

Exploration phase: Student focus group transcript 25/05/22

Anonymous Participant Code
FFG Q
FFG R
FFG S
FFG T
FFG U
FFG V

Interviewer: Cool so thank you for coming, I know you are still signing. So thank you for signing the forms. Erm so we are really trying to uncover what you guys think, how you view fieldwork and I'm trying to pull together some classifications of fieldwork to try to define digital fieldwork in the same sphere as how we classify existing fieldwork. This is alongside expert panel interviews, some survey work as well. So your little task is on your post-it notes, which all of you should have. Let me just share some more.

FFG Q: I have some spare ones here.

Interviewer: Excellent. So it is an individual reflection, and I would like you to think about what are some of the defining characteristics of digital fieldwork. So what are some of the defining characteristics of digital fieldwork?

FFG R: What if we have never done it? Is it your opinion?

Interviewer: Yes it is your ideas, what do you think digital fieldwork should be.

<Noise interruption with people entering>

Interviewer: So defining characteristics of digital fieldwork and you can just pop them on your post-it notes, that would be helpful thank you.

<Noise interruption with people entering>

Interviewer: So just a reminder you are thinking about what are the defining characteristics of digital fieldwork? And in a moment once you have reflected we will go around and you will just share. And I will write them up, and it'd be really helpful if you could explain why you think that characteristic could enhance fieldwork.

FFG S: Sorry did you say we are writing why we think?

Interviewer: You don't have to write it, but when we share it you can just share your thoughts and add a little bit more. That would be really helpful, thank you.

<Pause for reflection>

Interviewer: I can't believe how many of you guys got lost trying to find that fence today.

FFG T: We didn't get lost necessarily

FFG R: We just got preoccupied on the way.

Interviewer: So hopefully you have been reflecting on those defining characteristics. And what we are going to do is we are going to go round and just share. Fran are we ok to start with you?

FFG T: I hate being called Fran.

Interviewer: Oh do you? I'm sorry. Sorry. There is also another FFG T who gets called Fran right.

FFG R: She is not a fan either, she prefers FFG T.

Interviewer: I'm really sorry FFG T.

FFG T: You can if you are desperate.

Interviewer: I'm really not. Are you to share some of your defining characteristics, and we are just on the mic so you just have to speak up a little bit.

FFG T: I am not sure if I have got the right angle.

Interviewer: It doesn't matter, they are all valid.

FFG T: Portable.

Interviewer: Ok

FFG T: Accurate

Interviewer: Ok

FFG T: Light-weight

Interviewer: ok, thank you.

FFG T: Shareable, so I mean you can easily share your data with other class members and your team. That kind of stuff.

Interviewer: Ok

FFG T: And I also thought easily share with analysis programmes like easy to put on GIS.

FFG U: Hmm compatible.

FFG T: Compatible, yes. That is the word I was looking for.

Interviewer: I am going to put that as digital at point of capture. So you are collecting digital data that is already in spreadsheets or analysis programmes. So digital when you are doing it, at that point of capture. You are not typing it up. You are not putting it in afterwards, its straight away in those programmes. So we've got portable, accurate, light-weight, shareable- so between classes and teams and then that aspect of being used in analysis programmes, so digital at point of capture. Thank you very much FFG T, and I apologise again.

FFG T: You're forgiven.

Interviewer: FFG Q, is FFG Q ok?

FFG Q: I'll allow it.

Interviewer: Go ahead, if you would like to share.

FFG Q: I've put some things quite similar ones.

Interviewer: If they are similar just let me know and I can put them down.

FFG Q: So I put efficient data collection.

Interviewer: Ok, thank you, lovely, thank you.

FFG Q: So I put tablet/phones.

Interviewer: Thank you

FFG Q: GIS compatible again. So we've had that one.

Interviewer: Do you want me to put that one here.

FFG Q: Yeah sure.

Interviewer: And that fits with what FFG T was saying, about using it in analysis programmes.

FFG Q: And then standardised. So potentially using the same pro-forma you can answer the same questions, and have the same prompts.

Interviewer: Ok

FFG Q: And lastly technical difficulties like battery life, waterproofness.

Interviewer: I am going to put those as two separate. So we've got technical difficulties, and you've talked about battery. And also waterproofness, yeah?

FFG Q: yeah

Interviewer: Any more on your post-it note FFG Q?

