

Exploration phase- student focus group (Transcript 07/05/22)

Anonymous Participant Code
FFG N
FFG O
FFG P

Interviewer: We are now recording. So that information sheet has got the ethics statement and what not, so if you do need any further information or who to contact or what not, they're all on there.

FFG N: Is it just the tick next to here.

Interviewer: yeah if you just tick each of those and you've got that information. The date is the 7th, 5th. So 07/05. Thank you. Thank you FFG P.

FFG O: 7th?

Interviewer: Of May. It feels weird that it is a Saturday I'm going to get really confused like tomorrow when we go back, and I'll be like "I've got to be back here on Monday." Lovely thanks FFG N. Erm so, thank you so this data that you are contributing is ultimately to help me try and define fieldwork a bit better. And especially start to define what we mean by virtual fieldwork. I imagine you did perhaps some online stuff last year. And lots of Universities did but it's really trying to think about the role of virtual fieldwork and how it can enhance the fieldwork that you have perhaps done within the field this week. And how the two can be done in combination ultimately. Erm and we're really trying to look at, you know, how is fieldwork viewed and valued by a range of different people, okay? So my first kind of question to you. And it's an individual reflection so you've got some post-it notes erm, and I would like you to have a think about; what do you see as some of the defining characteristics of digital fieldwork?

FFG N: Please explain.

Interviewer: So you've done some digital fieldwork, porbbaly last year. Maybe you listened to some videos, you saw some lecturers but if you had almost a dream world of virtual fieldwork how would you see virtual fieldwork or digital fieldwork being defined? What would you like to see it include?

<Silence as participants complete the reflection question and add to their post-it notes>

Interviewer: And you can record as many things as you want, erm on your post-it note. Your thoughts and ideas there's not right or wrong.

<Further silence as participants complete the reflection question and add to their post-it notes>

Interviewer: So how would you define virtual fieldwork? Or digital fieldwork? What are some of the characteristics that it has?

FFG N: I can only think of one thing.

Interviewer: That's ok, you will have some time once we have had another discussion to go back to them as well. Don't worry. Are you all finished? FFG N?

FFG N: Pretty much.

Interviewer: Finished FFG P? Yep? So what I am going to ask you to do is just to share what you've got and we will go one at a time around. And just share everything on your post-it note. And I will just record here, and it will be really nice whilst you're sharing the characteristics to maybe just tell us why you think it is important, and how it might enhance fieldwork as a whole. Ok and I will just record them down. Go ahead, you might have to speak loudly, just so the speaker picks you up. That's great.

FFG O: So like lots of in-depth videos, of what would have happened. So like last year we got a lot of like erm, walk throughs of all the different areas.

Interviewer: Ok

FFG O: So they could show us where they were and maps and stuff and what they would have done in each area.

Interviewer: Ok, so just let me put this down. No it's fine because you said a few things there. So you said in-depth videos- what would happen, you said- walk-throughs, is that of sites?

FFG O: yeah

Interviewer: Ok and then you said maps aswell.

FFG O: yeah

Interviewer: Sorry I put you off.

FFG O: It's fine. So erm and like, like and relating it back to previous years. Like tis is what they did, and what results they got from it.

Interviewer: So relating it back to previous years, as in previous data and results yeah?

FFG O: Yeah

Interviewer: Ok, good thank you. Anything else?

FFG O: No

Interviewer: So that's everything on you list. FFG N anything on yours?

FFG N: I've got just high quality video and audio with the video. As I see the high quality being an important part of it.

Interviewer: Ok thanks, and why is the high-quality video and audio, how does that enhance the fieldwork that you are doing?

FFG N: Well, I feel like not being able to be there, that is already bad enough, so the next best thing is really high quality you know, high-resolution images and footage of the site that you are at. Just to help you, and immerse yourself you know in the site. So maybe like drone footage.

Interviewer: ok, yeah.

FFG N: And a variety of different scales, so that you can see the whole site from up-above and then closer-up.

