



Green Horizons Environmental Consultants Limited

Review and Critique of Environmental Sensitivity Mapping

An Environmental Consultant's Perspective

Dr Paul Mitchell

Analysis

- ⇓ Strengths and weaknesses of the online version relative to the GIS version
- ⇓ 'Weighted scores' versus 'assets per grid cell'
- ⇓ Relevant applications for a 'typical' environmental consultant
- ⇓ Conclusions



Strengths and weaknesses



- ⇓ Resolution GIS > Online (1 Ha vs 100 Ha)
- ⇓ Functionality GIS > Online (interactive vs fixed)
- ⇓ Usability GIS < Online (generalist vs expert)
- ⇓ Accessibility GIS < Online (non-technical vs technical)
- ⇓ Data management GIS > Online (application driven)

‘Weighted scores’ versus ‘assets per grid cell’

- ⇓ Transparency
- ⇓ Sensitivity to changes in data
- ⇓ Potential for data manipulation
- ⇓ Need for a consensus approach
- ⇓ Need for ‘anchor’ points
- ⇓ Integration with other factors
- ⇓ Subjectivity
- ⇓ Flexibility

BIG QUESTION
Are these good or
bad characteristics



Relevance of Applications

- ⇓ High ... SEA-related
- ⇓ Medium ... Early warning of issues
- ⇓ Medium ... Context for EIAs
- ⇓ Low ... EIAs
- ⇓ Low ... Predicting impacts
- ⇓ Low ... Establishing good practice

Conclusions

- ⇓ Online version most useful to general stakeholders and non-technical/non-GIS users seeking contextual information
- ⇓ GIS version most useful to planners and GIS experts seeking detailed information and bespoke outputs