FFG Q: Erm no

Interviewer: Erm FFG U

FFG U: Pretty much similar to what the guys have already said. But one different one is easy to use technology. I didn't think there is any point in having to use something where you've got to learn new language or you know spend a lot of time doing research where you have to put in lots of learning time to use the stuff you are going to be using to analyse or whatever you are doing out there. Erm yeah, following on from the shareable part, I kind of said, the ability to kind of share and discover relevant data and information. So it kind of goes both ways. Rather than just send it out, you're able to share it.

FFG T: Share it on a wider basis.

FFG U: Yeah

FFG R: And glean new information.

Interviewer: So discover new data?

FFG U: Yeah, yeah. And then I was just clutching at straws on this one. But I kind of said like 24 hour round access. Yeah.

Interviewer: Why do you think being able to access fieldwork 24 hours, why have you put that as a defining characteristic?

FFG U: I think if there was any form of research going on, maybe in another part of the world, or there's other researchers using it. I don't know I just put it. I was going off on a weird tangent. But I think that you, or if you wanted to go out at night, and do some more research or something. I don't know. Upload it straight away. You don't have to wait till morning.

Interviewer: Thank you for sharing those. FFG R do you want to share yours?

FFG R: I have just added one, after what FFG U has just said. So centralised. So you're not relying on one person, and if everything gets lost. Erm it's like everyone can access it 24 hours a day. So it's taking the weight off one person. And then inclusive. I thought in terms of language, or those who may be dyslexic, it may be able to use digital platforms where it is not just reliant on listening to the teacher erm and you can read it as well. Interactive, which is self-explanatory. Informative, which is self-explanatory. Appealing to kids. Battery limited.

Interviewer: Just hang-on a moment, I'm not quite such a fast board writer. So what was after informative?

FFG R: battery limited. So basically what FFG Q said.

Interviewer: We had another one for battery issues or battery limited.

FFG R: And then visual, or audio. So you are not just limited to one medium.

Interviewer: So you can have different medias. Lovely. Is there anything else on your list FFG R?

FFG R: No

Interviewer: So FFG V would you like to share what is on your post-it?

FFG V: So I had contact between like the class and the teacher. So you could ask questions, or they could be like "Right we need you to meet back here at this point." So if everyone has got the same tablet, you're not relying on kids having phones with them or stuff.

Interviewer: Thank you

FFG V: So like access to online resources. So if you get a bit stuck you can Google what you are looking at.

FFG R: If you have internet.

Interviewer: So access to resources and how you can have those in the field potentially.

FFG V: I had things like your background sheets which could be saved automatically to the cloud, so if something does happen to your tablet. You still have your data. Whereas if something happens to a bit of paper and it gets wet and soggy, then you've lost your data.

Interviewer: Yeah, ok thank you.

FFG V: And then my other one was it can be changed to make it suitable for people. Like how FFG R was saying about being inclusive. So in terms of dyslexia you wouldn't have to print off a million different things to enable everyone to have their own correct font and colour or whatever. You can just change it on the tablet to what they need.

Interviewer: So we can adapt to those individual needs more readily. Lovely thank you. FFG S?

FFG S: Err so I put the ability together data remotely erm and the heavy use of AI and apps.

Interviewer: So AI and app use.

FFG S: And I also put visual, probably visually based. Erm yes so that's what I said. And I suppose I also thought it allows for collaboration which is one I just thought of.

Interviewer: Thank you, anything else on your post-it.

FFG S: Err that's it, thank you.

Interviewer: Lovely so we are going to leave these on here, and we will come back to this list err we might reflect a little bit more and then we will be looking at what we think some of the most important characteristics are. So we will just leave that there now. And so we are going to move onto some of the more open questions now if that's alright. So your first kind of open question and this is very much a question or you to discuss amongst yourselves, jump in as you wish err but it is thinking about your in-person fieldwork experiences like you have had this week so far or like when you went to Walltown Quarry what are some of the challenges of in-field fieldwork and also what are some of the potential opportunities of in-field or in-person fieldwork.

FFG T: Can you say that again as I have a goldfish memory.

Interviewer: So you are thinking about your in-person or in-field fieldwork and you're thinking about challenges that you might have faced as learners and also some of the opportunities that it brings.

FFG Q: Compared to digital?

Interviewer: Just the fieldwork experience itself.

FFG R: Wait in-person vs. digital?

