Bristol Fieldwork

Stage 1 - Setting up the enquiry

Hypothesis: Evaluate how and why the quality of life varies in Bristol between the Floating Harbour area and Bedminster.
Sub-questions:
1. What is the quality of life like in Bedminster?

2. What is the quality of life like in the Floating Harbour area of Bristol?

3. What are the reasons for the variations in the quality of life?

Two wards next to each other were chosen for the investigation. The wards are on the western side of Bristol. Floating Harbour is north of the River Avon and Bedminster to the south

Stage 2 - Primary data collection
Primary data is collected by the student using methods such as surveys, interviews, or experiments.
Primary data collected in Bristol:
1. Environmental Bipolar survey
2. Perceptions survey
3. Photos

Stage 3 - Secondary data collection
Secondary data is collected by someone else. It includes books, maps, census data.
Secondary data collected in Bristol:
1. 2011 Census data – from the Office of national statistics (ONS) from Datashine website

Stage 4 – presenting data - justification of presentation techniques
**Annotated photos** were used as it is the best way to show characteristics of the different areas. It gives a clear visual picture of the area for people unfamiliar with the sites.

Stage 4 – presenting data – annotated photos

1. Deindustrialisation has led to derelict, abandoned factories which are often vandalised. These lower the environmental quality of the area
2. A declining high street with several empty shops and high interest loan companies show evidence of the poor socio-economic nature of Bedminster
3. In the 1960s council owned high rise flats replaced terrace housing in an attempt to improve the quality of the accommodation and open space. These are now unpopular with many residents
4. High numbers of ethnic shops show high levels of immigration into Bedminster

Bedminster

1. The harbour provides an area for recreation and pleasant views
2. Old warehouses and new properties planned to fit in with the existing architecture are attractive to high income earners
3. Some of the old dock cranes and buildings have been kept to improve the visual appeal of the area (heritage architecture). This makes it a pleasant area for both living and recreation. Several art galleries, cafes and restaurants have been attracted to the area.

Floating Harbour

edexcel
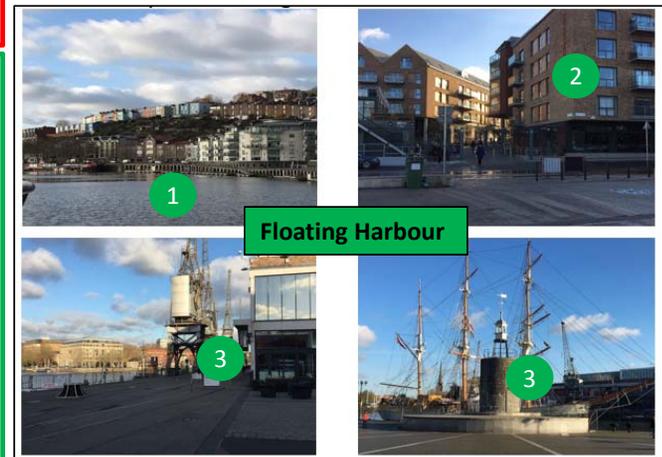
Bristol Fieldwork

Stage 4 - presenting data – environmental quality scores

Scores positively	+5	+3	+1	0	-1	-3	-5	Scores negatively
Cycling to encouraged		2				1		Cycling discouraged
Walking encouraged (e.g. wide pavements)		2		1				Walking made difficult
Lots of open or green spaces	2				1			No green open spaces
Lots of trees / planting			2		1			No trees
Good quality housing		2		1				Poor quality housing
Well maintained buildings		2		1				Poorly maintained buildings
No derelict buildings		2			1			Many derelict buildings
No litter			2		1			Lots of litter
No evidence of homelessness	2			1				Evidence of homelessness
A good range of jobs available			2	1				Limited range of jobs available
A good range of shops and services			2	1				Few shops and services
No traffic congestion			2	1				Congested

