Designing a data collection phase

Key Questions to Ask

Will I get the right data from these data collection methods?

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

Does my data collection actually help me answer my research questions?

What will the results tell me when I get them? Is that kind of information actually meaningful? Will the results potentially give me enough scope to have an in-depth discussion in my conclusion

Is this method truly independent?

In what ways have I, and me only, designed this method? How have I taken a known method and made it my own?

Whose help will I need to complete my data collection?

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

Where exactly will I be doing my data collection?

Once I get to the fieldwork site, where within that site am I going to conduct the data collection? Why am I using those sites in particular?

What resources or equipment will I need to complete the data collection?

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 in the field?

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 enough data through these data collection methods?

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? Will the method I have chosen allow me to do these things?

How am I going to stay safe during my data collection?

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