Interviewer: Just in-person, so just the fieldwork that you have been doing this week so far what are some of the challenges and what are some of the opportunities of doing it.

FFG U: I guess for me I didn't get to erm attend some of the sessions where we picked up a lot of the information prior to doing the fieldwork. So I felt it was a bit of challenge trying to catch up. But at the same time whilst I was out there I could absorb, I was absorbing so much it really did help me. I've been watching videos and things haven't really sunk in so well. But this last couple of days, yeah I feel like I have been making a lot of progress so yeah.

FFG V: So adding on to that, it's the actually seeing what you have learned about in the field. This is what you are likely to come across. In the research or whatever.

FFG U: yeah

FFG V: Rather than just seeing pictures or whatever we might have. I can't identify it off that.

FFG R: Especially with like complex ecosystems so seeing how the components fit together rather than reading about them as individuals or mutually exclusive components. So soil and how that affects vegetation we are seeing it.

FFG T: A challenge for me is just carrying all the kit that you need.

FFG U: Hmm yeah

FFG Q: I think like human factors of us doing like 5 days on site so people are feeling tired, lack of sleep, not used to it, maybe not have the right kit, not used to the rain, the elements, the slopes, the

walking.

FFG U: Ticks

FFG S: So I'd say a challenge would be the sometimes lack of immediate feedback from err the tutor and also we only have say <External person 8> and she might be spread out very thinly and you can't get immediate feedback for many things that we might be stuck on. And also err keeping up with recording the information that <External person 8> might be giving us about the site and whilst we are recording we might be missing what's being uncovered. Yeah.

Interviewer: Do you think there is a lot to take in during fieldwork? In say those discussions that <External person 8> might be having with you.

FFG S: Sometimes err because especially if someone was to not have a background in ecology for examples. Because one of the pros of this course, is to allow someone who wants to change careers to join and do more practical work. And if you are not able to keep up with information it defeats the purpose so to speak. Yeah.

FFG R: And we are all on different courses aswell. So we've had different experiences over the past eight months and then lots of varying degrees of survey skills. Yeah.

FFG S: And also when it comes to the field identification it's, if it's digital it could probably help with err one person taking photos and sharing around. Rather than just everyone stopping and taking photos and then another group has already moved on and learning something new. Whilst this group is still trying to catch up. Yeah.

FFG T: I like fieldwork as you get to practise everything that you have learned in theory. And actually see how it all fits together in real life, and all the variation that you get that that.

Interviewer: Why is that useful? Or beneficial to your learning?

FFG T: It helps it sink in that's my preferred learning format, actually doing. I'll remember something when I've done it.

FFG Q: Things aren't always the same as you see them in the classroom. Even if we have the same tree, you might see two very different leaves. So it is getting that idea of how things can look different whether that's on the other side of a country or within a site.

FFG U: I feel like I like the practical experience of what you are learning.

FFG R: It means as well we can talk to each other. Which is, because usually with taught elements you have to just listen whereas now we get to help each other with things beyond this module. Say our research or like our projects or whatever. Our wider issues with jobs and things like that.

Interviewer: I guess because you are coming from different programmes, but also really diverse backgrounds of what you have been doing. So you are able to bring lots of experience from different areas of life which might help.

FFG S: That's actually a good point because what I was saying before, when you can't have access to immediate feedback you can still discuss with your peers err about it. And sometimes that can help in coming to the right conclusion with that identification for example. Yeah that's a positive I think. So it makes you think a lot more, rather than just having information fed back to you.

FFG Q: So I am doing the course part-time.

Interviewer: Oh are you?

FFG Q: So last year it was pretty much during Covid, so I've obviously done my fieldwork modules this year.

Interviewer: Right ok.

FFG Q: To give me the best chance to get out and about. And obviously with the guys last year did some but it wasn't the full lot from the University. Erm but they missed out on a lot of the practical experience. Erm so I don't know, it would be interesting to see how they get on compared to a group who has had like a full year.

Interviewer: Yes they have had different experiences.

FFG Q: And I'm sure their theory is good but as we discussed as the real-world doesn't always go in line with what you read in the book or in the lecture.

FFG U: There's also like a social aspect to it as well I think. One thing I've noticed when we've had practical work together and being able to speak to them about not just the not just the practical work we are doing here. But all sorts of knowledge about the things you will be seeing but also wider aspects of the course like FFG R. I was speaking to you the other day and you were talking about like the UAV, and using Lidar. And I was like this is interesting and what my research is about. And yeah so it's kind of branched out not just the fieldwork that you are doing.

