# Joined-up thinking: using CAQDAS and Google Earth to analyse 'place'

Graham Hughes

NCRM Autumn School 2010 – Southampton

NCRM QUIC Node – University of Surrey

n.hughes@surrey.ac.uk





# Outline of presentation

- Details of a pilot project used to develop techniques
- Comments on data preparation and handling
- Demonstrations of applications in MAXqda, NVivo, ATLAS.ti and Google Earth
- Comments on analytical approaches
- Pitfalls and problems encountered





# A Neighbourhood Research Project

- Investigate perceptions of an area amongst its residents
  - Sense of boundaries
  - Fear of crime
- Walking interviews recorded and logged on GPS
- Sketch maps, photographs
- Environmental audit





# Data Preparation

- Audio recordings transcribed using F4
- GPS waypoints and tracks uploaded to Google Earth
- Sketch maps scanned to PDF
- Digital photos copied to project folder
- Planning and control required outside and within CAQDAS program





## Why use Google Earth?

#### Map in ARC-GIS



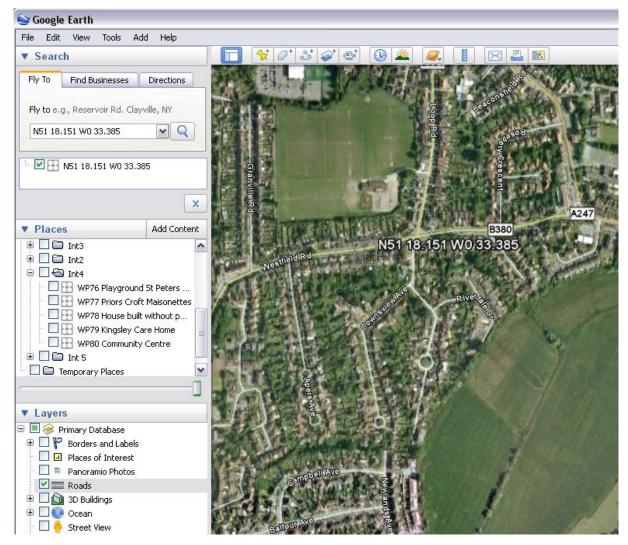