Interviewer: yeah. So I've put a few things that you're talking about there so I've got erm, high quality video, audio and images. Hi-res. That feeling of immersion, you mentioned. So almost like

trying to feel like you are there. Erm you talked about drone footage and also different scales so that you can zoom in and zoom out. Ok, lovely thank you. Er FFG P?

FFG P: It's kind of the same.

Interviewer: It's ok, still valid.

FFG P: So say if it is a photo or something there might be a clickable link that you can like go further in on it. So it gives you like more depth and detail as to what is actually happening.

Interviewer: Ok, why would that enhance what you are doing?

FFG P: Because you're not actually there to see what is going on. So sometimes you're like, I don't know, I can't explain it. Erm.

Interviewer: Do you see different views? See different things?

FFG P: Yeah pretty much.

Interviewer: Thank you. So we might come back to some of these as we go. But that's really great suggestions, thank you. See different views, let me just write that down. Lovely thank you. So will park this for the moment, and we will come back to it, and see if we add anything to it. Erm so we've been talking about digital fieldwork but I'd like you to think a bit more now, about general fieldwork. Being outside fieldwork, in-person, in-field, fieldwork. Erm and what are some of the challenges of it? And what are some of the opportunities of doing it? So it's more of an open question.

FFG O: The first thing I thought about was having a schedule or itinerary. And like not knowing what you are doing at each point throughout the day. It's a lot more just go with the flow I guess. What do you want to do? I suppose that could be good as well. As it's letting us decide what we think would be best to do.

Interviewer: Hmm mmm. What impact has that lack of structure; I guess; had on you? You mentioned a positive one already, but any other impacts?

FFG O: I think it makes you more independent maybe. But then if you're like one of those people who doesn't like asking questions, you can be left behind a bit. So you're not too sure what you're doing.

FFG N: I think it's just valuable experience, in general. So being able to go out in the field, and do some field research. It gives you an idea of whether you might want to do it as a career in the future, or not. So for many people it might sound cool on paper, but when you actually get to it, it might not be your thing.

<Laughter>

Interviewer: It's just six days of looking in quadrats.

<Laughter>

FFG N: Saves you the disappointment if you were to apply for a job, and then get there and be like "Oh this is not what I imagined." You know and this is just a taster type of thing. Erm which is quite fun. Erm, I don't know. I am quite a hands-on kind of person. So I enjoy the part of going out and collecting the data and being out there. So that's fun. Whereas before, it was, the last year you would get a spreadsheet and have to work it out. "If you were here, you would have collected this data."

<Laughter>

FFG N: Now process it. Erm so yeah, I feel like it is difficult to replace it with any other experience.

Interviewer: So it is almost hard to replicate that collecting part.

FFG N: Yes very much so. Yeah. Yeah, I think it is almost impossible. So this is probably the next best thing. That's my thoughts. I agree with everything FFG O has said as well erm, a lack of schedule can be a bit daunting. If you are not the most organised person then you're kind of already falling behind. SO that's been a big shock to the system.

Interviewer: So it's been quite open-ended?

FFG N: uh hmm.

Interviewer: So you know that the end result is. I've got to write a report and a presentation. But the bit in-between is very open-ended. Any other challenges and opportunities of in-person or in-field fieldwork?

FFG N: Is it specific to this particular fieldwork? Or in general?

Interviewer: In general.

FFG N: Ok. Can it be specific?

Interviewer: It can be yeah.

FFG N: So the thing that we were talking about, the three of us here are the entire group. And which obviously compared to the other groups which have 8 people in them. Means we haven't got as much man-power. Erm so maybe when it comes to designing future fieldworks, that could be addressed. Because we felt like in a way, we weren't able to collect as much data as other groups. Erm which I suppose is a real-life thing as well. Maybe if you work in a small research group then you don't have all the resources in the world you have to cope with it. But again, yeah, it was, it's just been hard. Erm in that way.

Interviewer: And what about this group work. So obviously you have come together as a group, erm you're a small group, so potentially less data erm anything else about working in this team. Challenges or opportunities?

