

Q Method: an engagement tool?

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17th December 2018

Public engagement is frequently used to collect public input on policy decisions.

Members of the public may not have the expertise to contribute or comment on technical issues but are more than qualified to reflect on the values underlying public policy decisions.

Information collected from members of the public can then be presented to policymakers, who can work to address these issues, or at least reflect on them.

In other words, public engagement has the potential of bringing a new perspective to the policymaking table.

What did we want to find out?

How do those living in former metal mining landscapes value them in terms of aesthetic appearance, role in preserving cultural heritage, nature conservation and tourism?

Local residents: what do you think about your local mining heritage? What are your priorities?



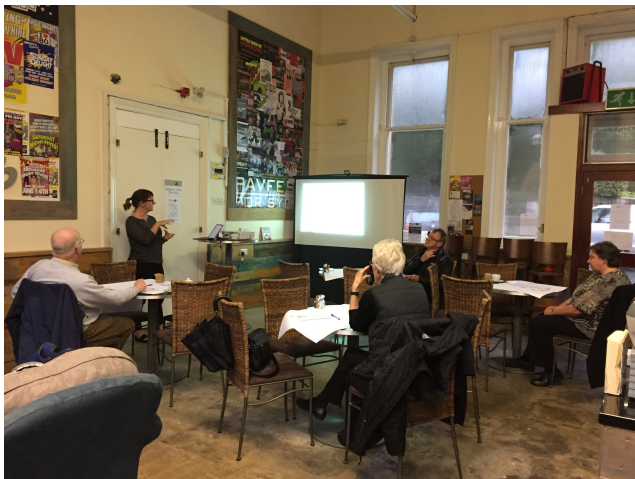
Credit: Rich Crane



Credit: D. Sinnett

What did we do?

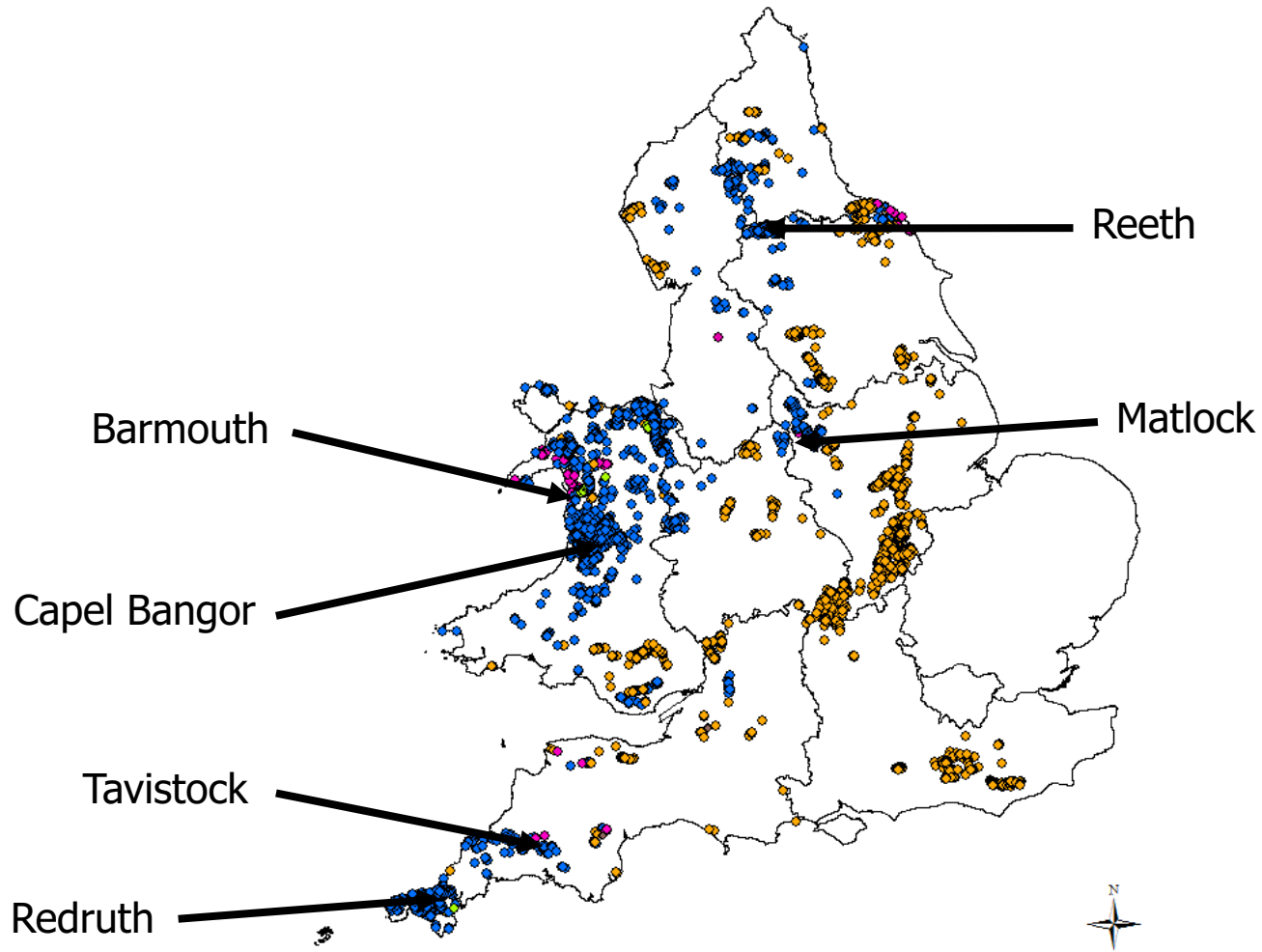
- Six workshops with 38 local residents from across the communities with mining heritage
- Randomly sampled 100-200 residents from within 5 km of the town
- Invitations posted out with a reply slip



