

Westcountry CSI: Citizen Science Investigations

Training Pack 1: Experimental Design & Monitoring Strategy





Developing a structured sampling strategy or your own mini investigation can help you to collect more interesting and valuable data.

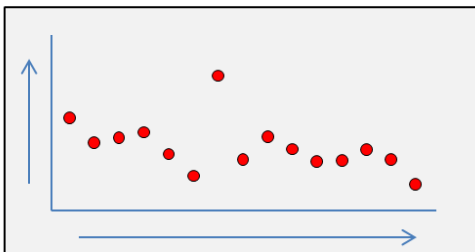
There are several ways you can structure your surveys:

Option 1: 'Long Term' data from a single point

By regularly collecting data in the same place, you can build up a picture of changes through the seasons and under different weather conditions or other pressures.

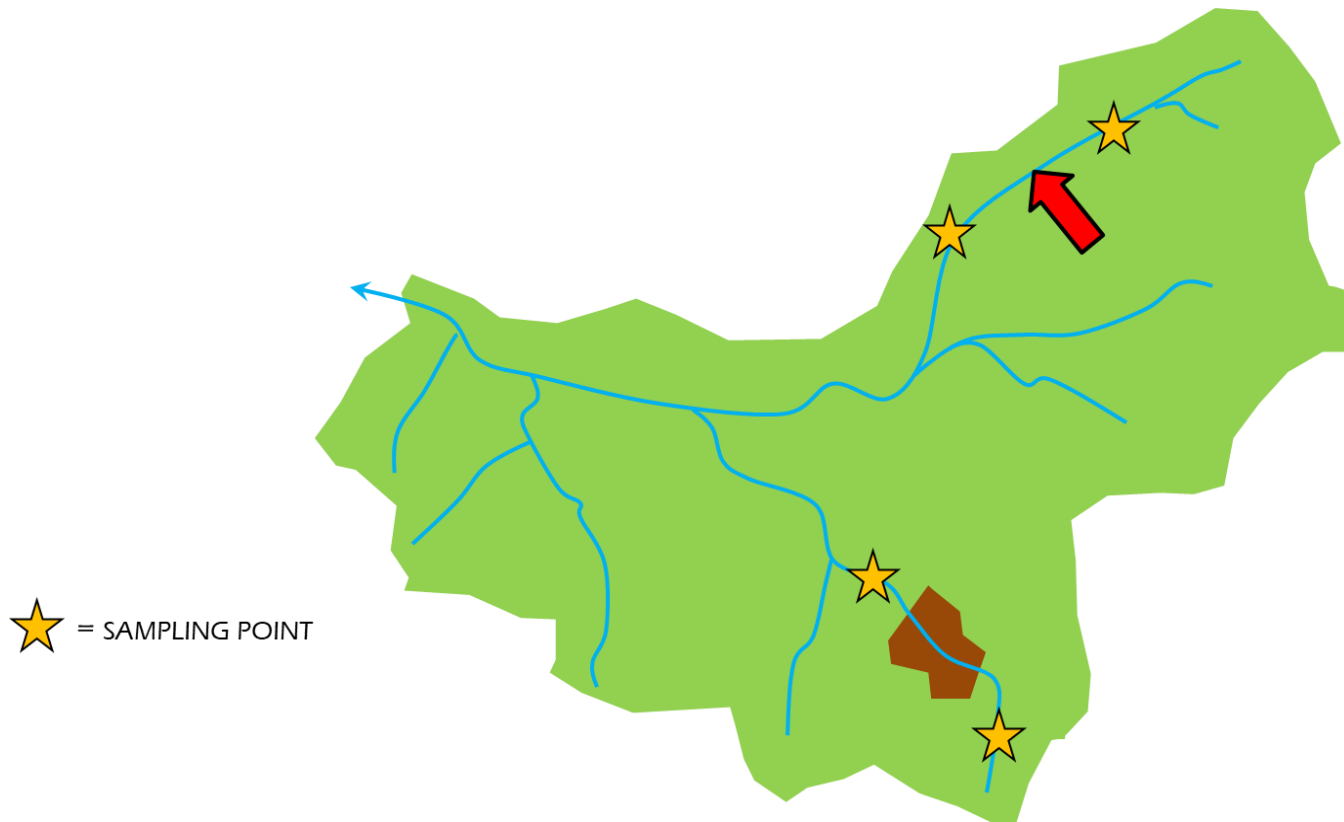


★ = SAMPLING POINT



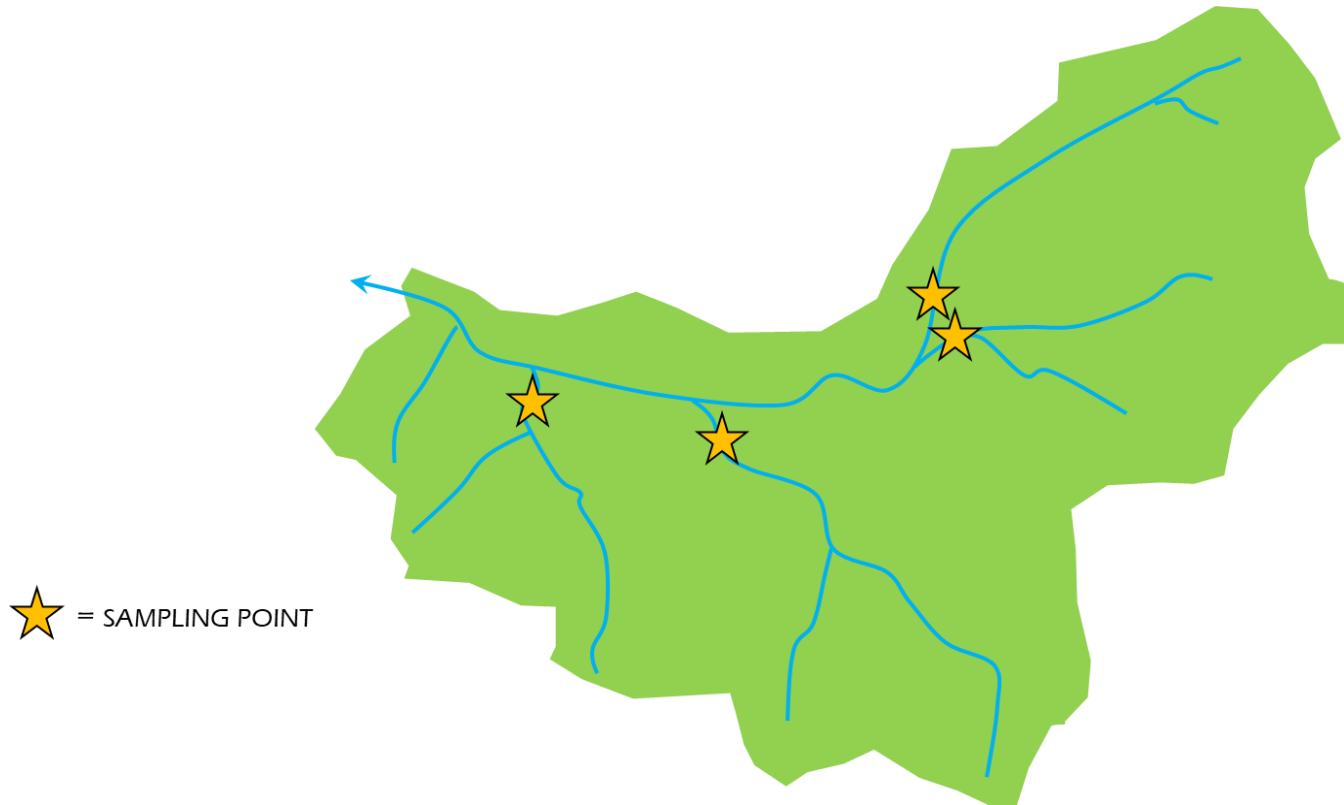
Option 2: Upstream and downstream of a point source or area of concern

If you've identified a potential issue or point source of pollution, it can be useful to sample above and below. By seeing changes, both observationally and in water quality values, you can better understand the impact of the pressure on the waterbody.



