

Knowledge about fieldwork locations, techniques and skills

Finding out about fieldwork locations

There is no substitute for first-hand research of a fieldwork location but you can also explore sources of local knowledge.

- The Geographical Association's Landform Guides are a good source of background information of several areas commonly used for fieldwork.
- The Geographical Association's Guides to Fieldwork (ebooks) in cities e.g. Central London, Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool, London's East End, Manchester, Sheffield, Liverpool, Southampton, Brighton, Newcastle upon Tyne, Leeds.
- The RGS has some guides on popular fieldwork locations, for example: *Lake District; Coasts - Hunstanton Cliffs and NW Norfolk; Jurassic Coast of Dorset and East Devon*.
- Browse the GA journal articles (See Fieldwork Reading list) for fieldwork in specific locations – there are several for the Norfolk Coast.
- The National Parks education services provide some excellent case study material to assist fieldwork planning. E.g. the [Porlock Bay geographical enquiry](#).

Finding out about fieldwork techniques and skills

- See the GA [KnowHow](#) publications for key stage 3 teachers on fieldwork enquiries, fieldwork equipment and data collection, data presentation and analysis.
- Refer to the GCSE and A level examination specifications to find out the fieldwork skills and techniques that are required to be taught.
- Refer to the GA Publications: *Fieldwork Through Enquiry; Methods of Analysing Fieldwork Data; Fieldwork at A level; Creative Fieldwork*.
- Look at the [Field Studies Council \(FSC\) website](#) for geography fieldwork for GCSE and AS/A2 at. Techniques are explained in detail to support teachers.
- Look at the section about [fieldwork resources](#) on the Royal Geographical Society (RGS) website that includes information about many fieldwork techniques.
- Read Holditch, K. 'Using fieldwork equipment', *Teaching Geography*, July 1998.
- Browse the GA journal articles (see Fieldwork Reading list) for details about different techniques, including some innovative approaches. (Some are listed below)
- Gain practical experience from observing fieldwork activities with students.
- [No-budget or small-budget fieldwork](#). Enhance fieldwork by creating innovative field equipment. (GA Conference 2019 by Charlie Foster of the FSC).

Case studies, resources and readings about specific fieldwork techniques

- **Coasts:** Norman, M. 'Year 10 Fieldwork: Coasts and rivers', *Teaching Geography*, Summer 2008;
- **Housing:** Dove, J. 'Using architecture to explore urban development', *Teaching Geography*, July 2001.

- **Human graphs:** Charlton, M., Laphorn, N., Moncrieff, D. and Turney, A. 'Changing coastal fieldwork', *Teaching Geography*, Autumn 2012.
- **Investigating interactions at a tourist honeypot:** download resources for the article: Kinder, A., 'Acquiring geographical knowledge and understanding through fieldwork', *Teaching Geography*, Autumn 2018.
- **Sampling:** Holmes, D. and Walker, M. (2006) '[Planning geographical fieldwork](#)' Chapter 18 in D. Balderstone (ed.) *Secondary Geography Handbook*, Sheffield: The Geographical Association.
- **Stoneboards:** Pratchett, S. 'Investigating riverbeds', *Teaching Geography*, April 1999.
- **Surveys:** Holmes, D. and Farbrother, D. 'Activity surveys', *Teaching Geography*, April 2000.
- **Thinking skills:** Foskett, N. 'Fieldwork and the development of thinking skills', *Teaching Geography*, April 1999.
- **Transects:** Pratchett, S. 'Investigating cross sections', *Teaching Geography*, January 2001.
- **Environment survey** Peppin, K. 'Getting outside! Investigating the school environment', *Teaching Geography*, Summer 2020.
- **Quality of life:** Bustin, R. 'Investigating lived space: ideas for fieldwork', *Teaching Geography*, Spring 2019.
- **Vegetation survey:** Black, K. 'Saltmarshes fieldwork opportunities for geographers', *Teaching Geography*, January 2001.
 - Robinson, C. and Lyon, R. 'Fieldwork considerations in a sensitive landscape', *Teaching Geography*, Autumn 2017.

Finding out about qualitative and quantitative and statistical techniques

The current GCSE and A level specifications set out clearly in the examination information what techniques students are expected to be taught. Some examination boards also provide guidance for teachers that you might find helpful. If you are unsure about your own subject knowledge in relation to relevant statistics, then you need to take some action to rectify this.

GA sources:

- [Conducting statistical tests for fieldwork](#), The Geographical Association.
- Owen, A. (2020) *Conducting statistical tests for fieldwork*, Sheffield: The Geographical Association.
- St John, P. and Richardson, D. (1996) *Methods of Statistical Analysis of Fieldwork Data*, Sheffield: The Geographical Association.
- St John, P. and Richardson, D. (1997) *Methods of Presenting Fieldwork Data*, Sheffield: The Geographical Association.
- [Qualitative fieldwork methods for the A level independent investigation](#): Rob Morris. GA Conference PowerPoint.
- [Methods for qualitative research](#), Professor Richard Phillips, University of Sheffield. GA Conference PowerPoint.

Field Studies Council (FSC)

- FSC website for [geography fieldwork](#) for GCSE and AS/A2 at that includes information on statistical analysis and presentation of both qualitative and quantitative data.

Royal Geographical Society

- RGS website currently has [FSC downloadable resources](#) to support your understanding of specific statistical tests such as Chi-squared test, Mann-Whitney U test, Student's t test, and more.

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