Human Fieldwork Enquiry:

Title: Investigating variations (differences) in the urban quality of life, in Boscombe, Dorset.

AIM: To investigate the variations in quality of life in the urban area of Boscombe.

Hypotheses:

1. The quality of life will become worse as you move away from the sea front.
2. The regeneration of Boscombe seafront has improved the quality of life for residents and tourists.

Why did we choose this location?

The town of Boscombe, on the south coast of England is one the most deprived places in the UK. It would therefore be a good place to investigate the differences in quality of life.

This was also a suitable location to study as it was;

1. Small enough an area to see differences in quality of life.
2. Local to our field study centre, giving us sufficient time to complete some fieldwork.
3. The area had been risk assessed, so we knew that we would be safe conducting the fieldwork.

How and why did we collect data in Boscombe?

Primary Data collection	Method	Justification	Problems
Urban Land use transect	Starting at the seafront, I walked along a transect towards town, recording the different categories of land use. I recorded the land use, every time it changed and recorded the number of paces between each different category of land use. (e.g. residential, industry, commercial, entertainment, open space, unused space.) Each category was given a letter; e.g. R for residential and then a sub group; e.g. terraced or flats.) Or E for entertainment / leisure and then tourist accommodation, restaurants, pubs, indoor sports as sub categories. I also considered who	From completing a transect (line,) from the seafront to the town, I could cover a large area of Boscombe and see how the land use changes. By recording how many paces between each land use change, I could identify changes in land use by distance from the sea front and draw a graph more easily to represent this. This would show if there were differences between the sea front and the town. By selecting different categories of land use, I can see if certain types of land use dominate in Boscombe (e.g. tourist accommodation.) This	It was confusing to do. I couldn't always tell when the land use had changed. Some land uses were above the ground. I didn't know whether to include these or not. It was sometimes difficult to decide which category the building went into. (e.g. was it accommodation for tourists or locals?) It took a long time and was quite dull!

	the land use was aimed at; e.g. residents, tourists or both.	may mean that local people are not seeing housing being built for them. (Affecting their quality of life.)	
Environment Quality Index	I completed an environmental quality index at 5 places (of equal distance) along a transect. I included all the buildings I could see and scored different aspects of the environment; from -3 to +3, ticking the relevant boxes for each criteria. (e.g. maintenance of buildings, danger from traffic, litter, air pollution, disabled facilities.) I then added up all my scores to get a total score for the environment at each location.	By scoring different aspects of the environment, it made me look more closely at my surroundings. It was a simple scoring system, which was easy to do and a "snapshot" of the state of the environment could be seen. By comparing 5 different locations, I could identify if the quality of life changed from the sea front to the town.	Environmental quality surveys are very subjective. My opinion may be very different to someone else. (e.g. a local resident.) The results would vary on different days and at different times of the day.
Pedestrian count	I carried out a pedestrian count 5 times along my transect route. These were equally spaced along the route. (Known as **systematic sampling**.) I worked with a partner and we recorded the number of people in both directions over 5 minutes, recording this as a tally.	I did this 5 times at equal spaces, to identify how busy different parts of Boscombe were. Busy places may suggest a better quality of life. Deserted places may not be so attractive to visit.	I had to be accurate in my counting. I had to be safe and not step into the road, while completing my counts. Just because places are busy, do not mean they are nice. (e.g. the town centre!) The results could be very different at different times of the day or week / season. (e.g. summer holiday.)
Traffic count	I carried out 5 traffic	Traffic can have an	I had to stay safe

	counts, along my transect, at the same places as my people counts and environmental quality surveys. (**Systematic sampling.**) I recorded the amount of traffic in a tally. (e.g. buses, cars, bikes, lorries.) I counted one direction and my partner the other over a 5 minute period.	influence on quality of life. Busy roads are not as safe or a pleasant as pedestrianised areas.

By recording over a 5 minute period, the results can be multiplied up to see how much traffic there could be in an hour.

By recording bikes and buses and not just cars, whether transport is sustainable and accessible to all can be assessed. | and not step into the road, when recording the traffic.

Sometimes the traffic was stationary or I missed vehicles.

