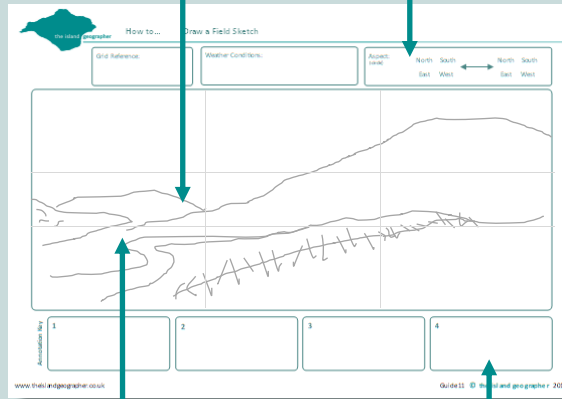


Use clean, simple lines. The word 'sketch' implies it should be a work of art, but actually the best field sketches are straight-forward line drawings that highlight the geography above all else.

Mark on the orientation and grid reference of your view to tell the reader which direction you were facing, as well as allowing you the ability to plot the sketch on a map afterwards.



If you struggle with scale and perspective, use a grid drawn onto a sheet of acetate, and a matching grid on your recording sheet, to get everything in the right place.

Annotate your sketch with at least four detailed points, using a numbered key if easier, that explain something about the scene the reader would otherwise not know or understand.

Before you start



- Think carefully about what outcomes you want to achieve from the field sketch: do you want to show processes? Features? Impacts? Causes?
- Have a really good look around the viewpoint for the scene that captures the main ideas you wish to show.
- Acknowledge the sketcher's bias. Choosing the scene means you have chosen its content - make it clear to the reader **why** you have chosen this view and why you may have left other things out.
- Think about the nature of the annotations. These explanations should be at the centre of your ideas about the field sketch, not an after thought to be bolted on.

Common mistakes to avoid



- Spending too long on the drawing. Remember, all you need is a representation of the view on which to 'hang' all your geographical observations.
- Colouring the sketch in. Unless it helps the reader to understand something (through the use of a key) leave it black and white.
- Using unnecessary labels. Single words or phrases that point out features that the reader can already identify add little geographical value.
- Writing annotations over the top of the sketch. Whilst it is fine to use 'dead space' (such as large patches of sky) make sure there is enough room for everything you want to say. Better to use a key or place ideas around the edge of the sketch with indicator arrows.