FFG P: It's a big daunting at first.

FFG O: Yeah.

FFG P: When you don't know who the other people are.

Interviewer: Yeah definitely.

FFG P: And it can take a while to get comfortable. But it's been ok.

FFG N: Yeah, I've just quite enjoyed working. I'm not a huge fan of group work if that makes sense. But it's like in a way, it's nicer than just being on your own if that makes sense. And Just like the social side to it, like you feel like you're not alone in it, in a way. Yeah. That's the bit I enjoy.

Interviewer: So like sharing some of the responsibility a little bit?

FFG N: Yeah, yeah. Err I feel like the difficulty was that erm like in a small group if the three of us lack a particular skill then there is no one in the group who has it. Whereas in the other groups, there

might still be someone, you know and the rest just get carried or whatever. Erm so yeah it was obviously like you don't know who you are going to get put with and what their skills are.

Interviewer: So you have to find that out?

FFG N: yeah, yeah, yeah

Interviewer: So over a couple of days you work it out, what are they going to bring to this group. What has been some of the highlights of doing some of your in-person fieldwork this week?

FFG O: So I think just actually being able to go out and do it.

FFG P: yeah

FFG O: It has been a while, since we've been able to do anything like that. So it's been different, to like last year.

Interviewer: So when you say different, do you think you've learnt different skills that you didn't learn when you were doing it online?

FFG O: yeah because when you're doing it online. You look over and think, "yeah ofcourse I would do that." And then you don't really remember it as well as if you were doing it in-person then you would practice doing it again and again and again. So it's like ingrained into your head.

Interviewer: So that like memorability of actually doing it yourself is something. And you mentioned there about; I think you said, "Of course I would do it that way." When you are collecting your data. So the bit that you guys have done, you've designed your own project ultimately. Are those different skills, that you have been picking up on and learning this week?

FFG O: Yeah maybe because it's like actually having to think to yourself a lot more and like coming up with your own ideas about what could work. And trying something out and seeing if it works or doesn't work.

FFG N: yeah we've done reports, I'm not sure if you guys did. But on my course we have done, reports before which we were told they should follow the same structure as this one, except this one you have a bit more freedom over choosing your methods. Whilst in the previous ones it was like, all of those things were already pre-determined for you. These are the methods, we are going to go there and do this, because of you know that's the best way of doing it. Whilst here you kind of have to figure it out yourself a little bit.

Interviewer: And how has that been?

FFG N: Difficult but ultimately good in a way that you I think you learn more in the end from this rather than being guided all the time. Erm I did find it quite a big jump in difficulty from stuff before and that's definitely hard. Erm, I also think being organised more because like all the samples you take, I'm not going to annotate this, I am definitely going to remember, you know, where this was or what species this was, or I'll figure it out later.

<laughter>

FFG N: And then you're like where was we? Was this site A or whatever.

Interviewer: Lichen B

FFG N: So it is quite unforgiving on those who are not meticulous enough with their annotations, and organisational skills. Yeah, I think we've had a few situations where we are like, "where was this photo taken, and nobody knows!"

<laughter>

FFG N: So yeah, that's a good way of learning things as well. Erm yeah.

Interviewer: And just, earlier you talked about that step-up from stuff you had done previously to this. Erm, what have you been doing this week to help you navigate that step-up? What have you, kind of, decided to do, or where have you applied effort to move you from; here when you are started, into what you've had to do here?

FFG N: I probably haven't put in as much effort as I should have. I would mainly the data analysis is the daunting part. Erm up till now, I was saying to everyone; I had managed to get away with very few basic types of charts. Which you know got me decent enough, you know grades. But I'm not really good at other types of analyses and data visualisation. And now they are required, and all of a sudden I'm like "Crap maybe I should have diversified earlier on." Or learned more, you know, types of visualisation, ways of visualising data. Erm so I feel like my analysis skills are not quite up there. But at the same time, there's not quite enough time to learn a lot more, so you have to, I don't know something will have to be compromised if that makes sense.

