

## Participant Information Sheet for Expert Panel Interview

**Researcher:** Janine Maddison, School of Natural and Environmental Sciences

**Title of Study:** Assessing pedagogic benefits of the virtual world to enhance fieldwork.

### Invitation and Brief Summary

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether or not you wish to take part it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read this information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part. If you do decide to take part, you will be asked to sign a consent form. However, you are free to withdraw at any time, without giving any reason and without any penalty or loss of benefits.

### What is the purpose of the research?

This research aims to define and classify digital fieldwork approaches and the role they can play in addressing pedagogic challenges within fieldwork and enhancing fieldwork provision within the Biosciences in Higher Education.

An overview of the research methodology can be seen in Figure 1.

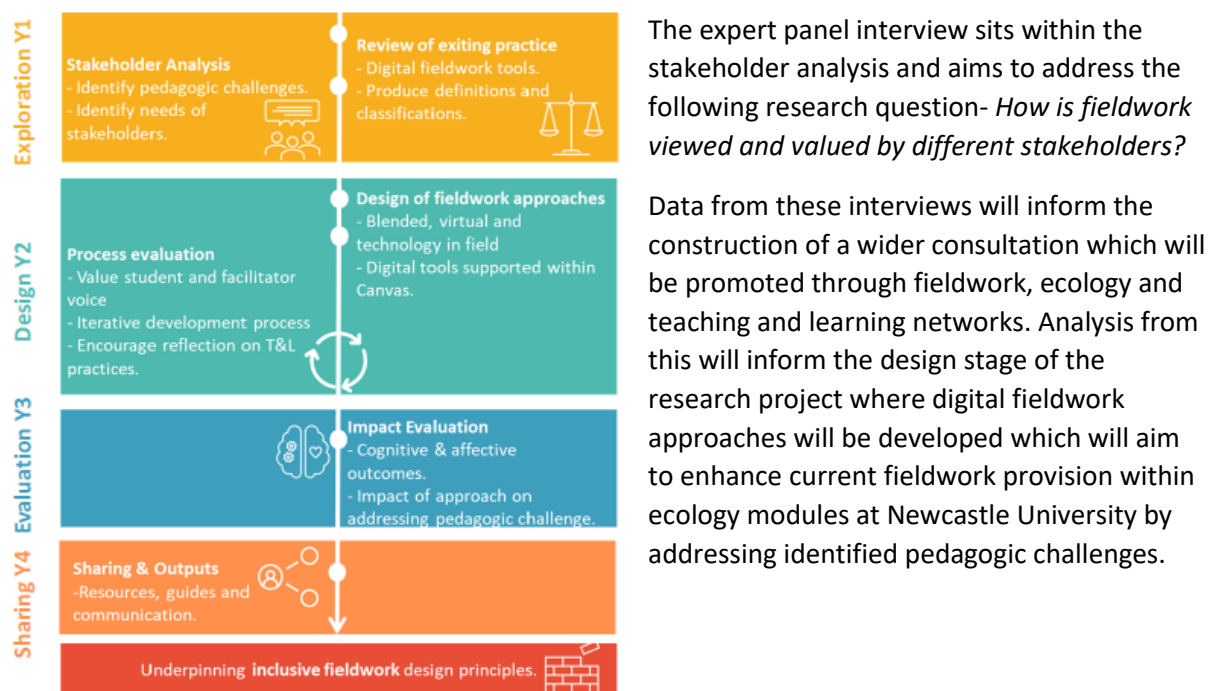


Figure 1: Four Year Overview Research Methodology

### Key themes to be discussed during semi-structured interviews

- Background and experience in fieldwork and digital fieldwork approaches.
- Purpose of fieldwork and digital fieldwork approaches.
- Challenges and opportunities of fieldwork and digital fieldwork approaches.
- Defining characteristics of digital fieldwork approaches.
- Role of digital fieldwork in enhancing existing fieldwork provision.

## **Participant Information Sheet for Expert Panel Interview**

### **What does taking part involve?**

The interviewee is invited to participate in an expert panel semi-structured interview. The interview will be conducted online using a secure Zoom meeting and will last approximately 60-90 minutes.

### **What information will be collected and who will have access to the information collected?**

Interviews will be recorded, the audio will be transcribed and the researcher will take notes.

As an expert panel interview both job roles and name of employer will be asked at interview. However post-interview other identifiers (Participant A, B etc) will be used to keep individual responses of participants confidential.

Participants will not be asked for information on sensitive information.

Data and metadata storage will follow the requirements and data protection of Newcastle University, which makes use of a secure online cloud storage with regular backups.

We will use your name and email to contact you about the research study. We will use anonymised identifiers [Participant A, B etc] when collating and analysing data collection.

Individuals at Newcastle University may look at your research data to check the accuracy of the research study. The only individuals at Newcastle University who will have access to information that identifies you will be individuals who need to contact you to query a response or audit the data collection process.

If you agree to take part in the research study, your data will become part of a dataset which can be accessed by other users running other research studies at Newcastle University and in other organisations. These organisations may be other Universities. Your information will only be used by organisations and researchers to conduct research.

If you agree to take part in the research study the data provided will be de-identified and made available as “open data” through a research data repository <https://research.ncl.ac.uk/rdm/sharing>. This means the de-identified study data will be publicly available and may be used for purposes not related to this study. It will not be possible to identify you from the “open data”.

### **Why have I been invited to take part?**

The expert panel interviews will be sought with representatives from Higher Education, Subject Associations and Industry who have recognised knowledge and experience in this area of research.

### **Who is the sponsor and data controller for this research?**

Newcastle University is the sponsor for this study based in the United Kingdom. Newcastle University will be using information from you in order to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. This means that Newcastle University is responsible for looking after your information and using it properly.

The lawful basis for carrying out this study under GDPR is Task in the Public Interest, (Article 6,1e) as research is cited as part of the University's duties.

## **Participant Information Sheet for Expert Panel Interview**

Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as Newcastle University need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw from the study, all information and data you have provided will be removed from the study.

You can find out more about how Newcastle University uses your information at <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/data.protection/> and/or by contacting the Data Protection Officer [rec-man@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:rec-man@ncl.ac.uk).

### **Who is funding this research?**

Newcastle University

### **Has this study received ethical approval?**

This study has received ethical approval from Newcastle University Ethics Committee on 21/07/2021  
Ref: 13782/2020

### **Who should I contact for further information relating to the research?**

Janine Maddison, [j.l.maddison2@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:j.l.maddison2@newcastle.ac.uk)

### **Who should I contact in order to file a complaint?**

Research Study: Sara Marsham, [sara.marsham@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:sara.marsham@newcastle.ac.uk)

If you wish to raise a complaint on how your personal data is handled, you can contact the Data Protection Officer who will investigate the matter:

Data Protection Officer (DPO): [rec-man@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:rec-man@ncl.ac.uk)

If you are not satisfied with their response you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO): <https://ico.org.uk/>