

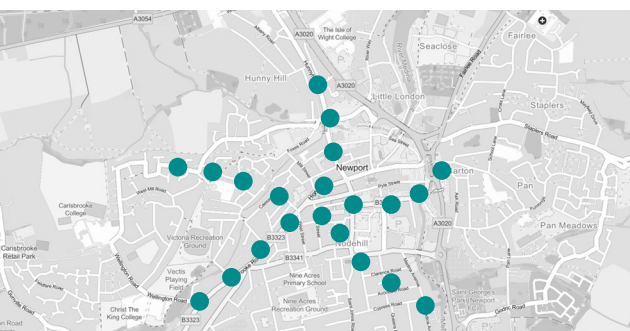
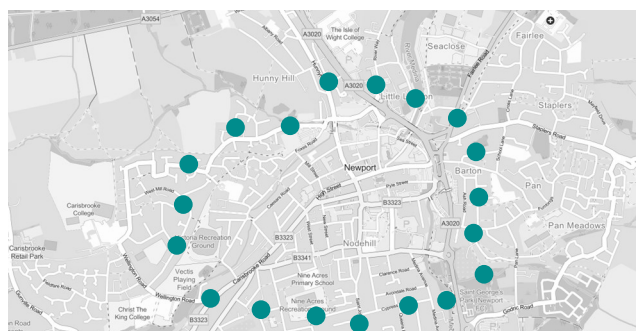

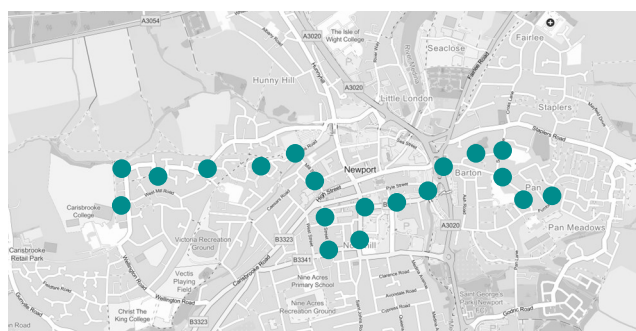


It is impractical for a student undertaking some research to record data from every possible location at a field site. Therefore, as part of the design of a method, students should discuss how much data they plan to collect and the strategy they will use to select the locations at which the data will be recorded. This is known as a spatial sampling strategy.

There are a number of different spatial sampling strategies:

	
<p><b>Transect Sample</b> Points for data collection are selected along a (relatively) straight line.</p>	<p><b>Grid Sample</b> A grid is marked over the map and data collection takes place from a point within each square.</p>
	
<p><b>Radial Sample</b> Points for data collection radiate out from a central hub.</p>	<p><b>Peripheral Sample</b> Points for data collection form a wide arc or circle around a central hub.</p>
	
<p><b>Random Sample</b> Points for data collection are decided by using random number generation and a grid system.</p>	<p><b>Dérive Sample</b> Points for data collection are taken at any moment as one drifts from one place to another.</p>

It is also possible to combine spatial sampling techniques together to suit a particular field site. For example, a researcher may decide to use a grid sample, but within each grid square chose a location at random. Equally a researcher may use transects to outline a start and end point to the sample but use dérive to define the exact route taken between those points.