

Investigating Place



We will discuss the validity of a range of methods used to measure place experience and perceptions. You will get secondary datasets for each data collection method to work with later.



Fieldwork Method 1: **Non-participant observation of interactions and use of space**

This method involves the researcher making qualitative observations of people using and experiencing a place. The researcher does not participate in the activities going on but observes behaviour passively.

People's use and experiences of Place	Description of features	Your observations of fieldwork site
Appearance, clothing, age, gender, physical appearance of users of area	Note down anything that might indicate membership of a group such as profession, social status, socioeconomic class, religion or ethnicity	
Physical behaviour and gestures	What are people doing? Running, walking? Body language, are they looking around the space or looking down? Behaviour and gestures towards other people and the space	
Interactions with each other (verbal/non-verbal)	Are people communicating with each other? Who does what, who interacts with whom, who is not interacting? What is the manner of communication?	

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People's use and experiences of Place	Description of features	Your observations of fieldwork site
Use of space	How are people interacting in the space? What are they doing? Where do they go? Which service do they use? Which routes do they take? Is this a transient place or do people congregate?	
People who stand out	Does anyone stand out in the environment? How and why? What are their characteristics? What are they doing?	

Evaluation of Non-participant observation method: note here any pros or cons we identify	
+	-
+	-



Fieldwork Method 2: **Place check**

This method involves observing the features and characteristics of the place around you. Guided by 'What makes this place...' column, record your qualitative observations to define the range of ways that people's experiences and perception of a place might be shaped.

METHOD HINT: Try to consider the questions from a range of users' viewpoints e.g. over 70s, families etc. How might this improve or detract from our data?

What makes this place...	Your notes/evidence
<p>... a special place?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What makes this place special or unique? • Why does it look the way it does? • What local activities/events have shaped its look? • Why do we like this place? • What can we make more of? • What potential is there to enhance the place? 	
<p>... a well-connected, accessible and welcoming place?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How accessible is it? What limits connectivity? • How welcoming is it here? Is anything confusing? • How well does parking work? • How can it be made more welcoming and accessible? 	
<p>... a safe and pleasant place?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What makes the streets/public space here safe? • What detracts from the safety and pleasantness? • How safe are the pavements/road? • How can safety and pleasantness be improved? • How do people enjoy nature? What is missing? 	

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What makes this place...	Your notes/evidence
<p>... a planet-friendly place?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What makes this place planet-friendly? • What resources are wasted? • How does movement use resources? • How is waste handled? • How is energy used in buildings? • How adaptable/resilient is this place? • How could this place make better use of resources? 	

Evaluation of Placecheck method: note here any pros or cons we identify	
+	-
+	-



Fieldwork Method 3: **Emotion mapping**

For various sites around a Place, use the mood record sheet (on the next page) to pick a colour and number for the mood you feel in that place as a measure of your perception. Record your number (1-7) and colour (as r, g, b or y) in the exact point where you feel it. For example, if you feel relaxed in that place, put 'g 5'.

Your results	Colour	'Strength'
Emotion for Fieldwork Live site		
Emotion for your Dedham site (viewed on Google Street View or the Storymap)		

Evaluation of Emotion mapping method: note here any pros or cons we identify	
+	-
+	-

- If we were doing this in the field, what sampling strategy might be appropriate? Justify your answer.

Now try submitting some further observations for the place you are working from now. We will use Survey 123 to do this, follow this link <https://bit.ly/fieldworklivePlaceData>. This will help us capture an extensive big-dataset for how people feel about their place right now.

- If we were doing this in the field, what sampling strategy might be appropriate? Justify your answer.

7 Enraged	6 Furious	5 Frustrated	4 Shocked	4 Surprised	5 Upbeat	6 Motivated	7 Ecstatic
6 Livid	5 Frightened	4 Nervous	3 Restless	3 Hyper	4 Cheerful	5 Inspired	6 Elated
5 Fuming	4 Apprehensive	3 Worried	2 Annoyed	2 Energised	3 Lively	4 Optimistic	5 Thrilled
4 Repulsed	3 Troubled	2 Uneasy	1 Peeved	1 Pleasant	2 Joyful	3 Proud	4 Blissful
4 Disgusted	3 Disappointed	2 Glum	1 Ashamed	1 Blessed	2 At Ease	3 Content	4 Fulfilled
5 Mortified	4 Alienated	3 Mopey	2 Apathetic	2 Humble	3 Secure	4 Chill	5 Grateful
6 Embarrassed	5 Excluded	4 Timid	3 Drained	3 Calm	4 Satisfied	5 Relaxed	6 Carefree
7 Alone	6 Down	5 Bored	4 Tired	4 Relieved	5 Restful	6 Tranquil	7 Serene

High energy

Low energy

Negative

Positive

This is a method created by Yale University, USA. Researchers categorised all feelings into 64 descriptive words and organised them using two scales based on Energy and Positivity. This is now the most popular method of categorising feelings in science world wide