Interviewer: And also you know you are applying what you have done within other modules; where you have learned R or whatever; to your own data. And making those decisions about what you need to do as opposed to "Ok this is the analysis I need to do, this is how I do it." You have to think about what analysis is appropriate in that sense.

FFG N: Yeah, and also this report, this fieldtrip has many more data points like different data points. Like before I think, in my reports there was 'this vs. this' and it was quite a straight forward. Whilst here there is so many things that are inter-dependent. Like this could be affecting it, or this could be affecting it. Erm just quite, quite, complex analysis, to me anyway. So I'm finding that hard.

Interviewer: Anything else, any other challenges or any other good points or opportunities that you feel in-person fieldwork brings. So you've talked about employability aspects, careers. You've talked about seeing things first-hand, memorability, were some of the good points. And some of the challenges you've talked about is your smaller group, the lack of schedule, that jump up in kind of skills and knowledge of what you need to do, and some of the analysis being hard. Is there anything else? Challenges or opportunities of in-person fieldwork.

FFG O: I think it can help with decision making a little bit. So a lot of time it's like, "So what do you want to do next?"

FFG P: So like decision-making in the moment kind of thing.

FFG O: And you have to like think about what would be necessary to help you in the next point, in your results.

Interviewer: And you're making those in the moment, you're making those decisions now.

FFG P: And it's kind of hard, to do it on the spot. As in like with the online ones, you can do it over a few days and think about it.

Interviewer: So almost like step away from it. And reflect a bit more. Whereas if you're out in a wood, and you have to collect that data

FFG P: Yeah it has more pressure.

FFG N: Anyway it is difficult when you have your supervisor like looking at you. "What do you want to do?" You don't want to say something stupid, and you know it's like hard to come up with something on the spot. You don't want to be scrutinised, and like. You know that they know what needs to be done. But they are expecting you to come up with it. "Is this what is done?" It's off-putting.

Interviewer: Do you feel that working closely with that supervisor, do you feel like responsibility to get it right? Is that something? Or do you feel that you can make mistakes when you are out and about?

FFG N: Hmm I'm not sure, like I feel like we're nudged in certain directions to a degree, but not in a way that it is all Evelyn's work.

Interviewer: yeah, yeah, yeah

FFG O: it's supported

Interviewer: So you've had that supportive guidance, I guess.

FFG O: yeah

FFG N: Yeah sorry, what was the question?

Interviewer: It's ok, we're just thinking again about those challenges and opportunities of in-person fieldwork.

FFG N: Yeah I think like at the same time, you don't know how much you can ask, or how far. Like it is meant to be like your report.

Interviewer: yeah yeah

FFG N: You're the one collecting the data, but can I ask this or should I just try and figure it out on my own. If I don't ask and then I'm not able to figure it out on my own will I regret not asking. I don't know, how much guidance to ask for. So I've found that quite challenging. In like some of the times I felt like I used up my quota for questions, with one supervisor. And when Evelyn wasn't there I would ask James. So yeah.

Interviewer: And what about it being a residential, an extended fieldtrip. Erm has there been any challenges, or opportunities around that. You know it being a six day extended trip.

FFG O: I think like it is the motivation to do it again, especially when it is a whole day of looking at data and trying to come up with what to do with it. Yeah it can be draining. And having to do the same again.

FFG N: And then because at home, you would just take a break. But here you see other people working and you're like "Oh I should probably be working." And you just end up working quite a lot more than you normally would. Because you know there is a time pressure, because it's a short course and then the report is due in a couple of weeks. So I find that challenging.

Interviewer: yeah it is like a working community isn't it, from maybe 8 o'clock at breakfast, you're all coming down, talking about the day, then all the way through. So it is like an extended community which I think is quite unique. Erm you don't really have that in a real job. So I guess it is quite unique, when you come on a field course.