The results could be very different if I did these counts in holiday season. |
| **Photos** | I took photos along my transect, to show changes in the quality of life and changes in the land use and built environment. | The photos provide evidence and a reminder to me of what Boscombe looked like. I could annotate (label) them to show relevant features. (e.g. paint peeling or broken glass.) These labels would highlight evidence of deprivation or a declining built environment. | I had to have a good camera.

I had to be sensitive and not take pictures with people in them.

The light / weather could affect the quality of my photos.

Photos may only show "part of the story"– e.g. just out of shot, may be a homeless person or litter! |
| **Questionnaires** | I conducted 5 questionnaires in both the town centre and along the seafront of Boscombe. We then collated all our individual results together, to get more reliable data.
We interviewed people by doing **random sampling**, depending on | To fully understand the differences in quality of life, it is important to ask local people their views.

By asking residents to score their answers, it was simple to do and easy to record.

By adding up a total score, areas could be | Boscombe town centre was not a safe location and we were reluctant to interview people there. It wasn't really representative of the whole population and was not truly |

who looked approachable and had time! The questionnaire was based on the "MORI Satisfaction with Life" poll. Residents were asked to score each answer between 1 (worst) and 5 (best) and at the end a total score out of 100 was given. The closer to 100, the more satisfied residents were. Aspects such as a sense of neighbourhood, environmental quality and satisfaction with the local police force or local parks were asked.	compared. The town centre may have seen more dissatisfaction from residents than the seafront for example.	random! Some people refused to answer our questionnaires or answered inappropriately. Some people lie on surveys or misunderstand the questions.

Quantitative data = collecting numerical data. (e.g. scores – environmental quality, satisfaction with life data, traffic and pedestrian counts.

Qualitative data = don't involve numbers or counting. They are more subjective; e.g. photos, sketches, land use surveys or interviews.

Risk assessment:

Risk	How did I overcome it
Getting lost somewhere unfamiliar	Stayed with the group. Followed a map.

How did I process and present my data?

Land Use: Divided graph. I drew a graph to show the different land uses in Boscombe along a transect from the sea to the town. (see separate sheet.) This showed visually, what the dominant land uses were and whether land use changed as we walked towards the town. From this I could conclude if there were a range of land uses available to the residents of Boscombe or if the land use was predominantly of a tourist nature.

