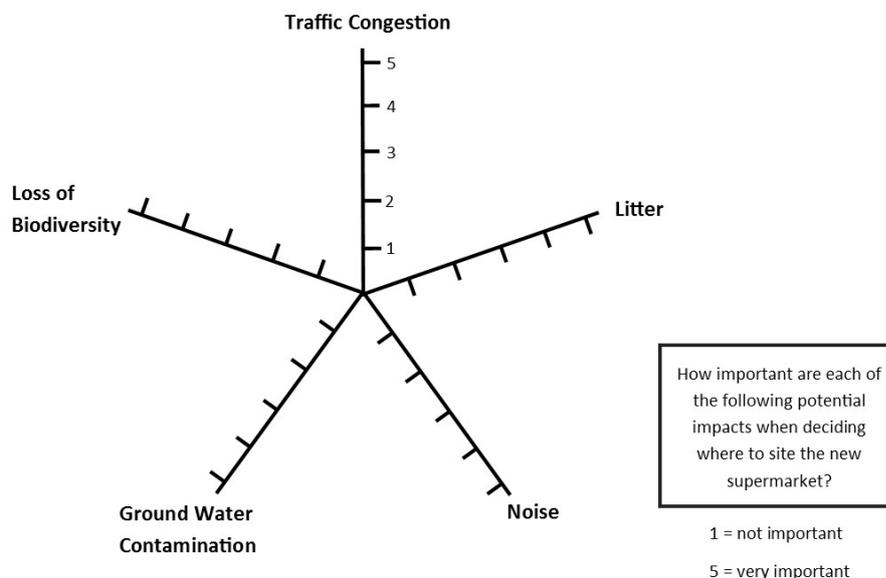


3h – A Guide to Rose and Radial Graphs

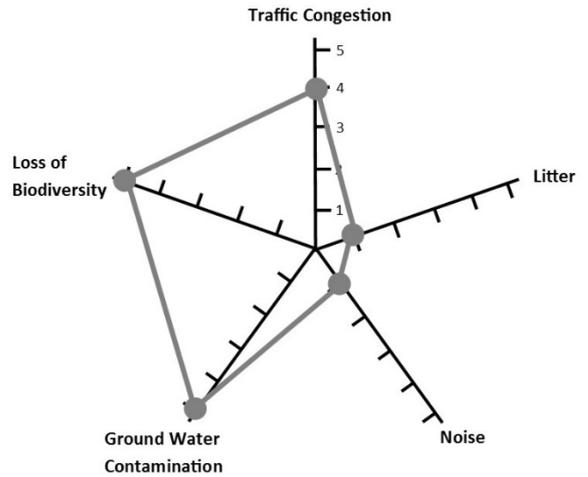
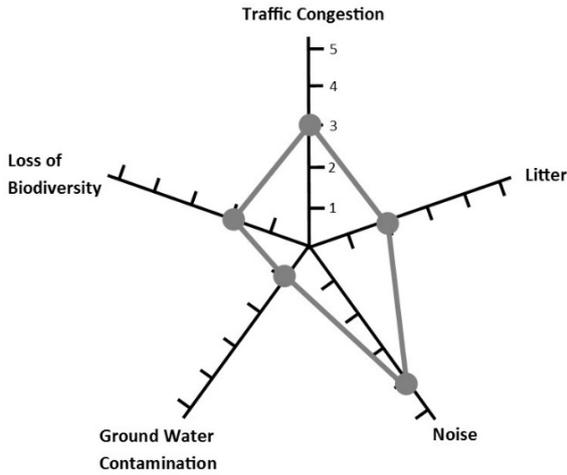
Radial Graphs are multi-axis graphs that show a number of similar ideas in one graphical presentation. They are so called because the axes, of which there are usually five or six, radiate out from a central point.

Why would we use a radial graph?

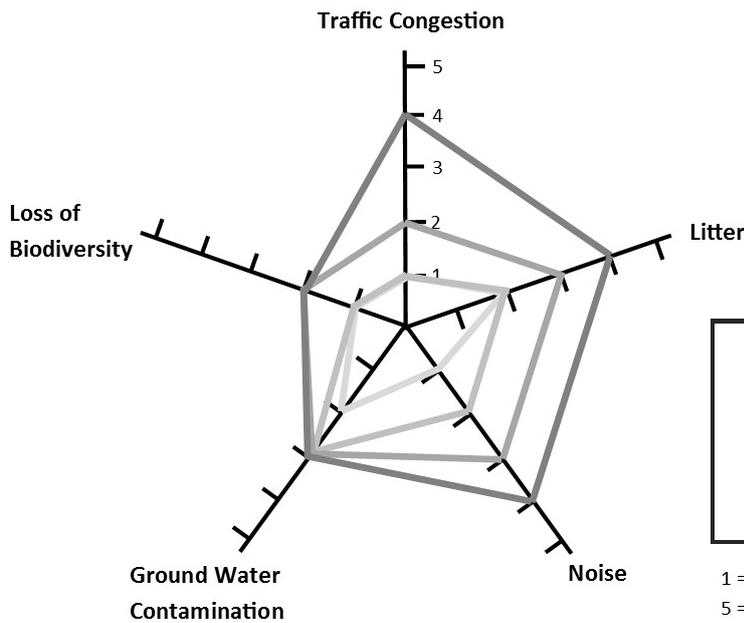
Researchers tend to use radial graphs not only to allow them to present five or more sets of data on one diagram at once, but also because it allows them to compare the relative strengths of the different variables at the same time as the overall strength of the location compared to others.



Once plotted, the points of a radial graph can be joined together to form a shape. This shape can be compared with others that have been plotted on the same axes and this comparison may allow the reader to identify patterns across a range of different sites. A shape with a clear point may indicate that one variable dominates in one field, while a more circular shape will show that all the variables may hold roughly equal weights.



Equally the different shapes can be drawn in different colours over one another on the same set of axes, allowing a comparison to be made more easily between different sites, different groups of people, or different years.



- 2010
- 2012
- 2014
- 2016

How residents' concerns regarding the building of the new supermarket changed over a number of years
"How would you rate your concerns about the potential negative impact of the new supermarket?"

1 = not important
5 = very important



One form of a radial graph is a **Rose Graph**. This is a circular histogram, with multiple axes radiating out from the centre. Instead of points being plotted along an axis, bars are drawn to show the quantity of that variable. A common use of a rose graph is in showing wind speed or noise levels. The 'axes' for the graph are the directions of a compass and the speed of the wind or the decibel level is then drawn in the appropriate direction.