FFG N: I enjoy that the fieldwork is further away from Newcastle, because you could do fieldwork like in Jesmond Dene, if you know Jesmond Dene?

Interviewer: yeah yeah

FFG N: But it is just nice being like you know you're far away. Well not far away but away from where you stay. So it just has this nice feel to it. It's like proper fieldwork.

Interviewer: And then I guess like now thinking about erm the challenges and opportunities of digital fieldwork. So you can think about the stuff that you have done last year, in some of those virtual fieldwork environments or some of those digital practicals that you might have done last year. And what were some of the challenges and what were some of the benefits the opportunities involved with some of those.

FFG O: Sometimes, I did a fieldwork thing right at the start of the year, last year. So just when I started. And they gave us a lot of instructions, this is a Zoom, this is a picture of the end results. So you could just do it and not think about it too much. So it didn't really go in. But erm I feel like I kind of needed that instruction at that point.

FFG N: I feel that like erm virtual virtual fieldworks are much more accessible. Like that's a good thing about them. Because obviously this trip carried costs with it, and I know of people who didn't go to Millport because it was more expensive than here. Even though the project there was of more interest. But digital fieldwork have that issue, you can pretty much be virtually anywhere. Erm at no cost, at all. So that's appreciated, an opportunity.

Interviewer: Definitely an opportunity to see different environments that you perhaps wouldn't have the opportunity to do or reducing the costs. Definitely yeah.

FFG N: Or maybe it could give you an idea of whether you want to go there before you make a commitment. Maybe you know I'd like to go there, but it's too expensive, and if you do a digital fieldwork first then it gives you that idea that I am interested in this and it is worth the money or maybe it didn't look as good as I thought it did, so I am not that interested.

Interviewer: And I think that bit there about that doing it before you go, I think there is something there about preparing you before you go. Like you said, it can make it worthwhile the time when you are there. You might think of questions before, or you might devise methods before, and it might help you to be more efficient in the field, or know where you are going to go. Erm as well as if you're going to go at all, like you said.

FFG P: I feel like online it's a lot easier, but it doesn't actually prepare you for what it should be like erm, because obviously like this is a lot different and a lot harder than it is online. Because you can just sit back. But here you are in it, you've got to do it by a set time, it's just a lot.

Interviewer: So you've talked there a little bit about it being harder here, and you can sit back online. Can you just unpick that a little bit? Because that's an interesting point for me to understand more of.

FFG P: If it's a virtual trip you can just relax a bit, you can just sit at your computer erm, and if it does get a bit stressful, you can just pull yourself away. But here it's like you're constantly on the go, got to get it done, in the set time. Erm which can be quite draining at times, yeah.

Interviewer: The pace is full-on isn't it on a residential fieldtrip, I agree.

FFG N: I also think there is like less peer pressure during digital fieldwork you don't really see whether other people are working or not. So you assume that they are not. Whereas here, everyone is always on. Wherever you look, people are firing things into laptops. Yeah even if you don't feel like working, you feel obliged to. Even if it's , maybe it's not beneficial, it would be more beneficial for you to step away but you don't because you see everyone else. But again I don't know if this is like every fieldtrip or is it just this one?

Interviewer: No, no it's all worthwhile to hear, and I think what you are saying there is that online you manage your own pace yourselves. You decide if its an asynchronous thing you decide when you engage, when you need to reflect, when you need to step back. When is the best time?

FFG O: Yeah

Interviewer: Whilst it is almost more dictated for you in here, or there are external pressures which might make you think that you need to do more or I should do this now, because of what is going on.

FFG N: Yeah, online obviously we wouldn't care who is working on their stuff right now, as long as his bit gets done. Whereas here like if I like see him working, he will think I'm a slacker if I don't join them. So that's like a benefit of the digital fieldwork type of thing.

Interviewer: Any other challenges or opportunities of digital fieldwork?

FFG N: Maybe it's a bit easier to working things out in a group in person as you can talk things through. Than if you are talking in messenger, and trying to agree on stuff it feels a bit impersonal whereas here, face to face communication is just easier. For some. Well for me anyway. Some people might prefer speaking via online.