I could have also completed a colour coded "GOAD" map of Boscombe to show different land uses but this would take a lot longer.
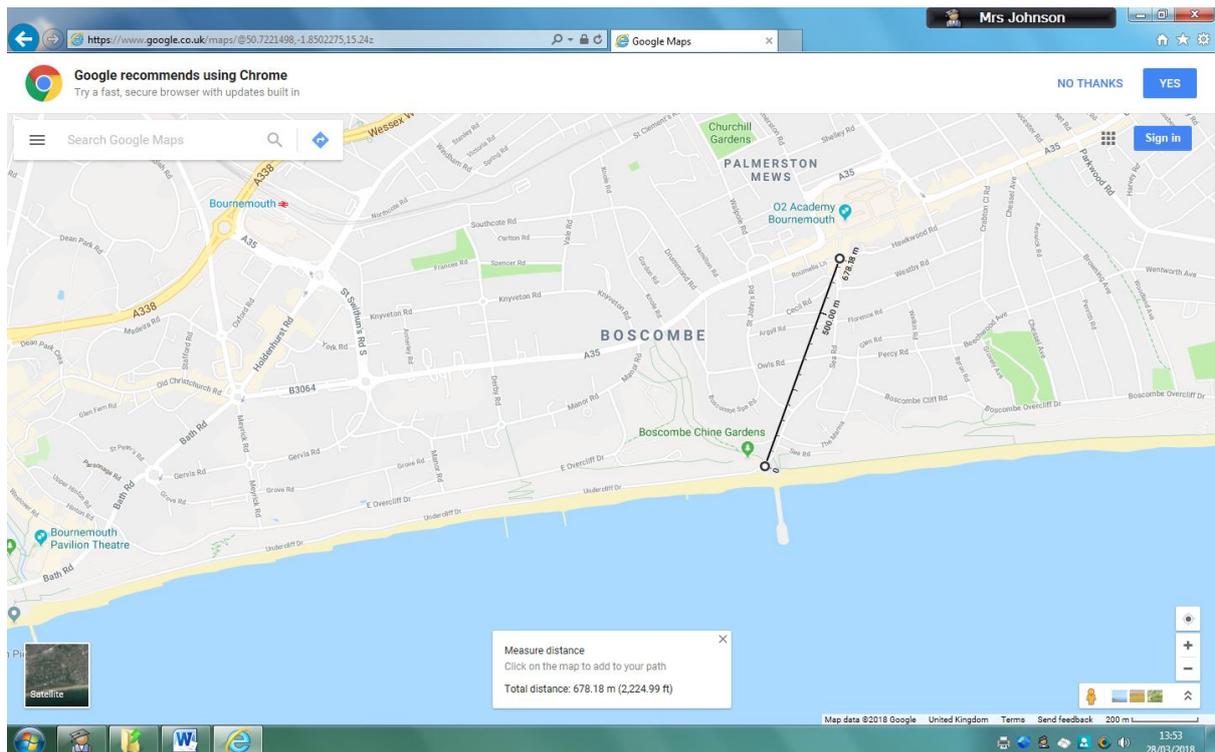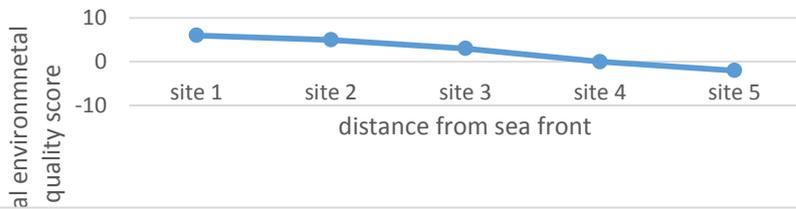

Environmental Quality Surveys: Bar graph. I drew two bar graphs to show the environmental quality of two sites along my transect. One at the sea front and one in the town. This allowed me to compare the environment and determine if regeneration of the sea front had improved the environment. I also completed a line graph to show how the total scores for the environment changed as we walked away from the sea front.
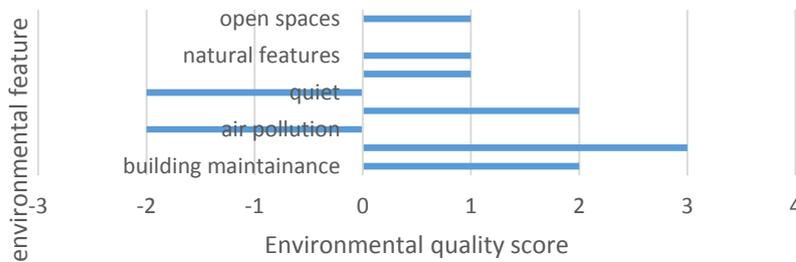
I adapted my method by putting the two surveys on the same graph, to make it easier and clearer to compare. By having positive and negative scores, the graph looked quite effective, as you could see which aspects were good and which were bad. (e.g. litter and building maintenance were much poorer in the town than along the sea front.)

