



Core units: Exemplar – Year 7

Illustration 5: Assessing the liveability of places

Assessing the quality of the constructed environment survey: Activity sheet

In this fieldwork-based activity students are involved in assessing the quality of the constructed or built environment of their neighbourhood or town. The quality of such environments is an important aspect of liveability.

In any street you would normally expect to find a mix of well-maintained and poorly maintained structures including residential, commercial and public structures.

Activity 1

Students, working in groups, are assigned to a specific street. They observe and record the state of the structures that line the street using the following numerical scale and one or more copies of *Quality of the constructed environment survey: Observation record sheet*. Students are encouraged to take digital images of the structures for later use. They can rate their assessments using this positive-to-negative numerical scale:

Numerical score	Descriptor
+3	Maintained to a high standard
+2	Maintained to an acceptable standard
+1	Reasonably well maintained
0	Neutral
-1	Evidence of neglect
-2	Poorly maintained
-3	Derelict/abandoned

Activity 2

Reflecting more generally on the neighbourhood in which Activity 1 was conducted, students are asked to complete the *Neighbourhood assessment: Observation record sheet*. Students take each of the criteria in turn and record their observations. The focus is on the physical state of the selected neighbourhood, and the extent to which it provides a safe, attractive place in which to live. This activity can be completed individually or in groups.

During this fieldwork activity, encourage students to take photographs of buildings, streetscapes and the infrastructure typical of the neighbourhood. The images should show the extremes and average conditions of properties. Also have them take images of the elements of the constructed environments that illustrate the criteria listed in *Neighbourhood assessment: Observation record sheet*.

Activity 3

After completing their fieldwork activities 1 and 2, ask students to analyse the data collected in order to make a judgment about the livability of the neighbourhood based on an assessment of the constructed environment.

The findings of this analysis could be presented as a Fieldwork Report incorporating the following sections:

- Aims
- Methodology
- Data collection and processing
- Findings
- Discussion

The images collected in the field could be used to illustrate the report.

Post-fieldwork: Activity 4

Repeat the assessment of neighbourhood liveability using the *Neighbourhood liveability survey* pro forma. Have the students' assessment of the neighbourhood's liveability changed as a result of their fieldwork experience? Why might this be so?