Interviewer: Digital communication is different, isn't it? Whether you find it easier or not. It is a different way of communicating definitely.

FFG N: Yeah. I feel like maybe it doesn't necessarily apply to us because we are provided like laptops from University. But some maybe digital fieldwork is not an option because they don't have equipment for it. I'm not sure if that is relevant.

Interviewer: Yeah no, there could be logistical barriers such as cost.

FFG N: Or wifi or whatever. Still probably smaller than the cost, of going somewhere far away in-person with accommodation. But erm yeah.

Interviewer: Any other opportunities of digital that you think "oh you know what, that is what digital is really good at but it would be great if it could so that. Maybe you haven't seen it at Newcastle, but maybe you think that Newcastle could do that. So any other opportunities with digital fieldwork?

FFG O: I think it is kind of good for showing you exactly what the lecturer wants you to take from it.

Interviewer: Ok, yeah.

FFG O: Like they've obviously included stuff for a reason, otherwise it wouldn't be there so they want you to learn about that and apply it.

Interviewer: So that for me is you are saying that it is a little bit curated. It is curated by someone, and so you find it easier to pick out the bits that are important, because they have put that int here. And they have curated that together. So it is more closed almost. As opposed to something like this

which is more open, so it is perhaps harder to pick out what bits are really important. Is that what you mean by it?

FFG O: Yeah

Interviewer: Any other challenges or opportunities?

FFG N: I don't know if it is like in anyway connected, but the use of apps for identifying things, I feel like that has moved on quite a lot. Like getting better and better. I don't know if it is anyway driven, by virtual fieldwork?

Interviewer: Digital fieldwork definitely apps in the field.

FFG N: I feel like that helps, quite a lot.

Interviewer: Before we go back to this, is there anything else? Anything about opportunities or challenges with either digital fieldwork or in-person fieldwork that has kind of spring to mind?

FFG O: I think for this one it would be a bit better to get a more indepth look at all he different projects you could have done. Because when we got here, it was just like put your name down.

Interviewer: So which one should I do? Will I make the right choice? What is this project even about?

FFG O: So you are kind of thrown into it, without knowing too much. So even if you were thrown into it, you've got like a more like a talk at the start of it.

FFG N: Because I thought like each tutors at the start would try and advertise their project.

FFG O: And we literally just went straight out into the field. And I didn't know what to do.

Interviewer: What did that feel like? I know that sounds like a bit of a funny question, but just being straight from arriving, dumped our bags, I can't remember where we dumped our bags. Did we keep them in the van? We did, didn't we, no in the classroom. Then we went out. What was that like? Just talk me through that, as a student.

FFG N: It was kind of, like because there was delays with the cars and everything. So it felt like, slightly disorganised. But I'm not sure if that is just normal for fieldwork, like you just dump things and go and straight tin the field. Erm so I think that my mind wasn't in the best place to make decisions, on things that will affect you for the rest of the week.

Interviewer: Yes that sounds challenging.

FFG O: Like when we first went out, it was like I don't know how important this is too remember.

Interviewer: Yeah, yeah.

FFG O: So like take a picture of this just in case.

Interviewer: Just in case you need it.

FFG O: So it would be good to know, more like on what is happening from the start.

Interviewer: Yeah

FFG P: Ours was kind of confusing because we were like merged with the other group at first. So I personally didn't know what exactly we were doing, if we were doing epiphytes or mammals or like both at the same time. And how they relate together?

Interviewer: Yeah yeah

FFG N: Because we were told, to sign up for the the other thing, and it doesn't matter which one you sign up for because eventually we are going to be all together anyway. But we didn't end up being all together, and it ended up just being the three of us. Erm so maybe just more clarity on that, stuff like that.

Interviewer: Yeah, clarity on the projects, the plan; like you said earlier on as well. And kind of those- What am I doing? What should I be doing? What are my roles? As it can be all new and different. Good, thank you.