I could have presented my data in a dispersionn diagram and worked out the mean, mode and median but with only 5 sites, I didn't think this would be that representative of the environment. With more time, I could have completed more surveys.
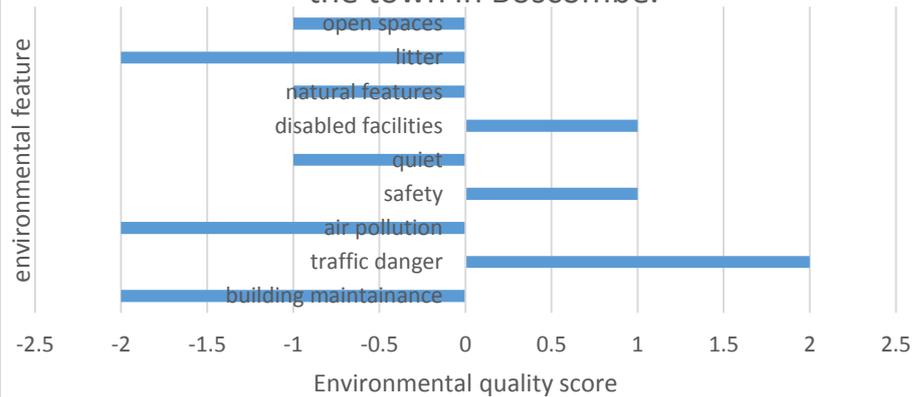
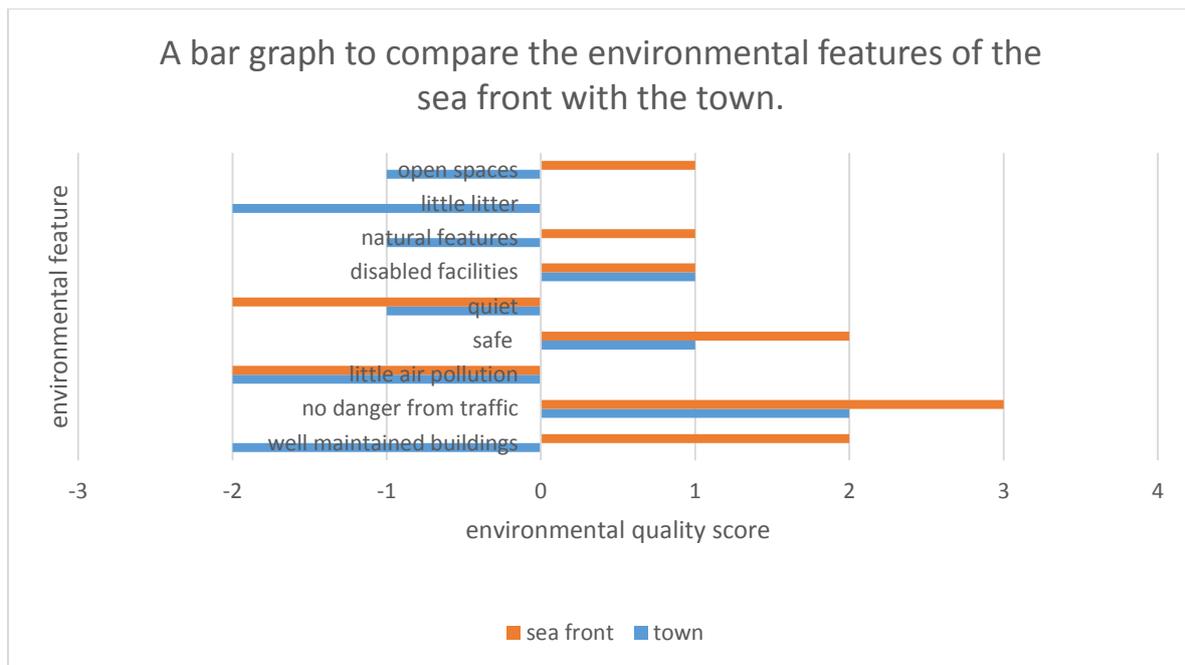## A line graph to show the differences in environmental quality scores from the sea front to the town.

y-axis: al environmnetal quality score (10, 0, -10)

x-axis: distance from sea front (site 1, site 2, site 3, site 4, site 5)

A bar graph to show the environmental quality of the sea front in Boscombe.

y-axis: environmental feature (open spaces, natural features, quiet, air pollution, building maintainance)

x-axis: Environmental quality score (-3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4)

A bar graph to show the environmental quality of the town in Boscombe.

y-axis: environmental feature (open spaces, litter, natural features, disabled facilities, quiet, safety, air pollution, traffic danger, building maintainance)

x-axis: Environmental quality score (-2.5, -2, -1.5, -1, -0.5, 0, 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5)

A bar graph to compare the environmental features of the sea front with the town.