#### **Image in Google Earth**







# Google Earth control panel

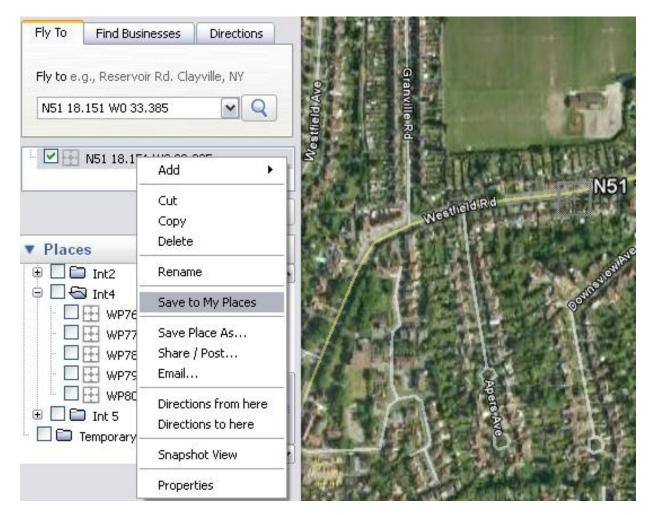








# Save a "place" in GE

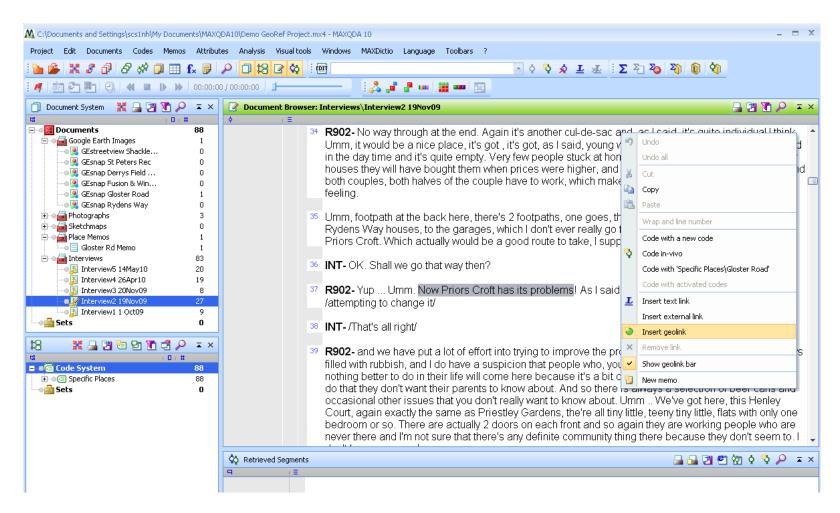








# Creating a geolink in MAXqda

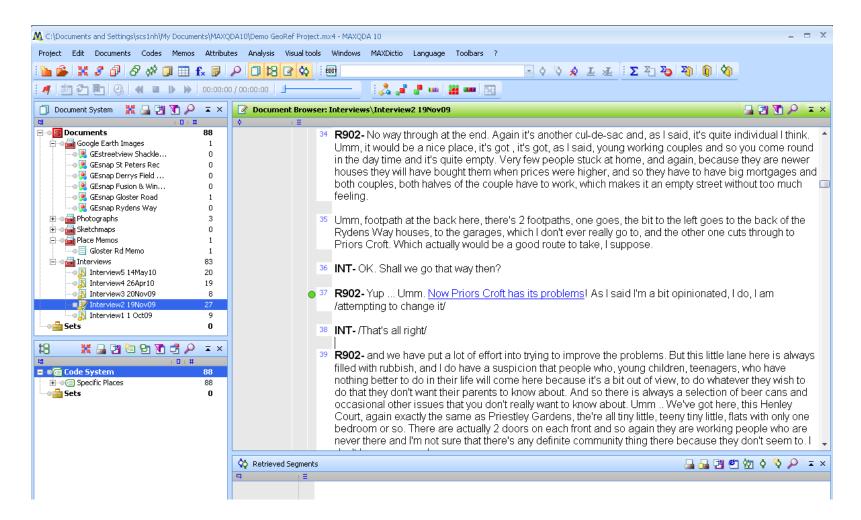








# How a geolink shows in MAXqda

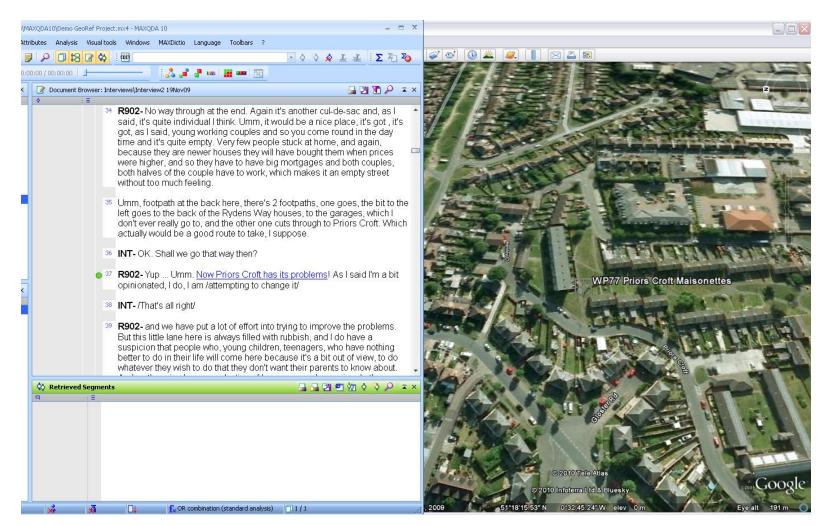








# Working with GE and MAXqda

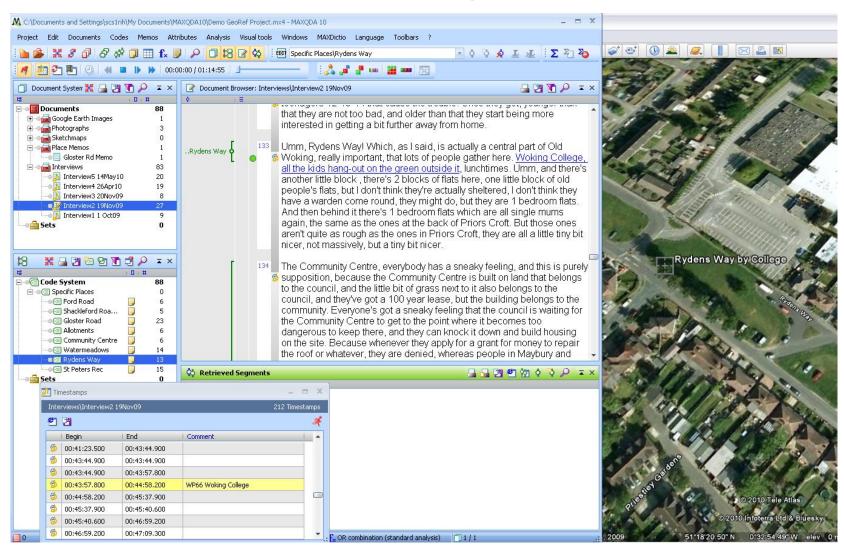








# MAXqda coding and audio

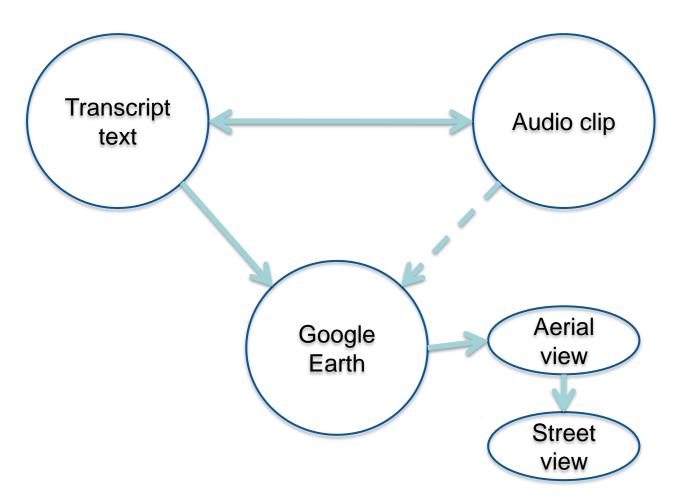