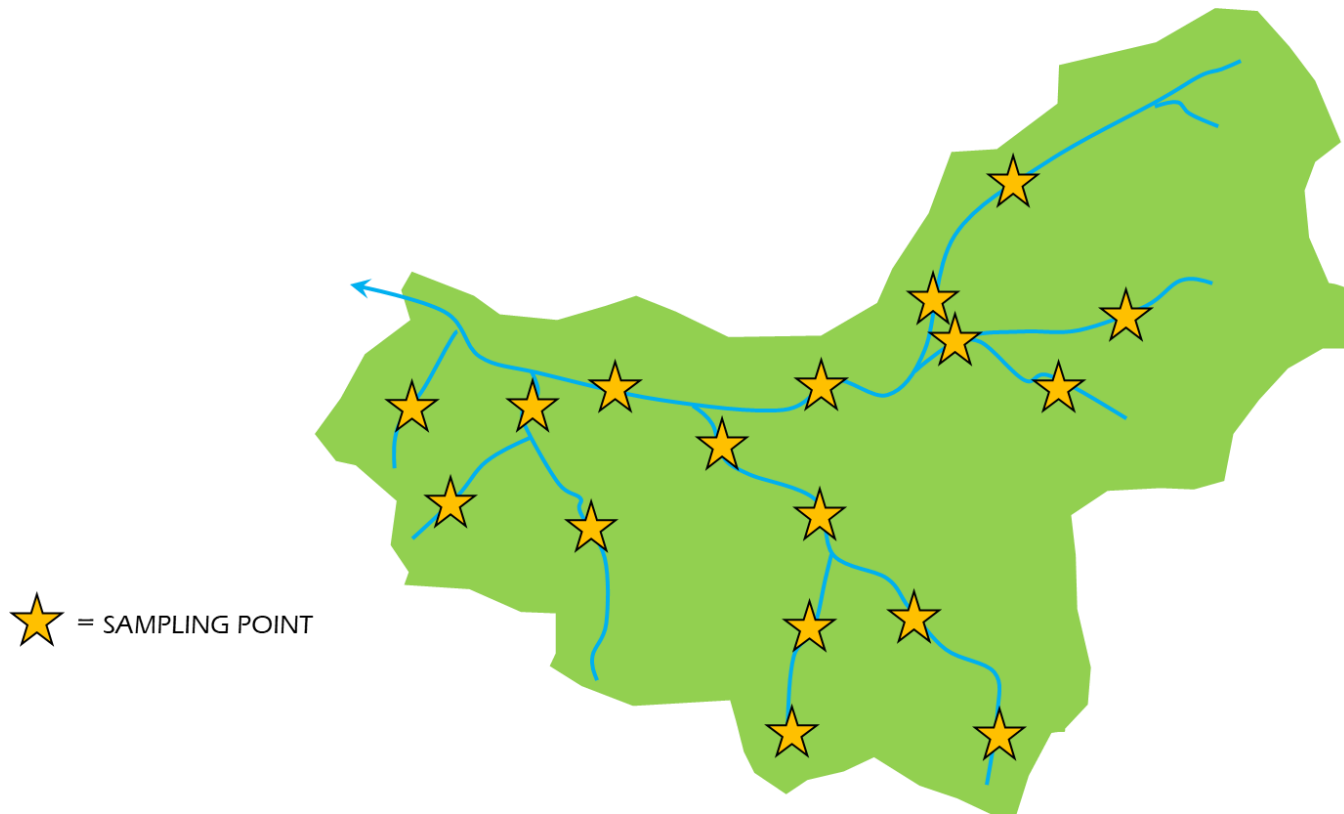
Option 3: Comparison between two (or more) sub-catchments or tributaries

Working individually or as part of a team, you can survey the different tributaries of a river. Small, local rivers feed into larger rivers. So, if there are pollution problems in the main river, sampling these tributaries can help to build up a picture of which tributaries are contributing the most pollution and therefore where pressures are in the catchment.



Option 4: BLITZ!

By getting lots of samples, from lots of citizen scientists, on the same day, we can get a snapshot of the health of rivers across an area under similar weather conditions. Keep an eye out for this being promoted in the future, or why not organise your own blitz with local CSI-ers?



Get in touch

If you have any questions, or would like to know more, please email csi@wrt.org.uk or tweet us @RiverGeeks_WRT

Thanks for being part of Westcountry CSI



Westcountry CSI is an initiative by



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Rivers Trust