

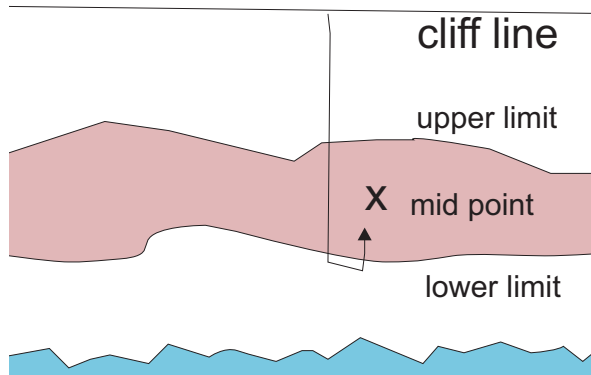
Molluscs

which zone of the shore ? upper, middle or lower?

decide how you are going to identify the zone e.g using algal indicators (use information from transect)

walk down the shore :

- find and upper limit of algal zone
- find lower limit of algal zone
- choose approximate mid point of algal zone as starting point



e.g. mid-shore using *F.vesiculosus* as an indicator of the zone



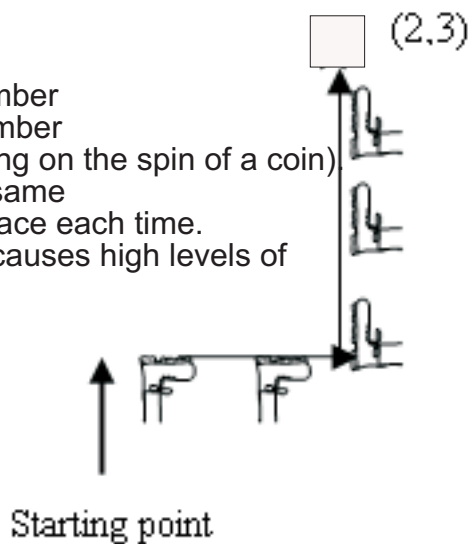
choose sampling method:

Sampling options to give bias free sample:

random sampling

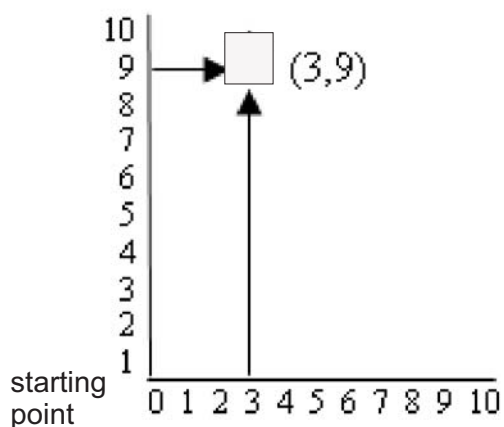
random walking

Use pairs of random numbers for the number of paces in one direction and then the number at right angles (either left or right depending on the spin of a coin). Subsequent quadrats are located in the same way, preferably starting from the same place each time. Walking over the sample grid in this way causes high levels of trampling, which may not be acceptable.

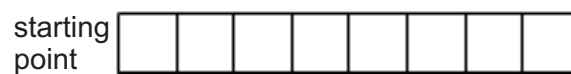


grid method

Always using the same axis as x and y, choose 2 random numbers (between 0 and 10)from a random number table as the x and y coordinates, and measure or pace from the origin / starting point : this is the position of the quadrat. Repeat for subsequent quadrats



systematic sampling



Choose a representative starting point and then place quadrats systematically at right angles to any suspected environmental gradient

A quadrat is used simply as a sampling frame to delimit a fixed area. Quadrat size is relevant only in terms of how many individuals are 'captured' in each quadrat. The smaller the quadrat used, the more quadrats will have to be placed on the shore to obtain the required sample size

- measure every mollusc within the quadrat, or are there issues relating to accuracy, life cycles, age, etc. which need to be considered?
- repeat quadrats until sufficient samples (determined e.g. by running mean) have been obtained
- repeat on second shore