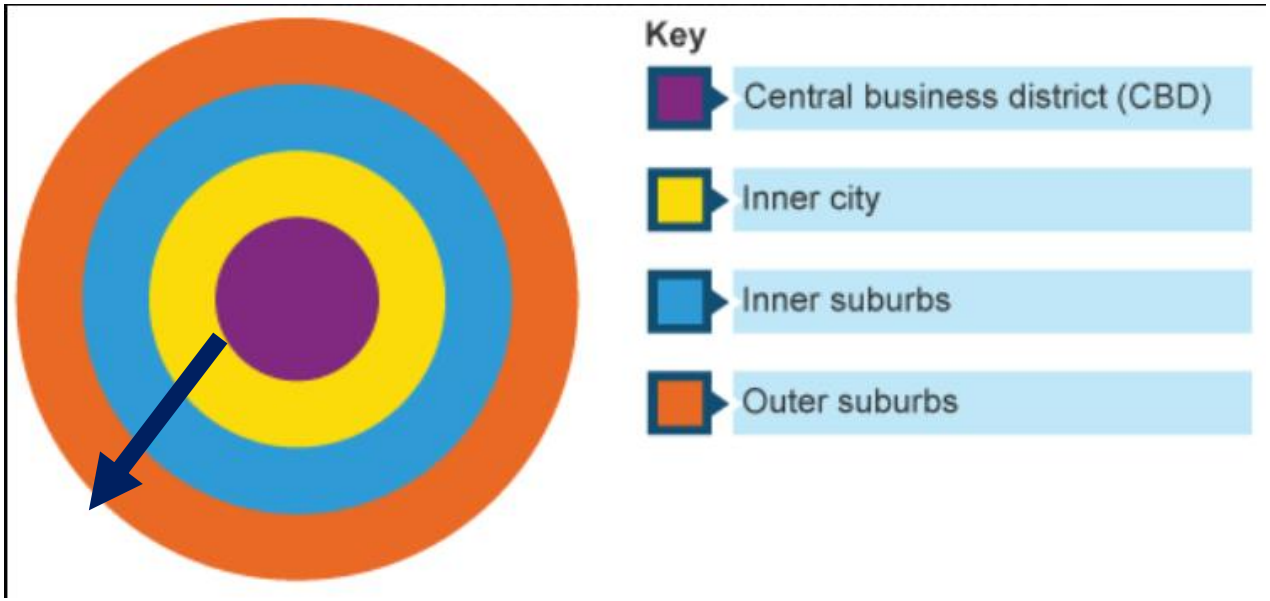
