



Online NEA fieldwork skills course.

Ethical considerations in fieldwork.

When planning the NEA geography fieldwork independent investigation, all students should consider the ethics of their fieldwork research methods and how they will use and store their data.

This is a core part of all good research practice and marks are awarded for these considerations in planning and undertaking the fieldwork.

The main principles of ethical research are

- 1) Use the fieldwork techniques that are minimally invasive and damaging to the environment, such as only collecting a small number of samples - ideally "leave no trace"!
- 2) Always check on the access arrangements for any field study sites and arrange permission if required.
- 3) Work on the principle of informed consent for any interviews / questionnaires etc Make sure the participants understand the purpose of the research, what will happen to the data and that they are free to withdraw from the research at any time.
- 4) Consider whether the data will be made anonymous - it is usual practice to do so unless there are very specific reasons not to.
- 5) Consider obtaining permission for taking and using photographs, especially of busy urban areas such as street markets, shopping centres etc.
- 6) Obtain advice from your school or college with regard to keeping data in line with the latest GDPR guidelines.

This link takes you to a very good web page written by a field studies centre in Spain that discussed ethical fieldwork practices in more detail.

<https://geographyfieldwork.com/Ethical-Considerations-Geography-Fieldwork.html>