternative archetypes
- Use stakeholders to assess feasibility and acceptability
- Assess compatibility with strategic options
- Assess overall performance