

### Care for Others

- If members of the public are using the same space as you when you are carrying out your data collection, be mindful of their needs and do not intrude on their use of the space. This may mean you have to adjust the timings of your day so that you avoid the busiest times in that area.
- Make sure that no part of your data collection could endanger the public. For example, be wary of
  - equipment lying on the ground which might easily become a trip-hazard.
  - interviewing people on narrow pavements: it may mean people have to step into the road to pass by.
- Avoid making excessive noise during your data collection, especially in areas that are naturally peaceful. Keep voices at a low level and ensure use of noisy equipment is kept to a minimum.
- Think carefully about how your data collection might affect the privacy which members of the public have. For example:
  - Seek permission before taking photographs of people or their homes and make sure the subjects of photographs have the opportunity to view the image before it is used.
  - Only record personal data if it is actually necessary to the outcomes of your study. In this case make sure you comply with the latest data protection laws (see overleaf).

### Care for the Environment

- In rural areas, and especially in farming communities be sure to be aware of the needs to maintain good biosecurity. For example:
  - do not walk into farm yards and enclosed fields without the landowners' permission. Wash boots thoroughly or use a disinfectant dip wash if it is available before entering the farm.
  - Look out for signs indicating areas with Japanese Knotweed or Himalayan Balsam growing. Be sure to walk carefully around these areas and ensure no vegetation samples are taken from these sites.
- Be familiar with and adhere to the Countryside Code.
- Respect the needs of any wildlife found in the area in which you are working. Avoid woodland in bird nesting season and do not feed wild animals or livestock.
- Always take your litter home with you and consider carrying a plastic bag in which you can collect any additional litter you see.
- Always use the designated footpaths and use the centre of the path rather than unnecessarily widening it by footfall erosion at the edges.



Himalayan Balsam

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Japanese Knotweed

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### Act within the Law

- If you are recording the personal data of members of the public, be sure to comply with GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation). For example, you may need to:
  - have a participant sign to say they understand how you are going to record, store and use their data.
  - encrypt data or make it anonymous.
  - destroy data as soon as you can after use.
- Certain areas may have local by-laws which govern how an area might be used. It is worth checking these before starting any data collection as they might affect the hours in which data can be collected or how easy it is to access a field site.
- Ensure you are aware of whether an area in which you are collecting your data is public or private space. In order to collect data in private spaces (such as in a shopping centre) the site owner's permission should be sought beforehand. Make sure you carry written confirmation of any agreement made.
- Dropping litter, even if unintentionally, can result in a fine, as can trespassing on someone's land if you disturb any activity that is taking place there.