

2a) Questionnaires and interviews could be carried out.
This would involve asking tourists questions about whether or not they use the designated footpaths, as well as about transport

methods to assess if there is any increase in possible pollution levels. Random sampling could be used in this instance, as it is an unbiased method and allows an equal chance of selection for every person. However, it is time consuming and could be unrepresentative. Systematic sampling could also be used to ask every 5th or 10th person questions - this is quicker, but more biased.

pH probes could test the acidity of the soil around footpaths and further away, to see if there is any difference due to trampling.

pedestrian counts could also be used at several points along the path. This could assess if the numbers using the paths match the number visiting the area. Stratified sampling would allow only the points of interest to be sampled, although this could mean important data is missed out. The number of people straying from footpaths could also be counted.

Decibel metres could assess noise pollution close to and further from footpaths to assess if this is affecting wildlife in the area.

Quadrats could be used to check vegetation cover in the area. Using a guide to check the species will allow information to be gathered about rare species -

if tourists are keeping to the footpaths, ~~less resistant~~ plants less resistant to trampling should be more common. Each technique should be carried out several times to reduce bias and ensure reliability. Point counts of bird species could assess whether populations have declined.

b) The temperature of the soil and air could be measured in several areas. This would involve probing the soil with a temperature probe, and using a ~~temp~~ thermometer to assess the air temperature. Sampling could be stratified, where it is only carried out in certain areas. For example, several sites with no plant cover could be sampled along with areas with medium and high densities of vegetation. Areas with different plant species could also be tested. Although this method could be biased, it allows points of interest to be focused on. Additionally, many repetitions would ensure reliability. At least 30 samples should be taken, although over 50 is preferable. pH probes could also test the quality and acidity of the soil, and hygrometers could detect how moisture levels are affected by the micro-climate.

b)ii) The wildlife could affect plant cover across the reserve. For example, grazing species and herbivores

will select specific plants to eat, therefore they can reduce the population of certain species in some areas. In addition, there will be fewer grazing-tolerant ^{plant} species in these areas.

Soil acidity and type can affect the type of vegetation growing there. Plants have a ~~preferred~~ ^{preferred} pH range and will not grow at extremes of pH. In addition, some soils are more fertile than others - deciduous trees will grow on brown earth soil, whereas only marsh plants and grasses can survive on a peat soil.

The relief of the land will affect which plants can survive in the area, although most of the land in the reserve is low and flat.

Surrounding the pools of water will be marsh plants and aquatic species (for example at Q2S175).

The overall climate of the area will affect what vegetation can survive there. At Rye Bay, there are some oak trees, but there are mainly bog plants, fern and heath. This is due to the amount of rainfall in the area and the warm temperature.

Humans may also influence the species in the area. Rarer plants would be more common further from footpaths, as there is less human activity, and they may be trampled and destroyed less. Seeds from garden plants from nearby houses at Rye Harbour may also cause different species to be found in that area.