**Share your
views about the
mining heritage
in your area**

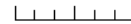
Invitation to a workshop on
Thursday 28th September





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Boundary data from UK Data Service <http://census.edina.ac.uk>.

0 20 40 80 Kilometers

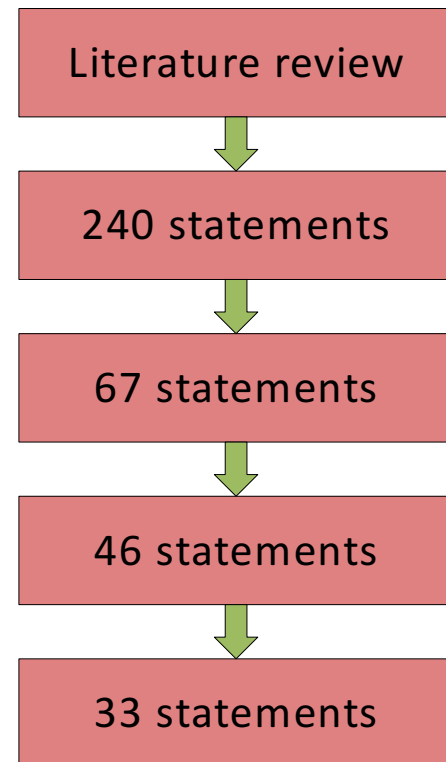


What is the Q Method?

- Systematic study of participant viewpoints
- Used to investigate the perspectives of participants who represent different stances on an issue.
- Participants rank and sort a series of statements based on the degree to which the statement represents their perspective.

Q Method: what did we do?

- Statements covering a range of views and opinions on the mining legacy and its management
- Statements derived from academic and policy literature, and local press
- Participants asked to rank statement
- Short questionnaire about their choices



Example statements

The conservation of nature on mine wastes should not compromise water quality.

Mine wastes should be reworked to extract more metals from the waste.

Mine wastes always have a negative impact on the landscape.

Those responsible for the future of mine wastes should prioritise the conservation of the cultural heritage.

Mine wastes should be left as they are, as authentic physical environments conveying a sense of place.

Reworking the mines or their wastes will bring jobs which will be good for the community

Further exploitation of the mine wastes should be avoided to preserve the character and unique quality of the area.

Q sort grid

Children should go to school

← Least like how I think

Most like how I think →

-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX
Abandoned mines are pink and yellow	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX
	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	
		XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	Children should go to school		
			XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX			
			XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX			
				XXXXX				

Evaluation

- Online survey: evaluate the thoughts and views of participants
- Short and quick to complete (encourage participation); mostly closed questions with a list of options.
- Four sections: the method, the statements, demographics and any further comments.