So you might have a few more characteristics to add in based on some of the things, we have talked about. So it is just going back to that initial question which was. What are some of the defining characteristics of digital fieldwork and how might those enhance the in-field fieldwork. So I will give you some more time to have a think so if you have any more that you want to add on we can add them on to this list. So you can write them on to your post-it notes, and I will ad them on here.

So what are the defining characteristics of digital fieldwork and how might they enhance existing in-field fieldwork.

<Pause for second round of individual reflection>

Interviewer: So let me know when you are ready and I can add some more on to our list. Do you want to go FFG O? What did you add?

FFG O: So I went back to the short videos, and trying to add what are the different things that you would be doing. And like, so you can better choose what you would want to do once you are there.

Interviewer: So to almost introduce, is it like sites and projects almost?

FFG O: Yeah

Interviewer: And you said that was so that you would be.

FFG O: Better prepared.

Interviewer: So better prepared.

FFG O: Like help you decide, what project or area of focus to do.

Interviewer: Ahh right, got you. Better prepared to decide, yeah. Ooh dip in the table. Good thanks. Anything else?

FFG O: Have, like if they lists of equipment and like go through how it's used and what it is for.

Interviewer: yeah

FFG O: So you already know before you get there what different things are. And like you have like a base knowledge of how to use them.

Interviewer: Anything else on your list?

FFG O: I said like examples of data that you could be getting, like for each project you could be expecting to get something like this, maybe, but not exactly this. So you know what you are maybe doing.

Interviewer: Yeah so to help with almost expectations a little more, thank you. Is that everything on your list?

FFG O: Yeah

Interviewer: Perfect. Er FFG N anything on yours?

FFG N: We are still talking about characteristics of digital fieldwork?

Interviewer: Yeah

FFG N: Err I was just thinking about erm the apps still. So they introduces you to maybe apps and software and that can then aid you in the field because you know you've got this sort of help in your pocket, erm to a degree.

Interviewer: Yeah, good thank you. Yep so apps and software that could support you in the field, knowing about those. Anything else on your list?

FFG N: Erm it's like I think digital fieldwork allows for Citizen Science to exist in the great degree, and I think that's a good thing about it. The you can sort of offload a lot of your data collection, use iNaturalist to help you sift through, if that makes sense?

Interviewer: Uh-huh

FFG N: Counting species from a satellite image, something like that. That's definitely like helpful.

Interviewer: Yeah so I will put Citizen Science but also those desk-based research that you can do remotely. Err remotely, yeah, good.

FFG N: Oh sorry, I just thought of one other. In terms of accessibility of digital it can, I think disabled people who couldn't necessarily get to hard to access places but they can still help with you know in the way of digital fieldwork. Erm which can be quite important to them.

Interviewer: Lovely thank you. FFG P anything else on your list, that I should be adding?

FFG P: So I've basically written down what FFG O has said pretty much. So better communication of what we are actually doing, and sites.

Interviewer: So where did we have that. Yeah to introduce the sites. But that bit on what you are doing is a bit different to the sites and projects. Anything else from your list?

FFG P: No

Interviewer: Ok so now, this list is for you to have a little look over and think about; hopefully you can see it; I can probably hold it up if not. So to have a look at this, and think; do these all make sense? It's your list, but do they all make sense? Erm do any need any clarification? Do any, can be grouped together? Ok so have a little look through your list. If you can read my writing, sorry. Because in a moment I am going to ask you to vote for your top five priorities so it might be that some go together because they make sense that they go together. But I will let you decide. Maybe you don't understand one of them, or what not.

<Time to reflect on list>

Interviewer: So do any of them need any clarification is there any that you are not sure what it means?

FFG N: I think they are clear.

Interviewer: So you are all ok with those. Do you want to group any of those together? Are any similar?

FFG P: I feel like, this one.

Interviewer: So putting your video ones together, ok.

FFG N: So high-quality.

