

Producing an annotated photograph in the local park

This qualitative method is used for recording observational data and is a valuable starting point for fieldwork about a local environment. You will need to visit the area and either take a photograph or make a field sketch, from an appropriate viewpoint. Annotate with informative but concise notes relevant to your area of interest.

You could use this method to show your personal perceptions of the area, highlighting the features you associate with different feelings or activities. Or you could use it as a starting point for a specific enquiry, using the annotations to show positive or negative features in the area for accessibility, safety, or habitats for biodiversity, for example.

Example

The photograph below is a view of Leechwell Garden, Totnes. The photograph has been annotated to explain the social, economic and environmental benefits of this public space.

Easy access to green space may be a selling point for nearby houses, improving house prices in the area if it is seen as a nice place to live

Play equipment provides social benefits. It improves health in young people and builds a sense of community as people can meet there.

Broken branches and benches may be as a result of anti-social behaviour. This will cost the council money to mend and may put off local users if they think the park is dangerous in the evenings, reducing the benefits to health etc.



Pond provides habitat for invertebrates at the base of food webs. This increases biodiversity in the area and may provide social educational benefits through pond dipping.

Over-use of certain areas may be an economic drain on the local council if they have to constantly pay for new grass