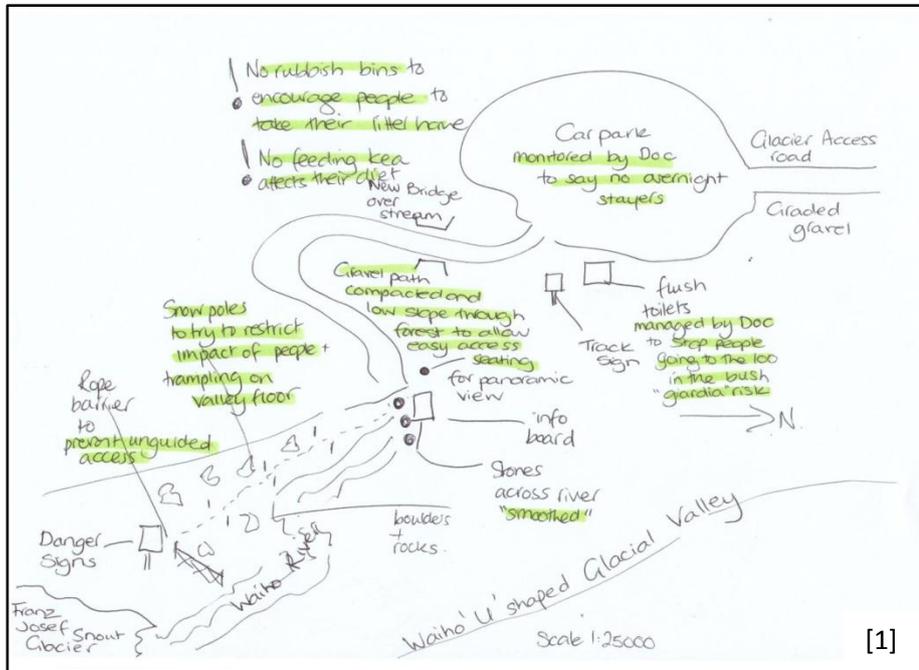


Student 2 - High Merit

Aim: To identify and assess the impact of people on the main access route to the Franz Josef Glacier?

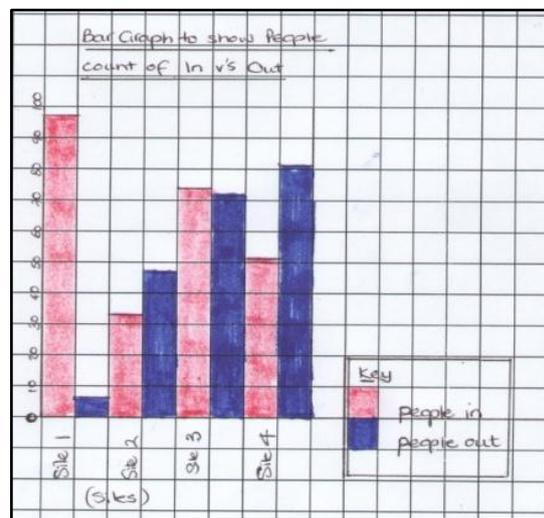
Presenting data and describing findings

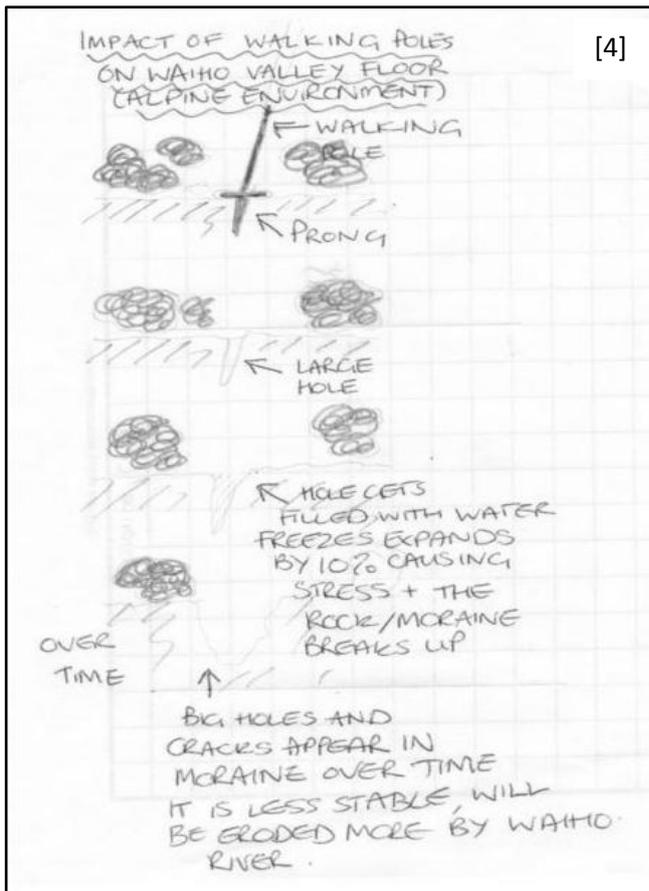
A sketch map to show the impacts of people on the main access route



My sketch map shows that there are many impacts that people have caused on the main access route to the Franz Josef Glacier. ...The car park acts as a 'honey pot' for the visitors. DOC perceives this area to be of the biggest risk as this is where all of the visitors start their enjoyment of the glacier, so this is the area which is most highly managed to minimise the impacts of the visitors [2]. The car park is graded with gravel to avoid pot holes ... parking sites are allocated for the different types of vehicle, there are also toilets, rubbish bins...There are signs to inform people of the routes ... These measures have all been put into place to manage the impact of such high numbers of people as over 250,000 people visit the glacier in a year.

The most impact is caused where there are most people. The majority of people all start from the car park as this is where the track starts so this is where the impact will be the greatest. In my people survey a total of 344 people visited the site throughout the day. My bar graph shows that the highest number of people is at site 1, the track entrance and car park with 96 people... [3].





[4]

Walking poles are increasingly used by visitors choosing to walk on the moraine on the glacial valley floor. Some of these people (24/36 counted) wander in to surrounding areas that are not clearly restricted. Their perception is that [5] walking on the valley floor does not impact the environment as they are far away from the glacier. However, walking poles are a major negative impact on this area. The walking pole provides stability for the walker by... this leaves a hole which eventually increases erosion... Freeze-thaw action works in the holes... I counted 13 of 25 walkers at one stage using poles proving that this is a serious impact [6]. Our interview with the DOC ranger also included a discussion of the environmental impacts of walker's poles and she said they are perceived as a serious risk [7].

Conclusion

I conclude that there are lots of impacts caused by people on the main access route to the Franz Josef Glacier. The area of most impact is at the car park and entrance to the track; however this area has been the most managed so the actual impact on the environment is limited [8]. DOC has provided some sealed parking for cars and coaches, toilets and rubbish bins. Less people actually make it up to the rope barrier but this area is significantly impacted by people as it is much less managed. People do not stay within the snow poles on the valley floor (24/36 people seen) so they have trampled over a larger area, the glacial moraine is compacted and the use of walking poles means that the glacial valley is more affected by frost shattering.

Evaluation of the research

The strengths of my research are that I was able to collect a range of relevant data on the impacts of people on the environment. I observed that the impacts changed from the car park to the glacier...

I counted the people at different sites along the track but I should have done this at different times in the day to see if the trend was the same all of the time [9]. The weaknesses are ... I could have used more methods to present my data... but the annotated map is a strength of my presentation because it clearly shows the area we studied and relevant data...