What did my data show? (Analysis)

Environmental Quality Survey: My data showed that the environment at the sea front was better than in the town. Building maintenance and litter recorded negative scores in the town but positive by the sea front. This was probably because the sea front has been regenerated to attract tourists and bring more income and jobs to Boscombe. An attractive environment (e.g. natural features, open space, quiet, safe, disabled facilities and no obvious danger from traffic) would be more attractive to tourists than the town of Boscombe, which was run down, with vacant shops, poorly maintained buildings and lots of litter. The total score for the sea front was 6/27 but for the town it was -2/27. "Quiet" was a bit of an anomaly, as it scored more negatively by the sea front than in the town. This may have been because the town centre is pedestrianised and there was less traffic, whereas at the sea front, we stood near a car park, with vehicles emitting fumes. It may also illustrate that the town was deprived and not well used!

Secondary Data

VISITORS to **Boscombe** seafront soared by almost a third last summer following £50 million regeneration works.

New **Bournemouth Tourism** statistics show that declining visitor numbers have been dramatically reversed with a 32 per cent increase last summer compared to the previous year.

Tourism chiefs boast that **Boscombe Spa Village** has "revitalised and transformed Boscombe seafront," creating 48 new jobs as well as employment for workers involved in the Honeycombe Beach flats development and construction of Europe's first artificial **surf reef**.

Boscombe Sea front Regeneration
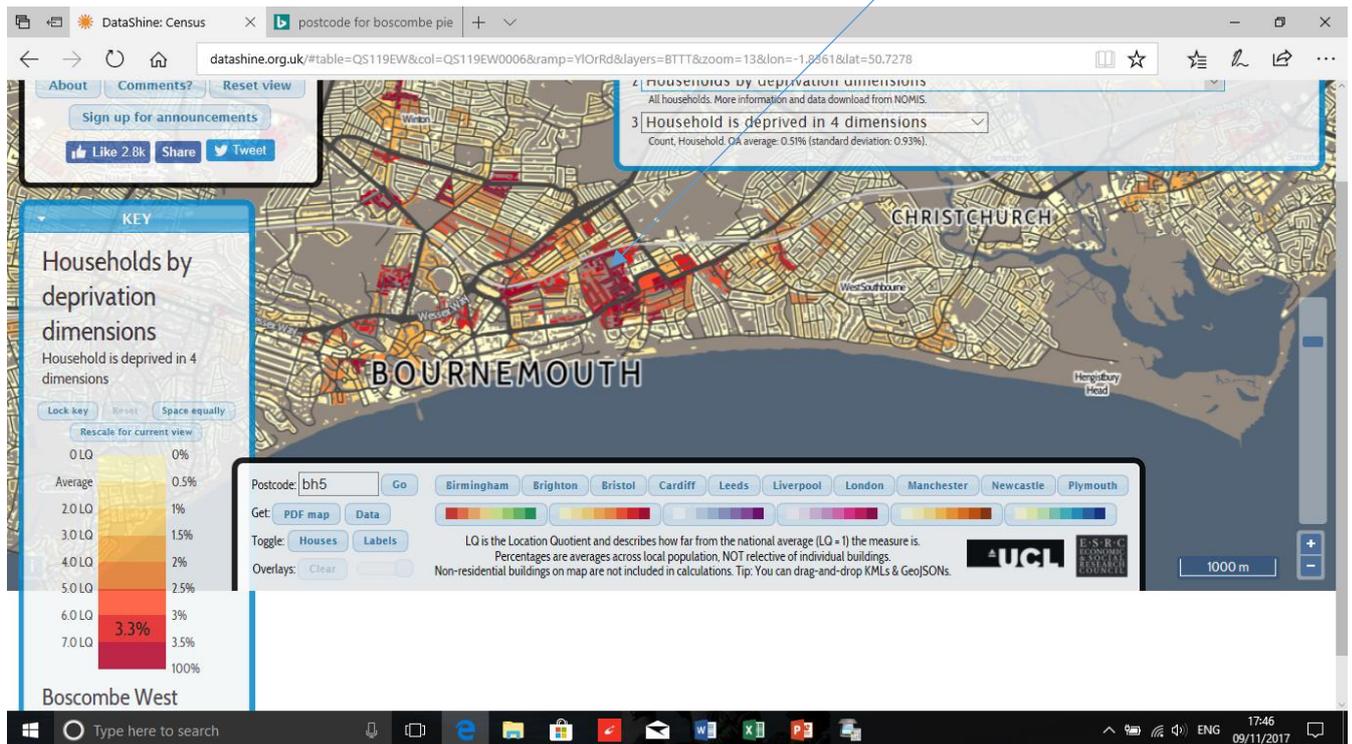
Boscombe Town centre

Secondary Data: Census data on multiple deprivation

In 2015, 4 out of 6 Lower layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) in Boscombe West, were in the most 20% deprived in the UK.