INSPIRE Q-sort method
Skip

INSPIRE Q-sort method

20% complete

Page 2: Section A: About the method

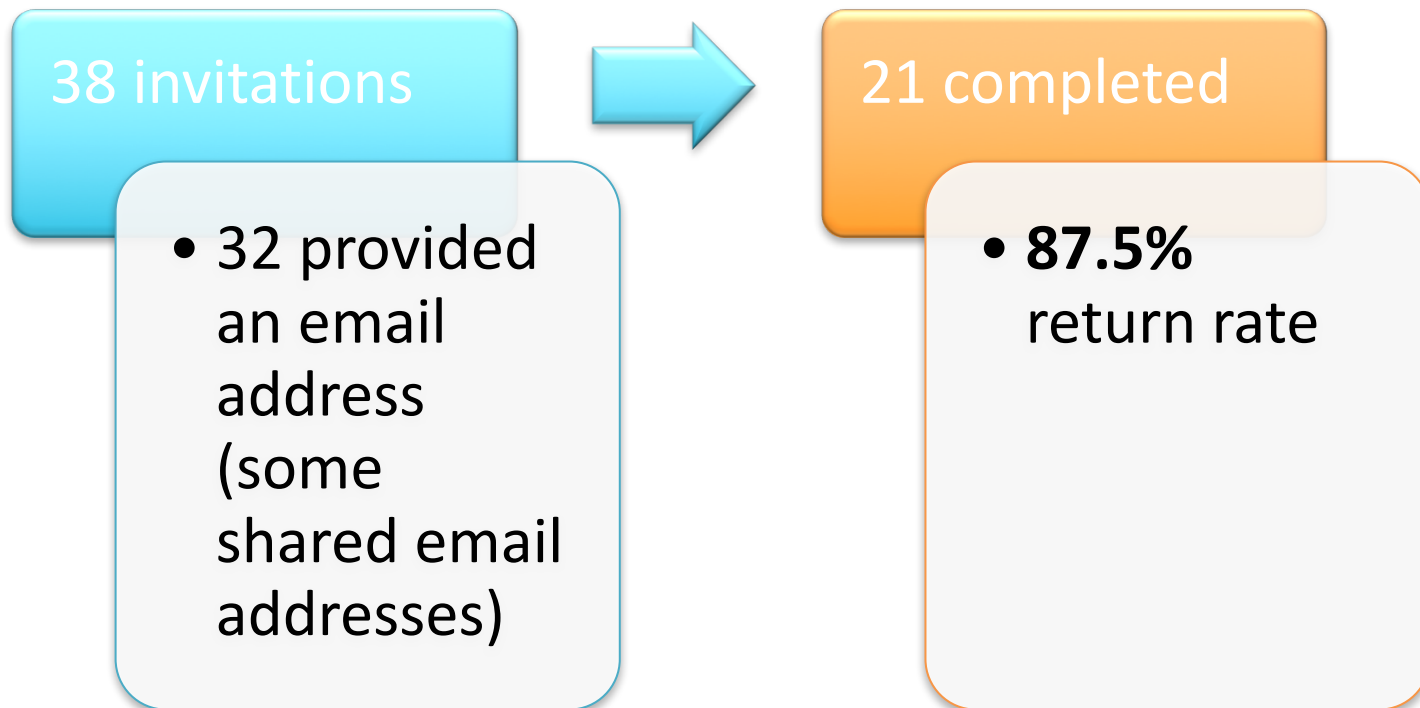
During the Mining Heritage workshop you were asked to rank statements, using the Q-sort method. We would like you to reflect on your experience with this method. There is no right or wrong answer, please be as honest as possible.

1. Was this your first experience of the Q-sort method? * *Required*

Yes
 No

a. If no, please give details about when you used the method and in which circumstances.

Sample

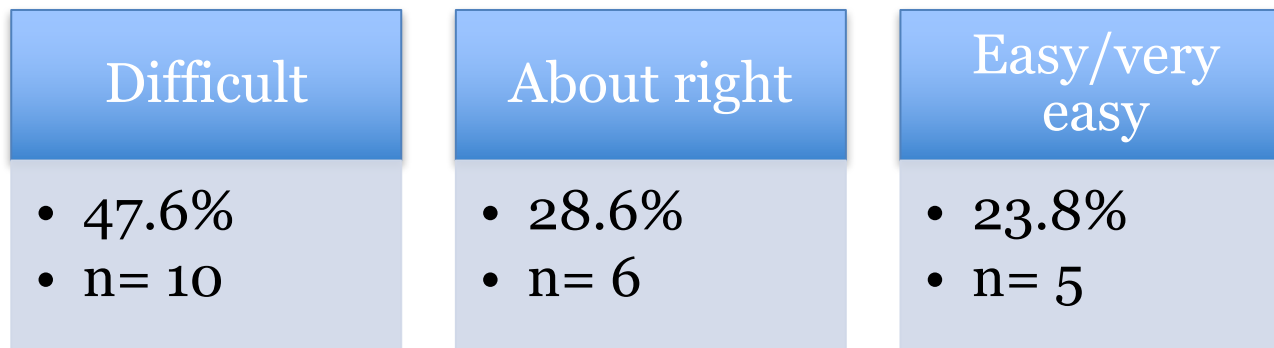


What did we find?