FFG R: I think there is welfare benefits as well, from just being with people. Outside.

Interviewer: And I guess now just thinking about err digital fieldwork and that might be virtual fieldwork. So sat on your computer during fieldwork tasks, erm that might be a gamed environment that you go onto that is simulated that you go on to look at fieldwork. Or it might be using technology in the field so mobile fieldwork. So thinking about that digital fieldwork as a whole, what do you think are some of the challenges and opportunities that that allows.

FFG Q: I think in terms of erm in the field so say you are working off a pro-forma on ArcGIS or Collector or something. It would only be as good as how it has been set up. Erm and obviously that depends on what kind of survey you want to do. It could be very targeted to NVC or be more general or protected species or something. So the first step, the thing you would be doing in the office, if that's fallen short or hasn't been tested. So you can fall down due to the stupidest of things such as the character limit and you can't type in your notes. And that can scupper the whole thing. Which would never be an issue with a paper map. One of the things I have found useful is having the GPS point of where you are and all the different layers so you know we could have put on the exclusion zones for the Ospreys on. So we know we can keep away. We wouldn't have got lost on the way to beach, as you can follow where you are going. So it would be useful to get around.

FFG T: So a live location, yeah.

FFG R: You could share everyone else's location.

Interviewer: because that would have been useful today, seeing where other groups had done their quadrats for example.

FFG R: And help us in selecting sites.

FFG S: And that could help to improve accuracy as well and limit like and limit unnecessary repeats. Unless you want to do repeats and then you can find them easily again. And the another possible

negative and positive is accessibility. Err so if you are in a educational setting for example a University. You might be able to access a digital learning, digital fieldwork programmes and apps. But if you are working for a charity or something. They might not necessarily have the funding to invest in the necessary equipment for the digital fieldwork. Err if you are a freelance, you might not be necessarily able to do this.

FFG T: It might just be my personal preference, but when I'm trying to ID stuff in the field I like to. Even when I'm learning at home. I like to have my books spread around me, so I can refer to each thing. And I don't like having to flick between tabs on my computer. I like to see everything at once. So that would be a disadvantage, I'm assuming if you had a tablet you can only look at one thing at once. And it would just be a bit difficult and awkward.

FFG R: But easier than carrying five books. It means you have boundaries of where you can research. So talking about fully virtual fieldwork, I don't think it is particularly desirable. I think people like to be immersed in it. But it does mean you are not limited to your surroundings, or your geographical region.

FFG U: So perhaps if someone isn't as physically as able as other to get out into the field then it might come in useful.

FFG T: I have done something like that, where you are basically reviewing camera footage and you just do it as a Citizen Science project.

FFG U: Yeah

FFG T: And it's really cool to know that you are contributing to a wider research thing. So that is something that is good. Makes it more accessible.

FFG U: yeah.

FFG V: I did a virtual fieldtrip on the EIA course. Where it was literally here is a video of Joh driving to Redcar beach and then panning round to see what the area was like. And it was just like that's not told me anything. Granted I come from that area so I know that beach quite well but I don't think people who don't know that area will have gleaned much from that. Apart from seeing the wind farm offshore, which was what we were studying. So did that actually benefit anyone.

FFG Q: I think it can work well though if you do it right. And maybe that might not be in a 2D watch the video. There's a, I mean it's probably a bit more specialised but there's a way you can map out an environment and then the engineers who don't want to visit the site, can put on some VR goggles and almost like walk around and view it in 3D and get like an idea and say "Oh well this is where the pipe should go."

FFG V: That would have been better than just a 2D video of just John. Well it started with him driving.

FFG Q: Or even just like being able to look around. Almost like a Google Earth type thing. Which might be a bit easier to implement.

FFG T: That would be amazing but you would have to update it quite regularly for all the different seasons.

FFG Q: I guess it depends on what it is for.

Interviewer: That thing about seasons would be interesting I think. Because when you are out on fieldwork like you very rarely get to go back somewhere so actually having, going once at a certain point the year. But then having some digital versions of the site at different points in the year might be interesting.