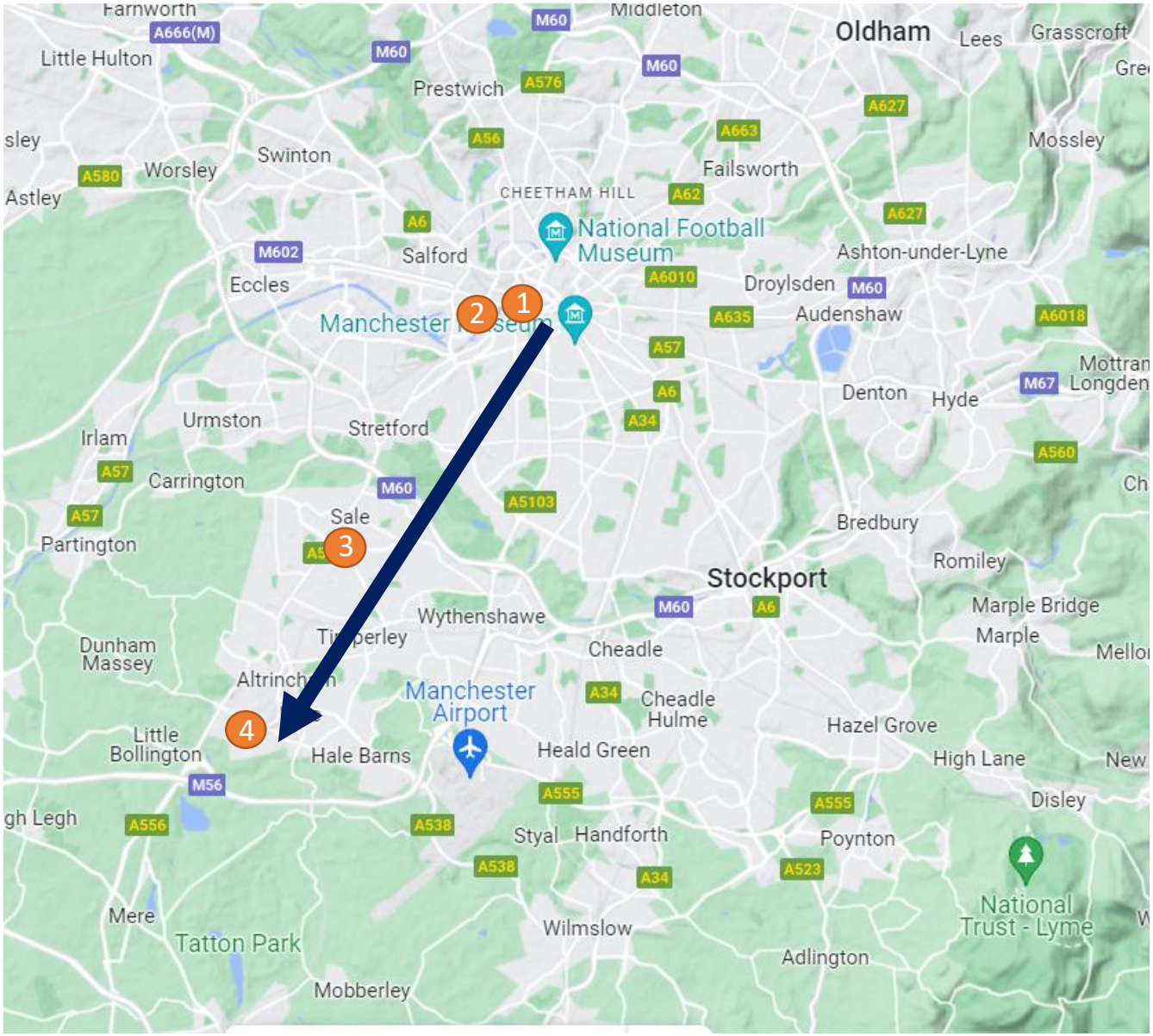
URBAN FIELDWORK