Click here for further data about the variations (differences) in deprivation in Boscombe.

https://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/communityliving/LivinginBournemouth/BoscombeRegenerati on/BoscombeRegenDocs/BoscombeRegenStats/imd-update-boscombe-west-2015.pdf

Boscombe

Analysis of the Data Shine Website

The red areas on this map, show deprived households that are well above the average for the area. These are in Boscombe West and Central. The pale yellow / white areas are least deprived. (Closer to the local average.) These are nearer to the seafront.

What conclusions did I reach?

My results showed that there are variations in quality of life in the town of Boscombe. The town centre is one of the most deprived towns in the UK and the environmental quality survey, with its negative score, was evidence of this. The sea front was much more attractive. £11.3 billion has been spent regenerating the sea front to attract tourists. Here, the environmental quality was more positive (scoring 6/27) and this was probably because of the new restaurants, entertainment facilities and other services for tourists. The land use map also showed the dominance of restaurants, cafes and entertainment at the sea front. There was also more tourist accommodation here, which has been newly built. This is not here for local people and looked quite expensive. From our questionnaires, local people did seem unhappy about the lack of good quality housing and the lack of a mix of housing; e.g. for families, couples and the elderly. Most accommodation was flats and largely aimed at tourists. Residents also commented on the amount of litter and lack of safety in the town. This was seen in the quality surveys, with these aspects receiving negative scores. The quality of life does deteriorate quite markedly from the seafront to the town. The town was so deprived that we actually felt quite uncomfortable conducting questionnaires with the residents. This will have affected the representativeness of our findings as we had quite a small sample of residents. Despite the regeneration of the town, it still does not receive much income. The designer beach huts are up for sale at £90,000 but only 15 have been sold. The fieldwork shows that urban regeneration does not always tackle the divide between rich and poor in cities. While the sea front

may look more attractive and may generate some income from tourists, Boscombe remains one of the most deprived places in the UK and local people people feel excluded. From my secondary data; the census and index of multiple deprivation, 4 out of 6 areas in Boscombe are in the 20% most deprived areas of the UK. Despite some improvements since regeneration, jobs being created and visitor numbers increasing, the data suggests that regeneration may have improved life for tourists but not for the residents.

Were your hypotheses correct?

1. The quality of life will become worse as you move away from the sea front.
2. The regeneration of Boscombe seafront has improved the quality of life for residents and tourists.

What went well, what could I have done better? (Evaluation)

What went well?	How could it be improved?
In the time available, I collected a range of data.	A larger sample could have been collected. (esp. the questionnaires)
By doing a transect, I got quite a bit of the town covered.	I could have completed more than one transect to see more variations.
Taking photos helped me remember the differences between the two parts of Boscombe.	I could have used census data (e.g. unemployment data, education levels, type of housing, car ownership) to understand more about the deprivation in Boscombe.
The environmental quality surveys gave scores, which made it easy to compare the different parts of the town. It made me look more closely at the environment by looking at different aspects.	I could have gone back during the holiday season, where the environment may have looked very different.
	I don't think my data from the land use survey is that accurate. I found it hard to identify the land uses and notice when there were changes to the land use. My quality scores are very subjective. Other people (e.g. locals) may have had a very different view.
	I don't think my data was that reliable as I did not collect enough of it to draw truly valid conclusions about the quality of life.

Can you think of any additional ways to present the environmental quality surveys? (see p.320)

What about statistical methods to analyse the scores? (see p.323 text book)

Why are photos a good way of analysing data?