FFG Q: Yeah

FFG S: that could probably affect performance issues. Because like in the cold for example, battery drains quite quickly and so that's, you need to think about can you recharge. Is there a way to recharge your device, things like that.

FFG Q: Also like data security as well. I had a Samsung tablet that got nicked and it had hundreds of maps on for all our projects on. Luckily it was password protected. Obviously, some of them are quite confidential and if it got into the hands of someone it shouldn't or someone being nosey, then that would be more of an issue, than say a single map that you would take out with you. Because they have everything there potentially if they can get in.

FFG R: Did you find the tablet?

FFG Q: No, I got it wiped though. And then I was downgraded.

<Laughter>

Interviewer: You're not allowed out ever again.

<Laughter>

FFG Q: It feels like it.

FFG T: This one is going to sound quite ageist, but in my experience of working with older volunteers, they are so anti-digital stuff. So if you have older team members. Potentially it might be quite difficult to get everyone on board with using the same technology.

FFG R: I also found that I think there is a bit of a push-back in conservation with sort of adopting technology. Because it means that things like quadrat which people like because they are out in the field, and that's the enjoyable bit of the job for them. Erm that time is reduced and they have to do more office work, and so they sort of don't want things to become quicker and more efficient. Just so they can sit in a nice lovely environment.

FFG S: I suppose yeah, workflow could be improved. Because when you are quadrating for example you, it is likely that you are just going to write it down. Write the species down, and then you've got a tonne of data to put into a digital format. Whereas if you had just used digital fieldwork then it is already in that format that you choose.

FFG R: Like a short-hand.

FFG Q: Hmm

FFG S: Just thinking that you can erm you know the older participants would probably be using pen and paper. And then it gets sent to a database and then BSBI for example have to then type everything out.

Interviewer: And even thinking with that as well so the work that you were doing on site on Monday. You could have mapped those areas by walking around them with your device, and then classifying them. And then that would have been done, straight away. Shared on your GIS map. And you would

have done that out in the field. Yeah you would have reviewed it, checked it, but you wouldn't now need to do the step that you now need to do of going back and creating the GIS map. Because you would have done it in the field.

FFG S: And also like helps to some extent, limit human based errors. So for example if using the Monday exercise example. Places that we can't necessarily reach err we are just estimating the area and saying that whole thing is one type of habitat. But somehow if AI or something can be used to map out a particular region and then you can then allocate a classification.

FFG V: Even having a drone, and you could fly up over the habitat then on the camera take a picture and draw around the area.

FFG Q: I think some of the aerial footage that you could look at before may be out of date. Say for example plantation woodland could come up quickly or be felled. Or residential areas where there has been new builds. Again like if you were drawing your habitats around, based around an aerial map you would need that to be up to date. I think that is also a constraint as well, of not having a digital way of capture and doing it in the paper style. Where you are looking with your eye and OS map which might be more out of date.

FFG S: yeah

FFG T: Following on from that point it would be really helpful when I've worked as ranger often we had to go back in and say we have felled 10 square metres of ash dieback today. And that would be how we would work out how to bill our time. But it was all visual estimation. And you might estimate it differently to how I would. So it would have been really good for that. And also if you are going to do things like fence line checks and say, communication might be improved as you can say. Can you check this tree on this corner, rather than giving instructions verbally and not necessarily finding the right spot.

Interviewer: and you could all work off the same Field Maps, and it could be colour-coded. These have all been checked, but I can see this one is red, I need to go and check it.

FFG U: yeah

Interviewer: And this could work in different ways such as this is an area I need to sample.

FFG T: And exactly if you are rotationally cutting hedgerows you can see. Obviously you can probably see visually but in some instances it would be really helpful to know that they did that 100 metres last year. And so you need to work on the other side. And stuff like that it would be really really helpful.

Interviewer: So we will pause that discussion erm and I would just like you to go back to this. And based on some of the discussions of challenges and opportunities, you might have a few more reflections on additional defining characteristics for digital fieldwork. So I will just give you a minute or two, and if you do we will just go around and then add them on. And then we are going to do something with this list to jut finish off in the last five minutes or so.

<Pause for reflection>

Interviewer: So FFG T, I will start with you. IUs there anything else you want to add to the list that you have been thinking about? Or discussing about.

FFG T: I don't think so.

Interviewer: Err FFG Q?