Stage in enquiry process	What we did
Stage 1 – Suitable question for geographical enquiry	**Hypothesis** "Levels of deprivation vary between areas of a city." The underpinning theory is the Burgess Model which identifies changes in land use within cities:  Also we have the context of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). The government compiles statistics on various indicators of deprivation (poverty) such as education, unemployment, poor health, housing and England is divided into 32,844 geographical units which can be mapped. We are looking into whether our primary data collection reveals the same trends as this secondary data. We conducted our primary data collection in Greater Manchester as an example of a city where there are wide variations in quality of life. It is also a city to which it is possible to travel to from our school within a day.



We selected fieldwork sites by taking a Southwesterly transect through the city. However the sites were not at equal intervals (systematic). Instead we used stratified sampling to pre-select areas that we knew had different rankings on the Index of Multiple Deprivation so that we could make comparisons.

	Risk assessment examples: Risk of being separated from the group. Control measure – stay in groups of minimum 4. Risk of traffic accidents – take care crossing roads Risk of conflict with the public – be polite and respectful
Stage 2 – Selecting, measuring and recording data appropriate to the chosen enquiry.	We adopted a stratified sampling technique to select three locations in Greater Manchester which had different IMD scores, including one which we knew had undergone regeneration. - Site 1 **Ordsall, an inner city area of Salford**, Greater Manchester. Found to the west of Manchester City Centre, this area was in the Inner City and made up of Victorian terraced housing. This area is in the most deprived decile. It is ranked 1087 out of 32844 (where 1 is the most deprived and 32844 is the least deprived) - Site 2 **Salford Quays, is a regenerated area**. It is an area of Salford, Greater Manchester, near the end of the Manchester Ship Canal. This area is in the least deprived decile despite only being a mile away from Site 1. This is the impact of regeneration. Salford Quays is ranked 30442 out of 32844. - Site 3, **Sale, a suburban area of Greater Manchester.** This area is in Decile 7 This is the suburbs in a part of Greater Manchester called Trafford. It is ranked 22478 out of 32844. - Site 4, **Bowden – a village on the rural-urban fringe.** This area is in the least deprived decile. This is the rural-urban fringe as it is near the border with Cheshire. It is one of the least deprived areas in England with a rank of 32534 out of 32844. **Evaluation** *Sites were also selected based upon their suitability to meet the requirements of the risk assessment. The Index of Multiple Deprivation was used as the indicator of quality of life. Stratified sampling was used to ensure sites provided a range of levels of deprivation within the Greater Manchester area. However, Salford Quays and Bowden had similar levels of quality of life according to the IMD. This therefore provided a limited range of contrasting levels of quality of life. Four study sites were selected to ensure optimum reliability of data within the time constraints of the fieldwork. However, with just four study sites being selected, the reliability of data could also be questioned and results may be considered to not be representative of Greater Manchester as a whole.* **<u>Primary Data</u>** **Quantitative** data is often objective and numerical in nature. **Environmental Quality Survey** puts quality of life perceptions into numerical data. Quality of the environment was assessed across four major categories: buildings, traffic, open space and general, then subdivided to include a wide range of environmental characteristics.

Personal opinion used to score environmental characteristics, a bipolar scale, +2 to –2. A total value calculated for each study site.

Environmental Quality Survey

What is being assessed? (housing, street, industry, offices etc) .....

Description of area:

	Qualities being assessed	Very High +2	High +1	Aver-age 0	Poor -1	Very Poor -2	Qualities being assessed
Buildings	Well designed / pleasing to the eye						Poorly designed / ugly
	In good condition						In poor condition
	Evidence of maintenance / improvement						Poorly maintained / no improvement
	Outside – land, gardens or open space are in good condition						Outside – no gardens, or land / open space in poor condition
	No vandalism evident						Extensive vandalism
Traffic	Roads have no traffic congestion						Streets badly congested
	Parking is easy, garages and spaces provided						Parking very difficult, no parking provision
	No traffic noise						High noise volume from traffic
	Safe for people						Dangerous for people
	No smell from traffic or other pollution						Obvious smell from traffic or other pollution
OpenSpace / gardens	Large gardens or open space outside house						No garden / open space – door opens to street
	Trees and shrubs visible from close by						No greenery visible from house
	Public parks within easy distance						No public parks easily accessible

Evaluation: *Data is opinion based and is therefore subjective. Comparing environmental quality surveys carried out by different individuals, unreliable. Each characteristic on the survey is given the same weighting as others. In reality some characteristics such as building design or evidence of vandalism may be seen as of greater significance than proximity to public transport when assessing overall environmental quality.*

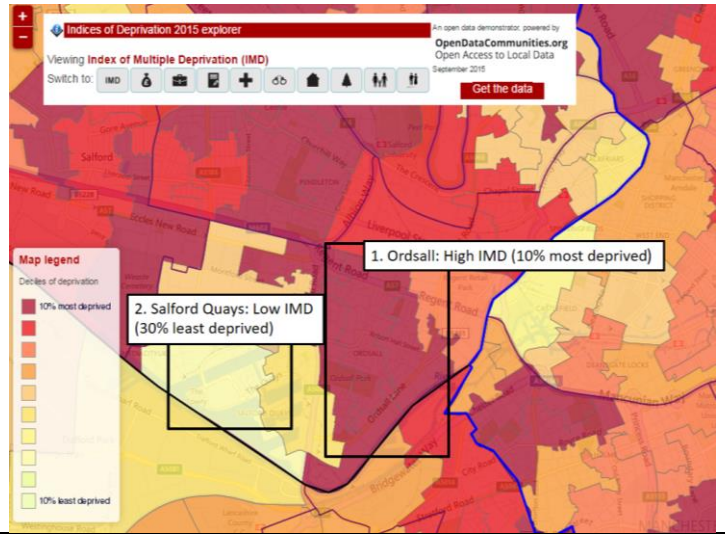
Qualitative data is often subjective/opinion based and descriptive in nature.

