Research Objectives and Methodology

**Objectives**
- To identify the personal safety and fear of crime needs of older people in relation to a range of environmental settings.
- To develop and refine a package of recommendations and design guidelines to tackle the major areas of concern.

The methodology developed as follows:

**An identified need for the research**
- Older people often experience a high fear of crime
- But there is often a discrepancy between fear and actual crime levels

**Failure of quantitative methodologies**
- Crime statistics – ‘dark figure of crime’
- Crime surveys reduce perceptions to narrow responses
- Techniques do not provide insight into social or physical contexts of crime and fear of crime

**A different research approach needed**
- A qualitative approach provides revealing insights into how the design and maintenance of communities impact on personal safety
- Virtual Reality Panorama Tool – 360° digital panoramas are knitted together using QuickTime. This is repeated to produce a 2-D representation of the route - see picture
- Focus groups provide a forum for in-depth discussion of user concerns

**Previous projects**
- Local railways – see photos below
- Campus safety project

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Potential Benefits & Research Plan

**Benefits to older people and society**
- Improved environmental conditions
- Safer & more inclusive communities
- Increased mobility
- Reduced fear in the community
- Improved quality of life in deprived areas

**Local context**
The research will be carried out within the Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taff (RCT), one of the most socially deprived regions in Wales.

**Plan of investigation**
- Liaising with local organisations and target groups
- Interviews with older people to identify common routes in the community
- ‘Virtual-Reality Panorama Tool’ to film routes
- Focus groups – analysis of key themes in discussion
- Framework of recommendations
- Seminar to local decision makers

**References**

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