FFG Q: Erm probably just to poach FFG T's idea of it potentially it being ageist towards. Technology can sometimes come more naturally to younger generations who have grown up with it. And if I'm, my dad is a bit different to my mum. So say if I am helping my mum with her phone or something, we know the same amount but I am able to work through it. I think we are just used to the processes. And that may happen.

Interviewer: FFG U, anything else you want to add on?

FFG U: Erm, yeah to poach off FFG Q's idea. FFG Q mentioned about the tablet that went missing. So maybe there might need to be some sort of security updates regularly erm for any hardware or software you are using. I guess also it falls under technical difficulties, probably covered in there. But support, regular support.

Interviewer: Lovely thank you. Erm FFG R?

FFG R: I mean probably just the safety benefits of if you're working with kids. I was really scraping the barrel.

Interviewer: FFG V, anything you want to add?

FFG V: Real time data access to real-time data.

Interviewer: Lovely, err right so this is your list.

All: FFG S

Interviewer: Oh sorry FFG S it's my tired brain.

FFG S: So potentially less human-error and erm but then there is also the fact that you are placing a lot of trust in the software and then and then and then the software is only as good as the programmer and so their knowledge will impact on its accuracy.

FFG T: Can I now poach FFG R's idea?

Interviewer: Oh you guys, yes you may.

FFG T: If you've got the ability for live location, it would increase safety for lone workers.

FFG U/FFG Q: Uh hmm

FFG Q: And also as a disadvantage, is that it could be quite expensive and not feasible for everyone. And also for people who may not have access to electricity or internet connection.

FFG T: It is very much a first-world provision.

FFG R: It could lead to more exploitive practices so with like the loan working so consultants like lone working as it can maximise how much you can take on client work. But yeah.

FFG Q: And exploit the resources, you know that you need to erm make the tablets work. So it's less environmentally friendly than a piece of paper.

FFG U: Uh hmm

Interviewer: So this is your list and in a moment I am going to ask you to vote for your top five priorities. But do any of these need clarification? Do you want to group any together?

FFG R: The actual technology capabilities can probably be, so it would be hardware. The technical difficulties.

Interviewer: These ones, portable, centralised, accurate. We can group those?

FFG R: So the actual function of those, and the operational things.

Interviewer: Uh hmm

FFG R: And then the actual user so the ageist one.

Interviewer: So I have grouped those, as a function. Is there anything else that needs to go within that function? Or are there any others that are similar?

FFG U: I thought FFG V explained the 24 hour access thing better than I did, so access to real-time data basically.

Interviewer: So like 24 hours and which other?

FFG V: Access to real-time data.

Interviewer: So yeah I've put 24 hours there. Yep.

FFG V: And I think you can probably group that one with access to any resources in the field.

Interviewer: yeah

FFG R: Shareable? Is shareable a word?

Interviewer: Are there any others we should be grouping? What about internet issues and technical difficulties? Did you say you wanted them?

FFG S: yeah. The easy to use, and the ageist can go to be grouped into user-experience.

Interviewer: Yep I can do that. Easy to use. So what was that? You said a fancy word?

FFG S: User-experience.

Interviewer: Ok yes. So we are going to put this in with that, that makes sense. So we are thinking of all the users there and there may be problems with age.

FFG T: I feel like work efficiency is a category that a few things might go in as well.

Interviewer: Ok

FFG T: Like efficient data collection.

Interviewer: So would we put shareable data into that efficiency. Or we have efficient data here. Oh and standardised. Shall we put them together?

FFG T: yeah I think shareable data goes with access to real time data, kind of.

Interviewer: So access to real-time data, this one. So that's shareable in there.

FFG V: So shareable and collaboration are like the same thing?

Interviewer: So where was collaboration?

FFG R: I think that shareable can be non-collaborative. I think that collaborative can be shareable. So you can share with someone random person on the other side of the word.

FFG U: Yeah

Interviewer: So you think they are two separate things?

FFG R: yeah I think so. Is standardised to do with methods of analysis or data collection?

FFG U: both

Interviewer: So you have got gather data remotely, and we've got digital at point of capture. Are they similar?

FFG R: No

Interviewer: If they are separate we can leave them as is. Do you think that is fine with our list? Any more you want to group together?

FFG T: I think digital point of capture is related to efficiency.

Interviewer: So we can group these two?

FFG T: Yeah

Interviewer: yeah ok.

FFG U: Does human error come into efficient data collection?