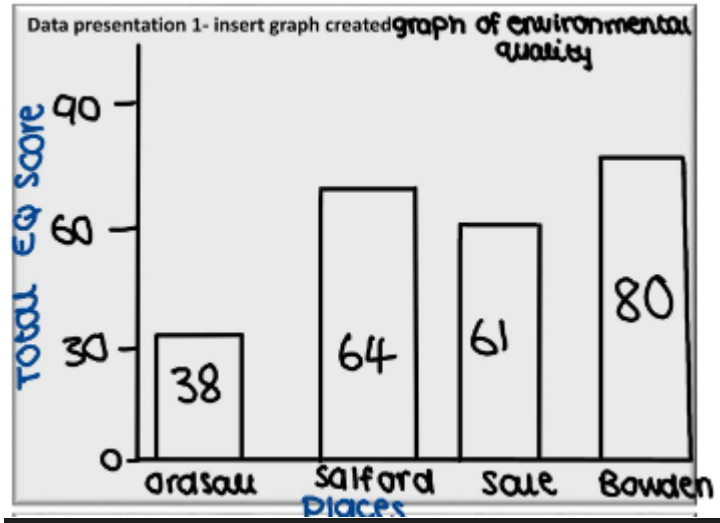
Photographic Evidence collected to support the environmental quality survey. Annotated to look for features of the environmental quality survey or features that may support or reject the secondary data.

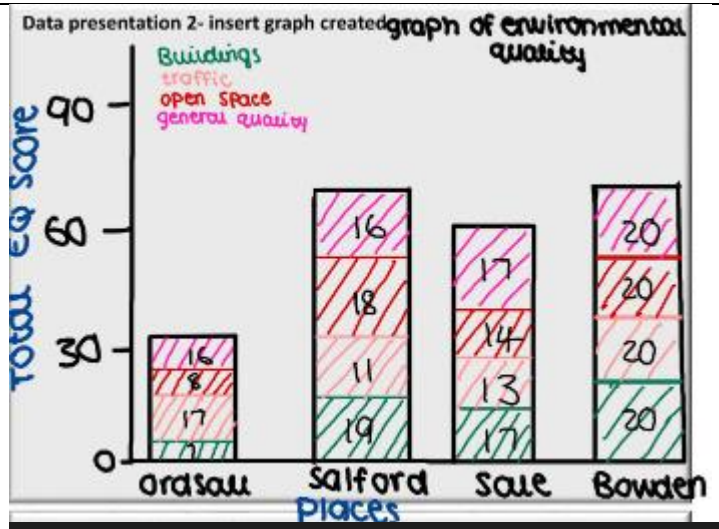
Evaluation: *choice of what to photograph subjective. Bias selecting photograph images that fit expectations. Perceptions of quality of life will vary from one individual to another. Awareness and sensitivity towards the needs and wellbeing of the local population may have restricted photography in some areas. Perceptions of quality of life (annotations) will vary from one individual to another.*

Secondary Data

Index of Multiple Deprivation: The government takes information from the census and combines different data sets to produce a score. Reliable data, government source. Combines large amounts of complex data in an easy to use format (GIS). IMD looks at factors: health, housing, crime, education etc. not just wealth.