🔴 1 Bedminster

🟢 2 Floating Harbour 2

Bedminster total = -19

Floating Harbour total = + 35

Key:
- 🔴 -26 - -50
- 🟠 -1 - -25
- 🟢 0 - 25
- 🟢 26- 50
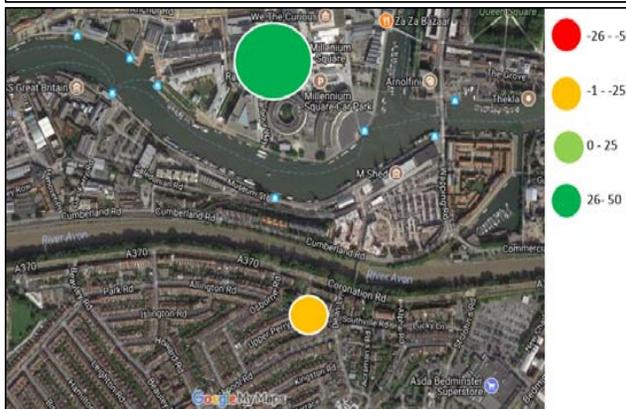
Stage 4 – presenting data - justification of presentation techniques
A bipolar graph of the EQS scores combined with a proportional overlay on a GIS map give a strong visual impression of the differences but also allow the individual scores to be seen

Stage 4 - presenting data – perception survey

Bedminster

Floating Harbour

Stage 4 – presenting data - justification of presentation techniques
A Wordle shows the most common words used to describe the areas and shows the most common words as larger. This gives a clear visual impression of the differences

Stage 4 – presenting data – secondary data (www.datashine)	Floating Harbour	Bedminster
Immigrant population (Not born within the UK)	11%	25%
Long term health problem	3%	6%
2+ A levels	51%	37%
Employment – Professional (highest paid category)	36%	27%

Stage 4 – presenting data - justification of presentation techniques
A table of the secondary datashine results allows easy comparison of the differences between Bedminster & Floating Harbour

Stage 5. Analysis and conclusion
What is the quality of life like in Bedminster and why?
Economically Bedminster is a deprived area. It has experienced deindustrialisation as a result of the closure of Bristol docks. Evidence from the photos shows that the High Street is characterised by vacant properties, charity shops and Cash/Loan shops that indicate the low incomes of the area and the economic decline of Bedminster.
The terrace houses and high rise flats in Bristol can lead to some *social* problems. The terrace houses have attracted a higher level of migrants and low income workers because the house prices are low.

The perception survey shows the area is viewed as unattractive, vandalised and high levels of crime. This is backed up by the secondary ONS data which shows lower levels of educational qualification than other areas of Bristol Overall Bedminster can be considered an area of social deprivation
Environmental quality in Bedminster is low. The deindustrialisation has left behind abandoned factories which have become vandalised and the terraced streets lack greenspace and modern amenities. The bipolar score of -19 shows the low quality of the environment. Bedminster has a poorer environment than some other areas of Bristol

What is the quality of life like in the Floating Harbour area of Bristol and why?
Economically The Floating Harbour is a successful area. It has experienced gentrification as the docks have been regenerated. Evidence from the photos shows that the area is characterised by many TNCs (eg Lloyds bank) and leisure outlets which show how successful the regeneration has been
The new apartments and converted warehouses show little evidence of social problems. The apartments have attracted a higher level of wealthy workers because of the attractive environment and closeness of high quality services eg cafes and bars. The perception survey shows the area is viewed as rich, safe and friendly. This is backed up by the secondary ONS data which shows higher levels of educational qualification and a healthier population than other areas of Bristol.
Environmental quality in the Floating Harbour is high because the area has been gentrified. There has been high levels of investment in improving both the built environment and the open-spaces along the harbour side. The bipolar scores show a score of +35 (Bedminster was -19) with particularly high scores (+2) in the categories for encouraging cyclists & walkers, cleanliness and the range of shops & services. Floating Harbour has become one of the most attractive areas of Bristol

Stage 6 – Evaluation
The primary fieldwork results were weakened by the fact that only one day in November was used as a sample.
The EQS scores and perception survey were based on the views of Y11 students and therefore not reflective of the full population of Bristol.
The data could be improved by multiple visits and asking a range of people who live in Bristol their views
The secondary data was reliable as it is from the Government but is based on the 2011 census and therefore 8 years out of date