All: yeah

FFG V: Would that also include cloud saving? So you are immediately saving data to the cloud, making it more efficient.

FFG R: Yeah

Interviewer: Yeah so having digital at point of capture. Ok, any more or are we happy with this list. So I am just going to number, I mean letter them. And you are going to pick your top five priorities. So as I am putting them on you can have a think.

<Pause for reflection>

Interviewer: So you are thinking about your top five. You might just want to note them down on the post-it note.

FFG R: So five?

Interviewer: Yes so number 1 is your top priority.

FFG V: When you say priority?

Interviewer: So it is what you think is important when we are defining or creating digital fieldwork.

FFG V: Oh ok

<Pause for reflection>

FFG T: Does it need to be like number one is most important?

Interviewer: Yes so number 1 is your most important.

<Pause of reflection>

Interviewer: So some of these things might be positive things, and that would mean we include them, and others might be negative things and these are things we might need to consider. But they are priorities.

<Pause for reflection>

Interviewer: So your number one on your list should be the most, your biggest priority. Ok so your number one on your list gets 5 points, your number two gets 4 points, 3, 2, 1. So you can now put your number of points next to your letter.

<Pause for reflection>

Interviewer: Ok so I will just say that again. Your top priority gets 5 points, your next priority gets 4 points. And what we are going to do, is I am going to go through the list. And you are going to tell me if any of them have been given points by you, and what those points are.

FFG R: it is like Eurovision.

All: laughter

Interviewer: I know right. A slightly less glamorous version without any of the dodgy voting I hope. Eurovision was great this year.

FFG T: Wasn't it!

FFG S: It really was.

Interviewer: Right so we are going to start with interactive. Any points? No. Inclusive, any points?

FFG T: Oh dear

Interviewer: C- portable, centralised access, accurate.

FFG U: Yeah I give that top marks. So 5 pointss.

Interviewer: So 5 points from FFG U.

FFG R: I gave it a 3.

Interviewer: Light weight. Any points? Contact between facilitator and the group? This one F? All about human error, digital at point of capture.

All: 5, 4, 5, 5, 5, 4

FFG S: Oh wow.

FFG U: A popular public vote.

Interviewer: Tablets and phones? Nope. Technical difficulties?

All: 2, 3, 4, 3

Interviewer: Ok, thank you. Easy to use?

All: 1, 2, 4, 5, 2

Interviewer: Informative? Visual, audio media formats? Gather data remotely? AI/App use? Data, device/security, technical support?

FFG U: Yeah I gave that one, oh no, oh I did. 2. I gave that 2.

FFG Q: 1

Interviewer: Safety and sturdiness?

FFG S: 1

Interviewer: Access to real time data, collaboration, shareable, 24 hour access?

All: 4, 1, 3

FFG S: I just realised there is a repeat. O and R?

FFG T & FFG Q: No

FFG T: They are different safety considerations.

FFG S: Oh ok. Right ok ok. Fair enough.

Interviewer: So for access to real-time, this one. We had a 4, 1 and a 3.

FFG Q: and a 4.

Interviewer: Another 4 as well

FFG U: I just realised I have made a mistake. M I wanted to give one point.

Interviewer: That's fine, that's not a difficult mistake to rectify.

Interviewer: It is late. Q?

FFG Q: 3 points.