	Evaluation: *Data is based from 2019 and may therefore be considered as outdated. IMD composite index has some categories not relevant in some sites. It is displayed using choropleth mapping – these show abrupt changes between areas when actually changes are often more gradual. There may also be variation within the ward that the choropleth map is not able to show.*
Stage 3 – Processing and presenting fieldwork data in various ways	 Bar graphs • One of the simplest methods to display discrete data • Bar graphs are useful for: ◦ Comparing classes or groups of data ◦ Changes over time **Strengths** / **Limitations** Summarises a large set of data / Requires additional information Easy to interpret and construct / Does not show causes, effects or patterns Shows trends clearly / Can only be used with discrete data



Compound or divided bar chart

- The bars are subdivided to show the information with all bars totalling 100%

High density housing – lack of green space at rear of housing – discourages more affluent people from purchasing houses in the area

Large iron gates with automatic closing – suggests problems with crime

Litter on streets – suggests a lack of pride in the area, possible anti-social behaviour

ORDSALL

Annotated Photographs

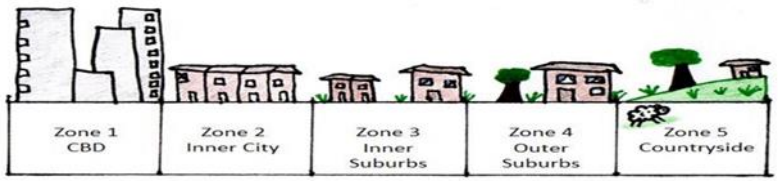
Photographs

- Photographs can be taken to show different aspects of sample sites
- These can be annotated as part of the fieldwork analysis

Strengths	Limitations
An accurate record at the time	Not all photographs are relevant
Can represent things more clearly than numerical data	Can be subjective and biased as student selects what is photographed
Can be used to show data collection techniques	Photographs sometimes contain too much information
Can be used next to historical photographs to show changes over time	They are two dimensional so judging depth is difficult
Helps recall key features	

Stage 4 and 5 – Describing, analysing and explaining fieldwork data and Reaching Conclusions.

The analysis was based on the idea that quality of life improves with distance from the city centre. This is due to the process of suburbanisation as wealthier people move out of the inner suburbs for a better quality of life When you explain, you will be expected to refer to "theories or case studies". Our main theory is taken from the Burgess Model and is that quality of life in British cities improves as one moves from the inner city to the outer suburbs.



Anomalies and/or unexpected results e.g. However some areas of the inner city have been regenerated and rebranded which makes them attractive to some, which is why the data for Salford Quays is closer to the Bowden data than the Ordsall data.

Wider geographical significance—whether your results useful to others or whether all urban areas are like this. It is important that we look at how and why quality of life varies so that we have data to support communities, councils and governments to try to improve matters.

Stage 6 – Evaluation of geographical enquiry	

Critical Evaluation of IMD Choropleth Map

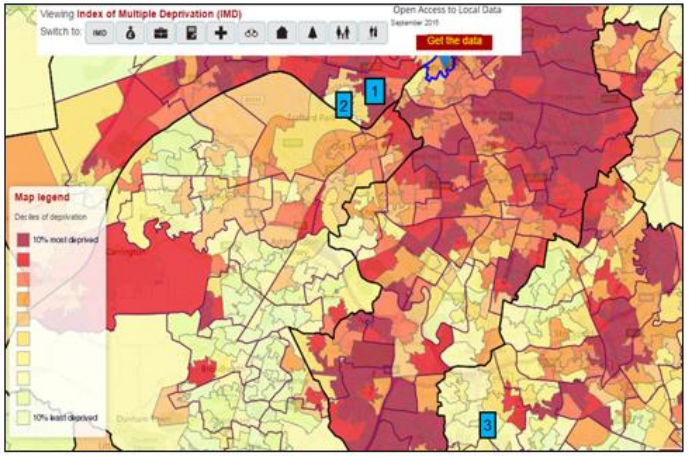
Advantage IMD
Government data – reliable source.

