

Method Design for your NEA - Things to Consider

Consider all these points before you formulate a final method:

Whose help will I need?

Which areas of your method will require extra people to help you? Do they have the knowledge and skills to do so? Are they willing and able to help?

Where exactly am I working?

One you get to the fieldwork site where exactly are you going to conduct the data collection? These sites need to be plotted on a map before hand and you will need to think why you have chosen those sites.

What resources or equipment will I need?

Do I have access to this equipment or will I have to share it with others? Do I need to have photocopies of sheets or can I work digitally?

Do I have enough time?

How long will it take me to conduct this method? Does it then need to be repeated? What external forces are acting on my time frame?

Will I get the right data?

Will I have a good balance of quantitative and qualitative data? Is there scope for graphical data such as photographs to be used? Do the different types of data compliment each other?

Is this method truly independent?

In what ways have you, and you only, designed this method? How have you taken a known method and made it your own?

Will I get enough data?

How many times should I repeat my method? Is this enough to make the results reliable and meaningful? What sampling strategy might I deploy?

How can I use GIS in my study?

Can I collect data through GIS layers? How might I present some of the data I collect through GIS layers?

Does it actually help me answer my research questions?

What will the results tell me when I get them? Is that kind of information actually meaningful?

How am I going to stay safe?

What are the most dangerous parts of my method? What strategies do I have in place to minimise risk?