FFG R: 1

FFG S: 1

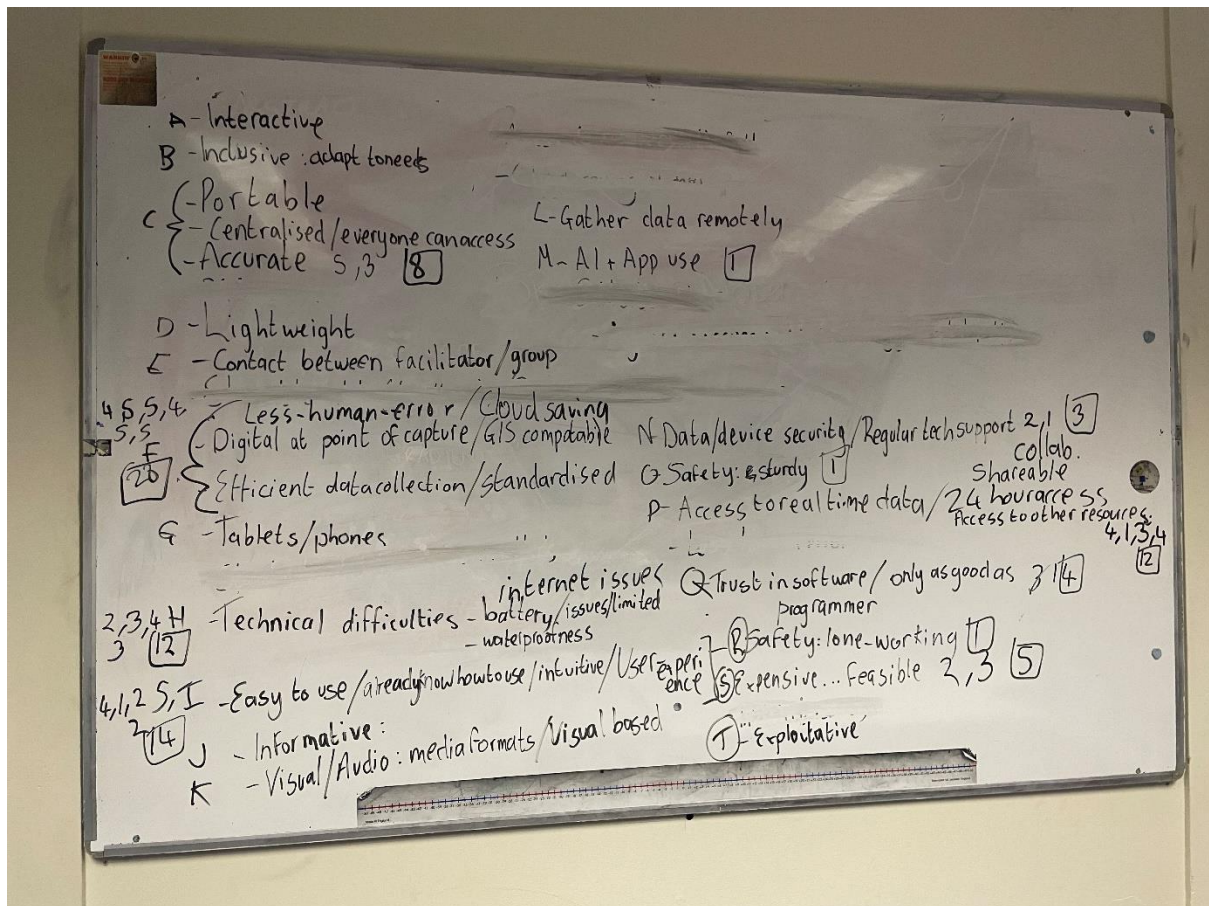
Interviewer: Oh sorry sorry. No not one, I meant safety R.

Interviewer: Anything else for safety and lone working? S, expensive

All: 2, 3

Interviewer: And exploitative, no. Right so now we have to quickly do the maths. Do get as a group your top priorities.

<Chatter whilst adding up the totals.>



Ranked Priorities	Characteristic
1	Digital at point of capture, efficient, cloud-saving, GIS component, less human error
2	Easy to use/already know how to use/ intuitive/user-experience.
3	Access to real-time data
3	Technical difficulties: internet issues/battery issues/waterproofness
5	Portable, centralised, everyone can access, accurate.

Interviewer: How do we feel about our priorities? Does anyone feel like their views weren't selected? Happy with our scoring?

FFG T: I feel bad that we didn't go for inclusivity and exploitative.

FFG R: You can tell what is on our mind when we have completed this.

Interviewer: Your experience of fieldwork today and the task that you have been doing will have influenced it. I have done this with a few other groups, and it is interesting what comes out as similar, and other things that don't get picked out.

FFG T: Please tell me, other groups also didn't select inclusivity. We're not the only bad ones.

FFG R: Is there anything unique to our one?

Interviewer: I think your reflections, because you are focused on being practitioners, I think it is quite interesting you are very much thinking jobs-based. And I think that is reflected in this stuff at digital at point of capture, less human-error, making stuff efficient. That hasn't necessarily come out in some of the undergrad ones that I have done. Erm but I imagine that would reflect the fact that you guys have worked, you've done volunteer work, you are more practical based ecologists so you have that experience. So that is interesting. No to pre-empt some of my analysis. But I think that is an interesting thing for me to be looking at.

Cool so thanks guys, so I will pause the recording.

44.06