Advantage IMD
Combines large amounts of data in to a user-friendly format (Geographical Information System – GIS).

Disadvantage IMD
IMD is based on 2010 census data and is therefore somewhat dated (inaccurate).

Disadvantage IMD
IMD is a composite index (comprised of a number of different categories/domains) and may therefore include some which are not relevant inner city deprivation.

A **choropleth map** is a thematic map which uses shading/colour to show the **average value in a given area.**



How could the presentation of IMD data be improved?

- ❑ Data could be broken down in to smaller areas.
- ❑ Additional data such as population density, could be incorporated using GIS. This could help to identify correlations between population density and deprivation.

Advantage Choropleth Map
Clear visual presentation, easy to compare spatial changes (in deprivation).

Disadvantage Choropleth Map
Choropleth maps present an average value for a given area. Therefore any variations (in deprivation) **within** an area, such as Coronation Street and Regent Square in Ordsall, are not shown.

Disadvantage Choropleth Map
Choropleth maps use one colour for a given area. This suggests sudden changes (in deprivation) from one area to the next. In reality ,there is likely to be a more gradual transition (in deprivation) from one area, such as Ordsall to Salford Quays, to the next.

Critical Evaluation of Environmental Quality Survey

Advantage
The urban environment is broken down into a wide range of component parts (sub-categories), giving the potential for an in-depth analyse of environmental quality and deprivation.

Advantage
Converts perceptions of the quality of life of an area into numerical data that can be analysed and used to compare different wards.

Advantage
Assuming the same individual completes the survey at each of the study sites, data can be considered to have a degree of reliability.

	Quality being assessed	Good +2	OK +1	Av 0	Poor -1	Bad -2	
General	Vibrant, interesting place						Empty, boring place
	Diverse land use e.g. housing, services etc						Single land use, no diversity e.g. housing only
	Feels safe e.g. light, busy						Feels unsafe e.g. dark, quiet
	Clean and healthy e.g. fresh air, no litter						Dirty and unhealthy e.g. smelly, litter
	Good roads and pavements e.g. no potholes						Bad roads and pavements e.g. many potholes
Buildings	Well-designed						Badly designed
	In good condition						In bad condition
	Large, spacious buildings						Small, cramped buildings
	No vandalism						Badly vandalised
	Natural features nearby e.g. trees, water						No natural features nearby

Above is an extract from your primary data collection.

This is an extract from a more simplistic environmental quality survey.

boring	1	(2)	3	4	5	stimulating
ugly	(1)	2	3	4	5	attractive
crowded	1	2	3	(4)	5	peaceful
threatening	1	(2)	3	4	5	welcoming
private	1	2	3	(4)	5	public
cold/wet	1	2	(3)	4	5	warm/dry
monotonous	1	(2)	3	4	5	varied
obvious	1	(2)	3	4	5	mysterious
drab	1	(2)	3	4	5	colourful
weak	1	2	(3)	4	5	strong
confining	1	2	(3)	4	5	spacious
lonely	1	2	3	(4)	5	sociable
modern	1	(2)	3	4	5	historic

How was this extract altered to improve the Environmental Quality Survey that you carried out?

- ❑ There is a qualitative key alongside each numerical score, example: 'Good' +2
- ❑ Detailed descriptions of each factor/category
- ❑ Increased number of factors/categories assessed

How could your survey be improved further?

- ❑ Increase scale e.g. 1-10 (rather than +2 to-2).
- ❑ Remove 0 as a midpoint

Disadvantage
Data is opinion based and is therefore subjective. Comparing environmental quality surveys carried out by different individuals would therefore be unreliable.

Disadvantage
Some environmental characteristics which may be prominent in some locations may not be included on the survey and are therefore discounted when assessing environmental quality. For example: private gardens were not included on the survey yet these are linked to quality of life/deprivation.

Disadvantage
Each characteristic on the survey is given the same weighting as others. In reality some characteristics may be of greater significance when assessing overall environmental quality and therefore results may be unreliable.