

Investigation Title(s):

Various urban studies in Bath. These might include:

Flood management and riverside improvement works along the course of the River Avon, urban regeneration and rebranding (Western Riverside, the South and North Quays Redevelopment, Southgate Shopping Centre), traffic and congestion management and air quality, the impact or sphere of influence of tourism in a city, how retail patterns are changing (the death of the High Street) plus many more.....

Location:

Bath city centre

Target Audience:

GCSE (but could be adapted for KS3 and NEA)

Logistics (access, parking, toilets etc):

Hints and tips for successful fieldwork in Bath

Bath is a compact, friendly, bustling and beautiful city with ample opportunities for geographical fieldwork and data collection. But what about the practicalities of bringing large groups of students into the city? Having taught Geography and lived in Bath for almost 20 years and as a mum to three school-aged children, this is a list of hints and tips to ensure that your fieldwork runs as smoothly and hassle-free as possible.

Traffic: Unfortunately, traffic and congestion are a fact of life in Bath, worse at certain times of the year - for example when the Christmas market is on (usually from the end of November to mid- December). Ensure you allow plenty of time for your journey into Bath and have a chat with your coach company about where the safest and easiest place will be to drop off and collect your group.

Toilets!: There are public (free toilets) in Southgate Shopping area, by Riverside Coach Park and located on the first floor of the Podium Building by Bath library/ Waitrose Café. Please see:

https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sitedocuments/Tourism-and-Heritage/Toilets/public_toilets_map.pdf

Eating: If the sun is shining there are lots of areas to sit and eat. The area of the Royal Victoria Park in front of the Royal Crescent and around the bandstand often has groups of students. The second part of Victoria Park (across Marlborough Buildings) has loads of space to run around, some picnic benches and is generally quieter. You can take students into Parade gardens. There is a small charge (£1 for children) but this area is enclosed and safe with no access for dogs. But what to do when it inevitably rains? There is a small covered area in front of the Royal Crescent (close to the Pavillion building)- it looks like a wooden bus shelter! Some Museums offer lunch rooms for your fieldtrip (for example the Holburne Musuem). The Loggia and Temple of Minerva in Sydney Gardens are also covered and obviously there are numerous cafés if your students want to spend their money.

Logistics (access, parking, toilets etc):

(cont.)

Health and safety and risk assessments: Bath is generally a safe city and I would feel happy letting older students wander around in small groups. However, as with any city there can be low-level crime; for example, pickpocketing around the main tourist sites has been reported. Any fieldwork conducted close to the River Avon must be carefully planned and monitored. It is a dangerous river. The main shopping streets are pedestrianised but there is still a great deal of traffic moving around the city centre.

Permissions: If your students are collecting data such as questionnaires, some areas they will need permission. Southgate Shopping Centre for example, is jointly owned by Aviva and British Land. Check you have permission to have a large group and conduct fieldwork in an area before your visit.

Behaviour: Advise your students to be respectful and to avoid large groups going into small shops at the same time. I hate the assumption some business owners have; that large groups of students are going to shoplift but the students also have a role to play in being respectful and conscious of their surroundings.

Coffee!: My favourites at the moment are the Colombian Company, Society Café and Mus. Coffee Number 1 is located at Western Riverside (south bank of the River Avon). There are all the usual chains.

References:

Visit Bath <https://visitbath.co.uk/>

Reviewer:

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