Interviewer: Ok so we will put that one as A. Erm and the high quality video one goes with that one. So they are all video based stuff. Ok anything else that should go together?

FFG O: Could you put example data with relating back to previous years, maybe?

Interviewer: Yeah, so that would be D. So example maps that would go in the same one. Anything else you want to put together?

FFG P: Could you put drone footage in there?

Interviewer: Do you want to put that there too.

FFG P: yep

Interviewer: So that's A aswell. Any others that can go together? Or are you happy then with your list?

<Pause for reflection>

FFG N: So maybe this one, and oh maybe not actually, they're different.

Interviewer: We can stick with this list, if you're happy with it.

FFG O: yeah

Interviewer: So I am going to give each of these a letter hopefully I can write upside down. D, E. So what I am going to ask you to do now is to think about what would be your top five okay. So your number one is your biggest priority, okay. So number 2 is next, down to five which is still a priority. But you are looking for your top five okay. So let me just letter them. If I can write upside down. So they should all be lettered now.

<Pause for reflection>

Interviewer: So these are your top five priorities of characteristics of digital fieldwork.

<Pause of reflection>

Interviewer: Have you got your five FFG O? Got your five FFG P?

FFG N: Nearly

Interviewer: FFG N is still deciding.

<Pause of reflection>

Interviewer: Got a five? Cool. So what I will do I will ask you to share your top five and I'll give them a score. So your number one gets 5 points. So FFG O tell me your number 1.

FFG O: A

Interviewer: A, ok thanks. Number two.

FFG O: B

Interviewer: Number three

FFG O: Err H

Interviewer: Four

FFG O: D

Interviewer: And your fifth.

FFG O J

Interviewer: Ok FFG N, your number one.

FFG N: A

Interviewer: A?

FFG N: Yep

Interviewer: Next one

FFG N: C, E, D and November

Interviewer: Sorry, and FFG P

FFG P: Erm A

Interviewer: Is your number one?

FFG P: Yeah. D, B, H and G.

Interviewer: A good mental thing for me to do is you saying a number, and I write the opposite number in the list. Ok so let me just do some maths. Quick maths. Someone can tell me if my maths is wrong. Ok, so what have we got. Ok so what are your top priorities that you have come up with.

1. In-depth videos: what would happen
2. Relating back to previous years and previous data/results
3. Walk through of sites
3. Short videos to introduce sites and projects, to be better prepared to decide.
5. Immersion.

Interviewer: So thinking about those priorities ultimately that you have come up with. Er do you think your view is represented in our outcomes? Does anyone disagree with those outcomes that we've got there? Is there anything that you would expect to come up that hasn't?

FFG N: not really.

FFG O: Don't think so.

Interviewer: So then, you've suggested these things as being important, so why are these important? Why are they important?

FFG N: I think like the first one is just like we said you're not there but you want to see things the best that you can without being there. So it's important that the videos and pictures. You are not missing out on stuff that you could have seen if you were there, then that wouldn't be fair. So it is more productive, that's my opinion on number one, A.

Interviewer: What impact might some of these have on you as a learner if they happened in digital fieldwork?

FFG O: Develop your understanding a bit more. Like getting what they are trying to teach us, and what the fieldwork would be about.

Interviewer: A bit more about that preparation, knowing what is expected, what you should be doing, what you should be gaining from it. That type of thing, ok.

FFG P: I feel like if you weren't given a video or a photo, it would be a lot more confusing of what you were supposed to be doing. Because you can't visualise it.

Interviewer: Yeah

FFG P: Yeah so it would be a bit more confusing.

Interviewer: Yeah.

FFG N: Yeah maybe, I'm not sure if it even relates but if there was a library of videos and pictures from previous years of similar projects so you can see what those students did that is on the list this year. And you can see whether it is something for me.

Interviewer: Any final points you want to make about your list, or anything else we have discussed today, before we finish off?

<Pause for reflection>

FFG N: That's everything.

Interviewer: So what I will do is I'll just stop the recording, in case there's anything you want to say not being recorded.