90%

Did not have any previous
experience with the Q Method

How did they find it?



What did they think of it?

It really makes you think.

Found it interesting, thought-provoking and challenging.

The Q-sort method seemed quite effective, it's certainly thought-provoking!

Welsh

- Importance of adapting to a particular audience and be aware of details such as different languages

Great to have them in Welsh - which I used throughout.

- Even participants that decided not to do the activity in Welsh were pleasantly surprised by having the two languages available.

Strengths

- **My opinion is important:** the Q method made the participants feel that their opinion was being sought and valued
- Allowed residents to express **their views** on mining heritage in the context of their lives.
- Method was a good way for them to express their **opinions, concerns and priorities** regarding local mining heritage.

Weaknesses

- Time consuming (researchers + participants)
- Demanding

Worth it!

It was an interesting exercise in decision-making.

Next steps

Information Sheet
Designed for use in research in future evaluation from waste reclamation

Introduction
 This sheet is prepared to assist in the identification of key issues for consideration in the future. It is intended to be used as a starting point for discussion and to provide a framework for the development of a research plan. It is not intended to be a definitive list of issues and should be used in conjunction with other research tools and methods.

Research Objectives
 The primary objective of this research is to identify the key issues for consideration in the future. This will involve a range of activities, including literature review, stakeholder consultation, and fieldwork. The research will also aim to identify the key stakeholders and their interests in the research.

Methodology
 The research will be conducted using a range of methods, including literature review, stakeholder consultation, and fieldwork. The research will also aim to identify the key stakeholders and their interests in the research.

Expected Outcomes
 The research is expected to produce a range of outputs, including a research plan, a list of key issues, and a list of stakeholders. The research will also aim to identify the key stakeholders and their interests in the research.

References
 UWE Bristol
 University of the West of England
 Bristol, UK
 www.uwe.ac.uk

Least like how I think Most like how I think

30. The public should not be responsible for funding the management of abandoned mines.	6. Mine wastes always have a negative impact on the landscape.	22. The mining heritage does not generate significant economic benefits.	2. Mineral extraction is acceptable compared with her land uses.	28. To achieve a successful restoration the mine waste has to be remediated and the greenery re-established.	2. Reworking the mines or their wastes will bring an influx of new people which will be good for the community.	4. The conservation of nature on mine wastes should not compromise water quality.	8. Planting vegetation on mine wastes would improve their aesthetic appearance.		
5. Further exploitation of the mine wastes should be avoided to preserve the character and unique quality of the area.	25. Community support for development of mining landscapes for heritage-led tourism should not be taken for granted.	3. The absence of greenery in large areas increases the negative impact of mine waste on the landscape.	Interventions on mine wastes such as levelling off and planting fast growing greenery should be avoided as they are not good for nature conservation.		26. Prioritising nature conservation is a barrier that can strangle economic development.	13. Reworking the mines or their wastes will bring jobs which will be good for the community.	7. Mine wastes should be protected for the important contribution they make to nature conservation.	29. The mining industry should take care of abandoned mines.	
31. Mine wastes should be left as they are, as authentic physical environments conveying a sense of place.	27. It is essential that mine wastes that are important for the cultural heritage of this area are not destroyed.	21. Those responsible for the future of mine wastes should prioritise nature conservation.	1. Mine wastes should be reworked to extract more metals from the waste.	20. On site processing of the mine waste to remove metals should be combined with planting greenery on the site.	11. Those responsible for the future of mine wastes should prioritise recreational opportunities.	14. Those responsible for the future of mine wastes should prioritise the conservation of the cultural heritage.	15. Those responsible for the future of mine wastes should prioritise cleaning up pollution.	33. The future of post-mining landscapes should be shaped by experts.	
		23. Heritage-led tourism has resulted in the loss of the local identity.		16. It is essential that mine wastes that are important for nature conservation are not destroyed.	17. The remnants of the former metal mining industry are an important part of the culture, history and identity of this area.	18. The creation of mining attractions has increased community pride in local history.	19. The conservation of heritage features on mine wastes should not compromise water quality.		
				10. The development of greenery on mine wastes should be left to natural processes.		24. Plants that are native to this area are the best option for the greening of mine wastes.	32. The preference of the people living locally should be a significant part of the process for deciding the future of the post-mining landscape.		

Thank you.