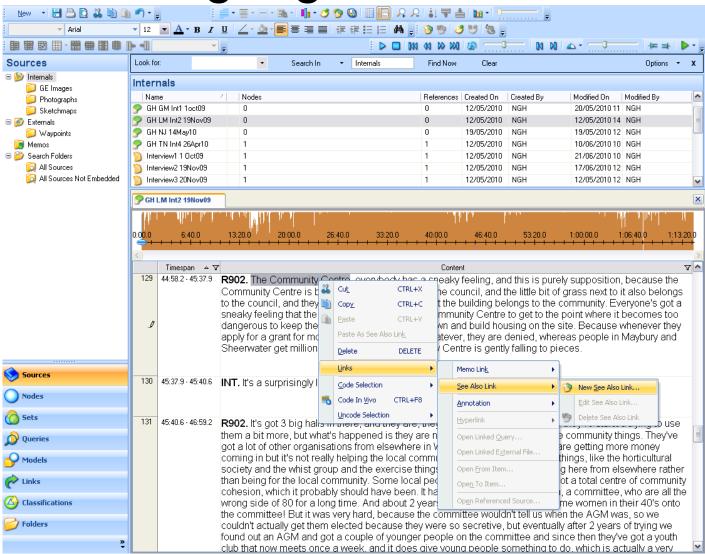
# **Data Linkages**







# Creating a geolink in NVivo

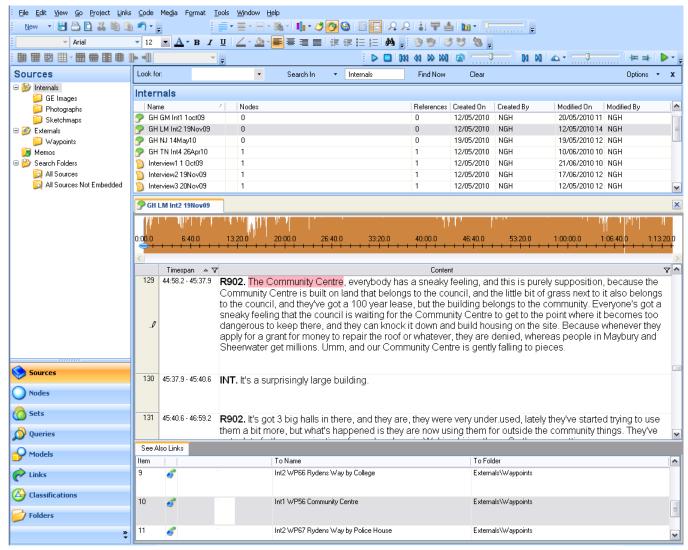








# How the link appears in NVivo

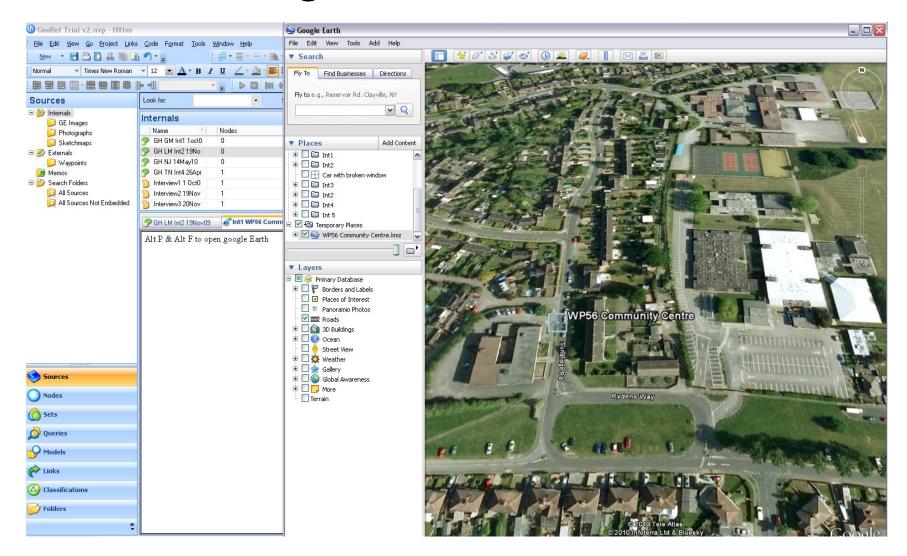








# Working with GE and NVivo

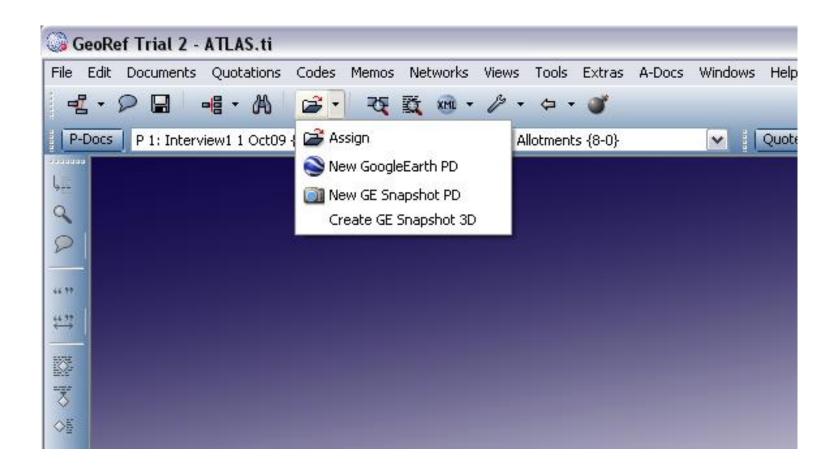








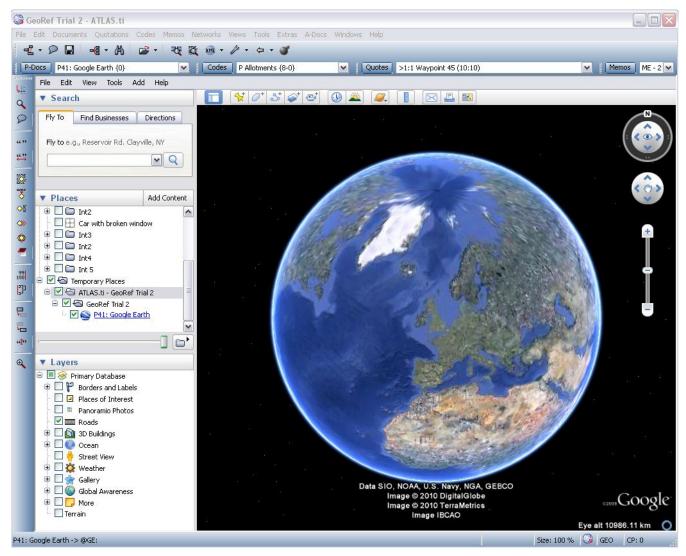
# ATLAS.ti has a different approach







#### Google Earth is embedded within ATLAS project

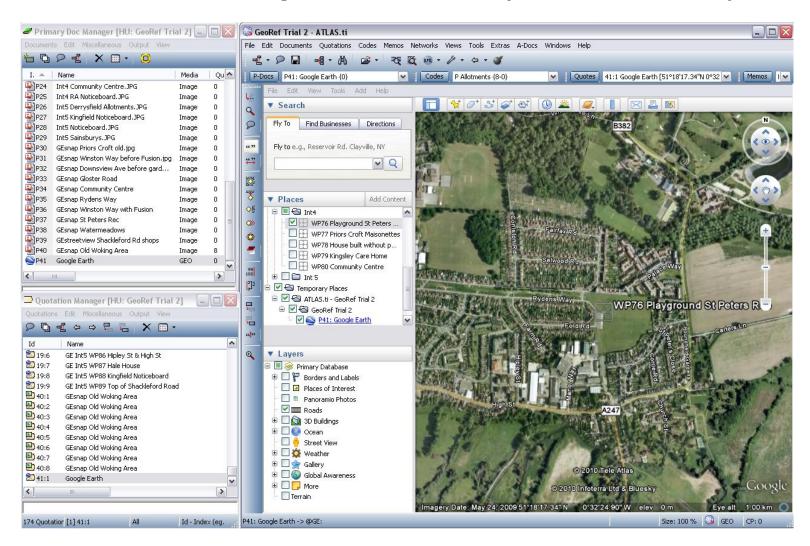








# Make a quotation (not a link)

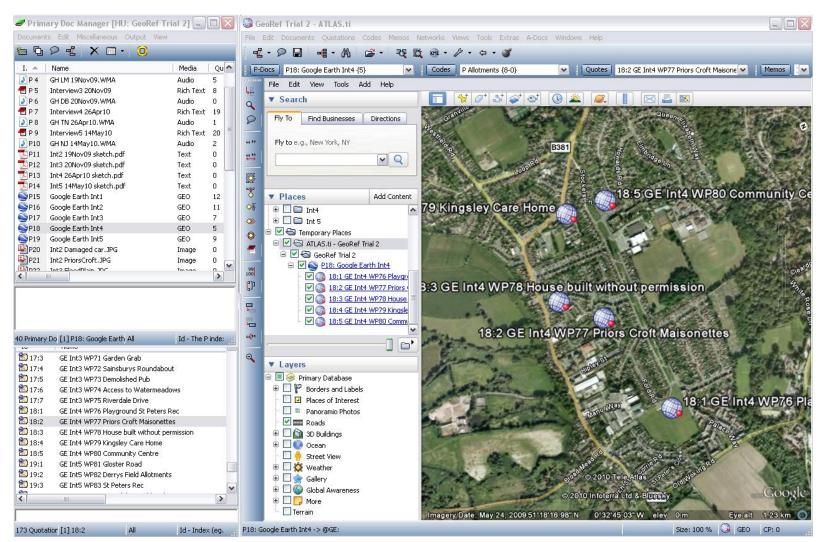








## A Google Earth PD is a set of places

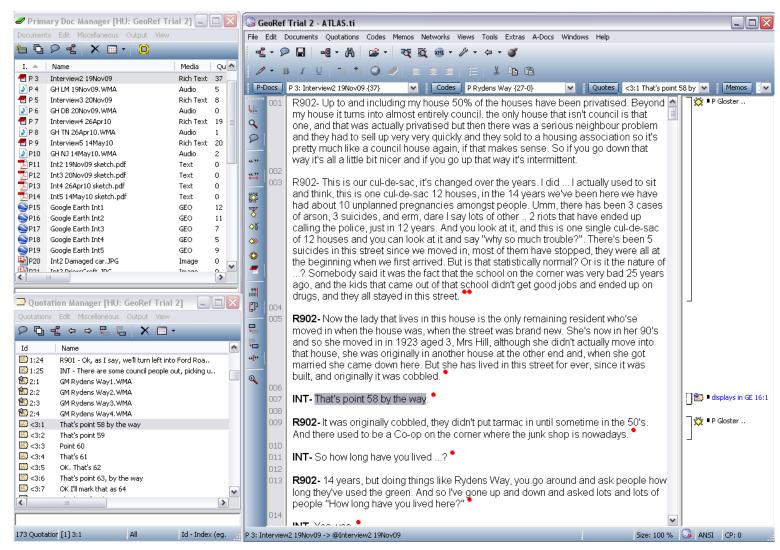








## Text quotes can be linked to GE quotes

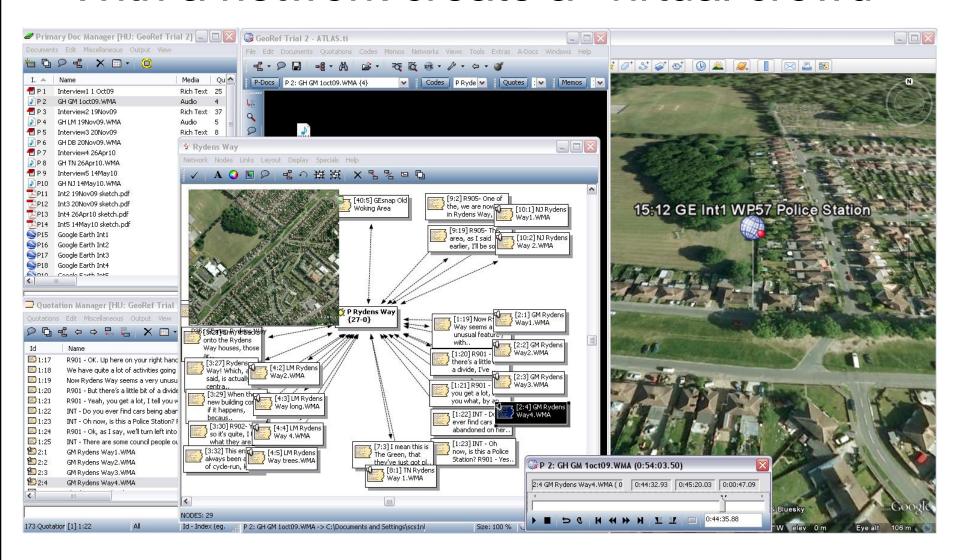








### With a network create a "virtual crowd"









## Comments on analytical approaches

- Assist a shift from etic to emic perspective
- Working from qualitative data to the place (not so useful if you want to do the reverse)
- Most effective with public spaces, accessible by road
- Connections and juxtapositions have to be made by the analyst
- Analysis should be more transparent and replicable





## Pitfalls and Problems

- Place as a point, a line or an area
  - When a respondent talks about a particular street, which of these is it?
- Tracking system does not cope when a respondent talks about one place whilst standing in another
- Chance encounters with third parties during mobile interviews
- Difficulty of anonymising interview data which is linked to accurate place data
- Privacy issues with Google Earth



